

LDDC Quarterly Meeting

10/17/19

APRIL DUNN: Everybody can you please take your seat so we can get started. Good morning everybody. My name is April Dunn. I am the chair person of Louisiana Developmental Disability Council. I want to especially welcome Matt to his first DD Council meeting. We're going to introduce ourselves so I will start with my left.

SHAWN FLEMING: Shawn Fleming, the deputy director of the council.

RANDALL BROWN: Randall Brown, vice chair of the council.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Brenton Andrus, council staff.

EBONY HAVEN: Ebony Haven, council staff.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Roslyn Hymel, Jefferson, region ten self advocacy for Jefferson Parish.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Marilee Andrews, council staff.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Lillian DeJean, self advocate.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Patti Barovechio, Office of Public Health representative, title five.

MARY TARVER: Mary Tarver, parent, region six.

JILL HANO: Jill Hano, self advocate for region ten.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Steven Nguyen, self advocate, region ten.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Michael Billings, parent advocate, region two and chairman self determination community inclusion.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Hyacinth McGee region one member at large.

KIM BASILE: Kim Basile, parent advocate.

MATT ROVIRA: Matt Rovira representing nonprofit organization, region four.

TARA SMITH: Tara Smith, parent advocate, region nine.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Chris Rodriguez, executive director of The Advocacy Center.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Courtney Ryland, council staff.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: Michelle Guillory, Elderly Affairs.

CARMEN CETNAR: Carmen Cetnar, parent from region four.

APRIL DUNN: Now our guests.

JAMIE DUPLCHAN: Jamie Duplechan.

KATIE CORKEN: Katie Corken, parent advocate.

LIZ GARY: Liz Gary, parent, region nine.

ROBBIE GRAY: Robbie Gray.

KELLY MONROE: Kelly Monroe, Arc of Louisiana.

CHARLEY MICHEL: Charley Michel, Bayouland Families Helping Families.

JAMES SPRINKLE: James Sprinkle, Families Helping Families region six.

JULIE CROSS: Julie Cross, LaCAN leader, region 3.

LACY POLOTZOLA: Lacy Polotzola, Families Helping Families of Acadiana.

DEBRA FOTENOT: Debra Fotenot, Families Helping Families of Acadiana.

JANIE GUIDRY: Janie Guidry, Families Helping Families of Acadiana.

BIANCA JAMES: Bianca James, Families Helping Families of Acadiana.

MATHEW: Matthew, Easter Seals Louisiana.

TORY RACA: Tory Raca, The Advocacy Center of Louisiana.

KELLY DUNWA: Kelly Dunwa, parent advocate, region nine.

CHERYL MATHY: Cheryl Mathy, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

DONNA BRAUD: Donna Braud, family advocate.

APRIL DUNN: We have two members that came late.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Julie Foster Hagan, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and I apologize.

AMY DENARSKY: Amy Denarsky, region nine, parent.

TARA LEBLANC: I was here, just on the phone outside.

APRIL DUNN: Now we will do some housekeeping. Guests make sure you speak directly through the mike and make sure you turn it on and off after you finish speaking. Proxy can't vote. That's it. Next is the mission statement by Steven.

STEVEN NGUYEN: To lead and promote advocacy, capacity building and systemic change to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

APRIL DUNN: Matt will read the ground rules.

MATT ROVIRA: Members must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Be respectful of each others' opinions. Have a break for ten minutes every 1.5 hours. Discuss council business in a responsible manner. Except as necessary restrict the use of electronic communication such as texting during council and committee meetings. Please silence or turn off all

cell phones. The mission statement is posted at every meeting. Be on time for meetings. No alphabets. And please side conversations are kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject matter at hand.

APRIL DUNN: Next did anybody get a chance to read the July summary?

JILL HANO: I motion to approve the July summary.

APRIL DUNN: Who seconds? Mike seconds it. Do I have any corrections to the July summary?

