

John Bel Edwards
Governor



Harold L. Ritchie
Chairman

State of Louisiana

Executive Board on Aging

MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA) QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS
525 Florida St., 4th Floor-Room 427, 10:00 AM Baton Rouge, LA
December 12, 2017

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 4th Floor Room 427 Baton Rouge LA 70801.

Invocation: Willie Lewis

Pledge of Allegiance: Willie Lewis

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Harold L. Ritchie
Noah Aguillard
Huey Beverly
Mona Gobert-Cravins
Blanche Wilks
Ann Keene
Willie Lewis
Donald Mallet
Ricco Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terry Courville
Grace Garon
Ethel L. Tabor
Worlita Williams
June Williams

GUESTS: Council on Aging Directors; Area Agencies on Aging Directors; White Castle Mayor Pro Tem Barbara O'Bear

GOEA STAFF:

Karen Ryder, GOEA Deputy Assistant Director; Jessica Ross, Secretary, Michelle Guillory, MIPPA Program Manager

HAROLD RITCHIE, LEBA CHAIRMAN

LEBA Chairman Harold Ritchie declared a quorum was present with (9) members in attendance. Mr. Ritchie asked for a motion to approve the June 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes as written. **Motion:** Mr. Ritchie, 2nd Willie Lewis, motion carried. Mr. Ritchie also noted that an informal gathering of Board Members was held on September 15, 2017 in Lake Charles at the LANA Conference, but lacked a quorum with only 4 members in attendance. Therefore, no business was conducted at that time.

KAREN RYDER, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Karen Ryder introduced Michelle Guillory, MIPPA Program Manager at GOEA, who addressed the Board regarding the MIPPA Program, including details about the recent Medicare Enrollment Period and other program activities.

MIPPA Program Update from Mrs. Guillory: GOEA just completed a 3-year grant for approximately \$1,205,000.00, reaching over 32,000 Medicare-Eligible Louisiana seniors over the course of the grant. This program benefits Medicare-Eligible seniors across the state by: helping seniors select Medicare Part D Plans, and by

assisting seniors with enrollment in ancillary programs to assist with medical costs, including the Low-Income Medicare Subsidy Plan, which pays the premiums for qualifying seniors, and the Medicare Savings Plan, which assists with prescription costs. Through the MIPPA Programs, Louisiana seniors, and the State of Louisiana, received a combined total benefit of over \$52 million dollars over the 3 year period. GOEA has been granted an additional grant, for a 1 year period, to provide assistance during the Enrollment Period for Medicare which ended in September 2017, with many Councils and Area Agencies on Aging participating statewide.

Over the past few weeks, Mrs. Ryder met with Jay Dardenne and the Division of Administration regarding the FY2019 budget, including discussions regarding the projected \$1.5 billion dollar budget shortfall projected for this coming fiscal year. Given this crisis, GOEA expects that a special legislative session will be necessary before a final budget is passed by the Legislature, including any measures to reduce the deficit. GOEA is hopeful that we will escape any further cuts to our operating budget, as the severity of cuts from prior fiscal years has left the agency have left very little that could be cut. Last fiscal year, GOEA returned over \$500,000 to the state in compliance with the statewide freeze to both travel and supply expenditures, and expect to do the same this year, despite the noncompliance of other agencies.

The EPS Program is one program is in dire need of additional staff and funding in order for the Program to return to its pre-DHH efficiency. In order for the program to service all areas of the state at a minimal level, GOEA would need 10 additional staff members, and the necessary funding for office space, before desired service levels can be attained. While the EPS pre-transfer budget consistently included funding for office space for each EPS Region, DHH retained this funding when the program returned to GOEA. As a result, Staff Members are required to work from home. In fact, upon the transfer, DHH transferred 80% of the caseload back to GOEA, but retained 50% of the funding necessary for those cases to be serviced. Due to staff resignations in the Governor's Office, GOEA is unsure about the immediate outlook on this issue, and hopes to have more information once the Governor fills the vacancies within his office.

NEW BUSINESS

- Becky Bergeron president for Louisiana Council on Aging Director's Association (LACODA), announced that Senior Day will be held at the Capital, including a reception to be hosted for Legislators and a breakfast, by LACOADA, from April 17, 2018 to April 19, 2018, which all Members are invited and encouraged to attend - schedule will be forthcoming in February.
- Lisa Derouen president of Louisiana Aging Network Association (LANA) thanked the Board Members that were in attendance for coming to the LANA Conference from September 19-21 at the Golden Nugget in Lake Charles, LA, and announced the election of a new LANA President, Leslie Kean, and they will be participating with LACOADA to host the Senior Day and other activities in April.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS & GUESTS

- Mr. Ritchie and Ms. Keane inquired as to the Board's rules regarding attendance at the meetings, and placed a request for the procedural rules regarding dismissal of members that have excessive absences (greater than 2) from the attorney, who will provide that information to Mr. Ritchie prior to the next meeting.
- Barbara O'Bear, Mayor Pro-Temp of White Castle, was in attendance and thanked GOEA for its work on behalf of the elderly in Iberville Parish.

NEXT MEETING

LEBA's next meeting scheduled for March 13, 2018 at 10:00 AM, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room (Room 427) at the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs offices, located at 525 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821.

ADJOURN

Harold Ritchie: Motion to Adjourn, 2nd Huey Beverly
Meeting Adjourned: 10:55 AM

Prepared by Jessica Ross, Contracts and Grants Reviewer, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs