

# State of Louisiana

Office of the Governor

Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement  
and Administration of Criminal Justice

**JEFF LANDRY**  
GOVERNOR

**JIM CRAFT**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## DARE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2026

A regular meeting of the DARE Advisory Board was held Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at the West Baton Rouge Convention Center in Port Allen, LA. Sheriff Whittington called the meeting to order.

### ROLL CALL

The following members were present (or represented): Sheriff Julian Whittington (Chairman), Bill Hendrix (proxy for Executive Director Kevin Cobb), Lt. Altrice Taylor-Singleton, Ms. Shayla Polk, Chief Darryl Lawrence, Sheriff Mike Tubbs, and Chief Jim Craft (Proxy for Sheriff Victor Jones)

Staff members present: Jim Craft, Erica Johnson, and Rebekah Taylor Hill.

### CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Sheriff Whittington made a call for public comment, and none was heard.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sheriff Tubbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/3/2025 meeting. After some discussion, Lt. Taylor-Singleton seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### CONSENT AGENDA

#### Louisiana DARE Officers' Association (LDOA) Report – Altrice Taylor-Singleton, LDOA President

Ms. Taylor-Singleton presented the LDOA report to the Board members. She gave the Board details concerning the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Louisiana DARE Officers Association Training Conference will be held in New Orleans July 21-24, 2026. She also notified them that there will be an LDOA meeting on April 24, 2026. No action necessary.

#### Louisiana DARE Training Center Report – Lt. Gene Higginbotham, Training Center Director

Lt. Higginbotham presented a report to the Board members. He noted that DARE officer training will be held August 17-25, 2026 at the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office. He also informed the Board that Melissa Sweeney had been doing observations for the Training Center. He also told the Board that he had four DARE officers that were interested in attending mentor school, but they were not qualified. No action was necessary.

## **Minutes**

**3/16/2026 DARE Meeting**

**Page 2**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

DARE Training Schedules – Discussion by Lt. Gene Higginbotham, DARE Training Center Director

#7 of the **STATE D.A.R.E. ADVISORY BOARD POLICIES** was updated to “Any adaptation or deviation to curricular material, not approved by D.A.R.E. America/International, compromises the integrity of the D.A.R.E. curricula and constitutes a violation of federal law.” This policy change was motioned by Sheriff Tubbs and seconded by Chief Stelly and the motion passed.

Lt. Higginbotham informed the Board members of some current issues with DARE Officer Training Schedules that are being submitted to the DARE Training Center. Lt. Higginbotham informed the Board members that he will be working on recommendations for DARE Training Schedule guidelines, and will report back to the Board at the next scheduled meeting. No action necessary.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No items on the agenda.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Sheriff Whittington made a call for other business, and none was heard.

Lt. Altrice Taylor-Singleton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Tubbs seconded the motion and the motion passed.