



# Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board  
Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Held at:**

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

## ***Welcome/Introductions***

The May 18, 2023 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:07 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.

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, welcomed two new Board members: Neal Fudge, representing the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and Porter Taylor, IV, representing the Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance. She also advised that Duke Walker will be resigning from the Board due to a job transfer.

## ***Roll Call***

Roll call was taken by Board Attorney, Celia Cangelosi, with the following results:

### **Members Present:**

Deidra J. Garrett, MD, Chair  
Schaun Chevis, MSW  
William Freeman, MD  
Neal Fudge  
Dan Godbee, MD  
Tomas Jacome, MD  
Joseph Kanter, MD  
Eva Lamendola, OD  
David Marcus, NRP  
Granville S. Morse, II, MD  
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN

Michele Sutton, FACHE  
Porter Taylor, IV  
Robert K. White, MD  
Karen O. Wyble, RN, MSN, MHA, MBA

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

John Hunt, MD, arrived at 1:20 p.m.

Brandon J. Mauldin, MD, arrived at 1:40 p.m.

**Members Absent:**

Honorable Regina Ashford Barrow, State Senator  
Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.  
Venkata S. Gadi, MD  
Paul Gladden, MD  
Honorable Jonathan Goudeau, State Representative  
John D. Jones, MD  
Buddy Mincey, Jr., State Representative  
Carl "Jack" Varnado, Jr., RPL, ENP  
Duke Walker, FACHE, MBA  
Honorable Mack A. "Bodi" White, State Senator  
Richard Zweifler, MD

**Staff Present:**

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director  
Yvette Legendre, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator  
Reed Douglas, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator  
Justin Schleis, LERN Data Manager

**Contractors Present:**

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

***Approval of Agenda***

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

***Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2023***

A motion was made by Dr. Freeman and seconded by Ms. Sutton to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2023 Board meeting as written. See Attachment A. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***Reminder of Financial Disclosures***

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, reminded Board members of the mandatory financial disclosures that were due to the Board of Ethics on May 15, 2023.

***Ratification of Commission Members and Resignations***

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

Resignations

- Vence T. Beches – from Region 5 Commission;
- Hugo Cuellar, MD – from Region 8 Commission;
- Jacqueline Bowers, MD – from Region 8 Commission;
- Sam Liggen, NRP – from Region 8 Commission;
- Luis Alvarado, MD – from Region 9 Commission; and
- Gerald Pellegrin – from Region 9 Commission.

Appointments

- Jennifer Stump, MSN, CEN, RN - to Region 7 Commission (nominee of Emergency Nurse representative);
- Master Trooper Javier Leija – to Region 8 Commission (nominee of law enforcement);
- Archie Neal Brown - to Region 8 Commission (nominee of Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness);
- Jason Maljaars, MD – to Region 8 Commission (nominee of American Stroke Association);
- Adrian Brouillette, NRP. – to Region 9 Commission (nominee of Louisiana Rural Ambulance Alliance); and
- Vincent J. Trabona, Jr. – to Region 9 Commission (nominee of Louisiana Association of Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians.

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

***Region 7 Commission Request***

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, advised the board that the Region 7 Commission requested the addition of a pediatric trauma center representative to the commission. See Attachment B. A motion was made by Porter Taylor and seconded by Michele Sutton to add a pediatric trauma representative to the Region 7 Commission. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***Executive Director Report  
Annual Report***

Ms. Hargrove reported on activities accomplished with respect to the board Strategic Priorities with the Board. See Attachment C. No formal action was taken by the board. Ms. Hargrove also shared a copy of the LERN Annual Report. See Attachment D.

***Operations Update/Move Update***

Executive Director Hargrove advised that the move of the LERN office to its new location is in progress and that the Call Center has been relocated. Once the fire marshal gives final approval, the remainder of the Board office will be relocated. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Ms. Hargrove announced the hiring of Mr. Vence Beches, as LERN's Disaster Preparedness Manager.

***LERN Executive Committee  
Call for Executive Committee Vote***

Executive Director Hargrove advised that there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee due to Scott Guidry's resignation from the board. See Attachment E. The Executive Committee recommends that a Board member be appointed to represent EMS. Board member Porter Taylor, IV, volunteered to serve on the Executive Committee. A motion was made by Dr. Godbee and seconded by Dr. Freeman to appoint Porter Taylor, IV, as a member of the Executive Committee. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***2023 Legislative Session  
SB 201***

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, reported on the status of Senate Bill 201 by Senator Hewitt regarding open meetings for particular public entities in specific circumstances. In its present form, it would not permit LERN to meet virtually but perhaps allows the regional commissions to do so if various requirements were fulfilled. See Attachment F, pp. 9-12. No formal action was taken by the Board.



## ***SB 12***

Executive Director Hargrove reported on Senate Bill 12 by Senator Fields, which addresses AED and CPR at athletic events and in schools, including requiring education on CPR and cardiac emergency response plan for postsecondary education institutions. See [Attachment F](#), pp. 13-15. LERN STEMI Medical Director Kanna Pasina, M.D., advised that Region 6 offered CPR courses for each school in Alexandria and received little interest or response. Discussion ensued. No formal action was taken by the board.

## ***Trauma Update***

TRAUMA Medical Director Michael Sutherland, M.D., provided the Trauma update. Region 8 has two site surveys scheduled in the near future; Region 5 has a reverification visit scheduled; and Region 4 has a reverification visit scheduled. LERN has received documentation that all three children hospitals, Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport, Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital of New Orleans, are now level 2 pediatric verified trauma centers.

TQIP reports are being aggregated, after which there will be meetings across the state to review for peer improvement.

A report was given regarding Power Share, its use in facilitating sharing images with transfer facilities before patient arrival. No formal action was taken by the Board.

## ***Stroke Update***

### ***2023 Strategic Goals***

Dr. Martin-Schild, LERN Stroke Medical Director, reported, see [Attachment G](#), on the progress of establishing protocol for all hospitals for time sensitive stroke conditions. Educational webinars are being updated. Stroke education classes are being developed, with a goal of three classes in each region.

Dr. Martin-Schild reported on recent Door-In-Door-Out (DIDO) performance for Large Vessel Occlusive positive stroke patients (VAN+) transferring to a higher level of care. See [Attachment F](#), p. 18. The target goal is 90 minutes. In the current remediation process, the worse a hospital performs, a lesser number of hospitals fall into remediation. Dr. Martin-Schild, in consultation with the State Stroke Workgroup, recommends changing the remediation requirement to:

Require an action plan if exceed 75th quartile or 180 minutes, whichever is lower.

A motion was made by Karen Wyble and seconded by Shawn Chevis regarding DIDO remediation. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Dr. Martin-Schild also requested a vote on requiring Stroke Capable Off-Site Emergency Departments (SCOED) to submit the same data as submitted by Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals (ASRH). See [Attachment F](#), pp. 19-20. A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Mauldin to require SCOED to submit the same quarterly data as the ASRH. The motion was

---

approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***STEMI Update***

STEMI Medical Director Kanna Posina, M.D., updated the Board on STEMI activity, stating that currently the referral centers are falling short of satisfying DIDO requirements. See Attachment F, p. 21. No formal action was taken by the Board. Dr. Posina also reported on the STEMI State Workgroup meeting which met today.

***Budget***

The Board was advised that the Trauma Medical Director contract was expiring; and that the Executive Committee proposes another three year contract with Dr. Michael Sutherland under the same terms and conditions as the existing contract. A motion was made by Ms. Wyble and seconded by Dr. Hunt to approve a new three year contract with Dr. Sutherland under the same terms and conditions as his current contract with an annual contract amount of \$121,500, for a total contract amount of \$364,500. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Board Treasurer, William Freeman, M.D., provided the fiscal year 2022 budget as of April 24, 2023. See Attachment H. No formal action was taken by the board.

***Public Comment***

Executive Director Hargrove advised funding for two positions and for \$70,000 for an ACS survey remains in House Bill 1. No formal action was taken by the board.

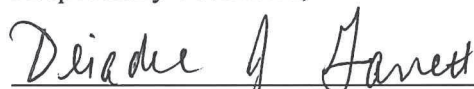
Board member Karen Wyble was congratulated on receiving a doctorate.

Board member Joseph Kanter, M.D., advised that Medicaid in each state is now required to reverify criteria of every enrollee for coverage. The state expects 200,000 to 250,000 individuals to lose Medicaid; some will lose coverage because the state cannot get in touch with them. Dr. Kanter requested all to encourage Medicaid recipients to update contact information with the state. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***Adjournment***

A motion was made by Dr. Wyble and seconded by Ms. Chevis to adjourn. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

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