JILL HANO: It says I approved, that I made the motion to approve the April minutes, but I wasn't here.

APRIL DUNN: We would make that correction. Any other corrections? Any objections? Any abstentions? Hearing none, the motion carries. Next is my chair person report. I put it in your packet. I am not going to read all of it. You can take a look to see all the stuff that I approved and appoint and meetings I attend. And I did approve for Crystal White to switch from self determination to, I mean to education to self determination. It's not in the report. That's my approval. Any questions to my report?

TARA SMITH: Did we get a copy of the executive committee meetings yet.

APRIL DUNN: It's going to be on the screen. Any

other questions? Next is executive committee recommendations.

RANDALL BROWN: I have recommendations from the executive committee which met on Tuesday. And we have multiple recommendations for the council's consideration today. First committee discussed the council's 2020 legislative advocacy agenda.

TARA SMITH: Would you put it up on the screen too.

RANDALL BROWN: First the committee discussed the council's 2020 legislative advocacy agenda. Hundred seven items submitted by LaCAN members as well as the recommendations by LaCAN leaders and Families Helping Families directors. So the first motion considered, rather lengthy so bear with me. The first recommendation was made by the directors and leaders and that is for an additional 500,000-dollars in state funding in the DD Council budget for Families Helping Families centers and that would double the councils funding for the centers. The other is cameras in special education classrooms, parent access to the school videos. School resource officer training for teachers and administrators on handling behavior problems. As well as an additional 600,000-dollars in

state funding for the state personal assistance program, program to serve all those on the waiting list which I believe is approximately 90 people. Funding for skilled nursing rate increase through early and periodic screening. Diagnostic and treatment and in waivers. Funding for home and community based services provider rate increase. Then expand Medicaid to cover diapers and wipes for all ages and populations. And to expand Medicaid to cover dental care for adults. And we offer this motion now for the council's consideration.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: I want to reiterate I think I said this last year. The cameras in special education classrooms I understand the concept and intent. I don't feel there has been enough research to actually determine what the actual outcomes are. I am afraid of the unintended consequence that I believe has been observed in other states. The fact the footage is used, when laws are passed expulsions actually rise as a result of videos being used as evidence the pupil should not be in that setting. I know and I believe that we had quite a bit, we as the Advocacy Center, had problems with the language in the last bill. I just wanted to say that.

TARA SMITH: I echo Chris' concern. I don't think necessarily a bad idea. I think needs to be parameters and thoughtful consideration given to the language in the bill when it goes. I also think the language needs to include a definition of the retention policy that would be in place for how long schools would be forced to keep it on their servers. Sometimes these things come out immediately, sometimes over time. I think we need to give thoughtful consideration to that. As well as when parents would have access to school videos. In defense of the schools if parents are mad about one thing or another doesn't necessarily lead to abuse. I think it could be onerous on them if parents were given unfettered access to it. I am not sure whether are not a formal complaint. I think it needs to be tailored to be respectful of the schools' time and resources if we are going to do that when parents can garner access to that. Of course law enforcement could at anytime they feel as well. I do have comments on other ones, but if we are on cameras right now.

APRIL DUNN: Any other discussion?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Well actually for me in Magnolia Community Services I can be honest there are cameras everywhere as possible. I could mention a few of them



where in my center WH3 we are being watched 24/7. If we do cut up in a center, we personally, and I am thinking here is wrong for a trainer to write us up if we cut up. Just me. It's how I feel. It's not right. Whoever really came up with this with cameras in every center being watched we are being treated like little kids. Here we are 56, 57 all the way up to like 80 years old. What is the purpose of cameras in centers. That's what I would want to know.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: I think that's a good discussion, but specific to this, this is about schools. A little bit of a different subject that's it.

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. Actually Magnolia was a school first until they had changed to Magnolia Community Services. It was a school first.

RANDALL BROWN: Anyone else have any discussion.

TARA SMITH: One thing that we may be able to consider the council as a whole would be I think everybody probably is in favor just concerned about parameters and making sure whatever we back is written appropriately and can withstand the test of time when challenged and also easily implemented by the schools. At least onerous as possible to them. One thought

would be for us to get behind whatever statement The Advocacy Center would consider as appropriate in drafting legislation. Just a thought that came to me. Maybe the council wants to defer to what their position is going to be on it. Sounds like from my quick side bar they are not opposed, just concerns about parameters. Might be one option for us to consider.

AMY DENARSKY: From what I understand last legislative session the bill failed due to funding.

APRIL DUNN: No. It didn't come out of committee.

AMY DENARSKY: Do we have any information what the proposed funding source would be.

APRIL DUNN: They say the funding was too much or something. Shawn can reiterate that.

SHAWN FLEMING: It did die because a fiscal note about eight and half million dollars for the cameras themselves, the equipment. It just was not even considered at the end of session kind of ran out of time.

AMY DENARSKY: Do we have an estimate for monitoring. The initial set up about 8 million. I am assuming monitoring will never go away. Do we have any estimates on that.

SHAWN FLEMING: That estimate, from my

understanding, was for cameras in every special education classroom. That was the maximum amount of cost for all the equipment. If every parent and every school requested a camera. There was an unknown cost how much it would be to redact videos. Some other estimates I had seen, but that was not in the legislative fiscal note.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: I would also add I think at least we had a lot of problems with it that we didn't voice because we knew the fiscal note was going to tank it so we didn't even bother dedicating what was very scarce time. When you ask the question why did it fail, I think specifically for that purpose it failed because of the fiscal note. If that wasn't such an issue, at least on our part, we would have voiced an abundance of other concerns.

MATT ROVIRA: Not really concern, assuming the cameras used to reduce abuse and neglect of individuals and I guess have we asked The Department of Education would they consider possibly doing this without legislation. I guess my overall umbrella is these are, each run of these in general, these nine things are some heavy lifting. I didn't want to spread the council and its advocates too thin because we're trying

to accomplish too much in the legislative session. That would be my point. Is there a secondary solution that's not legislative to achieve the same goal reducing abuse and neglect.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't think there is any other solution. There are some school districts that do it and already have cameras. Sometimes cameras in every class. If you want to have it statewide you are not going to do it without legislation. Also the point about the fiscal note. It was high, but advocates thought that estimate on the fiscal note just doing a really high estimate. Even if you had it in every special ed class and every school in the state it was several thousand dollars per class. Which doesn't sound, doesn't cost that much. Schools have cameras all over the campus. We didn't think it would cost too much. It was inflated in a lot of people's opinions just to add that.

SHAWN FLEMING: I do not question the legislative fiscal office estimates. And I don't think it's wise to for two reasons. One, I respect their research. They researched Texas. I can't remember the other state that has cameras and the quality and the sound, etc. I don't think it's wise to argue with the

legislators and make them wonder the number. I don't think eight and a half million dollars is much money in total anyway. That would be the killer of it. Shouldn't be if that's the desire of the people. Chris and Tara's concern how it's used is more relevant to consider. To Matt's other point of how many other items on this agenda I agree with that. And I spoke to some people in the executive committee and apologized yesterday when a they were considering it I did not give them all the information cause there was 107 items that were considered. They started going through that list saying this is dental care, diapers, school resource officer training, teacher training. And I couldn't argue with them. I agree and our leaders agree those things are very important. As it relates to two other items on that list the school resource officers training, their curriculum is dictated by the Peace Officer Commission Statute. And it says it just like that, that commission dictates that curriculum. If you want to put something don't think legislatively is the mechanism to do it. It would be to advocate with the Peace Officer Commission first off. And then with teacher training there is already in statute 7242 dictates schools under their plans have to provide

