



Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board
Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

Held at:

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

Welcome/Introductions

The November 16, 2023 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:03 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
Tomas Jacome, MD
John D. Jones, MD, Vice Chair
Joseph Kanter, MD
Eva Lamendola, OD
David Marcus, NRP
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN
Michele Sutton, FACHE
Porter Taylor, IV
Honorable Mack A. "Bodi" White, State Senator
Robert K. White, MD
Richard Zweifler, MD
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN

There were 14 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

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

Keith Van Meter, MD, arrived at 1:25 p.m.

Members Absent:

Honorable Regina Ashford Barrow, State Senator
Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.
Neal Fudge
Venkata S. Gadi, MD
Dan Godbee, MD
John Hunt, MD
Honorable Jonathan Goudeau, State Representative
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD
Buddy Mincey, Jr., State Representative
Carl "Jack" Varnado, Jr., RPL, ENP

Staff Present:

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director
Justin Schleis, LERN Data Manager
Chris Hector, Administrative Director
Yvette Legendre, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator
Reed Douglas, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator
Vence Beches, Disaster Preparedness Manager
Deborah Spann, LERN State Education Coordinator
Cassandra Woods, LERN Finance Manager

Contractors Present:

Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD, Stroke Medical Director
Michael J. Sutherland, MD, Trauma Medical Director
Kanna Posina, MD, STEMI Medical Director
Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel
Jason Allemand, Call Center Supervisor
Anita Bryne, SSA Consultants

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2023

David Marcus announced the August 17, 2023 minutes needed to be corrected because he was in attendance and not absent. A motion was made by Dr. White and seconded by Ms. Michele Sutton to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2023 Board meeting as corrected. 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

- Jeffrey Carter, MD, FACS – from Region 1 Commission;
- Brent Giuffre, MD - from Region 2 Commission;
- Tracee Short, MD – from Region 2 Commission;
- David Holcombe, MD – from Region 6 Commission;
- Avery Callahan, DO – from Region 7 Commission;
- Archie Neal Brown – from Region 8 Commission;
- Master Trooper Javier Jeija – from Region 8 Commission; and
- Jamin Rankin, RN, TCRN, CEN, CFRN – from Region 8 Commission.

Appointments

- Karl Fasold - to Region 1 Commission (nominee of National Emergency Number Association);
- John M. Gardner – to Region 1 Commission (nominee of GOHSEP);
- Johnathan Schoen - to Region 1 Commission (nominee of Burn Center Representative);
- Matthew Finn, MD – to Region 3 Commission (nominee of American College of Cardiologist);
- Christiana Lord, MD – to Region 6 Commission (nominee of Office of Public Health);
- Dale Len Anderson, MD – to Region 7 Commission (nominee of Hospitals <60 Beds);
- Aquila L. Haney – to Region 7 Commission (nominee of Military Representative);
- Trooper Ryan Davis – to Region 8 Commission (nominee of Louisiana State Police);
- Todger E. McConnell – to Region 8 Commission (nominee of GOHSEP); and
- Julie Howell, RN DON – to Region 9 Commission (nominee of Rural Hospital Coalition).

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

Ethics Reminder

Executive Director Hargrove reminded the board of the mandatory ethics training required.

Amend 11/14/2024 Board Meeting Date

Executive Director Hargrove announced that there was a conflict with the November 2024 board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Sutton to move the November 2024 board meeting to November 7, 2024. The motion passed after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Board Appointments

Executive Director Hargrove recognized Senator Bodi White for all he has done for LERN. She stated that he was also involved in preparing legislation that started LERN and has always been there to help LERN. She then presented him with a plaque of appreciation on behalf of LERN.

Executive Director Hargrove then announced the following appointments/reappointments to the Board: Jeffrey Carter, MD, Tara DiSandro, Keith Van Meter, MD, John Jones, MD, and Monica Nijoka. She also advised the Board that Ted Colligan, the Regional Coordinator for Regions 2, 4 and 5, has retired. His position has been posted and interviews scheduled. No formal action taken by the Board.

