

DRAFT, subject to revisions and/or amendments

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
Auditorium – Louisiana State Museum
Thursday, June 15, 2006

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Norman Francis, chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), called the meeting to order at 11:52 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Louisiana State Museum in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It is noted for the record that notices to the public and news media of the time and place of the meeting had been given in compliance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

II. PRAYER

Reverend S. C. Dixon of the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church led the board in prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Norman Francis led the board in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ROLL CALL

Ms. Robyn Cockerham called the roll.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman
Ms. Dale Atkins
Rev. Harry Blake
Mr. Boysie Bollinger
Ms. Donna Brazile
Mr. Tim Coulon
Mr. James Davison
Ms. Donna Fraiche
Mr. Tom Henning
Ms. Linda Johnson
Mr. John T. Landry

Board Members Present:

Mrs. Laura Leach
Mr. Walter Leger, Jr.
Mr. Chet Morrison
Mr. Sean Reilly
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. John E. Smith
Mr. Matt Stuller
Mr. David Voelker
Mr. Rod West
Mr. Mike Woods

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Walter Isaacson, Vice Chairman
Sen. Diana Bajoie
Mr. Boysie Bollinger
Ms. Kim Boyle
Rep. Yvonne Dorsey
Sen. Don Hines
Ms. Sibal Holt
Ms. Linda Johnson
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Ms. Mary Matalin
Rep. Joe Salter
Dr. Mary Ella Sanders
Ms. Susan Taylor

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Andy Kopplin, LRA Executive Director
Ms. Krystle Beauchamp
Mr. Dave Bowman
Mr. Miles Bruder
Ms. Ella Camburnbeck
Ms. Robyn Cockerham
Mr. Hal Cohen
Ms. Jessica Dardenne
Mr. Pat Forbes
Mr. Ramsey Green
Ms. Ann Guissing
Mr. Jeff Hebert
Ms. Catherine Heitman
Ms. Kim Jupiter
Mr. Adam Knapp
Ms. Melissa Landry
Mr. Daniel Nunes
Mr. Paul Rainwater
Ms. Christina Stephens
Ms. Alesia Wilkins

Witnesses Present (in order of appearance):

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Dr. David Levy
Mr. Bryan Costantino
Dr. Fred Cerise

Mr. Barry Erwin
Mr. David Hood
Ms. Robin Rather
Mr. Anthony Patton
Mr. Peter Calthorpe
Ms. Carrie Shay
Mr. Bill Black
Dr. Paul Welton
Ms. Laura Drumm
Ms. Beth James
Mr. Burton Guidry

V. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2006, LRA Board meeting. There being no comments or corrections, upon motion duly made by Mr. James Davison and seconded by Mr. Walter Leger, Jr., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approval of the minutes and ratification of actions taken at the May 17, 2006, meeting of the LRA Board.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the LRA Board held on May 17, 2006, as presented at this meeting, are hereby approved and all actions taken by the board presented at such meeting, as set forth in such minutes, are hereby in all respects approved as actions of the LRA Board.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Bollinger, Brazile, Coulon, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Landry, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, and Woods.

VI. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

A. Chairman of the Board Report

Dr. Norman Francis began his report by announcing that Congress had given its final approval of the \$4.2 billion in additional recovery funds that the state had requested. He made a special thank you for the dedication of the governor and the Washington team of LRA members in seeing that these funds were secured for the state. Dr. Francis continued that Louisiana was not prepared to go forward without the additional funding and that the whole amount was needed to bring true recovery to the state. Dr. Francis announced that all members of the LRA were confirmed by the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Louisiana Legislature. Dr. Francis concluded his report by presenting Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco with a

commemorative brick to recognize her for all the efforts that she has put into seeing that Louisiana recovers from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

B. Executive Director's Report

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Andy Kopplin for the Executive Director's report. Mr. Kopplin gave a brief report that reminded the board members that there would be planning workshops in July. He also stressed the importance of the information that Robin Rather would be presenting.

C. Address by Governor

The text of Governor Blanco's remarks is as follows:

Good morning and thank you, Dr. Francis. What a great day for Louisiana! Ladies and gentleman – you've just heard your governor breathe a sigh of relief. Last week, I was in Washington fighting for our housing money one last time. They were literally trying to yank a portion of our funding out from under us. Those who want to talk about horse-trading should spend some time in Congress – it makes Louisiana's legislature look like a high stakes BINGO match.

Today we celebrate victory. Congress has acted. The federal funding to restore our housing will be ours with the stroke of President Bush's pen. This is a huge milestone on our road to recovery.

We secured an additional \$4.2 billion in Community Development Block Grants to fully fund our housing plan. We secured \$3.7 billion to strengthen our levees. The bill also provides support for our higher education institutions devastated by the storms.

I want to thank Dr. Francis, Andy Kopplin and the LRA Board for working side-by-side with me to secure this funding. I want to thank Walter Leger and the Housing Task Force. And I want to thank Louisiana's Congressional Delegation.

We have a real partner in Chairman Don Powell. We convinced him of our compelling statistics. And – because President Bush trusts him – he helped us win the Administration's support.

I want to thank Congress and the American people for sending such a strong and generous message of hope. Senator Cochran of Mississippi deserves a special thanks. There is nothing more important to our recovery than returning families to their homes. In order for people to return, we must secure our federal levees.

Our levees failed due to years – or shall I say decades – of neglect in federal funding and upkeep. We paid a huge price in loss of lives and property. Today's investment in our levees shows us that the federal government means business.

We are on a mission to return people to their homes. First, it was our job to secure the funding, and WE DID! Now it is our job to run our housing plan, and WE WILL.

We have over 90,000 homeowners registered for our housing program – 90,000. We are growing this number every day. Never before in American history has any community been forced to rebuild so many homes so quickly. This is the position we are in, and we are up to the challenge.

Full funding allows us to offer homeowners up to \$150,000 to repair, rebuild, or sell their homes. Homeowners have real options. And it allows us to restore affordable rental housing.

Now, let's get back to the business of today's meeting. Robin Rather is here with us to share the results of a survey on civic participation. And David Voelker, Peter Calthorpe and others will talk about our community planning efforts.

Folks, community planning is at the root of my charge to the LRA. In order for our recovery to be the best it can be, we must have a grassroots approach. This Board – all of you – you were chosen because you represent citizen leaders. You must reach out to all of our people from the affected areas and represent their voices. You have been doing this. Today I'm asking you to renew this commitment.

To succeed, we need a diversity of faces and ideas. Last night, I met with a group of young entrepreneurs who call themselves the Bravehearts. They asked me to make sure we have fresh faces sitting around the table. They asked that the voices of young people be included. There are so many young people in our communities who will force us to think in new ways. I ask the LRA to include their voices too.

Our people deserve a fair and democratic process. I worked to secure the Rockefeller Foundation funding for community planning. I did this because I believe so strongly in a citizen led planning process. People need to ask the tough questions and determine realistic answers. Katrina and Rita washed away a lot of good in our lives, but the bad went with the good. It is up to us to fight the temptation to bring back the bad.

We are making tough choices. To give you just one example, the legislature approved the New Orleans consolidation bills this week. This sends a strong message about responsible government. What may have worked in the past is not necessarily the way of the future.

Community planning is a core mission of the LRA, and I salute the work that is underway. This is a key ingredient to bringing our communities back – not only stronger and safer than before – but better than before.

Bringing our communities back better than before requires us to look at our neighborhoods from a holistic viewpoint. It means not only rebuilding our houses, but rebuilding an education system rooted in academic excellence. We are doing this.

And it means rebuilding an improved health care system, not the old system with all of its warts.

Changes to our health care system are never easy. In life, we don't think about our health until something goes awry. And then – in an instant – it's all that matters. Same with our health care system. We take for granted that it's there, and don't wrangle with the difficult issues. But something went awry in Katrina and Rita – and we have an opportunity to improve our health care infrastructure. Let's do it.

Today you will talk about health care. You will consider a resolution on health care recovery and redesign. The report the LRA has received from PricewaterhouseCoopers charts a long-term vision. We need to look to this report as we adopt a long-term blueprint for change. I ask you to work with our health care collaborative to come up with the best ideas. Together, we will develop a plan that HHS, led by Dr. Fred Cerise, will implement.

As you are developing this plan, I ask you to focus on three principles. First, we know that primary care is the best medicine. Yet, too often cases that are preventable end up in the emergency room. We can't afford for health care to be an afterthought – it costs us money and

heartache. Focus on prevention.

Second, for too many people in our communities, access to health care doesn't exist. We must rebuild our communities in a way that makes health care an easy component of our everyday lives. Focus on access.

And third, a good health care system means providing people with a full range of services. This means a system that coordinates services from home to doctor's office to hospital. And it includes long-term care and hospice. Mental health is a part of this too. Just as we treat people for a broken foot, we must treat people for a broken spirit. Focus on a full range of services.

This is our chance to build the most competitive communities of the Twenty-first century. Health care is a key part of our mission. Let's do this.

In closing, let me talk about an issue that I believe is the cornerstone of our long-term recovery. We must insist on a comprehensive coastal protection and restoration system. Our wetlands are our first and most reliable line of protection against future storms. We must restore this natural buffer. This will protect our communities. It will protect our ability to support the oil and gas infrastructure so important to our nation's economy.

A comprehensive coastal protection system requires a significant and sustained commitment of funding. The answer is simple. Congress must give us our fair share of oil and gas revenues so we can protect the Gulf Coast against future storms.

Yesterday, I took action to block the upcoming August lease sales. I will veto these sales and all future oil and gas lease sales until progress is made on OCS revenue sharing. Whether we win this battle in the Court of Law or the Court of Public Opinion makes no difference to me. I'm fighting on all fronts.

This is not an action against the oil and gas industry. This is an action in support of continued oil and gas production. I am exercising an important tool available to us as we ask Washington to adopt a policy that is in the nation's and the region's best interest.

What is important is that we win this battle, and Congress gives us our fair share of revenues. The future of our people, our economy, and our nation's oil supply hangs in the balance. I know the LRA is committed to helping me – and standing with our Congressional delegation – as we work for our fair share of OCS revenues. Washington has been generous to us in our recovery. I believe Katrina and Rita exposed to the federal government the value of protection against future storms. Nothing could be more important.

You have a lot of issues on your plate today, including workforce training, higher education resources and accountability. These are all important. And we WILL be accountable. We have been working with the feds to secure an auditing contract with Deloitte and Touche.

I am committing to you that with or without the feds, we are going to secure this important oversight assistance. We will be accountable for the funding coming our way. We will demonstrate this accountability by making information about recovery dollars available to the public on the Internet. The LRA is addressing this issue today. We owe it to Louisianians and the American people to show that we are spending their money responsibly.

Thank you for your time, your work and your commitment to our recovery. Today marks a great day for Louisiana. We are entering one of the biggest construction economies this nation has ever seen. And we are rebuilding communities and neighborhoods that will make us all proud. This is the opportunity of a lifetime.

Dr. Francis thanked the Governor for her remarks.

Mr. Tim Coulon noted that the Governor has “stood tall” during the fight for funds in Congress. He thanked the Governor for her commitment.

VII. LUNCH

Dr. Norman Francis recessed the meeting at 12:30 p.m. for lunch. He reconvened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

VIII. TASK FORCES - DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

Dr. Norman Francis moved to amend the posted agenda in favor of hearing the Public Health and Health Care Task Force report before the Long-Term Community Planning Task Force report. Ms. Robyn Cockerham took the roll call vote.

Amend the Agenda of the June 15, 2006, LRA Board meeting to allow the Public Health and Health Care Task Force report before the Long Term Community Planning Task Force report.

RESOLVED, that the agenda to the June 15, 2006, LRA Executive Board Meeting be amended to allow the Public Health and Health Care Task Force report before the Long Term Planning Task Force report.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Bollinger, Brazile, Coulon, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Johnson, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West, and Woods

A. Public Health and Health Care Task Force

I. Remarks on the PricewaterhouseCoopers Report

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Ms. Donna Fraiche for an update on the work that the Public Health and Health Care Task Force had done during the previous month. Ms. Fraiche recognized Dr. David Levy and Mr. Bryan Constantino for the executive summary of the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) report. This summary briefly highlighted the recommendations which were presented in the full PWC report.

Dr. Francis thanked both gentlemen and opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Mike Woods inquired as to how other states handle graduate medical education issues without a charity system. He also questioned whether LSU could pick up additional funding in this area. Dr. Levy explained that Medicare allows extra money on top of the fees that are

provided for graduate medical education depending upon the amount of senior citizen hospitalization. Dr. Levy addressed the second question by noting that there are additional sources that could fund LSU.

Ms. Fraiche inquired whether there is a need for statewide health care reform. Dr. Levy explained that while Region 1 (New Orleans) was the most affected area, Region 1 could not be fixed without fixing the whole state. He placed emphasis on the population migration due to Hurricane Katrina and also noted the lack of trauma centers.

Mr. Sean Reilly inquired whether there were statistics available to compare the percentage of indigent care in Region 1 and medical education in comparison with the rest of the state. Dr. Levy explained that the percentage of indigent care is proportional to the population in all regions. He emphasized that no one region has more indigent care than another. He continued that the very notion of medical education is that it is urban centric and that with a population loss, there is a loss of medical teaching opportunities.

II. Recommended health care recovery and redesign actions

Dr. Francis recognized Dr. Fred Cerise, Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, for an update on the recovery efforts in his department. Dr. Cerise began his report with a discussion of the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative. He noted that this panel would build upon the work of the Governor's Health Care Reform Panel as well as the recommendations from the PWC report. Dr. Cerise also discussed some of the strategies that had been identified to address problem areas in the health care system. He spoke of working with nursing homes during times of evacuations. Dr. Cerise explained at length about the status of mental health treatments in the affected areas. He noted that pediatric beds are open in New Orleans and that there are phase plans to bring more adult beds back. He also noted that there are discussions with community hospitals to purchase beds for treatments options. A system for tracking psychiatric discharge patients as well as partnering with communities was also focuses of Dr. Cerise's report. Dr. Cerise also noted in his report to the LRA the status of SSBG funds. He also noted that there are a series of grants to provide primary care and school-based centers. Dr. Cerise noted that the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) had been included in the appropriations bill and the funding would begin putting the network in place. He concluded his remarks by noting that the Veterans Affairs/LSU collaboration was on schedule.

Mr. Tim Coulon sought more information on the Redesign Collaborative. Dr. Cerise responded and noted that Secretary Leavitt requested the formation of a redesign collaborative to serve as a single body to develop both short- and long-term health care recovery plans, in order to ensure that Louisiana secures the most effective engagement of assistance and resources of HHS. He continued that the Collaborative would consist of a wide range of individuals that represent all aspects of the health care system.

Mr. John Landry inquired whether Dr. Levy had seen the plans for the Redesign Collaborative. He continued his question by inquiring whether there was a solution to the problem and, if so, did it need oversight. Dr. Levy responded that he knew it had a broad range of stakeholders. He

noted that one of the problems of health care reform is that it is complicated and difficult because it touches everyone. He noted that there has to be a general conscience. Dr. Levy responded to Mr. Landry's second question by stating that there must be a resolve. He continued that there needs to be the creation of a mechanism where objectivity and resolve work together.

Mr. John Smith inquired whether Louisiana is the only state with a charity system. He continued by inquiring whether more resources would come into the state and whether this number would be greater than \$150 million. Dr. Levy responded that Louisiana is the only state with a statewide charity system. He noted that other states have regional or county-based systems. Dr. Levy responded to the second question by stating that more resources would come; however, he did not have exact figures available. Mr. Smith then questioned who was serving the indigent while Charity Hospital was closed in New Orleans. Dr. Levy noted that indigent care puts a strain on all hospitals. He noted that if the system is not reformed and private hospitals continue to provide indigent care in the current system they would be forced to close due to lack of profits. Mr. Smith concluded his questions by inquiring whether Charity dollars following the patients would help in this scenario. Dr. Levy responded that funding services around the patients would help; however, he cautioned that there is overutilization in the private system. He noted that Region 1 must have money soon. The money should follow the patients but not in an uncontrolled way.

Mr. Walter Leger, Jr. inquired whether there needed to be a study of graduate medical education in Region 2 (Baton Rouge) and if so, would this de-emphasize the Region 1 educational objectives. Dr. Levy responded that there was a need for a Region 2 graduate medical education study. He continued that there were three graduate medical education systems in New Orleans pre-Katrina and that there were not enough patients for students at that time. Mr. Leger inquired whether the conclusions and recommendations would change if the assumptions (i.e. population) changed. Dr. Levy responded yes; everything should be looked at in regard to a changing population scenario.

Mr. Coulon inquired whether the current approach was on target. He continued by asking whether the methodology was doable. Dr. Levy responded that resolve and stakeholders are the two issues. When those two issues are worked out, the methodology is right. Dr. Cerise noted that flexibility is needed and that the federal government will not fund unless certain issues are handled properly.

Mr. Sean Reilly noted that there is angst. He inquired whether it was about the whole state or just Region 1. Dr. Cerise explained that Secretary Michael Leavitt recognizes that New Orleans has an opportunity to change. Dr. Levy explained that the issue of how not to let the needs of Region 1 overshadow the rest of the state was a big issue.

Ms. Fraiche introduced the recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Woods noted that the minutes of the May LRA Board meeting incorrectly reflected that PWC recommendation 14 was passed. The true recommendation was 15. Upon review of the last meeting, he was correct.

Mr. Andy Kopplin noted for the record that the Louisiana State Veterans Society submitted a letter to the Board.

Dr. Francis opened the floor to public comments. He recognized Mr. Barry Erwin of the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL). Mr. Erwin expressed the enthusiasm and support for the resolution on the table.

Dr. Francis recognized Mr. David Hood of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana (PAR). He expressed support for the resolution. Mr. Hood also expressed concern over the lack of a plan to reform the health care system. He noted that statewide reform is necessary. Mr. Hood noted that PAR believes the resolution is a starting point and that although PAR has different opinions in some areas those could be worked out in the long run.

Dr. Francis thanked both gentlemen for their comments.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Donna Fraiche and seconded by Mr. Walter Leger, Jr., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Endorse the PricewaterhouseCoopers' Report on Louisiana Healthcare Delivery and Financing System; pledge participation in the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative in its efforts to develop a plan for implementation of a redesigned system of care in Greater New Orleans; request DHH Secretary work to convene such a working group; thank Dr. Mary Ella Sanders and Public Health and Health Care Task Force; and pledge to remain involved in the health care reform of the State of Louisiana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby endorse the PricewaterhouseCoopers' Report on Louisiana Healthcare Delivery and Financing System as the broad vision and blueprint for health care reform in Louisiana.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the LRA will actively participate in the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative (Collaborative) in its efforts to develop a plan for implementation of a redesigned system of care in Greater New Orleans, consistent with the charge to demonstrate such innovative redesign issued by Secretary Leavitt and contained in the PricewaterhouseCoopers Report. The Collaborative will serve as the regional planning and implementation design group for long-term healthcare recovery in Southeast Louisiana, and will partner with local healthcare planning groups and initiatives. The LRA requests that the Collaborative provide regular reports on the progress of healthcare recovery in Southeast Louisiana. The Collaborative will review the PricewaterhouseCoopers Report's principles and recommendations, the findings of the Governor's Health Care Reform Panel, the resources committed by Secretary Leavitt, and the research and experience of Collaborative members for guidance in designing and

working to implement a quality-driven, evidence-based health care system for Southeast Louisiana, including producing recommendations for comprehensive Medicaid Waiver and Medicare Demonstration proposals for that region by October 20, 2006.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the LRA hereby requests that the DHH Secretary work in partnership with the LRA to convene an appropriate workgroup of local, state and federal leaders responsible for recovery of a sustainable, equitable system of quality care in Southwest Louisiana. The LRA will actively participate in the workgroup, which will serve as the regional planning and implementation design group for long-term healthcare recovery in the region, in collaboration with currently active local healthcare planning groups and initiatives. The LRA will make available all relevant recommendations and principles of the PricewaterhouseCoopers Report for consideration by the workgroup as guidance for redesign, and the workgroup will be asked to report regularly to the LRA on the progress of healthcare recovery in Southwest Louisiana.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the LRA Board of Directors thanks Dr. Mary Ella Sanders and the members of the Public Health and Health Care Task Force for their outstanding service, tremendous work effort, and commitment to the recovery of Louisiana.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The LRA will remain engaged in the short-term recovery and long-term redesign of the health care systems impacted by the hurricanes of 2005 and throughout Louisiana through a subcommittee of the Board, to consist of board members chosen by the Chairman. This subcommittee under the authoresses of the LRA will take whatever actions are necessary, sufficient of staffing, sufficient consulting assistance is available to monitor, influence and drive the progress of reform in collaboration with the Governor and Legislature as needed.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Bollinger, Brazile, Coulon, Davison, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Johnson, Landry, Leach, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West, and Woods.

B. Long Term Community Planning Task Force

I. Results of the 2006 Recovery Survey

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Ms. Donna Fraiche for a report from the Long Term Community Planning Task Force. Ms. Fraiche introduced Ms. Robin Rather and Mr. Peter Calthorpe.

Ms. Robin Rather introduced her colleague, Mr. Anthony Patton, before she began her Powerpoint presentation (Attachment A). The presentation presented the statistical findings from the research project funded by the LRA Support Foundation. The objectives of this research were: to provide in-depth citizen input for both short- and long-term planning teams; to provide detailed citizen input for messaging and communicating management; to benchmark awareness and attitudes towards the LRA “Louisiana Speaks” planning process; to enable

citizens to feel heard and plans to be framed by community values; and to create an ongoing citizen panel for further feedback as the plan evolves over time. Ms. Rather and Mr. Patton's presentation showed examples and results of the questions asked to the study participants.

Mr. Boysie Bollinger sought a definition of "fairness of money distribution." Ms. Rather responded that fairness meant that everyone, no matter the circumstance, got the same amount of money. Mr. Bollinger inquired whether there was a high correlation between those that did not know about the plan and those lacking confidence in the plan. Ms. Rather responded that there was indeed a high correlation.

Mr. Walter Leger, Jr. sought clarification on the term "plan." Ms. Rather noted that those polled asked the same question. She continued that those surveyed are complementary of the various LRA programs even if they do not cognitively link the programs together.

Ms. Laura Leach inquired how individuals were chosen to participate in the research and whether participants from Southwest Louisiana were included. Ms. Rather noted that the research was initially conducted via telephone interviews. She continued that there were equal participants from the hurricane-affected areas.

Mr. Leger inquired when the research was conducted and whether the recent New Orleans mayoral race may have affected the results. Ms. Rather noted that the study was conducted from February to May (2006). She noted that the TV markets may have played a role in results; however, the depth of the study would have to be broadened to investigate all of the factors in the participants' responses. Ms. Rather suggested that these types of studies should be performed often to track the thought patterns of citizens.

Mr. Coulon suggested marketing educational information and gearing future polls on whether the information is being disseminated in a beneficial way to citizens.

Dr. Francis noted the importance of information dissemination. He continued by noting the importance of the planning process. Dr. Francis thanked Ms. Rather and Mr. Patton for their information.

II. Launch of the Regional Planning Activities

Ms. Fraiche introduced Mr. Peter Calthorpe for an update on the regional planning activities. He noted that a series of press releases and media work would begin within the next month. Mr. Calthorpe stressed the idea that the planning effort is meant to compliment local planning efforts and that regional plans go beyond the immediate needs. He noted that public workshops are key steps in recovery because they provide a set of choices and a range of issues that people want addressed. Mr. Calthorpe touched on the timeline of upcoming events. He noted the importance of civic leadership and public feedback in the planning process. Mr. Calthorpe noted that there was a prepared Powerpoint presentation (Attachment B) that he did not use which covers all of the information that he presented.

Ms. Fraiche inquired how it was possible to address long-term planning when the problems of the next month are in need of being addressed. She also questioned how it was possible to bring all the plans together without duplicating work. Mr. Calthorpe noted that long-term and short-term planning work well together. Planners must relate the goal of the project with the current problems in the projected area. He also noted that local plans come together to allow regional planning to encapsulate all plans.

Ms. Rather noted that many respondents stressed that this rebuilding effort is a “once in a lifetime” chance.

Dr. Francis noted the difference of the short- and long-term goals of citizens. He agreed with Ms. Rather that people must be comfortable and sure of the short term promises before they can move forward.

Ms. Linda Johnson noted that planning fatigue may come quickly. She noted that she worries about asking the same question too many times and stressed that communication is lacking if citizens are not familiar with the LRA mission. Ms. Rather noted that people respond to coastal restoration in regard to safety issues. She also noted that paper test did not work out due to people having too many pieces of paperwork to fill out already. Mr. Patton noted that diversity was considered while formatting the data.

Dr. Francis thanked Mr. Calthorpe for his presentation and noted the importance of his work.

III. Update on New Orleans Planning Process

Dr. Francis called upon Mr. David Voelker for an update on the New Orleans planning process. Mr. Voelker introduced Ms. Carrie Shay with the Rockefeller Foundation. He introduced the organizational chart of the organization to the LRA (Attachment C). Mr. Voelker noted the importance of a diverse group of individuals working in a timely manner. He also stressed the importance of choosing a planner through nonpolitical means. Ms. Shay noted the dedication of the Rockefeller Foundation to the rebuilding of New Orleans. Mr. Voelker noted the participation of Mayor Ray Nagin.

Mr. Bollinger inquired why there was a concern of the flow of money. Mr. Voelker responded that the personal economic questions of homeowners are concerns that must be considered in the planning process. He also noted that New Orleans is behind other municipalities in the planning process.

Dr. Francis inquired into what had happened since the last report in January. Mr. Voelker responded that due to the election process, the process was delayed in an attempt to form nonpolitical plans. He noted the importance of the Rockefeller Foundation during the planning process. Mr. Voelker stressed the importance of communication and speed in bringing back New Orleans.

Ms. Fraiche clarified that the LRA was invited to assist New Orleans in the planning process.

She noted that with the LRA and the governor's help, the Rockefeller Foundation became interested in working with New Orleans.

Mr. Landry noted the infrastructure issues and concerns of New Orleans. He expressed concern over the delay in funding of the FEMA application. Mr. Voelker responded that Chairman Don Powell is involved in the process and assured Mr. Landry that the infrastructure problems are being heavily considered.

Ms. Johnson inquired as to what the level/elevation for rebuilding would be. Mr. Voelker responded that he did not have an answer to that question due to many questions still needing to be answered and resolved.

IX. TASK FORCE – DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS CONTINUED

A. Human Services Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis turned the floor over to Mr. Andy Kopplin for a brief summary of actions to be taken by the Human Services Task Force.

Mr. Kopplin noted that in February the LRA had approved funding of the SSBG funds. He explained that since that time many conversations involved including Tulane in the proposal. He also noted the importance of funding mental health services. Mr. Kopplin then introduced Mr. Bill Black with the Division of Administration and Dr. Paul Welton from Tulane Health Sciences Center (TUHSC).

Mr. Black announced that alternative funding for the LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans (HSC-NO) had been secured. He noted the importance of instructing LSU HSC-NO what to do with the original funding.

Dr. Welton noted that everything possible has been done to keep Tulane afloat in New Orleans. He also noted that the long-term future looks good. Dr. Welton noted that 98% of the student body had stayed with Tulane HSC. However, he explained that the challenge is to pay residents and maintain the research. Dr. Welton continued that Tulane also suffers from large uncompensated care debts.

Mr. Walter Leger, Jr. questioned the accreditation of TUHSC. Dr. Welton responded that there is no problem with the accreditation of TUHSC but rather there are faculty members nominated for national awards. He continued that both Tulane and LSU were challenged by the storms. Mr. Leger noted the importance of the Louisiana Cancer Research Facility, a joint venture by LSU and Tulane.

Mr. Matt Stuller noted the economic impact of Tulane and applauded their staying ability.

Mr. Kopplin introduced the resolution.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Norman Francis and seconded by Mr. Boysie Bollinger, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approve SSBG funding reduction from \$50 million to \$37 million for the LSU HSC and that the Office of Community Services reallocate \$13 million in SSBG funds for distribution to TUHSC.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Recovery Authority recommends that, upon enactment of HB 1208, the Department of Social Services – Office of Community Services (OCS) reduce the allocation of SSBG funds for LSU-HSC from \$50,000,000 to \$37,000,000, and that OCS reallocate \$13,000,000 in SSBG funds for distribution to TUHSC.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the LRA strongly urges the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to work with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals to craft and approve mental health treatment services eligible for Crisis Counseling Program funding that will target the mental illness needs of hurricane victims

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Bollinger, Brazile, Coulon, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, and Woods.

Mr. Kopplin introduced the second resolution.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Norman Francis and seconded by Mr. Virgil Robinson the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Urge Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt to approve the enhancement of proposed Crisis Counseling Program services by the Department of Health and Hospitals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Recovery Authority urges and requests that the Department of Health and Human Services approve the enhancement of proposed Crisis Counseling Program services by the Department of Health and Hospitals for its provisions of limited mental health treatment to victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to President George W. Bush, Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt, Federal Coordinator of Gulf Coast Recovery Donald Powell, and members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Bollinger, Brazile, Coulon, Fraiche, Francis, Henning, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, and Woods.

B. Economic and Workforce Development Task Force

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Matt Stuller for a report from the Economic and Workforce Development Task Force.

Mr. Stuller and Mr. John Landry presented a Powerpoint presentation (Attachment D) that reviewed the items on the Action Plan Amendment Number 2. Mr. Stuller's part of the presentation detailed the economic development programs while Mr. Landry's focused on the infrastructure needs. The presentation also explained the action plan being considered by the board.

Mr. Tim Coulon inquired whether the costs reflected in the infrastructure section were local costs. LRA staff clarified that the figures were local and also for state depending upon their placement in the presentation.

Ms Johnson inquired whether these projects were a part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Mr. Adam Knapp explained the difference between the K-12 education funding and the higher education funding of CDBG funds.

Mr. Walter Leger, Jr. sought clarification on the term "obligated." Mr. Knapp explained that a project can be in the system but not yet having funds allocated to it. FEMA and the state have approved the program but may not show the actual amount of dollars. He noted that a project must be recognized and have a field project number by August 29.

Ms. Donna Fraiche and Mr. Andy Kopplin engaged in a conversation that revolved around FEMA processing of obligated projects.

Mr. Virgil Robinson noted that small businesses are looking for nontraditional loan programs. He inquired whether there could be a program developed by the LRA that is not bank-like. Mr. Stuller responded that many of the public comments are addressing the same issues. He noted that there are still advocates pushing for a larger grant program.

Mr. Stuller introduced the resolution.