training on intervention and supports for pre service and in service for teachers. Unless more definition is provided in terms of what we all mean. I am not sure what would be added to that. That is already actually required in law to provide training to teachers on behavior. It's already there. I would have to get a more specific definition. I would recommend having those two on the list just because we have nine things. It waters down what y'all are prioritizing. We have a session in four months. You have a 40 percent turnover. Some of those people don't have their seats determined yet. We don't even know who they are to educate them. If you bring nine items they will champion one or two and might not champion the one y'all care about. Skilled nursing was coming out really strong. Might get resolved by The Advocacy Center class action lawsuit. Might not. When you put a whole list in front of somebody it waters down. That's what Matt's point was. Information I wanted to share.

MARY TARVER: I was going to say at the executive committee yesterday it was difficult, and I know the Families Helping Families and LaCAN and everybody who had come up with this list of a hundred looking at the

top 11 based on those scores and we were having trouble because we were like we want to do all 11. I appreciate Matthew and Shawn and what y'all said. We initially had the school resource and training was scooted down some in the list and then we had a discussion about the dental care and the diapers. And so it certainly crossed our minds about are we adding too many things. I think Shawn is right. We probably do have too much on this list to be too ambitious and needed y'all's input. I think in the past Shawn had like maybe four things on the list, five things. It's hard when you start looking at this list to say something is more important than the other to other people. The list is important. That's why we wanted to have the discussion today and I am certainly, as part of the executive committee, want to say we want to be effective in what we decide to do and do the best that we can with the resources that we have. So I do think the list is too long.

CRYSTAL WHITE: So when looking at this list we heard yesterday for the SPAS program there is already, I believe it's the arc is already leading that and advocating for that. Is that maybe something we consider taking off of our list. Because we know there

is already a group taking charge on that and lead on that. And seems to be doing well with it already. And that frees us up to do other things. That was one suggestion. The other suggestion is this. Out of all of these things this legislative agenda is set up so that we can go out and we can find out what families and self advocates want. They came together, they sacrificed going to these meetings, they found sitters for their kids. This is no small task to even get what you need on this agenda to your LaCAN leader. That already says these things are important. And in that room whenever they did the kick off meeting there is one item on this list that not a single parent or self advocate asked for and its funding for the Families Helping Families. And I think that needs to be considered in this room when we're talking about taking things off is that this legislative agenda is for the people. They took the time, they gave you 107 items. And one of them up here is not one that they suggested. So if we're going to take one off the list I am going to weigh that strongly and I just want you to know my logic behind it.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Another observation. Not disputing this list or anything like that. One of the



things I have noticed on my short time being on the council it's obviously a reflection as perhaps it should be of the folks we're soliciting information from. Seems to be primarily parents with young children. Look at basically healthcare and special education. But people with developmental disabilities have a much broader scope of policy issues. Not talking about autonomy, not talking about employment. Nothing that talks about transportation. Nothing that really talks about housing. All incredible issues, but I presume these are issues that primarily effect older or adults with developmental disabilities as opposed to children. I think that's just something to keep aware of as we're trying to address the needs of all individuals within the State of Louisiana that have intellectual or developmental disabilities and perhaps not just children. Or youth. I don't know if in the future it might be helpful the way we do it we have policy areas and we make initiatives like the two initiatives under each of those. You might go to a legislator and frankly might not be that interested in Medicaid and education. And their big thing is housing, but you don't have anything on there for that. Or their big thing is transportation and you don't have

anything. Or employment. And you don't have anything for them to get excited about. Just an idea of diversifying your policy goals that effect people with disabilities. Perhaps not just what it seems to be which are younger individuals, particularly children.

