



Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board
Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

Held at:

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

Welcome/Introductions

The November 20, 2025 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. by Dr. John Jones, LERN Board Chair, presiding. 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:

John Jones, MD, Chair
Vanessa de la Cruz, MD
Capt. Philip Daniels
Neal Fudge
Deiadra J. Garrett, MD, Immediate Past Chair
Dan Clark Godbee, MD
John P. Hunt, MD
Eva Lamendola, OD
Omar Leonards, MD
Michele K. Sutton, FACHE
Porter Taylor, IV
Richard Zweifler, MD

Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN, arrived at 1:15 p.m.

Juliette Saussy, MD, arrived at 2:20 p.m.

There were 12 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

Members Absent:

Honorable Katrina Jackson-Andrews, State Senator
Jeffrey E. Carter, MD
Hon. Chance Henry, Louisiana State Representative
Paul Gladden, MD
Tomas Jacome, MD
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD
Granville A. Morse, III, MD, Vice Chair
Honorable Brach Myers, La. State Senator
J. Patrick Smith, Jr., MD
Honorable Christopher Turner, State Representative
Keith Van Meter, MD
Robert K. White, MD
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN

Staff Present:

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director
Yvette Legendre, LERN Regional Coordinator
Sarah Templet, LERN Regional Coordinator
Deborah Spann, LERN Education Coordinator
Justin Schleis, LERN Data Manager
Cassandra Woods, LERN Finance Manager
Vence Beches, LERN Disaster Preparedness Manager

Contractors Present:

Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel
Kanna Posina, MD, Medical Director - STEMI
Michael Sutherland, MD Medical Director - Trauma
Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD, LERN Medical Director - Stroke
Rudy Gomez, SSA Consultants
Jason Allemand, Communication Center Supervisor

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Dr. Garrett to approve the agenda as written. See Attachment A. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2025

A motion was made by Dr. Garrett and seconded by Ms. Sutton to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2025 Board meeting. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Ethics Reminder

Executive Director Paige Hargrove reminded the Board of the yearly Ethics training and reporting due the Ethics Board. No formal action was taken by the Board.

2026 LERN Board Meeting Dates

Executive Director Hargrove presented the dates for Board meetings for 2026 chosen by the Executive Committee as follows: January 22, 2026; April 16, 2026; August 20, 2026; and November 19, 2026. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Board Resolution/Signature Authority

Executive Director Hargrove presented a Board Resolution for Board consideration to give the Vice Chair signature authority in the absence and/or unavailability of the chair. See Attachment B. A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Mr. Fudge

Ratification of Commission Members and Resignations

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

Resignations

- Monique St. Romain – from Region 1 Commission;
- Jacques Guillot, MD, MBA - from Region 9 Commission; and
- Michelle Collins, NREMT – from Region 9 Commission.

Appointments

- Muhammad Siddique Pir, MD - to Region 6 Commission (nominee representing the America College of Cardiology);
- Richard Mann - to Region 7 Commission (nominee representing Louisiana Rule Ambulance Alliance); and
- Matthew T. Bernard, MD - to Region 9 Commission (nominee representing Louisiana State Medical Society).

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

***Executive Director Report
Staffing Update***

Executive Director Hargrove announced that LERN hired Keitra Mason as Administrative Assistant on November 10, 2025. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Director Hargrove advised the Board that Dr. John Hunt was retiring from the Board effective November 21, 2025. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Director Hargrove welcomed new Board member, Dr. Omar Leonards, representing Louisiana Chapter of American College of Cardiology. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Director Hargrove announced that Dr. Zweifler has been reappointed to the Board representing the American Stroke Association. She also advised that there remain five board members with expired terms who will continue to serve on the board until a replacement is appointed. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***Executive Director Report
Discuss LERN Board Officers (Vote Jan. 2026)***

Executive Director Hargrove announced that the Board votes on officers and committee members in January of even years. The next vote will be held in January, 2026. Ms. Hargrove requested volunteers to contact her. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Strategic Priorities Update

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, reported on the progress of the LERN Strategic Priorities. See Attachment C. She further advised that at the January, 2026 meeting a report will be presented to the Board on the 2025 goals. The executive director was pleased to report that, as of today, LERN has met 67% of goals and made significant progress on 95% of 2025 goals. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Act 194

Executive Director Hargrove updated on progress of money collection under Act 194. 26 of the 64 parishes have sent LERN money. Letters were sent to judges across the state. Despite this, collections have been underwhelming. During a same time period, the Spinal Injury Fund collected \$250,000. The law for the LERN Fund will be amended to fix a portion that creates a problem with certain assessments to be paid to LERN. No formal action was taken by the board.

STEMI Update

Update on STEMI/Cardiogenic Shock Workgroup

Dr. Posina reported on the recommendations made by the STEMI/Cardiogenic Shock Workgroup. The Workgroup recommendation to the Board is to add a third tier to the existing STEMI system as presented in Attachment D titled, STEMI/Cardiogenic Shock System Level of Care Characteristics document and to require external certification for the third tier. A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Mr. Taylor to add a third tier as recommended by the Workgroup in Attachment D, with the exception of changing Comprehensive post-arrest care, including TTM from “required” to “recommended” for STEMI Referral Centers and to require external certification for the third tier. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

LERN Trauma System Consultation Research Panel

Rudy Gomez of SSA Consultants presented an overview of discussions and feedback from the LERN Trauma System Consultation Research Panel. See Attachment E. A motion was made by Dr. Zweifler and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to receive and accept the report. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Stroke Update

Door to Transfer Denial Rates

Dr. Martin-Schild, LERN Medical Director - Stroke, provided an update on the stroke system. Dr. Martin-Schild presented three recommendations which are based on opportunities identified in existing stroke data metrics: (1) establish target Door to Transfer Request Time (DTTRT) of 30 minutes. (2) Establish DTTRT threshold for remediation at median from prior quarter’s data. (3) Recognized Phase 2 DIDO of less than 75 minutes. If door in door out is less than 90 minutes for 2 consecutive quarters, let hospital know they are in Phase 2 and how are now targeting 75 minutes. No remediation recommended for not meeting 75 minute target. After discussion, the second recommendation was changed to median Door to Transfer Request Time from the previous quarter plus 10 minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Hunt and seconded by Dr. Garrett to adopt the recommendations as changed. The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. Dr. Martin-Schild presented two other recommendations: (4) Require ASRHs and Off Site Stroke Capable Eds to start submitting the unknown Time Symptoms Onset (TSO) data. (5) Hospitals with 4 consecutive quarters in the green for DTN and all metrics have the individual stroke code metrics retired, unless they get into trouble with DTN again. A motion was made by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mr. Fudge to adopt the last two recommendations. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. Mr. Fudge suggested that the Board be flexible on the implementation.

Budget

Review Budget Status

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director, explained the status of the 2025 budget and the FY 25 Fiscal Overview as of 11/7/25. See Attachment E, p. 14-15. No formal action was taken by the

Board.

Recognition of John Hunt Retirement

Executive Director Hargrove announced that John Hunt, MD, served on the Board since 2010. From 2014-16, Dr. Hunt served as Board Chair, from 2012-214, Dr. Hunt served as Vice Chair, and as of April, 2012, Dr. Hunt has served on the executive committee. The LERN Board presented Dr. Hunt with a compass memorializing his time on the LERN Board and for use in his future adventures.

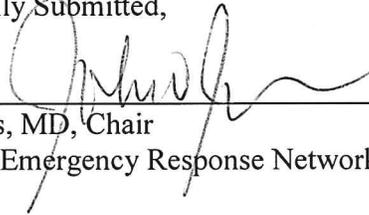
Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Jones, MD, Chair
Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board

Date: 1/22/2026