Mr. Landry introduced Dr. Savoy who spoke of the importance of research in higher education. He expanded upon and explained the Higher Education Rebuilding Program. This included a discussion of the goals of the program as well as a comparison of the idealized program versus the Georgia Research Alliance.

Mr. Mike Woods questioned who would coordinate and prioritize the goals of the program. Dr. Savoy responded that the process was similar to the allotment of attorney general funds: evaluation dependent upon set criteria and the short-term liability.

Mr. Bollinger inquired as to how long the money would last. Dr. Savoy noted that the funds would last for two to three years. He continued that the money would combine with federal

funds to provide facilities, researchers, and supplies. Mr. Bollinger, Mr. Stuller and Mr. Kopplin discussed the timeline of the approval process for the action plan. Mr. Bollinger noted the importance of swift action.

Mr. John Smith noted the need to rebuild workforces in general and to use a market-driven approach.

Ms. Johnson inquired whether an action item could be sent to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at the next board meeting. Ms. Ann Guissenger noted that there is still work that needed to be done on the action item. Mr. Kopplin stated that staff would work toward getting an action item available and to HUD as soon as possible.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Matt Stuller and seconded by Ms. Donna Fraiche, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Approve CDBG funding of up to \$38 million for a Sector Based Workforce Training Recovery Program and \$28.5 million for a Higher Education Recovery and Rebuilding Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board is requested to endorse the use of dollars provided through the Supplemental Appropriations to the Community Development Block Grant program for up to \$38 million for a Sector Based Workforce Training Recovery Program and \$28.5 million for a Higher Education Recovery and Rebuilding Program.

Voting: Atkins, Blake, Bollinger, Brazile, Coulon, Fraiche, Francis, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Morrison, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West, and Woods.

Dr. Francis opened the floor for public comments. He recognized Ms. Laura Drumm and Ms. Beth James.

Ms. Drumm spoke in support of grant money for small business owners.

Ms. James spoke in support of grant money for small business owners.

Mr. Stuller responded that a feasibility study was underway to determine if a larger amount of grant money would be possible. Mr. Kopplin noted additional discussion may be necessary once the feasibility study is completed.

Ms. Fraiche, Ms. Drumm, and Ms. James engaged in a conversation comparing the Lower Manhattan Program grants and the plans of the LRA.

Mr. Chet Morrison, Ms. Drumm, and Ms. James engaged in a conversation concerning the

percentage of Second Wind NOLA members that are in the process of or have financially rebounded.

Mr. Virgil Robinson noted that 2006 will be a flat year in New Orleans across the hotel and convention industry.

Mr. Coulon noted that true damage estimates are not available and that the amounts will increase with time.

Mr. Leger inquired whether there was an amount of money that would suffice for small businesses. Ms. James responded that this was a question that would require many factors to determine. She noted that the figure is a moving target and that it would be difficult to determine which businesses would stay and how many would leave.

Dr. Francis thanked the ladies for their presentation and noted that their comments had not fallen upon deaf ears. He assured them that the LRA would continue to look for more money for small businesses.

Mr. Stuller noted that the LRA is attempting to be fair and equitable to small business owners. However, there is not enough money to give substantial assistance at this time.

C. Audit Committee Report

Dr. Norman Francis recognized Mr. Virgil Robinson for an update from the Audit Committee.

Mr. Robinson introduced Mr. Burton Guidry. Mr. Guidry briefly highlighted the work that the Audit Committee had worked on during the previous month. This work included further planning for auditing services to assure oversight of the federal monies.

Encourage the Division of Administration to secure independent auditing services and to develop a recovery expenditures web site in a speedy manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board urges and requests the Division of Administration to enter into a contract to secure independent auditing services and for the development of a recovery expenditures web site in an expeditious manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board endorses the display and promotion of the recovery expenditures web site developed by the Division of Administration by the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

Voting: Atkins, Bollinger, Brazile, Coulon, Fraiche, Francis, Johnson, Landry, Leger, Morrison, Reilly, Robinson, Smith, Stuller, Voelker, West, and Woods.

D. Other Task Force Reports

There were no additional task force reports.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no unfinished business items for discussion.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no further public comments.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Chet Morrison, Mr. Boysie Bollinger, Mr. Andy Koppling, Mr. Sean Reilly, and Mr. Walter Leger, Jr. engaged in a discussion regarding the FEMA Advisory Base Flood Elevation Maps. Mr. Tim Coulon recommended taking up the measure at a future meeting.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Norman Francis announced that the LRA Board members were invited to a regional planning reception to follow the meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Kopplin, Executive Director

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Date approved: _____