TARA SMITH: Thank you Chris and I agree there are certainly other things. Not sure how we address that cause I know we get a lot of our feedback from our folks on the ground. And my guess is that the older folks aren't going to the Families Helping Families as much as we would like. Probably LRS and other things. We may want to consider that next year when we are pulling together the items that are important to the community and make sure it reflects everybody in the population. Cause he is right. We don't have much. Two small things for adults at the bottom, but not much on the other things we normally advocate for. My question though to the executive committee is the additional funding for Families Helping Families how did that get on and become considered if it didn't come from the meeting we had with our folks that bring the concerns that they know from their regions. And what is the rationale behind it. How did it get on there and what is different this year versus every other

year?

SHAWN FLEMING: I guess I will start with the general process. The same process. It was a little more, the leaders did have multiple community meetings this year and did get a lot more input. When they got the list of 107 items we asked them, and this is kind of standard, statewide issue is there a legislative fix to it. And then if those two things are true, how important would you rank this based on your experience with your constituents. All the LaCAN leaders and Families Helping Families directors and partners' coordinators did that. We pulled up the things that met those criteria at the highest priority rankings. And we asked them to narrow it down to a manageable set they would want to first consider presenting to y'all. Making the recommendation. The recommendation is for them. When we started putting stuff on the board looking at a lot of issues that were not necessarily legislative fixes, but were issues. It was related to people not having information or training on services. And I think one of the directors said that really falls on us to do that, but our funding is decreasing. They are having a harder time meeting the needs of people and if you look through this list that's information,

referrals for training is one of the main things that Families Helping Families centers provide. Where would they get that information. And so one of the directors just said if our funding keeps decreasing from other agencies we are not going, we're at risk of not existing. And the same thing occurred with education truthfully. To answer your question on that one item they said why don't we ask for more money for the centers in general so we can address some of these issues. Similarly like some of the issues with education, cause one item that didn't come out of the executive committee that did come from the kick off was education accountability. And that kind of just emerged from many items in there are concerns of IEPs not being followed or written, et cetera. So you address them piecemeal or do education accountability. The problem with that is there is already a federal law and I don't know, looking at Charley Michel who is more of an expert than me, we couldn't figure out what you would do legislatively to do that at state level. And I want to be clear with y'all. The kick off our families directors and LaCAN leaders and coordinators decide what to present to y'all. They do look at the issues. So behavior has always been an issue, always

at the top. Use that as an example. What is the solution. So they will present a solution to try to address the issues that might not be exactly, I think Families Helping Families came out. They are saying I need this and this. And we are looking at the delivery system. As one of the directors said that would be the recommendation and that's what they came up with.

KIM BASILE: I know Amy was asking and you kept saying they, they, they. Who is the they.

SHAWN FLEMING: The Families Helping Families directors, the LaCAN leaders and the partners' coordinator.

KIM BASILE: People that have contracts with the DD Council.

SHAWN FLEMING: They do.

KIM BASILE: Asking for more money to give people that have contracts.

SHAWN FLEMING: That's correct.

AMY DENARSKY: So to be clear the request for additional funding is coming from the FMF directors and LaCAN leaders, not actually the parents.

SHAWN FLEMING: That specific request yes, ma'am.

HYACINTH MCKEE: How did we come up with the number of a half a million dollars. Where did that

number come from.

SHAWN FLEMING: When it was brought up they thought it would require more money. Well how much, there needs to be a number presented to y'all. Like whenever we have anything we always determine what is the ask, what are we asking and we just asked and they said double. So we wrote that number down. It was a consensus.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Can I still be acknowledged because I have another question. So did he have any documentation from the Families Helping Families Centers what they have done with the money we have already given them to come up with such an excessive amount of half a million to give to them. I think that is a large amount of money and not to have any type of data what happened with that money if we did advocate for such a large amount. Do we have anything from them to defend that amount.

SHAWN FLEMING: Yes. They serve like 24,000 people at least a year. I would have to go back and look exactly. We have plenty of data on the numbers and types of services.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Not what I mean. Do we have any data to substantiate such a large request. Why half a

million. Is there anything they provided to us to show they need a half a million dollars in our advocacy.