Executive Director Report

Board Officer Elections 1/18/2024

Ms. Hargrove reminded the Board that officer elections will take place at the January 18, 2024 board meeting. Board members were advised if they were interested in a position, to let Ms. Hargrove know. The Treasurer position is vacant as Dr. Freeman is off the board. Called for members interested in serving as Interim Treasurer and Ms. Hargrove communicated Dr. Karen Wyble is absent, but willing to serve as Interim Treasurer. John Jones nominated Dr. Karen Wyble to serve as Treasurer, second by Monica Nijoka. No opposition. The Executive Committee will also be elected at the first meeting in 2024. The committee includes the Chair, the Vice Chair, Treasurer, an LDH representative and two seats elected by the Board. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Ms. Hargrove also stated that the Research Review Committee needs an EMS representative on it. A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Dr. Jones to appoint Dr. Dan Godbee to the Research Review Committee. The motion passed after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Trauma System Consultation

Executive Director Hargrove has been doing a lot of preparation for the Trauma System Consultation. While a formal report will come later, she advised that the week before the consultation scheduled for March 25, there will be a virtual introduction that will require the Board and all stakeholders to participate on Tuesday, March 12 from 3 to 4 p.m. via zoom. The face to face

meetings will be on Monday of that week, scheduled for all day; Tuesday and Wednesday will be report writing and Thursday from 10-11 will be the exit interview. There will be a long list of people to be invited per Dr. Sutherland. This will allow the identification of things LERN should do or enhance things already in place. The last consultation was in 2009 and it has served as a roadmap for today. Now the entire state is covered by one hour drive to a trauma center. See Attachment B. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Succession Planning

Executive Director Hargrove reported that Anita Byrne of SSA Consultants is working to update the job description planning for the executive director position to bring to the Board at the February meeting when review the executive director. No formal action was taken by the board.

2024 Strategic Goals

Executive Director Hargrove and the system medical directors reported on the 2024 Strategic Goals. 2024 is the third year of a three year plan for strategic goals. While the priorities have not changed, the goals are updated annually. See Attachment C. A motion was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Zweifler to approve the 2024 goals. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Stroke Update

Pre-Hospital Destination Protocol

LERN Executive Director Hargrove reported that the Stroke Destination Protocol was given out for comment at the August board meeting. Since that time, there were some feedback and there were two additional changes made to the protocol. She reported that the plan is for this protocol to replace the prior stroke protocol. A motion to adopt the new stroke destination protocol to be effective January 1, 2024, was made by Dr. Zweifler and seconded by Dr. Kanter. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Wake Up Stroke Data

Executive Director Hargrove reported that the Wake Up Stroke Data changes have been vetted with stakeholders. See Attachment D. A motion was made by Dr. Zweifler and seconded by Dr. White to approve the Wake Up Stroke Data collection. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Trauma Update

Region 8

Dr. Sutherland updated the Board on trauma status in the state. See Attachment D. The colors on the map show the drive time and flight time it takes to get to a trauma center in Louisiana. ACS advised that St. Francis Hospital, LSU Health and Oschner Monroe all received verification as Level 3 trauma centers in Region 8. No formal action was taken by the board.

Pediatric Transfer Guideline

Executive Director Hargrove reported that a pediatric transfer guideline was being developed in order to help the call center with decision making. See Attachment F. A motion to adopt the pediatric transfer guideline was made by Dr. Jacome and seconded by Dr. Gladden. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Pre-Hospital Burn Consortium

Dr. Sutherland presented Pre-Hospital Burn Care Guideline. Changes correlate with updates by the ABA. See Attachment G. A motion was made by Mr. Marcus and seconded by Dr. Morse to adopt the guideline as written. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Disaster Response

Super Fog Event

Chris Hector reported to the board regarding the August 26-October wildfires. LERN coordinated with Acadian and LRA as surge contractors for the state to provide additional ambulances for the response. Additionally, there was also a Super Fog event. There was an early morning accident on I-55 involving 168 vehicles. 49 patients were routed to seven different facilities. There was an after action review with ESF8 where areas of improvement were noted. Dr. Kanter commended Chris and his team and Porter Taylor and the Acadian Ambulance team. No formal action was taken by the board.

Southern Regional Burn Consortium

Executive Director Hargrove reported to the board on discussions regarding the Southern Regional Burn Consortium and that LERN becoming the primary lead for bed poll updates in the Southern Region. No formal action was taken by the board.

Budget

FY 23 close/FY 24

Executive Director Hargrove reported to the regarding the budget as of October 31, 2023. See Attachment G. No formal action was taken by the board.

Public Comment

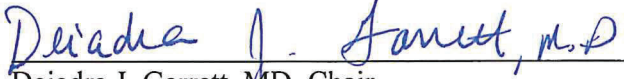
There were no public comments.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Dr. Jones to adjourn. The motion was

approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Deidra J. Garrett, MD, Chair
Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board