

**MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

A meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (the “Board”) was held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 11:00 am in the Executive Conference Room, Lafayette City Hall.

Attendees: Stephanie Arceneaux, Dr. Paul Azar, Lance Beal, Michael Dr. Kim Drew, Chris John, and Karen Rue
Absent: Michael Gervais
Guests: Rachel Godeaux, CAO, 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
Megan Wyatt, The Acadiana Advocate

Call to Order

Board Chairman, Dr. Paul Azar, called the meeting to order at 11:04 am 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 May 17, 2024 meeting minutes were provided to Board members for review. Upon completion of the review of the minutes, motion was made by Board member Karen Rue to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2024 meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Board member Stephanie Arceneaux. There was no further discussion and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Acadian Service Contract and Rates

Troy Guidry, Regional Vice President, was in attendance to answer questions from the Board.

Copies of the 2025 rates were distributed which reflected a 3% increase from the prior year. This is an annual increase allowed by contract and it assists with the increase in cost of services. Due to the fact that the rate increase for 2025 did not exceed 3% it was not necessary to go to the Council for approval.

Troy shared with the group that after the passing of Chair and CEO Richard Zuschlag, Acadian is now 100% employee owned (ESOP) reflecting the vision that Mr. Zuschlag had for the company.

Question was posed in regards to the rates and how they apply when the pickup is in a parish other than Lafayette. Troy confirmed that the rates used are from the parish that the pickup originated.

The mileage increase was also discussed and noted by Troy that this is the allowable mileage rate for Medicare/Medicaid which is well below the IRS allowable rate.

Dr. Azar spoke briefly of the compliance reports received from Acadian. The most recent report received showed that Acadian was in compliance for the month of November.

An article from the Daily Advertiser was distributed that spoke of Acadian Ambulance's Louisiana and Mississippi operations recently receiving a perfect score in the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services reaccreditation review. Acadian is one of only two in Louisiana that is accredited. The rigorous process is conducted every three years and includes an intensive process and on-site inspection.

Troy distributed some information prepared by Acadian regarding the Narcan/Fentanyl topic. It showed the reduction in deaths that appear to be related to opiate overdose and the availability of Narcan. The information provided reflects the calls responded to by Acadian. CAO Rachel Godeaux stated that conversations need to get started in regards to the HRSA Grant which was included in the handout that Acadian is a part of a HRSA grant consortium that is working to provide Narcan and drug addiction recovery services to the region. There was also discussion regarding the necessity to get into the schools and educate.

Troy informed the board that certified letters notifying Board Chairman Dr. Paul Azar and Mayor-President Monique Boulet of the 3% rate increase had been prepared and mailed. This fulfills Acadian's obligation of notification per contract.

Dr. Azar asked for a motion from the Board to increase Acadian Ambulance rates by 3%. Motion was made by Board member Chris John. The motion was seconded by Board member Lance Beal. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

In closing, Troy spoke of their participation in North Carolina following the hurricane as well as their assistance in Houston recently following the death of a Firefighter/EMT. Acadian assisted in running calls so that the Firefighters and EMTs could attend the funeral services.

Board Term Expirations

Dr. Azar spoke of the members that were up for reappointment and those whose terms would be expiring as of February 28, 2025.

Board members Dr. Kim Drew, Chris John and Lance Beal are eligible for reappointment and Chairman Paul Azar and Board member Karen Rue are currently serving their last term and are not eligible for reappointment.

Other Business

Dr. Azar opened the floor for any other business.

He requested that a meeting be held in early February prior to the expiration of his term.

Board member Stephanie Arceneaux spoke of the Community Nursing Course at UL and as part of the course their Community Project was to go into the classroom to speak on Narcan. She did not know if this continued as part of the course but all agreed that this was something that needed to continue.

With the introduction of Chief of Staff Christina Dayries to those that were absent at the last meeting, she spoke of her role with Emergency Offices and bringing back into LCG the Lafayette Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. With the naming of Director Chad Sonnier and adding a second employee, Jennifer Landry, they are now fully staffed and currently looking to revamp the entire Lafayette Parish Emergency Plan.

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

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

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Stephanie Arceneaux
Board Secretary