



Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board
Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.**

Held at:

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

Welcome/Introductions

The January 22, 2026 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by John Jones, MD, 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:

John Jones, MD, Chair
Jeffrey E. Carter, MD
Deiadra J. Garrett, MD, Immediate Past Chair
Paul Gladden, MD
Dan Godbee, MD
Tomas Jacome, MD
Eva Lamendola, OD
Omar Leonards, MD
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN
J. Patrick Smith, Jr., MD
Michele K. Sutton, FACHE
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN
Richard Zweifler, MD

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There were 14 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

Members Absent:

Honorable Katrina Jackson-Andrews, State Senator
Vanessa de la Cruz, MD
Capt. Philip Daniels
Neal Fudge
Granville A. Morse, III, MD, Vice Chair
Honorable Brach Myers, La. State Senator
Julette Saussy, MD
Porter Taylor, IV
Honorable Christopher Turner, State Representative
Robert K. White, MD

Hon. Chance Henry, Louisiana State Representative arrived 1:30 p.m.

Keith Van Meter, M.D. arrived at 1:56 p.m.

Staff Present:

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director
Chris Hector, Administrative Director
Yvette Legendre, LERN Regional Coordinator
Donice 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. Garrett and seconded by Dr. Zweiffler and to approve the agenda as written. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2025

A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Ms. Nijoka to approve the minutes of the November 20, 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 Ms. Sutton and seconded by Dr. Garrett, to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

Resignations

Jerrod Meaux – from Region 4 Commission;
Danielle Maples - from Region 4 Commission;
Tommie Hicks, NRP, MD – from Region 5 Commission; and
Edward Shaheen, MD, FACEP – from Region 5 Commission.

Appointments

Elizabeth Lacy, MHA, MPS, NRP - to Region 1 Commission (nominee representing trauma center);
Spencer Leger, NRP – to Region 4 Commission (nominee representing LANREMT);
Matthew Callahan - to Region 4 Commission (nominee representing Health & Human Services Designated Regional Coordinator);
Frank Lenoir, NRP – to Region 5 Commission (nominee representing Rural Ambulance Alliance); and
Andrew Tetreau, NRP – to Region 9 Commission (nominee representing local ambulance service).

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

Board Officer Election

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Dr. Garrett nominated Granville A. Morse, III, MD, for Board Chair. Dr. Morse previously advised LERN Board Executive Director he would accept the nomination for board chair. A motion was made by Ms. Wyble and seconded by Dr. Zweifler to elect Granville A. Morse, III, MD, as Board Chair. No other nominations were made. The nominations were closed. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Nominations were opened for Vice Chair. Dr. Garrett nominated Michelle Sutton as Vice Chair. Ms. Sutton accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. The nominations

were closed. A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Gladden to elect Michelle Sutton as Vice Chair to elect. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Nominations for Treasurer were then opened. Dr. Garrett nominated Karen Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN for Treasurer. Dr. Wyble accepted the nomination. After closing the nominations, a motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Ms. Sutton to elect Karen Wyble as Board Treasurer. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Board Executive Committee Election

Executive Director Hargrove stated that the Executive Committee consists of 7 members. The Board members are to elect the last two members of the committee. Nominations were opened and Dr. Jones nominated Dr. Garrett to the Executive Committee. Dr. Garrett accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. The nominations were closed. A motion was made by Dr. Zweifler and seconded by Dr. Gladden to elect Dr. Garrett to the Executive Committee. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Nominations were opened for a second Executive Committee position. Dr. Jones nominated Porter Taylor. Porter Taylor was absent but communicated to the LERN Executive Director, prior to the board meeting, he would accept if nominated to serve on the Executive Committee. No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed. A motion was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Godbee to elect Porter Taylor to the Executive Committee. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Godbee to close the elections. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Discuss Research Review Committee

Executive Director Hargrove explained what the Board's Research Review Committee does. The Vice Chair of the Board serves as the chair of the Research Committee. Other members are Ms. Sutton, Dr. Jacome and Dr. Godbee. One seat remains on the Research Committee. Executive Director Paige Hargrove will determine what others are interested to serve on the Research Committee. The members were asked to reach out to Executive Director Hargrove if interested in serving on the Research Committee. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Director Hargrove announced she continues to inquire about the seven positions on the Board, which are either expired or vacant. There has been no appointments by the Governor to fill these seats. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Director Report

Presentation on 2025 Goal Attainment/Proposed 2026 Goals

Executive Director Hargrove discussed the 2025 Trauma Goals, of which all were attained, and proposed trauma goals for 2026. See [Attachment B](#). A motion was made by Dr. Carter and

seconded by Dr. Jones to adopt the Trauma goals for 2026. See Attachment C. The motion passed after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Ms. Hargrove announced LERN met 90% the 2025 Stroke System Build Out goals. (See Attachment D.) No formal action was taken by the Board.

Executive Director Hargrove presented and discussed Stroke Education and proposed Stroke Goals for 2026. See Attachment E. A motion was made by Dr. Zweiffer and seconded by Dr. Gladden to adopt the Proposed Stroke Goals for 2026. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The Executive Director announced LERN met 90% of the 2025 STEMI Goals. See Attachment F. The 2026 Proposed STEMI Goals were presented and discussed. A motion was made by Dr. Leonards and seconded by Dr. Wyble to adopt the STEMI goals for 2026. See Attachment G. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The Executive Director announced LERN met 95% of the 2025 Burn System Goals. See Attachment H. The 2026 Burn System Goals were presented. See Attachment I. A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Dr. Carter to adopt the Burn Goal for 2026 as presented. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The Executive Director announced LERN met 100% of 2025 goals for Disaster Preparedness. The 2026 goals for MCI Disaster Preparedness Strategic Priority was presented and discussed. See Attachment J. A motion was made by Rep. Henry and seconded by Dr. Jacome to adopt the 2026 MCI/Disaster Response System Goals as presented. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Executive Director Hargrove updated the LERN Board on achievements made on the 2025 goals related to Strategic Priority #2 Update - Conduct comprehensive assessments (trauma, stroke, STEMI) of the basic LERN operating model designed to address the convener versus regulator issues raised by the American College of Surgeons/Committee on Trauma (ACS/COT) 2024 LERN Consultation Report. LERN met the 2025 goals related to this strategic priority. The LERN Executive Director presented the 2026 goals related to Strategic Priority #2. See Attachment K. A motion was made by Dr. Garrett and seconded by Dr. Jones to adopt the 2026 Strategic Priority Goals. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Executive Director Hargrove updated the LERN Board on achieving the 2025 goals related to Strategic Priority #3 - Expand and refine LERN's data (collection/analysis/reporting)

and performance improvement (PI) functions across all LERN care coordination systems. The Executive Director presented the 2026 goals related to Strategic Priority #3. See Attachment L. A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Leonards to adopt the 2026 goals for Strategic Priority #3. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Ms. Hargrove presented 2025 progress to goals related to Strategic Priority #4 - Pursue practical opportunities to secure additional, dedicated, state funding that expands LERN's operational capacity to better meet the statewide demand for its services. LERN met the 2025 goal for dedicated funding with the passage of Act 194 of the Regular Legislative Session. LERN Executive Director presented the 2026 goals for Strategic Priority #4. A motion was made by Dr. Jacome and seconded by Dr. Carter to adopt the 2026 goals for Strategic Priority #4. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Update on Act 194

See Attachment M. After various updates from Board members and Executive Director Hargrove, the board requested Executive Director to provide talking points related to Act 194 and actions needed to remedy the issue related to the courts and DUI.

LERN Contracts

Executive Director Hargrove announced three contracts were up for renewal beginning July 1, 2026, the Trauma Medical Director, the Board Attorney, and the Consulting contract.

The contract for the trauma medical director is a three year contract and currently expires on June 30, 2026. A motion was made by Dr. Garrett and seconded by Dr. Jacome to renew the contract for three years at \$121,500/year for a total of \$364,500. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The contract with SSA Consultants includes collateral work, strategic planning and the LERN annual report. A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Wyble to renew the contract for another three years under the same terms and scope as the existing contract. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The contract with the Board attorney may only be renewed for one year at a time. A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Leonards to renew the contract of Board Attorney Celia Cangelosi for one year under the same terms and conditions of the current contract. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Budget

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Review Budget Status

Dr. Wyble, the LERN Treasurer, discussed the status of the Budget. See Attachment N. Dr. Wyble requested the minutes reflect there is a plan to cover the existing shortfall in the LERN Budget. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed by:



Granville A. Morse, III, MD, Vice Chair
Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board

Date: 4/17/2026