

Louisiana Cancer Research Center
Board of Directors Meeting
A Hybrid Meeting was held.
On November 16, 2023, at 2pm

The following members of the Board of Directors were in attendance:

Dr. Richard DiCarlo, Interim Dean - School of Medicine, LSUHSC, Chairman
Dr. Lee Hamm, Senior Vice President & Dean-School of Medicine, TUHSC, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Barbara Goodson, Deputy Commissioner of Administration, Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Patrice Delafontaine, Executive Dean, TUHSC
Dr. Gene D'Amour, Special Assistant to the President, Xavier University
Dr. Valentine Nfonsam, Department Head for Surgery -School of Medicine, LSUHSC
Ms. Carroll Suggs
Ms. Pamela Ryan
Mr. Darren Mire, Member, Board of Regents; Director of Valuation, Orleans Parish Assessor's Office
Mr. Walter Leger, Jr, Senior Partner, Leger & Shaw Attorneys and Counselors
Mr. Arthur Cooper, Senior Director, Special Projects, Louisiana Economic Development
Dr. Brian Moore, Director, Ochsner Cancer Institute

Also, present were:

Dr. Joe W. Ramos, Director & Chief Executive Officer, LCRC
Mr. Sven Davisson, Chief Administrative Officer, LCRC
Ms. Deborah Reeder, Chief Financial Officer, LCRC
Mr. Paige Sensenbrenner, Legal Counsel, LCRC
Mr. Ryan Graffagnini, Controller, LCRC
Dr. John Cole, Director of Clinical Cancer Research, Ochsner Health
Dr. Thomas Wiese, Professor, Xavier University
Dr. Victoria Belancio, Assistant Professor Tulane University
Dr. Michael Celestin, Director Tobacco Control Initiative, Assistant Professor, LSU Health – New Orleans
Dr. Edward Trapido, Interim Dean, School of Public Health LSU Health – New Orleans
Ms. Stephanie Wiebke, Program Manager, Xavier University
Ms. Ellen Palmintier, Director State/Federal Regulations, Tulane University
Ms. Keadren Green, Sr. Clinical Administrator, Tulane University
Ms. Shelina Davis, CEO, LPHI
Ms. Jennifer Dickherber, Associate Director, Operations & Health Promotions, LPHI

Dr. DiCarlo called the meeting to order. The roll was called and there was a quorum.

Dr. DiCarlo requested approval of the minutes of the September 28, 2023, Board meeting.

A motion was made by **Ms. Suggs** and seconded by **Mr. Cooper**.

RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2023, Board meeting.

Dr. DiCarlo requested approval of the minutes of the Special Called October 12, 2023, Board meeting.

A motion was made by **Dr. Delafontaine** and seconded by **Dr. Moore**.

RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the minutes of the Special Called October 12, 2023, Board meeting.

Dr. DiCarlo called for the Finance Committee Reports.

Ms. Goodson stated that the Finance Committee met and reviewed the FY23 auditor's Financial Audit report and reviewed the FY24 Central Budgets. **Ms. Goodson** stated that the Finance Committee recommended to the Board to approve both the FY23 Financial Audit, Central Budgets, and total for LCRC Budget as presented.

Ms. Reeder went over the FY23 Financial Audit and presented the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities in detail.

LCRC's FY23 Financial Statements received an unmodified opinion with no significant deficiencies, no instances of noncompliance, no finding, and no management letter issued. The audit opinion is consistent with those received over the previous years.

1. Statement of Financial Position -Total Assets \$ 130,273,625. Total Liabilities were \$6,415,383, with Total Net Assets \$123,858,242 roughly \$4M less than last year due to reclassification of the Long-Term Liability (long-term lease) of \$3.4M.
2. Statement of Total Revenue for the year was \$17,238,332, Total Expenses \$20,790,589, resulting in a Net Loss of \$3,552,257. The net loss was primarily due to depreciation/amortization of \$3.4M.

A copy of the FY23 Audited Financial Statements are on file.

A motion was made by **Mr. Cooper** and seconded by **Dr. Delafontaine**.

RESOLVED, will all in favor, to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Audited Financial Audited Statements as presented.

Ms. Reeder presented the FY24 Central Budget and the total budget requests for LCRC. Controlled by the Central Administrative Office. The components of the Central Budget include Facility Admin., Shared Services (Core Lab), Central Scientific (Support Services that support the Research Programs) and Development. Budget request is \$6,792,541 which is an increase from last year (increase due to new innovative programs and recruitment of Dr. Ramos), the expense for insurance increased by more than 40%.