SHAWN FLEMING: And I would have to crunch the numbers. The concern the funding they were losing or potentially losing through other organizations, through other agencies. And so I will tell y'all a concern if those funds were state funds, supplanting, can't use federal dollars to supplant state dollars. But a lot of the sources they have been using are federal dollars so might not be an issue. One of the concerns continued reduction of funding from other agencies. My concern to that is the council started Families Helping Families some 30 years ago. They have done a great job with creating themselves as value centers and other organizations have funded them. So their fear of that funding going away is more problematic to me.

JAMIE WONG: I will acknowledge the elephant in the room. I think the agency you are talking about is the Department of Education. And I was just not going to say anything about this because I think anything I say is going to come across and be misinterpreted in different ways. So I want to be very clear from the beginning I by no means do not support or value the work of Families Helping Families. But we even on this

screen are talking about state dollars funding nonprofit organizations. At the end of the day every entity is a nonprofit organization. And we are even on the screen talking about this as funding something. Talking about taking half a million dollars of state dollars to fund an organization. And that is not how state dollars work. The Department of Education does have contracts with every Families Helping Families, almost all the centers, but that is the result of the agencies saying with our dollars this is a scope of work we want to provide for families. We completed that scope of work and Families Helping Families center were, some of them were the ones who got those contracts. We are not funders. State agencies can't just fund people. We have contracts for scopes of work. So while I don't disagree with what is up on the screen, it's the wording and the way this is being put out there is seeking additional state funds for the specific agencies. What the council would need to do is say we need additional dollars to support a particular scope of work to be provided to families. As it's written on this screen we're very venerable for people to say this is violating state procurement laws. My only concern. Again, I am not by any means saying



there is work that shouldn't be done or needs to be done. Just have a concern with the way it's being portrayed and unintentionally the Department of Education is cutting funding. We are not cutting funds to anybody. We put out scopes of work and seek partners who can deliver those services. And many Families Helping Families centers have been partners and we are in a contract year. Contracts run on three years. We will be going through that process again. No one should feel we will not be doing that work. But I understand how any time a three year contract comes to an end it has to go through a competitive process that people feel venerable. We are more than willing to continue working with partners and provide services to families.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Thank you for that. I was wondering. My question was going to be which agencies and Jamie volunteered the information. My next question was going to be how much are those agencies, those contracts for cause what I don't want to see if we're going to have, they are saying each one of them have 30,000-dollars contract they are afraid of going away potentially and we're replacing with hundred thousand. We have to be good stewards of our dollars

and we can't just go out and make nonprofits very robust. Not what our legislative agenda is for. Especially, once again, keep saying this especially if it was not requested by the parents and by the self advocates. I think we need to be very careful with this one.

TARA SMITH: Thank you for that because I definitely can appreciate that position. My question is what was done or what data do we have to inform this council what was done if these centers have anticipated losing funding what have they done to prepare for that if they are they are on a three year contract cycle. And my second question is if some numbers were to be approved by the council what is the intention of doling it out. Evenly amongst them all or those that the staff feels are under performing. What is the proposed allocation for dispersing whatever number the council may come to.

RANDALL BROWN: The executive committee feels it would be doled out equally among all nine centers we have contracts with. Amount we would agree to.

TARA SMITH: What information was given to you guys by them, what have they done to prepare for this. The contract has been up every three years. Have they

written additional grants. Done anything to get out there.

