

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee
State of Louisiana

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR



Dawson Primes
CHAIRMAN

Regional Parish OHSEP Director's Subcommittee Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 10:00 am

Lafayette OHSEP
1810 W. Willow St.
Scott, LA 70583

ATTENDEES

B.G.Jason Mahfouz, Neal Fudge, Mark Ward, Melton Gaspard, Sandra Gaspard, Matthew McKey, , Takisha Ross, Catesha Smith, Nick Cutrera, Denda Ball, Neal Brown, Dean Davis, Dawson Primes, Earl Eues, Terry Guidry, Rodger McConnell, Joey Frank, Jared Maze, Ian Snellgrove, Melvin Jackson, Darren Guidry, Todd Derrick, Amy Michiels, Meg Dejean, Kim Beetz, Leah Tatum, and Jamie Coley

Call to Order /Welcome

Dawson Primes called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Dawson completed the roll call and a quorum was established. Dawson welcomed the group.

Regions	Directors	Meeting Designee	Present	Absent
Region One	Patrick Harvey	Meg Dejean	P	
Region Two	Clay Rives	Melvin Jackson	P	
Region Three	Earl Eues		P	
Region Four	Terry Guidry		P	
Region Five	Jared Maze		P	
Region Six	Joey Frank		P	
Region Seven	Ian Snellgrove		P	
Region Eight	Rodger McConnell		P	
Region Nine	Dawson Primes		P	
GOHSEP Director	Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz		P	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from December 2025

Motion by: Terry Guidry

Seconded by: Ian Snellgrove

There were no oppositions. December 2025 minutes were approved.

GOHSEP Updates/ Reports

Brig. Gen. Jason Mahfouz

- **GOHSEP/LMD merger updates:**
 - Phase 2 of transition complete; effective February 1, 2026.
 - Phase 3 will be subsequent to the FEMA Reform.
- **Division of Administration:**
 - Meeting planned with new Deputy Commissioner, Brian Clinton, to discuss:
 - State Emergency Response Fund
 - Appeal submitted to DHS for restoration of CARES Act FY25 expenses
 - Other pending FEMA reform efforts
- **FEMA updates:**
 - FEMA announced another round of layoffs on December 29.
 - Expect 50% reduction in logistics staff following major disasters, increasing pressure on parishes to be self-sufficient
 - FEMA Review Council meeting scheduled for December 11th was canceled; expected to be rescheduled for later this month.
- **National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) workshop tentatively scheduled for March 10–14, pending release of the Review Council's report**
 - Opportunity to engage the congressional delegation on proposed FEMA changes and their impacts
 - Storyboard Development & Local Buy-In: Regional coordinators may request parish leadership support to illustrate how delays and reductions in federal support affect constituents, aiming to secure local leadership buy-in for communications in DC

Preparedness Division Updates

Matthew McKey, Preparedness Division Director

- **Preparedness Grants**
 - Pending updates for 2025
- **Plans, Training, and Exercises**
 - Statewide Exercise- April 13th thru April 17th
 - Working to publish 2026 GOHSEP training guide soon
 - Finalizing Spring Academy semester training schedule at ULL
 - Working with SDMI to review Parish EOPs & finalizing draft of State EOP
- **School Safety**
 - School Safety Grants
 - \$325,000 remaining from FY 24 will be carried forward to FY26.
 - \$913,609 remains available for FY25

- Schools have until the **end of January** to submit receipts for FY25 grant reimbursement.
- 40 site assessments completed
- **Cyber Security**
 - Grant application period for FY23, FY24, and FY25 is January 1- February 28; refer to email from Nick Cutrera for details.
 - State and Local Cybersecurity Grant (SLCGP) PowerPoint presented. For any questions, please reach out to Catesha Smith.
 - Cost-share match increases annually
 - Individual applications capped at \$200,000 per grant.
 - Applicants should focus on Mitigation & Training per the approved SLCGP plan.

Response Division Updates

Mark Ward, Response Division Director

- **Logistics**
 - Now falls under GOHSEP Response Division
 - LSA contract executed last year; currently being retooled and expanded.
 - Updated contract will be released soon as an RFP and will be larger in scope.
 - LSA and PODs will be combined into a single emergency response package..
 - FEMA Region 6 has requested assistance identifying a federal staging area location and options for just-in-time contracting to avoid annual fixed costs
- **Operations**
 - Mardi Gras
 - Crisis Action Team will be stood up for Sear 1 event in New Orleans, beginning Friday before Mardi Gras through the day of Mardi Gras.
 - Staff will be on standby the weekend prior to Mardi Gras.
 - Primary operational focus will be counter-UAS support for Sear 1 event; personnel will be embedded with LSP and federal partners.
 - LNO will be assigned to New Orleans EOC; additional parishes requesting LNO support should submit request through WebEOC.
 - Mardi Gras Parade Tracker being developed for situational awareness across 259+ events.
 - POD sites
 - If a parish identifies a concern or needs a site reassessed, request should be submitted through WebEOC under Daily Operations.

- **Intelligence Coordination Center (ICC)**
 - Focuses on filling intelligence gaps for emergency management and disaster response, not replacing the Fusion Center
 - ICC- emergency management & homeland security intelligence
 - Fusion Center- criminal intelligence
 - Weekly coordination meetings ongoing with the Fusion Center
- **Homeland Security & Interoperability**
 - Ongoing ICE-related activity has resulted in a heavy law enforcement presence across Louisiana; New Orleans is beginning to scale down, but activity continues.
 - Nationwide, groups observed in cities such as Minneapolis and Portland are organizing under unified structures, sharing information and collecting intelligence on law enforcement locations and personnel.
 - Violence and aggressive behavior have escalated, with observed TTPs including boxing-in officers
 - These groups often do not distinguish between federal, state, or local officers; all law enforcement may be viewed as potential targets for harassment or assault.
 - Law enforcement agencies are advised to remain **vigilant** and maintain heightened situational awareness.
- **Regional Support**
 - No changes

Recovery Division Updates

Sandra Gaspard, Deputy Recovery Division Director

- **Individual Assistance**
 - Crisis Track
 - GOHSEP requesting that each region select one parish to participate in pilot program.
 - Non-Congregate sheltering- Two units remain deployed across the State.
 - Direct Housing- five units remain deployed across the State
 - Cemetery Taskforce- coordination underway with AG's office regarding reinternment of remains disturbed following Hurricane Ida
- **Public Assistance**
 - FEMA updated Grants Portal/Grant Manager system. In order to login into their site, all users must have a login.gov account with the same email address associated with their Grants Portal/Grants Manager account.

- Katrina Deadlines: FEMA denied extensions for Katrina PA projects passed December 31, 2025- with exception of three City of New Orleans projects (extended to July 1, 2026). GOHSEP formally appealing denial.
- **Hazard Mitigation**
 - Hurricane Francine (DR 4817)- application deadline was December 16th
 - GOHSEP submitted application for \$265M plus alternates
 - Submitted OCD CDBG Global Match project for \$8.8M to provide the 25% non-federal cost share
 - Hurricane Gustav (DR 1786) & DR 4080 (Isaac)- expires June 9, 2026; FEMA is not granting further extensions.
 - Hurricane Katrina (DR 1603)- expires December 31, 2026; extensions not likely
 - 14 POP Extension requests still in review at FEMA R6 & HQ

Financial Operations and Administration Updates

Neal Fudge, GOHSEP Deputy Director

- FY27 budget submitted; Office of Planning & Budget (OPB) reviewed and prepared preliminary budget. GOHSEP will be appealing, as not all projects received funding

OHSEP Directors Updates

- Updates given by the Regional Directors.

Next Meeting

- Date: February 10, 2026
- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Location: GOHSEP- Overwatch Room

Adjourn

Motion by: Earl Eues

Seconded by: Ian Snellgrove

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.