

MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (the “Board”) was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 11:00am in the Executive Conference Room, Lafayette City-Parish Hall.

Attendees: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Michael Gervais, Chris John, and Karen Rue
Absent: Lance Beal and Dr. Kim Drew
Guests: Rachel Godeaux-Chief Administrative Officer, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Christina Dayries-Chief of Staff, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Debbie Sonnier-Executive Secretary to CAO, Rachel Godeaux, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Troy Guidry-Regional Vice President, Acadian Ambulance and Air-Med Services

Call to Order

Board Chairman, Dr. Paul Azar, called the meeting to order at 11:00am in accordance with Article II, Section 7-18 of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Code of Ordinances (the “Code”).

Approval of Minutes

Copies of the November 14, 2024 meeting minutes were provided to Board members for review.

Motion was made by Board member Karen Rue to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2024 meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Board member Chris John. There was no further discussion and the vote was as follows:

Yeas: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Michael Gervais, Chris John, and Karen Rue
Nays: None
Absent: Lance Beal and Dr. Kim Drew

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Annual Report

Board members were provided a copy of the 2024 Annual Report to the City and Parish Councils. Per Section 7-21 of the City-Parish Code of Ordinances, the Board shall at least annually give to the City Council and the Parish Council a written report of the Board’s activities for the prior year.

Motion was made by Board member Chris John to approve the Annual Report to the City and Parish Councils. The motion was seconded by Board member Stephanie Arceneaux. There being no questions, additions, or corrections, Chairman Dr. Paul Azar asked for a vote to accept the Annual Report as presented, and the vote was as follows:

Yeas: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Michael Gervais, Chris John, and Karen Rue
Nays: None
Absent: Lance Beal and Dr. Kim Drew

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Board Appointments and Term Expirations

There was brief discussion regarding the upcoming appointments to the Board following the term expirations of both Dr. Paul Azar and Karen Rue. Congratulations to Chris John on his reappointment by the area Mayors and the appointment of Dr. Frankie Rhodon by the Lafayette Parish Medical Society. Three appointments remain including one from Mayor-President Monique Boulet as well as two each from the City and Parish Councils.

At this point in the meeting Chairman Dr. Azar acknowledged that it was time to pass the baton. He expressed that it was truly a pleasure serving and he had learned a lot, worked with great people, made great memories and conveyed his thanks to Acadian Services. Board member Chris John thanked Dr. Azar for his 24 years of service and all of the work he did during the hurricanes, freezes and Covid and for the many memories.

Dr. Azar commented that the Legacy of the Cajundome continues. Both the documentary and the book have been accepted by PBS and are scheduled to go nationwide. The publication has helped others from North Carolina to California.

Troy with Acadian remarked how the City, Parish, Public Works, Utilities, and the OEP were phenomenal during the recent winter storm. The city gave six (6) motorized vehicles to assist them with calls. Everyone worked together including Police and Fire and it gets better through the years. He spoke of how wonderful it was to work with Christina Dayries and Chad Sonnier (OHSEP Director).

A heartfelt thanks to Board member Karen Rue was expressed for her invaluable service to the Board over the years.

Election of Officers

Per Section 7-19 of the City-Parish Code of Ordinances, the Board shall elect, *at its first meeting* and annually thereafter, a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a Secretary from its membership. The current officers are Dr. Paul Azar-Chairman, Chris John-Vice Chairman, and Stephanie Arceneaux-Secretary. Chairman Dr. Paul Azar opened the floor for nominations for the slate of officers.

There was brief discussion as to whether the officers should be elected at this meeting or wait until the newest board members were appointed. It was decided that the vote would take place at the current meeting.

Nomination of Chris John for Board Chairman was offered by Board member Michael Gervais, seconded by Board member Karen Rue.

Nomination of Stephanie Arceneaux for Board Vice Chairman was offered by Board member Karen Rue, seconded by Board member Dr. Chris John.

Nomination of Michael Gervais for Board Secretary was offered by Board member Stephanie Arceneaux seconded by Board member Karen Rue.

Board member Chris John graciously accepted the nomination/election of Chairman and stated that he is looking forward to serving.

Motion to accept the slate of officers was made by Board Chairman, Dr. Paul Azar seconded by Board member Karen Rue. By acclamation, Chris John will serve as Chairman, Stephanie Arceneaux as Vice Chairman, and Michael Gervais as Secretary.

Acadian Service Contract

Troy Guidry added that he had attended a large meeting in November with Acadian's entire management team and with Richard Zuschlag leaving such a legacy their new motto is "Building on Our Legacy". He also spoke of a meeting that he attended at Ochsner Hospital in Breaux Bridge in which they named the new helipad after Mr. Zuschlag. A grand opening will be held in the near future.

Troy took the opportunity with the administration in attendance to thank all for the help during the recent snow event including the Fire Department and Public Works. Their assistance was phenomenal.

Reminder of the March 20, 2025 tour of Acadian's facilities scheduled with the Mayor-President and staff.

Board member Michael Gervais' commented of his observation of the outside agencies stepping up during the snow event to help Acadian and a brief discussion followed as to if there was anything the volunteer departments could do in the future.

It was noted that the communication and partnership with the City, Parish, and other municipalities as well as the unincorporated areas are phenomenal. Rachel remarked that the goal was to centralize communication and centralize operations so that it is clear who to call for help and support.

At this point, Board Chairman "passed the water bottle" to newly-elected Chairman Chris John who thanked Dr. Azar for all that he had done and stated that he looked forward to working with everyone.

Other Business

Newly-elected Chairman Chris John extended his thanks for both Rachel and Christina's presence and interest in joining the meeting.

Christina announced the opening of a warming center today.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Dr. Paul Azar to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board member Karen Rue. There was no further discussion, and the vote was as follows:

Yeas: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Michael Gervais, Chris John, and Karen Rue

Nays: None

Absent: Lance Beal and Dr. Kim Drew

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.


Stephanie Arceneaux, Board Secretary