



Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board
Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

Held at:

**Louisiana Emergency Response Network
7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 207
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

Welcome/Introductions

The January 18, 2024 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Deidra Garrett, MD, Board Chair. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and notice was properly posted.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Celia Cangelosi, LERN attorney, with the following results:

Members Present:

Deidra J. Garrett, MD, Chair
Tara Disandro
John D. Jones, MD, Vice Chair
Dan Godbee, MD
David Marcus, NRP
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN
Michele Sutton, FACHE
Carl "Jack" Varnado, Jr., RPL, ENP
Robert K. White, MD
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN
Richard Zweifler, MD

There were 11 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

Joseph Kanter, MD, arrived at 1:05 p.m.

Granville S. Morse, II, MD, arrived at 1:20 p.m.

Neal Fudge, arrived at 1:25 p.m.

Members Absent:

Honorable Regina Ashford Barrow, State Senator
Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.
Venkata S. Gadi, MD
Paul Gladden, MD
John Hunt, MD
Tomas Jacome, MD
Eva Lamendola, OD
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD
Porter Taylor, IV
Keith Van Meter, MD

Staff Present:

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director
Chris Hector, Administrative Director
Ana DePuy, LERN Regional Coordinator
Yvette Legendre, LERN Regional Coordinator
Deborah Spann, LERN Statewide Education Coordinator
Justin Vence, LERN Disaster Preparedness Manager
Cassandra Woods, LERN Finance Manager

Contractors Present:

Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel
Jason Allemand, Call Center Supervisor
Rudy Gomez, SSA Consultants

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Zweifler and seconded by Michele Sutton to accept the agenda as written. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2023

A motion was made by Michele Sutton and seconded by Jack Varnado to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023 Board meeting. See [Attachment A](#). The motion was approved

after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Ratification of Commission Members and Resignations

A motion was made by Dr. Kanter and seconded by Ms. Sutton to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

Resignations

- Clint Braud, NRP, – from Region 2 Commission;
- Jeffrey Gruner, MD - from Region 2 Commission;
- Sergeant Thomas Morse, Jr. – from Region 2 Commission;
- Ruth Carnes – from Region 5 Commission;
- Brenda Smith – from Region 6 Commission;
- Jeffrey Traina, MD – from Region 6 Commission; and
- F. Dean Griffin, MD – from Region 7 Commission.

Appointments

- William T. Freeman, MD - to Region 2 Commission (nominee of Emergency Medical Response);
- Officer Loren Gaskin – to Region 2 Commission (nominee of law enforcement);
- Keith Kellum, MD - to Region 2 Commission (nominee of Burn Center Representative);
- Richard Lewis, MD – to Region 2 Commission (nominee of Trauma Center representative);
- Willard Mosier, Jr. – to Region 4 Commission (nominee of Louisiana Hospital Association);
- and
- Stacy Larry, RN – to Region 5 Commission (nominee of Rural Hospital Coalition).

The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Executive Director Job Description

The Board was given a copy of a revised Executive Director job description, attached hereto as Attachment B, for approval. A motion was made by Michele Sutton and seconded by Dr. Godbee to approve the updated description as presented. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Executive Director Report Trauma System Consultation

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, announced that the virtual meeting regarding the Trauma System Consultation will be on March 12, 2024; and will include a presentation on the process of how the consultation works and a presentation by LERN. March 25, 2024 will be the

full day, in-person consultation to be held at Lod Cook. Members were encouraged to attend both. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Board Appointments

Executive Director Hargrove announced new Board member, Dr. Patrick Smith, Trauma Medical Director at Francis Medical Center, Monroe, representing hospitals with more than 100 beds.

The Board discussed vacancies in the Board seat for legislators and discussed some legislators who were viewed to be good LERN Board members. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Director Report Board Officer Elections 1/18/2024

The floor was opened for nominations for officers for the LERN Board.

For the position of treasurer, Jack Varnado nominated Karen Wyble and Dr. Wyble accepted. There being no other nominations, Dr. Wyble was elected treasurer.

For the position of Vice Chair, Paige Hargrove communicated Dr. Grainville Morse volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. There being no other volunteers or nominations, Dr. Morse was elected Vice Chair.

For the position of Chair, Dr. Garrett nominated Dr. John Jones, who accepted the nomination. There being no other nomination, Dr. Jones was elected Chair.

For the Executive Committee, the members are Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Immediate Past Chair, and one LDH appointment, Dr. Joseph Kanter.

The Board is to elect two executive committee members and was advised that one of the two has in the past been an EMS representative. Ms. Hargrove communicated Porter Taylor, prior to the board meeting, communicated he wanted to volunteer to serve as a member, the EMS representative. Additionally, Dr. John Hunt volunteered to serve for the second position. However, since Dr. Hunt has served three terms on the Executive Committee, the rules require that service of a fourth term be authorized by the Board. Dr. Zweifler made a motion and Dr. Jones seconded to allow Dr. Hunt to serve a fourth term on the Executive Committee. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Dr. Jones made a motion seconded by Ms. Sutton to elect Dr. Hunt and Taylor Porter to serve on the Executive Committee. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Ms. Hargrove thanked Dr. Garrett for the incredible hard work and service to the Board as Chair over the past year. A plaque was presented to Dr. Garrett memorializing here service as Board Chair. No formal action was taken by the board.

Report out on 2023 Strategic Goals

Executive Director Hargrove presented a close out on the 2023 Strategic Goals for LERN. See Attachment C. No formal action was taken by the board.

Open Meetings Policy

Executive Director Hargrove advised the Board that disabled public and disabled Board members may attend Board meetings and commission meetings virtually. Ms. Hargrove presented a Board policy to facilitate such virtual participation in Board meetings. Ms. Hargrove presented a drafted policy for consideration, including some executive committee additions to the policy. See Attachment D. A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Dr. Morse to accept the draft policy as amended by the executive committee. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Region 6, 7 and 8 Commission Update

Executive Director Hargrove presented a powerpoint presentation (see Attachment E) highlighting the programs and improvements in Regions 6, 7 and 8. No formal action was taken by the board.

2023 LERN Call Center Report

Chris Hector, LERN Administrative Director reported on the 2023 Call Center statistics through a power point presentation. See Attachment F. No formal action was taken by the board.

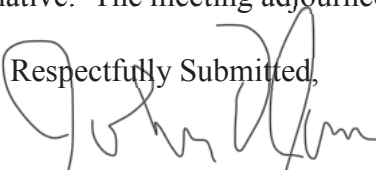
Budget

Ms. Wyble reported on the current budget status. See Attachment E. No formal action was taken by the board.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Varnado and seconded by Mr. Fudge to adjourn. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John D. Jones, MD, Chair
Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board