

Executive Committee

Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Council Office, 626 Main St., Suite A, Baton Rouge

SUMMARY

Members Present: Michael Billings, Randall Brown, April Dunn, Hyacinth McKee and Mary Tarver

Staff: Shawn Fleming

Others Present: Katie Corkern

April Dunn called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MOTION PASSED.

A motion by Randall Brown, seconded by Hyacinth McKee, to approve the [October 15, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting Summary](#) passed without objection, no abstentions.

The Executive Committee discussed the motion by the Council to investigate accusations against staff. Randall Brown reported he spoke to Lauren Guttzeit, the Director of Human Resources for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH-HR). Ms. Guttzeit indicated the Council would need to send a letter providing the parameters of the accusations it desires LDH-HR to investigate. Then LDH-HR will have a team meet with members of the Council Executive Committee.

MOTION PASSED.

A motion by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Randall Brown, for the Executive Committee to go into Executive Session as discussion of the investigation may involve issues related to personnel and Council members passed without objection, no abstentions.

The Committee discussed accusations related to the recording of the meeting between some Partners in Policymaking (PiP) class members of 2019 and the Council Executive Director and Deputy Director.

MOTION PASSED.

A motion by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Michael Billings, for Randall Brown to request LDH-HR and LDH-Legal provide in writing a recollection of events regarding Council staff related to the recording of the meeting between Council staff and 2019 PiP class members and to include any advisement from LDH-HR and LDH-legal for staff to make that recording passed without objection, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED.

A motion by Michael Billings, seconded by Hyacinth McKee, for Council staff to provide the Executive Committee with all correspondence with accusations related to the PiP

class members recording of the April 12th meeting passed without objection, no abstentions.

The Executive Committee discussed the accusation made by Jamie Duplechine during the July 2019 Council meeting that a legislator informed her they received an email from Council staff indicating Council staff knew the legislator was still in contact with Jamie Duplechine. Mary Tarver read the contents of an email from Executive Director Sandee Winchell to a Senator in Region 4 ensuring the Council followed its bylaws in nominating members for Governor's consideration.

MOTION PASSED.

A motion by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Mary Tarver, to request Council staff provide copies of all correspondence from any Council staff to any legislator from Region 4 related to Jamie Duplechine's email passed without objection, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED.

A motion by Hyacinth McKee, seconded by Michael Billings, for the Executive Committee to work with NACDD/ITAAC to develop grievance forms and processes for the Executive Committee to address issues and concerns passed without objection, no abstentions.

SEARCH FIRM COSTS

Shawn Fleming indicated the cost estimate for a search firm for the executive director was approximately \$40,000. This cost estimate was not known during the October Council meeting. To ensure the Search Committee has adequate resources to complete its work Mr. Fleming offered a possible strategy to adjust Activity 1.4.2 related to informational videos and materials). Executive Committee members expressed support for prioritizing contracting with a search firm to hire an executive director. Staff indicated any specific recommendations necessary for Council consideration related to this issue will be presented prior to the January Council meeting.

ADVOCACY AGENDA ITEM UPDATES

Shawn Fleming provided updates on the Legislative Advocacy Agenda items. Specifically, fact sheets will soon be released on the following agenda items:

- An additional \$500,000 in state funding in the DD Council budget for Families Helping Families Centers (this would double Council funding for the Centers)
- An additional \$600,000 in state funding for the State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS) program to serve all those on the waiting list (approximately 90)
- Funding for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provider rate increase
- Cameras in Special Education classrooms and parent access to school videos

Below each bullet are status updates of other 2020 Legislative Advocacy Items:

- Funding for Skilled Nursing rate increase through Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and in waivers

LDH and the Advocacy Center reached an agreement on the settlement related to skilled nursing for children served through Early and Periodic Screening therefore, this item is no longer on the Council's 2020 Advocacy Agenda.

- Expand Medicaid to cover diapers and wipes for all ages

No information is currently available to educate legislators on the level of need statewide or the cost implications related to this issue.

- Expand Medicaid to cover dental care for adults

No information is currently available to educate legislators on the level of need statewide or the cost implications related to this issue. Council staff have requested information from LDH; however, it is not clear if LDH has information related to the request.

- School Resource Officer training

State law ([R.S. 40:2401.1](#) C(1)) places the power of developing minimum curriculum requirements for School Resource Officers (SRO) on the committee appointed by the Council of Peace Officer Standards and Training. It appears the appropriate target to advocate for the inclusion of training for SROs related to students with disabilities would be the Council of Peace Officer Standards and Training, not the Legislature.

- Training for teachers and administrators on handling behavior problems

State law ([R.S. 17:252](#) D) already requires school systems to provide for pre-service and ongoing grade appropriate classroom management training for teachers, principals, and other appropriate school personnel regarding positive behavioral supports and reinforcement, conflict resolution, mediation, cultural competence, restorative practices, guidance and discipline, and adolescent development. And, school systems shall provide ongoing classroom management courses and regularly review discipline data from each school to determine what additional classroom management training is needed, if any, and what additional classroom support activities should be provided by the principal and school administration.

MOTION PASSED.

A motion to adjourn by Michael Billings, seconded by Hyacinth McKee, passed without objection, no abstentions.

April Dunn adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.