

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
State of Louisiana
Office of the 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
Tuesday November 12, 2024 11:00 AM
Galvez Building in the Pensacola Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) started at 11:00 AM by Ms. Ann Keene, LEBA Vice Chairwoman with Ms. Kayla Doyle serving as Secretary, in person.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Ricco Thomas
Invocation: Mr. Huey Beverly

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Ann Keene
Ms. Blanche Wilks
Mr. Charles "Buddy" Pugh
Mr. Huey Beverly
Mr. Johnny Berthelot
Mr. Ricco Thomas
Mr. Donald Mallet
Ms. Heather Prejean

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Worlita Jackson
Mr. Terry Courville
Ms. Leslie Louviere Keen
Mr. Willie Lewis

GUESTS: Area Agency, Council on Aging Directors and staff

GOEA STAFF: Mrs. Amanda Smith, Executive Director, Mrs. Kayla Doyle, Program Manager 1A serving as Secretary, and Mr. Steve Kabel Legal Counsel

ROLL CALL

Chair, Ms. Ann Keene asked Ms. Kayla Doyle to call the roll. Members present eight.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 18, 2024 meeting were presented for approval. **MOTION:** Mr. Beverly Huey moved and it was seconded by Mr. Johnny Berthelot that the April 18, 2024 minutes be approved. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Mrs. Amanda Smith reviewed the report with the Board. Some highlights from the report:

GOEA Staff:

GOEA received 17 additional positions in our FY25 budget, bringing our total number of employees to 84, when fully-staffed. We have begun interviewing and filling those positions and are very excited about the additional support. We were also able to add a staff attorney to our team, Steve Kabel. He has been invaluable already.

Federal Law Changes – Older American Act:

The Older Americans Act was passed in 1965, with the goal of supporting older Americans and allowing them to live at home and in the community for as long as possible. This is the source of the 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, when some updates were made in 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. GOEA continues to work on this, and has brought Margaret McGarity back to the team. She was a long-time GOEA employee that worked on the last round of changes to our Policies & Procedures and we are very happy to be able to get her assistance. 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:

A comparison chart of Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 was provided for an overview of the services provided to seniors by the AAAs. Home-delivered Meals increased to 4,258,741 from 4,120,661, and Congregate Meals increased to 1,394,251 from 1,234,401. Transportation services increased from 442,668 to 484,829 units. Homemaker from 132,310 to 151,093, and we saw similar increases in Information & Assistance, Personal Care, Outreach, and Chore units.

Elderly Protective Services:

EPS took in over 5,000 assigned elder abuse and neglect cases in FY23-24. Ebony Phillips and her staff have been working hard to close as many completed cases as possible, with the available manpower. We are currently hiring more supervisors and investigators into our new positions, which will help us obtain numbers more on track with national averages. This will make a huge difference in protecting Louisiana's seniors.

Board members asked about how many of the EPS complaints received are investigated and discussed as a group how they could shed more light on the Elder Abuse Program.

Mrs. Amanda Smith shared how the EPS Program is being advertised to get the word out and sharing the hotline for reporting elder abuse cases. She also discussed the important relationships that EPS has and explained how they work close with banks, police, and the social security office to investigate cases.

LEBA Annual Report: The 2024 LEBA Annual Report was presented for approval. **MOTION:** Mr. Johnny Berthelot moved and it was seconded by Mr. Charles “Buddy” Pugh that the 2024 LEBA Annual Report be approved. Motion carried.

LACOADA: Presented by Mr. David Lewis: Discussed the Spring Conference they are planning for the week of April 21, 2025 at the Hilton in Baton Rouge. Senior day at the Capital would be on Tuesday April 22, 2025.

- Discussed the concerns with House Bill 10
- Mike Rome discussed possible cuts to services if House Bill 10 is passed

LANA: Presented by Mr. Mike Rome: The annual conference in Lake Charles, Louisiana was successful and they are looking into setting dates for next year. More information will be forthcoming.

Public Comment: None

SCHEDULE 2025 QUARTERLY MEETINGS: The tentative dates scheduled for 2025:

The next LEBA meeting will be held on February 19, 2025.

- April 24, 2025
- August 20, 2025
- October 15, 2025

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Charles “Buddy” Pugh moved and Mrs. Blanche Wilks seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Prepared by Kayla Doyle, Compliance & Planning Program Manager 1A, Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs.