

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

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR



602 N. 5th St., Ste. 435
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
(225) 342-7100
GOEA.LA.GOV

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 18, 2025, 11:00 AM
Galvez Building – GOEA Conference Room 4th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) started at 10:56 AM by Ms. Leslie Keen, LEBA Chairwoman with Ms. Kayla Doyle serving as Secretary, in person.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Ricco Thomas
Invocation: Ms. Ann Keene

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sheriff Rene Thibodeaux

GUESTS: Area Agency, Council on Aging Directors and staff

GOEA STAFF: Mrs. Amanda Smith, Executive Director, Ms. Kayla Doyle, Secretary, and Mr. Steve Kabel, Legal Counsel

ROLL CALL

Chair, Ms. Leslie Keen asked Ms. Kayla Doyle to call the roll. Members present eight.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 24, 2025, meeting were presented for approval. **MOTION:** Mr. Charles Buddy Pugh moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Huey Beverly that the June 24, 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 fully staffed now, and we are excited 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 last week, the Government has opened back up and is back fully operating.

Wellsky Project:

The Wellsky consolidation project has wrapped up and all 34 AAAs have been consolidated into one database. It has been challenging but we look forward to more accurate reporting moving forward.

Services:

In FY25, 5.21 million meals were served to 35,914 seniors in Louisiana. Approximately 1.5 million were congregate meals, and 3.7 million were home-delivered. This reflects a decrease from FY24. The decrease was expected due to federal funding expiring, but the numbers should start to even out.

2025 Annual Report: Presented by Mrs. Amanda Smith, Executive Director, the annual report records services provided to the elderly population for the period beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Mrs. Amanda Smith went over the report and members discussed the 2025 Program Statistics. Mrs. Amanda Smith stated that Rosa Walton is our State Ombudsman and went over the numbers on nursing home investigation complaints. Mrs. Amanda Smith stated that Jessica Ross is our ADRC Program Manager and announced Jessica will be spearheading the grant on dementia to get those resources in the ADRCs. Board members discussed the types of elderly abuse occurring and how the financial exploitation numbers have increased. Mrs. Amanda Smith stated that Governor Landry has a division at the Attorney General's Office to investigate financial exploitation. **MOTION:** Mr. Charles Buddy Pugh moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Ann Keene that the 2025 Annual report be approved. Motion carried.

LACOADA: Presented by Mr. Mike Rome: He announced that the new President for LACOADA is Ms. Cindy McManus, but she unfortunately couldn't make the meeting today. The Spring conference will be held on April 22nd and 23rd at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center. Senior Day will not be in conjunction with the Spring Conference event, it will likely be held sometime in May, but we will have more information coming on that.

LANA: Presented by Ms. Leslie Keen: The 2025 LANA Conference was held at The Bentley in Alexandria in conjunction with LACOADA in October. The conference went well, and they had lots of opportunities to learn valuable insights from various speakers. Attendance was a little lower than they'd hoped but they are looking forward to having another conference in the fall. Check out the Louisiana Aging Network Association- LANA on social media for pictures from the event.

CLOSING: Mr. Ricco Thomas wanted to acknowledge the loss of Mr. Willie Lewis. He stated that Mr. Lewis was an excellent board member and he had done a wealth of good things for the State of Louisiana, and he will be greatly missed. Board members expressed their thoughts on Mr. Lewis, and it was said he was a gentle soul, and he will truly be missed. It will be hard to fill his shoes.

SCHEDULE 2026 QUARTERLY MEETINGS: The next LEBA meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Blanche Wilks moved, and Mr. Charles Buddy Pugh seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 11:39AM.

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