FY24 total budget request for LCRC is \$28,841,401 which includes -\$22,186,380 for the Cancer Research Components (which includes the Institutional Programs and the Central budgets) and \$6,655,021 for the newly created Community Outreach & Engagement Office (COE) which includes, all Tobacco Cessation and Control Programs (TFL, TCI, and Communities of Color (CoC); Research Training & Education; and the COE central office)

Copies of all detailed budgets, all related schedules, and budget summaries and were distributed to the Board and are on file at LCRC.

A motion was made by **Dr. Moore** and seconded by **Ms. Ryan**.

RESOLVED, will all in favor, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Central Budgets and the total LCRC budget request as presented.

Dr. DiCarlo called for the Director/CEO Report

Dr. Ramos gave an update on the LCRC including:

- **Ongoing Program Presentations**

- Over the course of the next several Board meetings Program teams will give a presentation on the program and their progress. Cancer Research Training and Educations Coordination (CRTEC) is presenting today.
- CRTEC program leaders are Dr. Thomas Wiese, Dr. Victoria Belancio and Dr. Charles Wood, the program's Associate Director, Dr. Wiese presented an overview, updates, and progress on LCRC's training and education initiatives. He provided a summary of CRTEC Leadership Team, Goals and Objectives, and an update on the Summer Undergraduate Cancer Research Experience (SUCRE).

- Dr. Ramos wanted to again "Thank you for the support" to the Governor, Board of Regions and all the team across the state of Louisiana for all the outstanding work they have put forth in the LCRC initiative.

- **Pilot Grants**

- Dr. Ramos stated that Dr. Matt Burow (Programs Development Lead) has agreed to be a lead on this project and will work closely with Dr. Wiese.

- **COE & Rural Health**
 - Dr. Ramos reminded the board that a focus of the LCRC will be on “Rural” Health.
 - Therefore, he is working with COE to bring in the LSU Ag Center as they have a presence in the rural communities and are very eager to work with LCRC to get COE into the farmland communities.

EAB Visit

- The EAB met with the Board and made many incredibly positive comments, stating the programs are inspirations, very great groups. **Ms. Suggs** stated that it was refreshing and enthusiastic about the work that is being accomplished and support of Dr. Ramos to lead. She stated that the EAB praise and accolades of the LCRC were wonderful.
- The EAB provided general guidance and feedback on each program and component and provided high praise to the LCRC Leadership Team that presented. They stated that it was amazing what had been accomplished in just a year.

Key Takeaways:

- Get going on the Strategic Plan in the beginning of the coming year. The LCRC Directors’ Cabinet will put an initial structure in place and draft plan. Then will bring to the larger scientific leadership.
- Most new Cancer Centers have three programs (the minimum) so that they are as strong as possible. Currently LCRC has four programs. Discussions will take place within the senior leadership regarding how we can combine to reduce to three programs.

Mr. Sensenbrenner stated that Rural Healthcare in NE Louisiana is the Chair for the upcoming Newly elected Governor’s Transition team, (Dr. Ralph Abraham). Mr. Sensenbrenner will connect Dr. Ramos with Mr. Abraham for collaboration.

Mr. Walter Leger, Jr. stated that he has a copy of the members of the new Health Care Transition Team for the upcoming transition team and will forward it to Dr. Ramos.

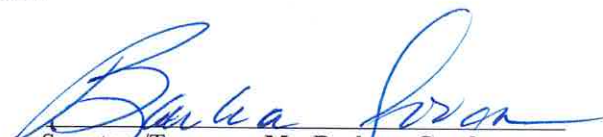
Dr. Ramos stated the Louisiana is playing a key role nationally regarding healthcare policy due to Senator Bill Cassidy. Organizations like AACR and AACI to reach out to LCRC to engage in policy.

Dr. DiCarlo called for any new business.

Dr. Ramos proposed the approval of the Ochsner Health’ Lease for Dr. Li Li space on the fifth floor. This will help with collaboration between Ochsner Health and LCRC researchers. Mr. Sensenbrenner stated that the Lease terms are the same as for the other tenants. As the Board will recall when the position was created for Dr. Ramos, as the Director, the Board granted the Director the authority to allocate space in the building. The Director is asking the Board to approve the Lease Space Agreement.

A motion made by **Dr. Delafontaine** and seconded by **Dr. D’Amour**.
RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the Ochsner Health Lease Agreement as presented.

With no further discussion or business, the meeting adjourned.


 Secretary/Treasurer, **Ms. Barbara Goodson**