

MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (the “Board”) was held on Friday, May 17, 2024 at 9:00 am in the IS&T Conference Room, Lafayette City-Parish Hall.

Attendees: Dr. Paul Azar, Lance Beal, Dr. Kim Drew, Michael Gervais, Chris John, and Karen Rue
Absent: Stephanie Arceneaux
Guests: Monique Boulet-Mayor-President, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Rachel Godeaux-Chief Administrative Officer, 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
Megan Wyatt, The Acadiana Advocate

Call to Order

Board Chairman, Dr. Paul Azar, called the meeting to order at 9:08 am in accordance with Article II, Section 7-18 of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Code of Ordinances (the “Code”).

Rachel Godeaux, CAO was introduced and gave her professional background. She stated that she is looking forward to working with all.

A brief introduction was made by Dr. Paul Azar, Chairman with a brief history for the need and importance of Emergency Medical Services. He welcomed the Board’s newest member, Dr. Kim Drew who replaces Dr. Anu Desai. Following the brief introduction, Dr. Azar asked that the Board members and guests introduce themselves.

Following the introduction of Troy Guidry with Acadian Services, he updated the board stating that 2600 employees had been trained last year by Acadian and almost 1600 were actually employed. Acadian trains in Tennessee, Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana. They now offer six basic classes a year, up from three due to the need for staffing.

Acadian is currently being audited which occurs every three years. It involves a deep dive into their credentials and they have been accredited for thirty years.

Troy noted that the call volume has not slowed down and they continue to meet with the hospitals quarterly at which time they address “wall time” as well as staffing issues.

Troy spoke of the Compliance Reports which are due to the Board as well as the Council on the tenth of every month that reports the response time in emergency as well as non-emergency calls. He also spoke briefly of the rates that are presented each year. The contract allows for an annual increase of 3%. Should the rates increase above the allowed 3%, approval is needed by the Board as well as the Council. Although expenses continue to increase, the rate increase will remain at 3% and if there is a need for an increase above the allowed 3%, a meeting will be called.

As introductions continued, Dr. Azar congratulated Board member Karen Rue as she celebrates her 50th year of nursing and spoke of what a great asset she has been to this community.

Approval of Minutes

Copies of the December 8, 2023 meeting minutes were provided to Board members for review. Upon completion of the review of the minutes, it was noted by Lance that federal should be removed from page 3, paragraph 3 when referencing the first murder conviction.

Prior to the vote to accept the minutes, Dr. Azar spoke on Fentanyl and its antidote. Troy stated that Acadian educates law enforcement as to the administration of Narcan. It was also noted that it is happening more in small cities per capita and Board member Lance Beal talked of how parents, not just juveniles are using Fentanyl and that it is affecting their children as well.

Mayor-President Monique Boulet joined the meeting at which time Dr. Azar gave a brief description of the purpose of the EMS Advisory Board with Board member Chris John expanding on the subject. Introduction of the Board members continued, followed by an update from the Mayor-President as to how she is looking hard at Emergency Preparedness. Christina Dayries, coming from GOHSEP will be reevaluating the whole spectrum.

Mayor-President Boulet is also planning on going out into the parish for public input and open a conversation as there is a lot of new development in unincorporated areas and the rural areas are at a higher risk in regards to emergency response.

Dr. Azar continued the discussion of fentanyl and the new antidote replacing Narcan. Board member Michael Gervais asked for an update from Troy on the new antidote at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Board member Lance Beal to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2023 meeting of the Board as amended. The motion was seconded by Board member Michael Gervais. There was no further discussion and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Annual Report

Board members were provided a copy of the 2023 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 Karen Rue to approve the Annual Report to the City and Parish Councils. The motion was seconded by Board member Lance Beal. 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: Dr. Paul Azar, Lance Beal, Dr. Kim Drew, Michael Gervais, Chris John, and Karen Rue
Nays: None
Absent: Stephanie Arceneaux

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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.

Nomination of Dr. Paul Azar for Board Chairman was offered by Board member Lance Beal, seconded by Board member Karen Rue.

Nomination of Chris John for Board Vice Chairman was offered by Board member Michael Gervais, seconded by Board member Dr. Kim Drew.

Nomination of Stephanie Arceneaux for Board Secretary was offered by Board member Karen Rue, seconded by Board member Dr. Kim Drew.

There being no other nominations and by acclamation, Dr. Paul Azar will serve as Chairman, Chris John as Vice Chairman, and Stephanie Arceneaux as Secretary.

Acadian Service Contract

Prior to turning over the floor to Troy Guidry, Regional Vice President, Dr. Azar acknowledged how terrific and well-trained Acadian Services was in his experience with them.

Troy spoke of Acadian's assets which include an AmBus, several high-water vehicles and a forward operating base. The AmBus, used for evacuations holds seventeen stretcher patients, and it replaces the use of nine assets. Seventeen patients can be loaded in 45 minutes if the facility is ready. The forward operating base is used by employees that have been deployed and the base has showers, bathrooms, and houses washers and dryers. He offered to show the assets to anyone that is interested.

He spoke of Acadian's mission to help others that are less fortunate and how they like to give back to the community.

It was reiterated by Troy that if there are any concerns or questions, please know that you can contact him.

Following Troy's update, Board member Michael Gervais offered praise to Acadian for their professionalism and teamwork that he witnessed on a recent call.

Other Business

Board member Chris John asked as a follow-up to the Mayor-President's discussion earlier, what role the Board can play in regards to an evacuation plan. The board can play a role and possibly help with an emergency response.

The need for badges was discussed and Dr. Drew as the newest member to the Board was advised as to what is necessary to acquire one.

The question was posed to Troy as to what evacuations are handled by Acadian. He responded that they handle all hospital and nursing home evacuations.

In closing Dr. Azar remarked how proud he is of our medical community and the fact that there is no longer a need to travel for medical care.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Board member Michael Gervais to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board member Chris John. There was no further discussion, and the vote was as follows:

Yeas: Dr. Paul Azar, Lance Beal, Dr. Kim Drew, Michael Gervais, Chris John, and Karen Rue

Nays: None

Absent: Stephanie Arceneaux

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am.



Stephanie Arceneaux
Board Secretary