

**Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee
State of Louisiana**

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR



Dawson Primes
CHAIRMAN

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 20, 2025 at 10:00 am

DoubleTree by Hilton Lafayette
1521 W Pinhook Rd. Lafayette, LA 70503
Ashland Conference Room

ATTENDEES

B.G.Jason Mahfouz, Brent Lewis, Pat Griffin, Neal Fudge, Mark Ward, Stephen Durel, Sandra Gaspard, Earl Eues, Clay Rives, Terry Guidry, Rodger McConnell, Kenneth Moore, Jared Maze, Claire Sekinger, Chad Sonnier, Joe Valiente, Ian Snellgrove, Clay Revere, Euclid Talley, Brittany Humphries, Kim Beetz, Todd Smith, Melvin Jackson, Darren Guidry, Todd Derrick, Ashley LeBlanc, Amy Michiels, Teresa Basco, Matt Hammons, Meg Dejean, Dean Davis, Allison Saari, Jacqueline Gazzea, Neal Brown, Sarah Theriot

Call to Order /Welcome

Earl Eues called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Earl completed the roll call and a quorum was established. Earl welcomed the group.

| Regions | Directors | Meeting Designee | Present | Absent |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| Region One | Joe Valiente | | P | |
| Region Two | Clay Rives | | P | |
| Region Three | Earl Eues | | P | |
| Region Four | Terry Guidry | | P | |
| Region Five | Jared Maze | | P | |
| Region Six | Kenneth Moore | | P | |
| Region Seven | Ian Snellgrove | | P | |
| Region Eight | Rodger McConnell | | P | |
| Region Nine | Dawson Primes | Matt Hammons | P | |
| GOHSEP Director | Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz | | P | |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from September 2025

Motion by: Kenneth Moore

Seconded by: Ian Snellgrove

There were no oppositions. September 2025 minutes were approved.

GOHSEP Updates/ Reports

Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz

- 2025 Legislative update:
 - Act No. 262 passed with nine amendments. This act formally transfers the GOHSEP under LMD
 - The “We will Act” Act passed addressing counteractions involving Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).
 - Louisiana State Police (LSP) will be the lead agency for the state.
 - The Attorney General’s Office will collaborate with District Attorneys in each jurisdiction for implementation and enforcement.
- GOHSEP/LMD merger updates:
 - State agencies have been directed to implement an additional 10% in State General Fund expenditures.
 - Phase 1 of the merger is complete.
- FEMA updates:
 - Proposed structural reforms to FEMA will come down in three waves.
 - Wave 1 (less than 6 months): this phase focuses on quick, internal administrative changes to rebalance FEMA’s role in disaster response.
 - Narrowing of focus: reduce the number and costs of disaster declarations, concentrating federal resources on large-scale events
 - Focus on core function: encourage states to take more responsibility for smaller, localized events
 - Accelerated assistance: streamline program administration to accelerated funding for emergency work
 - Wave 2 (6-12 months): will likely require additional regulatory or administrative adjustments to advance reform goals
 - Process overhaul: implement universal application to simplify process for survivors
 - Program modernization: reduce red tape
 - Mitigation incentives: implement new funding opportunities for resilience projects
 - Wave 3 (1-3 years): will likely require congressional legislation
 - Cabinet-level status: return FEMA to cabinet-level independent agency
 - Mitigation focus: shift agency’s focus towards proactive hazard mitigation and resilience
 - Resource rebalancing: potentially moving federal dollars to state-managed block grants for recovery
 - The final report should be released around the second week of December. It will go on the federal registry for public comment for a period of 30 days.

- Preliminary injunction was issued on August 5, 2025, blocking the administration from reallocating funds from the BRIC program
- PA reform proposal to move to flat 75/25 cost share, currently receiving lots of pushback.
 - PA reform also includes a new standard for recoupment that would be based strictly on the definition of criminal fraud.
- FY25 Preparedness grants on hold right now.
 - All states have a requirement to validate census data and to verify that the census data does not include persons who were deported from each State of Louisiana
- UASI funding zeroed out for Louisiana
 - Encouraged those affected to reach out to their elected officials to elevate their concerns

Public Assistance Updates

Brittany Humphries, Section Chief of Public Assistance

- Wrapping up 2023 Wildfire Disaster
- Three important thresholds:
 - State's PA threshold increased to \$9M; Parish PA thresholds increased- should have received an email with new threshold amounts
 - Small project threshold increased to \$1,093,800.
 - Minimum amount for a project was increased to \$4,100

Recovery Operations Updates

Allison Saari, Asst. Director of Recovery Ops

- Currently have six SBA disaster declarations ongoing
- Non-congregate sheltering- down to 2 trailers in the State of Louisiana
- Direct housing mission- down to 10 in the State of Louisiana

Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness Updates

Sandra Gaspard, Assistant Director of Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness

- FY25 Awards made, with funding hold for RFIs.
 - FEMA HQ Preparedness Grants staff are currently furloughed
 - FEMA GO is unavailable at the time.
- DR-4817, Hurricane Francine: applications due to GOHSEP by November 13, 2025
- GOHSEP Grants enhancements will not go live until GOHSEP does additional user acceptance testing.
 - invites all to participate in testing
 - FY22 HSGP (SHSP, OPSG, UASI) POP extension request pending with FEMA

- FY21 SHSP closed at the end of August- processing final payments
- ***Performance period on all FY25 grants is one year- October 1, 2025- September 30, 2026***

Financial Operations and Administration Updates

Neal Fudge, Deputy Director

- GOHSEP has assumed responsibility for the contracting component related to the Smitty's incident.
- Reiterated that all FY25 grants will have a one-year period of performance

Emergency Management Updates

Mark Ward, Asst. Director of Emergency Management

- Current incidents:
 - Salt-water intrusion: low-water seal completed on October 10th to protect Belle Chase and areas to the north
 - Drought: 14 burn bans currently in place across the State of Louisiana
 - Invest 98L: monitoring

Security and Interoperability Updates

Euclid Talley, Asst. Director of Security and Interoperability

- School safety grant- 131 schools/districts awarded \$50,000
- NAV360 is active, increasing coverage around the state for anonymous reporting
- 46-47% increase in Motorola maintenance costs- GOHSEP looking to improve future contracts for big projects
- RAVE Panic button- one-year contract signed on 8/12/2025.

Cybersecurity Updates

Stephen Durel, Assistant Director of Cybersecurity Incident Response

- Louisiana Cyber Assurance program
 - Assessments are being conducted statewide. To date, 188 out of 472 assessments have been completed, with 11 currently in progress. Of the completed assessments, 110 critical vulnerabilities have been identified.
- Approximately 139,000 endpoint detection software installations are deployed across state networks to help protect against intrusions.
- Significant increase in cyber events; many are suspected threats into state networks

- Note: noreply@louisianapa.com is not spam; parishes may receive emails from this email address concerning annual certification for both preparedness and hazard mitigation grants

OHSEP Directors Updates

- Updates given by the Regional Directors.

Next Meeting

- Date: December 9, 2025
- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Location: GOHSEP HQ- Overwatch Room

Adjourn

Motion by: Clay Rives
Seconded by: Rodger McConnell
Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.