**JOHN BEL**

**EDWARDS**

**Governor**

State Of Louisiana

Executive Board on Aging

**Harold L. Ritchie Chairman**

**MINUTES OF THE LA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA) MEETING GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**525 Florida St., 4th Floor-Room 427, 10:00 AM Baton Rouge, LA June 11, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) was called to order at 10:00 AM by Harold Ritchie, LEBA Chairman; with Jessica Ross serving as Secretary, at the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs, 525 Florida St., 4th Floor, Room 427 Baton Rouge LA 70801.

Invocation: Huey Beverly

Pledge of Allegiance: Terry Courville

# ROLL CALL

**MEMBERS PRESENT MEMBERS ABSENT**

Harold Ritchie Worlita Williams

Willie Lewis Donald Mallet

Leslie Keen

Terry Courville Blanche Wilks Ann Keene Grace Garon

Mona Gorbert-Cravins Huey Beverly

Noah Aguillard

Ricco Thomas

**GUESTS:** Council on Aging Directors; Area Agencies on Aging Directors; and Amanda Smith, DOA Legal Counsel

# GOEA STAFF:

Karen Ryder, GOEA Deputy Assistant Director; Michelle Guillory, Compliance & Planning Manager, Jessica Ross, Contract and Grant Reviewer, serving as Secretary

# HAROLD RITCHIE, LEBA CHAIRMAN

LEBA Chairman Harold Ritchie declared a quorum was present with (11) members in attendance. Mr. Ritchie asked for a motion to approve the March 12, 2019 minutes as written. Motion: Huey Beverly: 2nd. Motion carried.

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#  KAREN R YDER, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPOR T

Karen welcomed the board and happily reported that, pursuant to Act 127 of the 2019 regular legislative session, the annual appropriation for the councils on aging has been increased. While the general formula applicable to the appropriation is retained (each council is allocated $2.50 per senior aged 60 years and older within the parish), the minimum funding amount has been increased, and the maximum funding cap has been removed.

Specifically, Act 127 (SB 174) provides that the minimum allocation that a Parish Council on Aging shall receive is $100,000 (increased from $37,500 under prior law) and the $100,000 maximum funding cap previously applicable has been removed entirely. This is a much-needed boost to a program that had not seen a substantial funding increase since 1987. We thank LACOADA and the Directors that worked so hard to make this happen, and hope to turn our attention to the senior center program , which has remained stagnant with respect to funding since 1987.

We faced less success, unfortunately, in our request for additional funding and positions to support the Elderly Protective Service Program (EPS) . This program is understaffed, with investigators burdened with extremely large caseloads and responsible for geographic territories that, in some instances, span over multiple parishes. We hope to have better results during a subsequent session, as this current session was, with respect to our funding, focused on the PCOA Program. Despite this, our budget, generally, will remain the same, as they did not cut any other agency funding this session.

Ms. Ryder was disappointed to report to the Board about two Councils on Aging that are in state of crisis, Vermilion Council on Aging and Catahoula Council on Aging, both of whom are currently in a state of crisis and have been unable to maintain operations and services, and have been transferred to GOEA Control until such time as both are able to return to normal operations. We have secured the assistance of Cenla Area Agency on Aging (with respect to Catahoula) and Cajun Area Agency on Aging (with respect to Vermilion) to supervise and assist with implementing new management, in order to return each of these councils to normal operations as quickly as possible.

# NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie Keen, president of Louisiana Aging Network Association (LANA), announced that on September 5, 2019, LANA, LACOADA, and AARP will host a Gubernatorial Forum and Luncheon at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel. Members are invited to attend both events immediately following the next Quarterly Board Meeting to be held at the Baton Rouge Marriot, located at 5500 Hilton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. More information regarding the Forum and Luncheon can be obtained by visiting the following website: ***http://www.louisiana-aging.org/conference/***

# NEXT MEETING

LEBA’s next meeting for is scheduled for September 5, 2019 at the Baton Rouge Marriot at 10:00 AM, to immediately precede the LANA, LACOADA and AARP Gubernatorial Forum & Luncheon at 11:30AM.. These events are to be held at the Baton Rouge Marriott, located at 5500 Hilton Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. All LEBA Board Members are invited to stay and attend the Forum and Luncheon.

# ADJOURN

Harold Ritchie: Motion to Adjourn, 2nd: Ann Keane

Meeting Adjourned: 11:32 AM

Prepared by Jessica Ross, Contracts and Grants Reviewer