

John Bel Edwards  
Governor



Harold L. Ritchie  
Chairman

## State of Louisiana

### Executive Board on Aging

## MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA) QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS

525 Florida St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor-Room 427, 11:00 AM Baton Rouge, LA

March 12, 2019

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) was called to order at 11:32 AM by Anne Keene, LEBA Vice-Chairman; with Jessica Ross serving as Secretary, located at the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, 525 Florida 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Room 427 Baton Rouge LA 70801.

Invocation: Huey Beverly

Pledge of Allegiance: Terry Courville

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Noah Aguillard

Mr. Huey Beverly

Mr. Terry Courville

Ms. Ann Keene

Ms. Leslie Keen

Mr. Ricco A. Thomas

Ms. Blanche Wilks

Ms. Worlita L. Williams

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Grace Garon

Ms. Mona F. Gobert-Cravins

Mr. Willie Lewis

Mr. Donald Mallet

Mr. Harold L. Ritchie

**GUESTS:** Council on Aging Directors; Area Agencies on Aging Directors

#### **GOEA STAFF:**

Karen Ryder, GOEA Executive Director; Jessica Ross, Secretary, Michelle Guillory, Compliance and Planning Manager

#### **HAROLD RITCHIE, LEBA CHAIRMAN**

LEBA Vice-Chairman Ann Keene declared a quorum was present with (8) members in attendance. Ms. Keene asked for a motion to approve the December 2018 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion: Mr. Noah Aguillard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Huey Beverly, motion carried.

## **KAREN RYDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Ryder reported to the board that GOEA has submitted the budget for Fiscal Year 2020, and announced that, as it stands currently, GOEA will have a “stand-still” budget for the upcoming fiscal year, FY2020. The budget neither increases nor decreases the funding for GOEA.

In terms of next year’s funding for the individual Councils, we hope that the Legislature reconsiders the methodology by which it determines how funding will be allocated to the Program as a whole. With respect to funding PCOA Program via the formula provided by statute, one problem is that the Legislature has historically relied on outdated population data to calculate the funding for the program.

The Legislature has traditionally relied solely upon population data from the Decennial U.S. Census, which was last conducted in 2010, in calculating program funding. Thus, despite a dramatic increase in the elderly population during years 2010-2019, the PCOA Program Formula has remained unchanged since the last Census in 2010. Ms. Ryder reported that, by using more current data, as provided in the American Community Survey, for example, if more current data were used, the PCOA Program funding would reflect the increased elderly population to the tune of \$1.5 million dollars more than is currently budgeted. Currently, the legislature is slated to consider proposed legislation to alleviate this disparity and Ms. Ryder will continue to update the Board as this legislative session unfolds.

Ms. Ryder reported GOEA submitted a request to increase funding for the Elderly Protective Services Program, which is desperately needed, in order to continue to safeguard the seniors across the state.

Karen Ryder reminded the members that the LEBA Board is required, by statute, to draft and submit an Annual Report each year to the Legislature, the State Senate, the House of Representatives, Library, and the Legislative Library, and requested the board to grant approval and authority to submit the Annual Report as submitted. to GOEA to submit the giving a detailed look into the activities of the Board, and GOEA, for the prior fiscal year. Traditionally, GOEA prepares this report on behalf of the Board, and presents it to the members of the board for approval and submission on their behalf once approval is granted. Members of the board were each provided a finalized report, in hard copy, for review. Several members expressed satisfaction with the report. As a result, Mr. Beverly made a motion to approve the Annual Report as presented, motion seconded by Mr. Aguilard, motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Mike Rome, current president for Louisiana Council on Aging Director’s Association (LACODA), outlined the exciting events that are upcoming, including the Legislative Breakfast, a Governor Roundtable, Senior Day at the Capital, and other related events. Unlike prior years, however, LACOADA will not be gathering upon the steps of the capital during legislative session, due to construction on the capital in that area. Mr. Rome reported that LACOADA has been making great strides in a campaign to 1) remove the \$100,000 maximum funding cap with respect to the PCOA Program, as provided in LA 46:1606, and 2) increase the minimum funding amount from \$37,500.00 to \$100,000.00. The Senior Center Formula has never been increased since its inception in 1982, despite

the 300% population growth, and this would go a long way to assisting these agencies that so desperately need the money.

- Ms. Leslie Keen, the newest Member of the LEBA Board, is also the current president of Louisiana Aging Network Association (LANA). Ms. Keen gave a brief update of LANA Activities, including LANA's 501(c)(3) Status, which is currently in review by the IRS. LANA's Annual Fall Conference is currently in the planning stages, and Ms. Keen hopes to provide the members of the Board more detailed information as it becomes available.

### **NEXT MEETING**

LEBA's next meeting scheduled for June 11, 2019 at 10:00 AM, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room (Room 427) at the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs offices, located at 525 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821.

**ADJOURN:** Motion to Adjourn: Ann Keene, Vice-Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leslie Keen  
Meeting Adjourned: 12:35 PM

Prepared by Jessica Ross, Contracts and Grants Reviewer, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs