

John Bel Edwards  
Governor



Harold L. Ritchie  
Chairman

**State of Louisiana**  
Executive Board on Aging

**MINUTES OF THE LA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA) MEETING  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS  
602 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Wednesday March 9, 2022 10:00 AM  
Via Zoom**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) was called to order at 10:08 AM by Ms. Leslie Keen, LEBA Chairman; with Ms. Cheri Crain serving as Secretary, via zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Johnny Berthelot  
Invocation: Ms. Emily Tilley

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Johnny Berthelot  
Ms. Blanche Wilks  
Mr. Charles "Buddy" Pugh  
Mr. Gerard Landry  
Ms. Emily Tilley  
Ms. Leslie Louviere-Keen  
Mr. Donald Mallet  
Mr. Ricco Thomas  
Mr. Huey Beverly

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Terry Courville  
Mr. Willie Lewis  
Ms. Worlita Williams  
Ms. Ann Keene  
Ms. Heather Prejean

**GUESTS:** Council on Aging Directors

**GOEA STAFF:**

Ms. Shirley Merrick, Director, Ms. Cheri Crain, Secretary, Mrs. Amanda Smith, GOEA General Counsel, Mrs. Michelle Guillory, Compliance and Planning/EPS Program Manager 3, Mrs. Kayla Doyle, Program Manager 1A

**LESLIE LOUVIERE-KEEN, LEBA CHAIRMAN**

LEBA Chairman Ms. Leslie Louviere-Keen declared a quorum was present with (8) members in attendance.

**LESLIE KEEN, LEBA CHAIRMAN**

The Board considered, amended and approved the agenda/meeting minutes from December 8, 2021.

**MOTION:** Ms. Emily Tilley moved and it was seconded Mr. Gerald Landry that the December 8, 2021 agenda/meeting minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

**SHIRLEY MERRICK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Executive Director's Report. Ms. Merrick stated that a copy was emailed to the Board members. Ms. Merrick reviewed the report.

**LACOADA:** Ms. Darlene Schexnayder announced that the Spring Conference will be held in Baton Rouge on April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> and Senior Day at the Capital will be April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Councils on Aging are working on budget revisions for the Rescue Act funds. Ms. Darlene Schexnayder did have conversations with Representative Bacala and House Speaker Schexnayder regarding increasing Senior Center funding from \$25,000 to \$75,000 base for each parish. She stated that assistance was needed in finding support from a Legislator to help push the bill through the session; and that the funding for this upcoming year shouldn't be the issue, it will be the continual funds needed each year which totals about \$4.2 million.

LEBA board members discussed a sub-committee to have conversations for advocating funds for the Senior Centers. Discussions will be scheduled at a later date. Committee will include Ms. Leslie Keen, Mr. Buddy Pugh, Mr. Johnny Berthelot, Ms. Shirley Merrick along with Ms. Darlene Schexnayder.

**LANA:** There was not a representative present for this Board

**SCHEDULE 2022 QUARTERLY MEETINGS:** Reminder next meeting is June 15, 2022 and will be in person at the Galvez Building in the Pensacola Conference Room.

**Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement:** Ms. Amanda Smith discussed the due date for the annual personal financial disclosure statements as May 15<sup>th</sup>. A reminder will be sent out at the first of May to all board members.

**ADJOURN:** Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Blanche Wilks moved and it was seconded by Mr. Gerald Landry. Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Prepared by Cheri Crain, Manager Compliance & Planning, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs