**MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA)**

**QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

**Governor’s Office Of Elderly Affairs**

**525 Florida St., 4th Floor-Room 427, 10:00 AM Baton Rouge, LA**

**October 14, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) was called to order at 10:32 AM by Harold Ritchie, LEBA Chairman; with Jessica Ross serving as Secretary, at the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs, 525 Florida 4th Floor Room 427 Baton Rouge LA 70801.

Invocation: Huey Beverly

Pledge of Allegiance: Willie Lewis

**ROLL CALL**

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| MEMBERS PRESENT |  | MEMBERS ABSENT |
| Harold Ritchie |  | Grace Garon |
| Noah Aguillard |  | Worlita Williams |
| Huey Beverly |  |  |
| Terry Courville |  |  |
| Mona Gobert-Cravins |  |  |
| Ann Keene |  |  |
| Leslie Keen |  |  |
| Willie Lewis |  |  |
| Donald Mallet |  |  |
| Ricco Thomas |  |  |
| Blanche Wilks |  |  |
| June Williams |  |  |

**GUESTS:** Council on Aging Directors; Area Agencies on Aging Directors; White Castle Mayor Pro Tem Barbara O’Bear

**GOEA STAFF:**

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

**HAROLD RITCHIE, LEBA CHAIRMAN**

LEBA Chairman Harold Ritchie declared a quorum was present with (12) members in attendance. Mr. Ritchie asked for a motion to approve the July 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion: Mr. Ritchie, 2nd Terry Courville, motion carried. Mr. Ritchie also introduced the new Board Member, Ms. Leslie Keen, in attendance.

**KAREN RYDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Karen Ryder first reminded Board Members that each Member must complete the required Ethics Training on an annual basis through GOEA, unless the Member has completed ethics training through another state agency, board, or commission. GOEA’s Attorney, Amanda Smith, will provide Ethics Training at the next Quarterly Board Meeting for all members of the LEBA Board to satisfy that requirement.

Mrs. Ryder informed the board that GOEA is currently preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2020, and will present the preliminary budget to the Board at the next meeting. The budget will be considered by the legislature and voted for on April 8, 2019.

Karen Ryder introduced the Memorandum prepared for the Board and sent via mail to each member, including a resolution to Governor Edwards recognizing and/or establishing GOEA as a department. Mrs. Ryder outlined the historical context giving rise to the Resolution, including a brief narrative of prior attempts to establish GOEA as a department.

Current law provides that The Louisiana Constitution provides that the Executive Department shall consist of no more than 20 departments[[1]](#footnote-1), all of which have been assigned to other agencies at present. .Present law (Act No. 384 of 2013 R.S.) creates a Dept. of Elderly Affairs to become effective upon the effective date of the abolition of one or more of the 20 executive branch departments or the effective date of a constitutional amendment that authorizes creation of an additional executive branch department, whichever such effective date is earlier. While an amendment to the Constitution was presented to voters at the general election on November 4, 2014, it failed[[2]](#footnote-2) to obtain the requisite votes to pass.[[3]](#footnote-3). Thus, any effort at present for a department would require one of the following 1) the citizens of Louisiana pass a Constitutional Amendment increasing the maximum number of departments allowable in the Executive Branch in Article IV(1)(B), 2) a vacancy in the current number of departments via the combination of two existing departments, or 3) the combination of GOEA with an existing department.

Ms. Ryder and the Board Members discussed various options, including the desirability of combining GOEA with another department, such a Veteran’s Affairs, with consideration of the issue to be revisited at the next meeting. All Members, Ms. Ryder, and the COA/AAA Directors were unanimously resolute in reinitiating efforts toward this end.

At the next meeting, the Board will review the Letters prepared by GOEA, along with all Letters of Recommendation that will be attached, and finalize a Resolution from the Board to the Governor with respect to this effort. Members voted on accepting this course of action, and to their acceptance of the final Resolution as will be decided, with unanimous agreement among all members in attendance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Becky Bergeron president for Louisiana Council on Aging Director’s Association (LACODA), provided that she will present this Resolution at their next meeting and expects that the Board will be able to provide a letter of support for the Resolution as discussed, and will provide that to the Board at the next meeting.
* Ms. Leslie Keen, the newest Member of the LEBA Board, is also the current president of Louisiana Aging Network Association (LANA). Ms. Keen introduced herself and gave a brief update of LANA Activities, including the cumulation of LANA’s Annual Fall Conference wherein over 100 conference attendees participated in aging-related events held in Lafayette, Louisiana. Ms. Keen also presented the new Logos and design sets prepared on behalf of LANA to the members of the board, and will let the Board know when LANA determines the site and date of their next conference.

**COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS & GUESTS**

* Barbara O’Bear, Mayor Pro-Temp of White Castle, was in attendance and thanked GOEA for its work on behalf of the elderly in Iberville Parish.

**NEXT MEETING**

LEBA’s next meeting scheduled for December 11, 2018 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**

Harold Ritchie: Motion to Adjourn, 2nd Ann Keene

Meeting Adjourned: 12:15 AM

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

1. The Current Louisiana Constitution, with respect to the organization and composition of the Executive Branch, provides the following:

*ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE BRANCH*

*§1.  Composition; Number of Departments; Reorganization*

 *Section 1.(A) Composition. The executive branch shall consist of the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of insurance, superintendent of education, commissioner of elections, and all other executive offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the state.*

 *(B) Number of Departments. Except for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, all offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch and their functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities shall be allocated according to function within not more than twenty departments. The powers, functions, and duties allocated by this constitution to any executive office or commission shall not be affected or diminished by the allocation provided herein except as authorized by Section 20 of this Article.*

 *(C) Reorganization. Reallocation of the functions, powers, and duties of all departments, offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch, except those functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities allocated by this constitution, shall be as provided by law. (La. Const. art. IV, § 1. )* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. HB 341/Act 874 2014 R.S., to amend Article IV,. Section 1(B): Votes for: 392,976 (29.854%); Votes Against: 923,354 (70.146%). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The proposed Constitutional Amendment would have added the foregoing provision to Article IV of the Louisiana Constitution, as Section 23:

 *“Section 23. The Department of Elderly Affairs is created as one of the departments in the executive branch of state government. The department shall not be subject to the limitation on the number of executive branch departments provided in this constitution and may be in addition to the number of departments permitted by such limitation. The legislature may allocate executive branch offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities and their functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities to the department. The department shall be responsible for the functions of the state that are designed to meet the needs of Louisiana residents sixty years of age or older and for planning, monitoring, coordinating, and delivering services to the elderly of the state. The department shall have other powers, duties, and functions as authorized by this constitution or provided by law. No funds shall be appropriated for functions for which the department is responsible to any other department or organizational unit of the executive branch of state government, and any funds appropriated for functions for which the department is responsible shall be deemed appropriated to the department. All officers and employees of the department shall be in the classified state civil service, notwithstanding any provision of Article X of this constitution to the contrary, and their appointments and compensation shall be in accordance with civil service rules.”* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)