

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor

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GOVERNOR



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Executive Board on Aging
LESLIE LOUVIERE-KEEN CHAIRWOMAN

MINUTES OF THE LA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA) MEETING
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS
Thursday April 18, 2024 11:30 AM
Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center – Heidelberg Room 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) started at 11:00 AM by Ms. Leslie Keen, LEBA Chairwoman with Ms. Cheri Crain serving as Secretary, in person.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Donald Mallet

Invocation: Ms. Ann Keene

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Leslie Louviere Keen
Ms. Ann Keene
Mr. Charles "Buddy" Pugh
Mr. Huey Beverly
Mr. Willie Lewis
Mr. Ricco Thomas
Mr. Donald Mallet
Ms. Heather Prejean
Mr. Johnny Berthelot

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Worlita Jackson
Mr. Terry Courville
Mayor Gerard Landry
Ms. Blanche Wilks

GUESTS: Area Agency, Council on Aging Directors and staff

GOEA STAFF: Mrs. Amanda Smith, Executive Director, Ms. Cheri Crain, Secretary, and Mrs. Kayla Doyle, Program Manager 1A.

ROLL CALL

Chair, Ms. Leslie Louviere Keen asked Ms. Cheri Crain to call the roll. Members present nine.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 6, 2024 were presented for approval. **MOTION:** Mr. Charles

“Buddy” Pugh moved and it was seconded by Mr. Johnny Berthelot that the February 6, 2024 minutes be approved. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Mrs. Amanda Smith stated that Ms. Kayla Doyle emailed a copy to the Board members prior to the meeting. Mrs. Smith reviewed the report with the Board. Some highlights from the report:

FY25 Budget:

The requested funding for GOEA, as well as for the parish councils on aging remain intact in House Bill 1. Due to much-needed staff at GEOA, we have requested 17 extra positions in this year’s budget, which we would add mostly in the filed for Elderly Protective Services, add regional EPS supervisors, and add a position in the GOEA accounting department. We have, thus far, received a great deal of support from the Commissioner of Administration, Taylor Barras, as well as from Governor Landry’s office. The funds for these additional positions remain in HB1, and we are hopeful that our final budget will be approved, as originally submitted to the Division of Administration budget office.

Additionally, GOEA will be adding a staff attorney to our team. This additional legal position will be incredibly useful, particularly with the addition of more EPS investigators. I am very excited about the increased quality of service we will be able to give the AAAs, the councils, and GOEA as an agency.

Federal Law Changes – Older American Act:

The Older Americans Act was passed in 1965 during the Johnson Administration. The goal was to support older Americans and allow them to live at home and in the community for as long as possible. This is the source designation of a State Unit on Aging for each state, and the authority of the Area Agencies on Aging. The provisions of the Act have been reauthorized several times, but substantive changes had not occurred since 1988, until 2023. As of March 15, 2024, the new changes were effective, but due to the need for states to implement the new federal regulations in their own policies and procedures, regulated entities were given until October 1, 2025 to implement the new requirements. This will be a lengthy, intensive process for GOEA staff, which is already underway. This will be a coordinated effort between departments and it will be a great opportunity to learn the new OAA provisions from the ground up.

Services:

Summary for the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 was provided for an overview of the services provided to seniors by the AAAs in the previous quarter. Personal Care in the 3rd quarter FY24 had 22,718 units reported, which is consistent with numbers from FY23 of 22,525. 1,022,421 congregate meals were served, compared with 902,071 from 2023. 2,856,411 home delivered meals were recorded this year. A decrease from 3,109,836 served last year. These meal numbers reflect that more seniors are receiving meals at a congregate meal site than having meals delivered to their home, which of course was utilized during the closure of the meal sites during the past few years. This is a great result, since it is very important for seniors to receive social interaction, as well as nutrition.

Elderly Protective Services:

EPS has been working hard to close as many completed cases as possible, with the available manpower. We anticipate hiring more supervisors and investigators with our proposed positions, which will help us obtain numbers more on track with national averages. So far, in FY24 4,065 cases have been accepted. There were a total of 5,059 cases accepted in FY23, so EPS is on track to match/exceed the cases from the previous fiscal year.

LACOADA: Presented by Ms. Tamara Crane: Discussed the Annual Conference on April 17th and 18th with a variety of speakers

- Fall Conference in October
- Al Robichaux discussed the need for legislative lobbying from the Directors

LANA: Presented by Ms. Debbie Fleming: This year's annual conference will be an educational opportunity. The conference will be held on September 17th – 18th at the L'Auberge Casino in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

- People's Health is working on the promotion brochure
- LANA is set up to take credit card payments
- LEBA meeting is held during the conference

Public Comment: None

SCHEDULE 2024 QUARTERLY MEETINGS: The tentative dates scheduled for 2024:

The next LEBA meeting will be held on September 17, 2024

- November 12, 2024

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Charles "Buddy" Pugh moved and Mr. Johnny Berthelot seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.

Prepared by Cheri Crain, Manager Compliance & Planning, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs.