



# Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board  
Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Held at:**

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

## ***Welcome/Introductions***

The January 30, 2025 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. by Granville Morse, MD, Board Vice 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:**

Granville A. Morse, II, MD, Vice Chair  
Deiandra J. Garrett, MD, Immediate Past Chair  
Peter Croughan, MD  
Vanessa de la Cruz, MD  
Capt. Philip Daniels  
Neal Fudge  
Paul Gladden, MD  
Tomas Jacome, MD  
Eva Lamendola, OD  
David Marcus, NRP  
Keith Van Meter, MD  
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN  
Michele K. Sutton, FACHE  
Honorable Christopher Turner, State Representative

Robert K. White, MD  
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN  
Richard Zweifler, MD

There were 17 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

John P. Hunt, MD, arrived at 1:51 p.m.

**Members Absent:**

John D. Jones, MD, Chair  
Honorable Katrina Jackson-Andrews, State Senator  
Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.  
Honorable Heather Cloud, State Senator  
Venkata S. Gadi, MD  
Dan Godbee, MD  
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD  
Honorable Brach Myers, State Representative  
J. Patrick Smith, Jr., MD  
Porter Taylor, IV

**Staff Present:**

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director  
Chris Hector, Administrative Director  
Sarah Templet, LERN Regional Coordinator  
Yvette Legendre, LERN Regional Coordinator  
Reed Douglas, LERN Regional Coordinator  
Justin Schleis, LERN Data Manager  
Cassandra Woods, LERN Finance Manager

**Contractors Present:**

Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel  
Michael Sutherland, MD (Trauma Medical Director)  
Rudy Gomez, SSA Consultants  
Jason Allemand, Communication Center Supervisor

Capt. Philip Daniels was welcomed as a new board member representing 911 National Emergency Number Association.

***Approval of Agenda***

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

***Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2024***

A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Rep. Turner to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024 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 Ms. Sutton and seconded by Dr. Gladden to approve the addition of a Pediatric Trauma representative to the voting membership of the LERN Region 1 Commission as requested by Region 1. See Attachment B. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Dr. Garrett and seconded by Dr. Van Meter, to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

**Resignations**

- Teddy Crochet – from Region 3 Commission;
- Darren Guidry - from Region 4 Commission;
- Dawn McKeown, MSN, MBA, RN – from Region 7 Commission; and
- Katie Cook, MSN, RN – from Region 9 Commission.

**Appointments**

- Nicholas P. Gorham, MD - to Region 1 Commission (nominee representing Hospitals with Over 100 Beds);
- Jessica Zagory, MD, FACS, FAAP – to Region 1 Commission (nominee representing Pediatric Trauma Representative);
- Davontray Davis, NRP - to Region 3 Commission (nominee representing LANREMT);
- Chad Sonnier – to Region 4 Commission (nominee representing Governor's office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness);
- John Babcock, MSN, RN – to Region 6 Commission (nominee representing Hospitals Over 100 Beds);
- Amy Reeves, RN, BSN – to Region 7 Commission (nominee representing Trauma Center);
- Bethany T. Monistere, RN, BSN – To Region 9 Commission (nominee representing Emergency Nurse).

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



### ***Legal Contract***

A motion was made by Dr. Zweiffer and seconded by Dr. Van Meter to approve the legal contract for professional services with attorney Celia Cangelosi for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for \$21,000.00 at the hourly rate approved by the Attorney General. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

### ***Executive Director Report***

#### ***Staffing Update***

Sarah Templet, the new Tri-Regional Coordinator for Regions 2, 4 and 5, was introduced. The Tri-Regional Coordinator for Districts 6, 7 and 8, Reed Douglas has resigned and her last day is February 28, 2025. Reed was thanked for 2 ½ years of service to her regions and commended on her performance. No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### ***2024 Strategic Goals Update***

Executive Director Hargrove presented and discussed the “LERN 2022-2024 Strategic Priorities.” See Attachment C, pp. 7-18. Executive Director Hargrove noted that it was a good year and that LERN met 90% of the goals for the year. No formal action was taken by the board.

#### ***2025-2027 Strategic Priorities***

Executive Director Hargrove presented and discussed the proposed LERN 2025-2027 Strategic Priorities. See Attachment C, p. 19.

Priority No. 1: “Continue buildout and refinement efforts to sustain LERN’s statewide care coordination systems, including Trauma, Stroke, STEMI, Burn, and MCI/Disaster Response;”

Priority No. 2: “Continue comprehensive assessments (trauma, stroke, STEMI) of the basic LERN operating model design to address the convener versus regulator issues raised by the American College of Surgeons/Committee on Trauma (ACS/COT) 2024 LERN Consultation Report” - LERN will convene a workgroup for #2;

Priority No. 3: “Expand and refine LERN’s data (collection/analysis/reporting) and performance improvement (PI) functions across all LERN care coordination systems” – LERN will convene a workgroup for #3; and

Priority No. 4: “Pursue practical opportunities to secure additional, dedicated, state funding that expands LERN’s operational capacity to better meet the stateside demand for its services”.

A motion was made by Dr. White and seconded by Dr. Gladden to approve the 2025-2027 Strategic Priorities as presented. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

### ***Dedicated Funding Discussion***

Executive Director Hargrove discussed options suggested by the Fiscal Office for a dedicated funding source for LERN. See Attachment C, p. 33. The proposal is to double all fines for offenses currently applied to the Traumatic Spinal Cord Trust Fund dedicated funding, with LERN receiving one-half dedicated to the LERN fund. Rep. Christopher Turner discussed procedure for handling in the legislature. The board was in support of this effort. No formal action was taken by the Board.

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***LCC Annual Report***

***Touch Base on 1/1/2025 Bourbon Street MCI***

Chris Hector, LERN Administrative Director, updated the Board on the Call Center and volume of calls by type. See Attachment D. Mr. Hector also advised the Board on LERN's involvement in the mass casualty incident (MCI) which occurred on Bourbon Street in New Orleans on January 1, 2025. Mr. Hector advised that LERN is involved in planning for possible MCI's both the Super Bowl and Madri Gras. No formal action was taken by the board.

***Regions 6, 7 and 8 Update***

***Strategic Plan Recommendation***

Reed Doulas, Tri-Regional Coordinator, updated the Board on wins and challenges facing Regions 6, 7 and 8. See Attachment C, pp. 34-48. No formal action was taken by the Board.

***Budget***

***Review Budget Status and budget planning going forward***

Dr. Wyble presented the 'FY25 Fiscal Overview of 1/7/25'. See Attachment C, p. 49. No formal action was taken by the Board.


***Public Comment***

There were no public comments.

***Adjournment***

A motion was made by Dr. White and seconded by Dr. Van Meter, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Granville Morse, MD, Vice-Chair  
Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board

Date: 4.10.2025