

Louisiana Cancer Research Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
A Hybrid Meeting was held.  
On August 29, 2024, at 3:00pm

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

**Dr. Lee Hamm**, Senior Vice President & Dean, School of Medicine, Tulane University, Chairman  
**Ms. Barbara Goodson**, Executive Director, Firefighters' Retirement System, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Dr. Brian Boulmay**, Professor of Clinical Medicine, Hematology and Oncology, LSU Health  
**Ms. Paige Carter**, Chief Business Development Officer, Louisiana Economic Development  
**Dr. Patrice Delafontaine**, Executive Dean, School of Medicine, Tulane University  
**Mr. Walter Leger, Jr.**, Senior Partner, Leger & Shaw Attorneys and Counselors  
**Dr. Brian Moore**, Director, Ochsner Cancer Institute  
**Dr. Florastine Payton-Stewart**, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Xavier University  
**Ms. Pamela Ryan**

The following members of the Board of Directors were not in attendance.

**Dr. Richard DiCarlo**, Dean, School of Medicine, LSU Health, Vice-Chairman  
**Mr. Darren Mire**, Member, Board of Regents; Director of Valuation, Orleans Parish Assessor's Office  
**Ms. Carroll Suggs**

Also, present were:

Dr. Joe W. Ramos, Director & Chief Executive Officer, LCRC  
Mr. Sven Davisson, Chief Administrative Officer, LCRC  
Mr. Paige Sensenbrenner, Senior Partner, Adams & Reese, Legal Counsel, LCRC  
Ms. Deborah Reeder, Chief Financial Officer, LCRC  
Mr. Ryan Graffagnini, Controller, LCRC  
Ms. Seanne Falconer, Executive Director, Tulane Cancer Center  
Dr. Stefan Grant, Chief, Hematology & Medical Oncology, Director, Tulane Cancer Center, Tulane University  
Ms. Tammy Vaccaro, Sr. Research Administrator, Tulane Cancer Center & Radiation Oncology  
Dr. Earl Benjamin-Robinson, Director, TFL and COE, LCRC  
Dr. John Cole, Director of Clinical Cancer Research, Ochsner Health  
Ms. Stephanie Kleehammer, Chief Administrative Officer, LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center, LSU Health  
Ms. Lee Sabatini, Director, External Affairs, LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center, LSU Health  
Ms. Janice Williams-Lucas, Business Manager, LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center, LSU Health  
Ms. Stephanie Wiebke, Sr. Program Manager, Xavier University  
Mr. Terrell Neal, CFO, Louisiana Public Health Institute  
Ms. Shelina Davis, CEO, Louisiana Public Health Institute

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

**Dr. Hamm** called for the election of new Board members from Xavier and LSUHSC.

**Dr. Florastine Payton-Stewart** was nominated to serve as the LCRC Board member representing Xavier University.

A motion was made by **Ms. Goodson** and seconded by **Ms. Ryan**.

RESOLVED by unanimous approval, **Dr. Payton-Stewart** will serve as the Board Member representing Xavier University.

**Dr. Brian Boulmay** was nominated to serve as the LCRC Board member representing LSU Health – New Orleans.

A motion was made by **Ms. Goodson** and seconded by **Ms. Ryan**.

RESOLVED by unanimous approval, **Dr. Boulmay** will serve as the Board Member representing LSU Health – New Orleans

**Dr. Hamm** requested approval of the minutes of the July 25, 2024, Board meeting.

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

RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2024 Board meeting.

**Dr. Hamm** called for the Finance Committee Reports.

**Ms. Goodson** stated that the Finance Committee was not able to meet and that the COE & CRTEC will be presented to the full Board. A copy of each component's budget, goals and objectives are included in the Board meeting materials.

The following budgets were presented: Community Outreach & Engagement office (COE), Tobacco Free Living (TFL), Tobacco Control Initiative (TCI), Communities of Color Network (CoC) and Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination (CRTEC).

The Board was provided an opportunity for questions and answers after each presentation.

Ms. Reeder summarized the FY25 COE and CRTEC budget requests for Board approval.

COE Office	COC	TFL	TCI	Total COE	CRTEC	Total Budget Request
1,398,709	420,000	2,943,308	1,064,032	5,826,050	250,000	\$ 6,076,050

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

RESOLVED with all in favor, the FY25 COE & CRTEC Component Budgets, Goals and Objectives are approved as presented.

Ms. Reeder presented the proposed agreement for the Louisiana Tumor Registry (LTR) to provide Telehealth Support and Data Validation Services on behalf of LCRC.

A motion was made by **Ms. Ryan** and seconded by **Ms. Goodson**.

RESOLVED, with all in favor, to approve the agreement for the Louisiana Tumor Registry (LTR) to provide Telehealth Support and Data Validation Services on behalf of LCRC.

**Dr. Hamm** called for the Director/CEO Report

Dr. Ramos provided as update from the Director:

Dr. Ramos reported that President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden visited Tulane University to announce ARPA-H Funding for Dr. Quincy Brown and Brian Summa's project on an advanced imaging system designed to detect minute cancer remnants during surgery. They are among the first eight teams awarded under the Precision Surgical Intervention program. Their work takes advantage of light wave interference patterns to image entire excised tumors. The team will also develop an AI algorithm to identify cancerous cells for fast data classification automatically. Dr. Brown will present his work to the Board on October 31st.

Michael Hoerger has launched the Covican Free Prevention Kits for Cancer Patients, Dr. Ramos presented, aimed at evaluating the feasibility and acceptability of preventive measures against COVID-19. This pilot study is partially funded by the American Cancer Society and Tulane University's Lavin Bernick program. Each complimentary kit includes an educational booklet, fifty high-quality masks, six COVID rapid tests, and two air purifiers to enhance air quality for patients.

Dr. Ramos provided an update reviewing the last two years. The slide presentation was shared with the Board, and a copy is on file.

**Presentation by Dr. Kevin Callison**

Dr. Kevin Callison, an Associate Professor at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, with additional appointments in Economics and the Murphy Institute for Political Economy, gave a talk on his research. He focuses on evaluating policy interventions to improve population health, particularly in areas like health insurance and service use. Currently, he is investigating Medicaid expansion impacts in Louisiana and the link between paid sick leave and health. A copy of his presentation, "Paid Sick Leave and Cancer Prevention," is included in the meeting materials.

**Dr. Hamm** called for any old business. There was none.

**Dr. Hamm** called for any new business. There was none.

**Dr. Hamm** called for an Executive Session to be called.

Board members convened in Executive Session.

With no further discussion or business, the meeting adjourned.



Ms. Barbara Goodson, Secretary/Treasurer