



Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board
Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

Held at:

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

Welcome/Introductions

The April 10, 2025 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by John Jones, 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:

John Jones, MD, Chair
Deiadra J. Garrett, MD, Immediate Past Chair
Capt. Philip Daniels
Dan Carl Godbee, MD
Granville A. Morse, III, MD, Vice Chair
Honorable Brach Myers, La. State Senator
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN
Julette Saussy, MD
Porter Taylor, IV
Keith Van Meter, MD
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN
Richard Zweifler, MD

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

Vanessa de la Cruz, MD, arrived after the roll call.

John P. Hunt, MD, arrived after the roll call.

Members Absent:

Honorable Katrina Jackson-Andrews, State Senator

Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.

Neal Fudge

Venkata S. Gadi, MD

Paul Gladden, MD

Tomas Jacome, MD

Eva Lamendola, OD

David Marcus, NRP

Brandon J. Mauldin, MD

J. Patrick Smith, Jr., MD

Michele K. Sutton, FACHE

Honorable Christopher Turner, State Representative

Robert K. White, MD

Staff Present:

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Paige Hargrove, Executive Director

Sarah Templet, LERN Regional Coordinator

Donis Fletcher, LERN Regional Coordinator

Deborah Spann, LERN Education Coordinator

Justin Schleis, LERN Data Manager

Cassandra Woods, LERN Finance Manager

Contractors Present:

Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel

Michael Sutherland, MD (Trauma Medical Director)

Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD (Stroke Medical Director)

Rudy Gomez, SSA Consultants

Anita Byrne, SSA Consultants

Jason Allemand, Communication Center Supervisor

Donis Fletcher was introduced to the Board as the new tri-regional coordinator for Regions 6, 7 and 8. She is replacing Reed Douglas in that position.

Juliette Saussy, MD, the Medical Director for the Office of Public Health, was introduced to the Board. She replaces Peter Croughan, MD.

Senator Meyers was congratulated on his election to the Louisiana Senate. He will replace Senator Heather Cloud as LERN Board member.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the agenda as written. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2025

A motion was made by Dr. Zweifler and seconded by Dr. Garrett to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2025 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. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Godbee, to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

Resignations

Kim Beetz – from Region 3 Commission;
Troy Meaux, NRP - from Region 5 Commission;
Navdeep Samra, MD – from Region 7 Commission;
Jeff Watson – from Region 7 Commission;
Jason Maljaars, MD – from Region 8 Commission; and
David Toups – from Region 9 Commission.

Appointments

Elizabeth Lacy, MHA, MPS, NRP - to Region 3 Commission (nominee representing administrative designated regional coordinator);
Tommie Hicks, NRP – to Region 5 Commission (nominee representing Rural Ambulance Alliance);
Brett Chapman, MD, FACS - to Region 7 Commission (nominee representing ACS); and
Wayne Berkowitz – to Region 9 Commission (nominee representing LHA Service District Hospitals).

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

STEMI Medical Director Contract

A motion was made by Dr. Van Meter and seconded by Dr. Saussy to approve the medical director contract as a three year contract for Kanna Posina, MD, to continue to serve as LERN STEMI Medical Director for a maximum of \$90,000.00. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Financial Disclosure – Due May 15

The Board was reminded that their financial disclosures were due to be filed with the Ethics Board by May 15. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Committee Membership

It was announced that Dr. Jones had appointed Dr. Saussy to fill a position on the Executive Committee. Dr. Saussy is the representative of the Louisiana Department of Health. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Update on Dedicated Funding Bill

Executive Director Hargrove updated the Board on HB 403 introduced by Representative Turner which would provide some permanent funding for LERN. Senator Brach Meyers announced he would sponsor the bill in the Senate. No formal action was taken by the Board.

LERN Annual Report

Executive Director Hargrove presented copies of and discussed the LERN Annual Report. See Attachment B. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Stroke Update

ASRH Stroke Sub-Committee Recommendation for Demotion

Dr. Sheryl Martin-Schild reported to the Board that the Stroke Committee recommends demoting an acute stroke ready hospital to a stroke by-pass hospital.

A motion was made by made by Dr. Zweifler and seconded by Mr. Taylor to accept the recommendation of the Stroke Committee to demote the particular hospital. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Change Stroke Bypass to Stroke Referral

Dr. Martin-Schild reported on the work of the Stroke Workgroup; and the Workgroup's belief that the term "Bypass" has negative connotations and the Workgroup's recommendation that the term be redesignated as "Stroke Referral Center."

A motion was made by Dr. Van Meter and seconded by Mr. Taylor to accept the recommendation of the Stroke Workgroup and substitute the term “Stroke Referral Center” in place of the designation as “Bypass”. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Proposed Recommendations/Requirements for Stroke Referral Centers

Dr. Martin-Schild recommended the proposed requirements for Stroke Referral Centers:

- Participate in LERN Stroke Education
- Maintain stroke resource binder or internet resource which at a minimum includes the following LERN Guidelines located at <https://lern.la.gov/lern-stroke-system/guidelines-and-protocols/>
 - a. ED Provider Emergent Stroke Care Guideline
 - b. Anticoagulant Associated Intracranial Hemorrhage Guideline
 - c. Spontaneous ICH Guideline
 - d. Wake-up/unknown symptom onset stroke guideline

Dr. Van Meter motioned to make the above recommendations a requirement for all Stroke Referral Centers. Motion was seconded by Dr. Morse. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Proposed Recommendations for Door In Door Out Target

Dr. Martin-Schild reported that the Stroke Workgroup recommends to allow Phase II DIDO with a target of < 75 minutes for center meeting 90 minutes DIDO for two consecutive. They also recommend no remediation for failing to meet Phase II.

A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Wyble, to accept the recommendation to allow Phase II DIDO with a target of < 75 minutes for centers meeting 90 minutes DIDO for two consecutive quarters, with no remediation for failing to meet Phase II. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

STEMI Update

Update on STEMI/Cardiogenic Shock Workgroup

Executive Director Hargrove updated the Board on the progress of the STEMI/Cardiogenic Shock Workgroup. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Trauma Update

Regional Medical Operation Center (RMOC)

Dr. Sutherland, the LERN Trauma Medical Director, presented information related to discussions within the US government regarding regional medical operation centers and how these would be utilized during major mass casualties, war and other natural disasters. Dr. John Hunt was assigned to the national RMOC workgroup by the Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. No formal action was taken by the board.

Budget

LERN Executive Director Evaluation

Dr. Jones, Board Chair, discussed Board member evaluation of the performance of Paige Hargrove as LERN Executive Director. A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Nijoka to give a 4% merit increase to Executive Director Paige Hargrove beginning July 1, 2025. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Review Budget Status

Dr. Wyble presented the 'FY25 Fiscal Overview of 3/14/25'. See Attachment D, p. 17. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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

Date: _____

8/21/25

Granville Morse, MD, Vice Chair