



Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board
Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

Held at:

**Louisiana Emergency Response Network
7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 207
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

Welcome/Introductions

The April 18, 2024 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. by John Jones, MD, Board Chair. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and notice was properly posted.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Celia Cangelosi, LERN attorney, with the following results:

Members Present:

John D. Jones, MD, Chair
Deiadra J. Garrett, MD, Immediate Past Chair
Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.
Venkata S. Gadi, MD
Dan Godbee, MD
John Hunt, MD
Eva Lamendola, OD
David Marcus, NRP
Keith Van Meter, MD
Granville S. Morse, II, MD, Vice Chair
Tara Simpson
Patrick Smith, MD
Michele Sutton, FACHE
Porter Taylor, IV
Carl "Jack" Varnado, Jr., RPL, ENP
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN
Richard Zweifler, MD

There were 17 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

Members Absent:

Honorable Katrina Jackson-Andrews, State Senator
Honorable Heather Cloud, State Senator
Neal Fudge
Paul Gladden, MD
Tomas Jacome, MD
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD
Brach Myers, Louisiana Representative
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN
Christopher Turner, Louisiana Representative
Robert K. White, MD

Staff Present:

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director
Chris Hector, Administrative Director
Ana DePuy, LERN Regional Coordinator
Yvette Legendre, LERN Regional Coordinator
Reed Douglas, LERN Regional Coordinator
Deborah Spann, LERN Statewide Education Coordinator
Justin Schleis, LERN Data Manager
Cassandra Woods, LERN Finance Manager

Contractors Present:

Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel
Michael Sutherland, MD (Trauma Medical Director)
Kanna Posina, MD (STEMI Medical Director)
Jason Allemand, Call Center Supervisor
Anita Byrne, SSA Consultants

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved, as published.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2024

A motion was made by Jack Varnado and seconded by Michele Sutton to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2024 Board meeting. See Attachment A. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Ratification of Commission Members and Resignations

A motion was made by Michele Sutton and seconded by Porter Taylor, IV, to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

Resignations

- Nicole McCain, MD – from Region 1 Commission;
- Damon E. Patterson, MD - from Region 4 Commission; and
- Tonya Hunter, MD – from Region 8 Commission.

Appointments

- Saad Karim, MD - to Region 4 Commission (nominee of American Stroke Association);
- Don Patton Matthew Pierce – to Region 6 Commission (nominee of military);
- Bryant R. Boyd, MD - to Region 7 Commission (nominee of American College of Emergency Physicians); and
- Jamie Forentine, RN – to Region 8 Commission (nominee of Louisiana Emergency Nurse Association).

The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Financial Disclosure Due 5/15/2024

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, reminded the Board members that their financial disclosures were due by May 15, 2024. No formal action was taken by the board.

Board Appointments/Senate Confirmations

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, advised the Board of the legislators appointed as Board members: Senator Katrina Jackson-Andrews, Senator Heather Cloud, Representative Brach Myers and Representative Christopher Turner. She also updated the Board on the status of other pending appointments to the board.

Executive Director Report

Annual Report / Glenwood Regional Medical Center

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, advised the Board regarding issues with Glenwood Regional Medical Center which in the light of financial difficulties, is in danger of being closed if not resolved by mid-June. No formal action was taken by the board.

Open Meeting Rule

Executive Director Hargrove presented a proposed rule amendment for disabled individuals participating in Board meetings. A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and seconded by Dr. Hunt to adopt the rule as presented. See Attachment B to these minutes. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Trauma System Consultation

Dr. Sutherland presented the Board with a summary of the anticipated recommendations that will result from the ACS evaluation of LERN. See Attachment C. No formal action was taken by the board.

Hospital and EMS Participation Agreements

Executive Director Hargrove discussed hospital and EMS participation agreements previously issued by LERN (see Attachment D), and the Executive Committee recommendation that these were no longer necessary. Dr. Granville Morse motioned to retire the use of EMS and Hospital Participation Agreements. Motion was seconded by Dr. Zweifler. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

STEMI – Cardiogenic Shock Discussion

Dr. Posina, LERN STEMI Medical Director, made a power point presentation regarding Cardiogenic Shock. See Attachment E. After discussion, Ms. Hargrove suggested in addition to surveying hospitals, a work group be convened to recommend next steps to be taken. A motion was made by Dr. Gadi and seconded by Dr. Carter for LERN to evaluate the pursuit of Dr. Posina's suggestions. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Region 1, 3 and 9 Commission Update

Yvette Legendre, LERN Regional Coordinator, made a powerpoint presentation (Attachment F) highlighting the challenges and improvements in Regions 1, 3 and 9. No formal action was taken by the board.

Executive Director Evaluation

Anita Byrne of SSA Consultants presented the Executive Director job description

(Attachment G) and compensation analysis (Attachment H). It was recommended that the Board continue an annual evaluation. No formal action was taken by the board.

Budget

Legal Contract (AG Letter/terms)

Board reviewed letter from Attorney General (Attachment I). The current legal counsel, Celia Cangelosi's contract ends June 30, 2024. In consideration of the letter from the Attorney General and existing LERN budget, motion by Porter Taylor contract for legal services with Celia Cangelosi for 1 year with option to extend 1 additional year at hour rate of \$270/hour, not to exceed annual contract maximum of \$20,000 per year. Motion seconded by Dr. Zweifler. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Stroke Medical Director Contract

Executive Director informed the Board that Dr. Sheryl Martin-Schild's, Stroke Medical Director contract ends June 30, 2024. Based on volume of work, Executive Director recommended increasing contractual amount of the contract from \$70,000 annually to \$75,000 annually. Motion by Michelle Sutton to continue with Dr. Martin-Schild as LERN's Stroke Medical Director and to contract for a three year term at \$125 per hour (\$75,000 annually) for a maximum contract amount of \$225,000. Motion second by Dr. Zweifler. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Review Budget Status

Dr. Wyble reported on the current budget status. See Attachment J. No formal action was taken by the board.

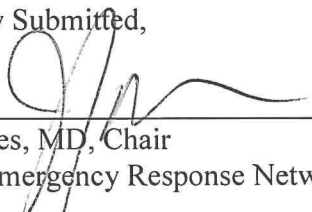
Discussion was had regarding the high ratings on the executive director evaluation.

A motion was made by Dr. Morse and seconded by Dr. Hunt to grant the current executive director a 4% salary increase effective July 1, 2024. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John D. Jones, MD, Chair
Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board

Date: 8/15/24