



# Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board  
Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Held at:**

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

## *Welcome/Introductions*

The August 21, 2025 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. by Granville A. Morse, III, MD, Vice 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:**

Jeffrey E. Carter, MD  
Vanessa de la Cruz, MD  
Capt. Philip Daniels  
Neal Fudge  
Deiadra J. Garrett, MD, Immediate Past Chair  
Dan Carl Godbee, MD  
Hon. Chance Henry, Louisiana State Representative  
Eva Lamendola, OD  
Granville A. Morse, III, MD, Vice Chair  
Honorable Brach Myers, La. State Senator  
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN  
Julette Saussy, MD  
J. Patrick Smith, Jr., MD  
Keith Van Meter, MD  
Richard Zweifler, MD

There were 15 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

**Members Absent:**

John Jones, MD, Chair  
Honorable Katrina Jackson-Andrews, State Senator  
Venkata S. Gadi, MD  
Paul Gladden, MD  
John P. Hunt, MD  
Tomas Jacome, MD  
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD  
Michele K. Sutton, FACHE  
Porter Taylor, IV  
Honorable Christopher Turner, State Representative  
Robert K. White, MD  
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN

**Staff Present:**

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director  
Chris Hector, Administrative Director  
Yvette Legendre, LERN Regional Coordinator  
Donis Fletcher, 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  
Michael Sutherland, MD (Trauma Medical Director)  
Rudy Gomez, SSA Consultants  
Jason Allemand, Communication Center Supervisor

***Approval of Agenda***

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

***Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2025***

A motion was made by Dr. Van Meter and seconded by Senator Meyers to approve the minutes of the April 10, 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. Zweifler and seconded by Dr. Godbee, to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

Resignations

Huey Marcell, III – from Region 1 Commission;  
John Gardner - from Region 1 Commission;  
Stephanie Henson, MD – from Region 2 Commission;  
Jason Maljars, MD – from Region 8 Commission; and  
Rodney Hart – from Region 9 Commission.

Appointments

Reed Miller, NRP - to Region 1 Commission (nominee representing local ambulance);  
Meg DeJean – to Region 1 Commission (nominee representing Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness);  
Shantal Hebert-Magee, MHA, MD - to Region 2 Commission (nominee representing Louisiana Office of Public Health);  
Brent W. Arnold, DO, FACEP – to Region 6 Commission (nominee representing Louisiana Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians);  
John Lipka, MD – to Region 8 Commission (nominee representing Louisiana State Medical Society);  
Pamraj Sharma, MD – to Region 8 Commission (nominee representing American Stroke Association); and  
Sean Spansel – to Region 9 Commission (nominee representing National Emergency Number Association).

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

***Executive Director Report  
Staffing Update***

Executive Director Hargrove announced that Administrative Assistant Donicia Jackson has resigned. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Director Hargrove advised that Board member David Marcus, the LANREMT member, has resigned and that the Governor has not yet appointed a member to fill that position. Executive Director informed the Board of eight board appointments with terms ending on 7/1/2025; and reminded the Board members that, by statute, these members continue to serve until the Governor makes a new appointment. The Executive Director has requested

nominations from all entities to be made to the Governor. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***Executive Director Report  
Strategic Priorities Update***

Executive Director Hargrove announced that the Strategic Priorities previously identified by the Board, see [Attachment B](#), are in progress and that the Board is currently scheduled to complete 95% of the goals set forth therein. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***Act 194***

Executive Director Hargrove and attorney Celia Cangelosi advised the Board regarding issues in implementation of Act 194 of the 2025 Regular Session regarding fines for DUI and traffic offenses to be paid to the LERN Fund. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***STEMI Update  
Update on STEMI/Cardiogenic Shock Workgroup***

Executive Director Hargrove presented a draft report listing the different Hospital Levels being considered in the STEMI/Cardiogenic Shock level of care. See [Attachment C](#). While the report is not yet complete, the workgroup plans to reconvene to discuss a path forward. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***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](#), pp. 11-23, for topics of discussion. The committee plans to present the final report for action at the November Board meeting. No formal action was taken by the board.

***Trauma Update  
Transfer Denial Rates***

Dr. Sutherland, LERN Medical Director - Trauma, reported on Transfer Denial Rates. See [Attachment E](#), p. 24. After implementing the daily denial report and the adoption of the Adult Trauma Transfer Guideline in August 2024, the denial rate in the State decreased from 30% to 4.75%. Executive Director Hargrove commended the Call Center for work toward this improvement. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***Hand Initiative***

Dr. Sutherland presented information to the Board regarding the LSU New Orleans Hand Clinic that offers telemedicine for hand injuries in Louisiana beginning August 18, 2025. Dr.

Sutherland indicated that the next priority for such telemedicine will include oral Maxillofacial surgery. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***LERN 2024 Trauma Registry Data***

Chris Hector, LERN Administrative Director, presented excerpts from the 2024 State Trauma Registry Report. See Attachment D and Attachment E, pp. 26-33. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***Budget***

***Review Budget Status***

Executive Director Hargrove presented the FY25 Fiscal Overview of 8/4/25. See Attachment E, p. 34. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***Fiscal Year End Budget Balance***

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director, explained the FY 25 Year End Budget Balance, closing out the last fiscal year. See Attachment E, p. 34- 35. No formal action was taken by the Board.

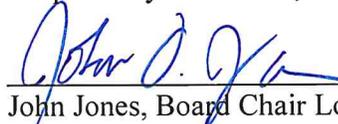
***Public Comment***

There were no public comments.

***Adjournment***

A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Saussy to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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John Jones, Board Chair Louisiana Emergency  
Response Network Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

11/20/2025