

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
Tuesday June 24, 2025 11:00 AM
Galvez Building – Pensacola Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) started at 11:17 AM by Ms. Leslie Keen, LEBA Chairwoman with Ms. Cheri Crain serving as Secretary, in person.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Heather Prejean

Invocation: Mr. Donald Mallet

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Leslie Keen
Ms. Blanche Wilks
Ms. Ann Keene
Mr. Donald Mallet
Mr. Huey Beverly
Sheriff Rene Thibodeaux
Mr. Ricco Thomas
Ms. Heather Prejean

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Charles “Buddy” Pugh
Mr. Terry Courville
Mr. Willie Lewis

GUESTS: Area Agency, Council on Aging Directors and staff

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

ROLL CALL

Chair, Ms. Leslie Keene asked Ms. Cheri Crain to call the roll. Members present eight.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 19, 2025 meeting were presented for approval. **MOTION:** Mr. Huey Beverly moved and it was seconded by Mr. Rico Thomas that the February 19, 2025 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 is very close to being fully-staffed, which would put us at 84 employees. We have a few open positions in Elderly Protective Services, a few in Accounting & Finance, and one in Home & Community Based Services. We are anxious to fill the positions and to continue to provide great service for Louisiana's seniors.

Federal Updates:

We continue to watch for updates regarding funding from federal sources. As of this time, we do not anticipate any issues with receiving funds from ACL, but we continue to get updates and have contingency plans in mind.

GOEA has a working draft of our new Policies and Procedures Manual, incorporating required changes according to federal law. We have engaged the Councils and Area Agencies on Aging to give them notice of upcoming changes, and received valuable input from directors.

Services:

See the attached service summary for a comprehensive list of services provided. So far in fiscal year 2025, 1,126,127 Congregate Meals were served, along with 2,643,211 Home Delivered Meals. We are seeing changes in the needs of seniors and finding better ways to serve them. Our federal partners at ACL have enabled service providers to allow for "Grab and Go" meals, due to their flexibility and popularity. We will continue to encourage that the Councils on Aging, Senior Centers, etc. find ways to engage seniors socially, even if they do not sit and consume an entire meal at the facility.

Elderly Protective Services:

EPS has assigned 5,203 elder abuse and neglect cases to investigators so far this fiscal year. We currently have 1,456 open cases. Every single EPS investigator has reduced their case load to under 50. This is a huge accomplishment, thanks to the addition of EPS staff, and their hard work to investigate and close cases in a timely manner. We are very proud of this achievement.

Louisiana Legislative Session:

I wanted to let you know about some of those that will affect our State's aging population:

House Bill 1: This is the annual general budget bill that makes appropriations to State agencies. GOEA's budget was approved as requested, meaning we will continue

providing the same level of services to elders with the same number of authorized employees. Each of your individual Councils should continue to be funded as well. The bill also allocated an additional \$412,200 for dementia specialist resources at parish and disability resource centers.

It has been approved by both the houses of the Legislature and will be sent to Governor Landry for his signature.

House Bill 126: This bill adjusts the funding formula for determining annual state funding for each Council on Aging. The Legislature has increased the amount of quarterly state funding that can be available, such that Councils can now receive either: \$4 per parish resident over 60 (up to \$2.50), OR \$150,000 (up from \$100,000). Again, this is State funding, which shall be distributed every quarter, subject to a cap of \$10,494,238.00 statewide. We expect that this increase in available funds will greatly benefit the seniors that rely on COA services.

The bill has been adopted and sent to Governor Landry for approval. It should take effect on August 1st of this year.

House Bill 263: This bill makes the exploitation of elderly persons a specific crime unto itself, punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine of \$10,000. It also requires such criminals to make full restitution to their victims.

Governor Landry has already signed this bill into law.

House Bill 460: Similar to House Bill 1 discussed above, this bill authorizes supplemental appropriations to State agencies. The bill authorized an additional \$412,000 for dementia specialist resources, for a combined total of \$824,000. We look forward to working with those of you who sponsor parish and disability resources centers, so that these funds can be distributed to benefit seniors battling dementia.

As with House Bill 1, this bill has been approved by both houses of the Legislature and will be sent to Governor Landry for his approval and signature.

LACOADA: Presented by Mr. Al Robichaux: Discussed that last August the Councils talked about what was needed and came up with HB126 that increases the funding formula for determining the annual state funding for each Council on Aging.

LANA: Presented by Mr. Al Robichaux: They are currently looking for a place to hold the annual conference for October 15, 2025. More information will be forth coming.

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

The next LEBA meeting will be held on August 27, 2025.

Upcoming Meetings:
October 15, 2025

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Ann Keene moved and Mr. Huey Beverly seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 12:33 PM.

Prepared by Ms. Cheri Crain, Compliance & Planning Program Manager 2, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs.