



Elder News

Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)

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From the Director’s Chair...



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It is with sadness that I report the passing of two members of The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) since the last newsletter - Mr. Noah Aguillard and Mr. Stephen Pugh. The LEBA Board, officially formed July 2, 1992. Mr. Aguillard was one of its first appointees. Mr. Aguillard was the recipient of the Elder Recognition Service Award in 1993, and was nominated for the same award 4 other years rising to the final 3 spot all those years. He was a faithful member until the time of his death. The September 2021 quarterly meeting would have been Mr. Pugh’s first meeting. Even though Mr. Pugh did not get to attend his first LEBA meeting, Mr. Pugh was always a friend to the aging network. He served on the Tangipahoa Voluntary Council on Aging Board of Directors and the Capital Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors. Mr. Pugh served in the Louisiana House of Representatives, representing District 73 from 2008-2020.

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce to some and reintroduce to others GOEA. What is a GOEA? The acronym stands for the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs. This office is the official State Unit on Aging for the State of Louisiana. LA. RS 46.931 creates GOEA “An agency of the state to be known as the office of elderly affairs is hereby created and established in the office of the governor. Said office shall exercise the powers and duties hereinafter set forth or otherwise provided by law. The office shall be administered by an executive director, who shall be recommended for appointment by the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging to the governor to serve at his pleasure, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The executive director shall employ necessary staff to carry out the duties and functions of the office as otherwise provided in this Chapter, or as otherwise provided by law.”

From the Director's Chair Continued ...

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

MISSION is to serve as the focal point for the development, implementation, and administration of the public policy for the state of Louisiana, and to address the needs of the state's elderly citizens.

VISION is that Louisiana will be a desirable and satisfying place to age.

PHILOSOPHY: The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs as the sole state agency as directed by the Governor and Legislature is committed to:

Advocating for the needs and rights of all older Louisianans. *Improving* the quality of life of our older citizens by encouraging and providing the means to achieve active, healthy, independent lives. *Building* partnerships with communities, organizations, agencies, families, and individuals to ensure the availability and accessibility of a continuum of service for all older Louisianans. *Promoting* public awareness and education about the aging process, trends in the aging of current older population, and projections for future generations of older persons. *Supporting* intergenerational activities, which foster mutual understanding and support, shared values, and personal responsibility. *Intervention* in the exploitation and abuse of elderly Louisianans.

AGENCY GOAL: To serve as an effective visible advocate of the elderly by ensuring appropriate services are provided by the aging network in Louisiana

Maybe you knew all this about GOEA. There is an old saying that "Anytime *you see a turtle* up on top of a *fence post*, *you know* he had some help." GOEA has 71 authorized staff positions but would not be able to fulfill its mission, vision, philosophy, and agency goal without the aging network which includes Area Agencies on Aging, Councils on Aging, Senior Centers, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, legal service corporations, guardianship program, the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging, the Louisiana Legislature and the Administration for Community Living (federal partner). Thank you.



The Louisiana Executive Board on Aging

The next scheduled quarterly LEBA meeting will be held on
October 5, 2021 via Zoom.

The Board members are listed below:

Johnny Berthelot
Huey Beverly
Terry Courville
Leslie Keen—Chairman
Ann Keene
Gerard Landry



Willie Lewis
Donald Mallet
Ricco Thomas
Emily Tilley
Blanche Wilks
Worlita Williams

MIPPA Louisiana

Louisiana has recently received the 8th MIPPA grant since the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) was passed in 2008. There were 3 priority components for the current grant:

Priority 1- SHIP Priority 2- AAA Priority 3- ADRC

Funds have been allocated and contracts have been awarded. Responsibilities for this grant are as follows:

Priority 1: Media, Publications, Public Service Announcements, Host of Outreach and Education Events and Participation at Community Events

Priority 2: LIS/MSP Enrollment Assistance

Priority 3: Medicare Part D Counseling and Enrollment Assistance, Education on Medicare Wellness and Preventative Care, Training and Assistance with LIS/MSP Enrollment

If your agency has not participated in grant activities, your agency may still participate in the efforts to educate and assist our seniors with their Medicare and Medicare program benefits. For more information about MIPPA, please contact Cheri Crain at 225-342-7298.

Medicare Open Enrollment Begins: October 15-December 7





105 Year Old Ms. Julia “Hurricane” Hawkins Going for New World Record

The world stood up in 2017 and 2019 when Ms. Julia Hawkins of Baton Rouge set world records at the National Senior Games as the first track and field female athlete to ever compete over 100 years of age. While one of her records was recently broken, Ms. Julia Hawkins now plans to take it to the next level and make the world shake again.

On November 6, the Louisiana Senior Games will host its annual track and field competition in Hammond. Ms. Julia Hawkins has registered to run the 100-meter race, and when she crosses the finish line she will establish the first 105 and above track record for any American, and the first World Record for a female that age.

Ms. Hawkins is especially excited about making her world mark “at home” in Hammond, just a few miles from the house where she first lived in Ponchatoula one hundred years ago. She also hopes that people don’t just see her as an exception, and that others might be inspired to pursue similar goals if they practice healthy habits. “Keep running, keep being active,” Ms. Hawkins urges. “Try to get more people that you know to get active, that’s important.” For information about participating in Louisiana Senior Games, please visit LSOG1.org. Article Courtesy of Del Moon



Photo Courtesy National Senior Games/Brit Huckabay



The **Cameron Council on Aging:**

Wishes to announce the completion of the renovations for the Grand Lake Elderly Housing project that was severely damaged by the 2020 hurricanes. Thirty elderly persons have moved back into their homes and are glad to be back in Cameron Parish. Unfortunately, the senior center has not begun the process to be rebuilt. The senior center will be temporarily located at the apartment complex as soon as the renovations for that space is complete. The temporary address is 10104 Gulf Highway Lake Charles, LA 70607. It is about six miles from the old senior center. Slowly but surely Cameron Parish is coming alive. At last count, more senior citizens are returning to the parish than younger folks. Services have continued despite the HURRICANES and COVID. We are moving forward! Thanks for your support and your prayers!



The **Franklin Council on Aging:**

Ms. Dorothy Brown turned 95 years old on July 19th



The **Richland Council on Aging:**

Ms. Mary Ella Russell turned 83 on September 9th



PARKINSON'S DISEASE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

The Gerontology Program at the University of Louisiana at Monroe will present an 8-hour free virtual education and training program in the management of Parkinson's Disease. The training program is supported by a community grant from the Parkinson's Foundation and the program director is Dr. Anita Sharma, LCSW.

The 8-hour program will be presented as two 4-hour sessions each on October 13 and 14, 2021. Topics will include: understanding Parkinson's disease (PD); Nutrition and PD; Physical Therapy; Music Therapy; and Exercise Therapy. One session will be presented by an individual diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease who will focus on the issues experienced by newly-diagnosed patients.

Following are the Details of this training program:

WHAT: Education and training in Parkinson's Disease Management

WHEN: 8.30 am to 12.00 noon, October 13 (4 hours) and October 14 (4 hours)

WHERE: Virtual via Zoom (the link will be sent upon registration)

COST: Free

CERTIFICATES: Certificates of completion will be awarded (mailing address will be needed)

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Dr. Anita Sharma, LCSW (asharma@ulm.edu)

ORGANIZER: Gerontology Program, University of Louisiana at Monroe

FUNDING AGENCY: Parkinson's Disease Foundation

REGISTRATION: Required (e-mail to asharma@ulm.edu)

Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana on August 29, 2021, as a Category 4 storm. Hurricane Ida is now the second-most damaging and intense hurricane on record to make landfall in Louisiana.

The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA) would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Directors and the staff members of the Louisiana Aging Network, especially those in the hardest hit areas of our state. Thank you for all the hard work and dedication that you provide in helping address the needs of the elderly citizens of Louisiana before, during and after an event.

Now is a great time to review your emergency disaster plan and procedures to ensure you are prepared. Hurricane season officially ends on November 30th, but other emergency or disaster challenges may occur.

We must strive to always be prepared no matter what! For tips on getting prepared you can visit: www.getagameplan.org or www.ready.gov



The GOEA's Baton Rouge office is moving!

The move is scheduled for October 8, 2021. Staff will work remotely Friday, October 8, 2021, if you require assistance.



NEW LOCATION

**Galvez Building
602 North 5th Street Suite 435
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**



***Join us in welcoming our new
team members!***

Charlene Scott	Front Desk Receptionist
Cheryl Wilson	Front Desk Receptionist

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