RANDALL BROWN: We didn't have that data.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just some response of some things what Chris said initially I think a huge issue. I think a valid point. We don't have anything about employment, transportation or housing. And we all have our children will be aging. If we have younger children people who contact Families Helping Families centers probably are younger people. Primarily that is because their funding sources are for services for younger children. So getting access to OCDD services. They have a contract with OCDD or for education. So they don't have a funding source, we have some Families Helping Families directors here, I'm not aware they have funding sources to help families beyond the scope of what they have through the DD Council to help with housing, transportation, or employment. So it's kind of like a circular type thing if they don't have the resources the people of that age group that have people, adults with disabilities they aren't going to the center. Therefore the information they are seeking out they are not getting that information to come to the agenda. When I first saw the legislative agenda

that was sent out the first thing I thought, I understand people's question is, wait a second it was Families Helping Families directors, LaCAN leaders and they want 500,000-dollars more. Then whenever I talked to some people at the meeting I come to understand there was this large number of items that was on there they received, and as Shawn said those things can't be addressed legislatively, already things that are in law. People need information on how to uphold the law. If Families Helping Families can serve more families they need funding. They can help people to address those hundred items on that are on the agenda. Of all ages. That may be able to help us get more information for the older people as they age and then add that to our agenda. The last point I want to make I really think when we move forward we need to look at what are some legislative items that will help adults to be able to live more independently. And while diapers and dental care are very big issues adults need more than that to be able to live inclusive fulfilled lives. That is employment, transportation and housing. I see it every day in the work I do. I really think we need to put that.

APRIL DUNN: I understand employment and housing

is very important. The reason I brought dental because I don't feel people like me should be paying so much money out of my pocket for dental care. I just don't think it's fair. I don't think it's fair for me, I don't think its fair for my mom to be paying for dental care. I feel like it should come from my insurance. I don't think it's fair that I had to pay out of my pocket. And I don't want to get old and not have teeth. I just don't think it's fair Medicaid don't cover dentures or eye exams or any other stuff Medicare is covering.

CRYSTAL WHITE: There might be somebody in the room who can speak more towards this April, but I know we have FQHCs set up that offer dental services, cleanings and such for the population. They don't?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: It's not sufficient.

CRYSTAL WHITE: But some do it. Some do provide the service. Do we have a list of which do provide the service? Because that might be helpful to some people in this interim to be educated like where they can go for this service, the adults right now. No, it doesn't or does at some.

HYACINTH MCKEE: The services the FQHC provide are not the services April are speaking about. Typical

cleaning, routine, yes. But when you start talk about anything higher than a cleaning or routine it becomes very expensive. So to answer your question, they do not provide anything that is more intensive in terms of dental care. What April is saying is actually accurate. We do need and we cannot assume people necessarily want to go to FQHCs in order to get those services. They have every right to choose a provider. May want to choose someone else to clean their teeth. To make the assumption that the FQHC should be the only person providing, not saying you are. I don't want people to leave thinking we should send our people to all FQHCs to get cleanings and assume that care is happening. What April is saying she is actually correct. They are not getting any higher level service. Teeth pulled, a root canal, that is not going to happen.

APRIL DUNN: Anymore questions?

TARA SMITH: Ideally we love to give everybody everything they want and need. We all know sometimes that is just not possible. Given the amount of items we have to consider today I would suggest removing that. And the reason being we have a lot to consider. We have some things that have been raised by the

members of the council that aren't even addressed that I think we can all agree we need some sort of discussion or partial inclusion on our agenda. And the other thing I would mention just respectfully asking that be removed is there is people with private dental insurance have to pay something for all these things. I have it through my employer and we have to pay for everything. Certainly for root canals and things of that nature. With all due respect we might could table for a later discussion. Perhaps if there was more money at a different time. My suggestion is we remove that. Regarding our older population that clearly is not addressed on our legislative agenda, proposed agenda.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I'm understanding the recommendation is to remove the expand Medicaid to cover dental care for adults. I disagree. I completely disagree with that. This is an issue that our people are literally experiencing. So I disagree with that. That dental care for adults definitely needs to stay. Those dollars go directly to the people we are serving. To speak to what you were saying those are the only two items that are for adults. I don't want to remove those. Certainly those are the ones we

want to keep on and consider removing others.

MARY TARVER: You have the other list. If there is something on here, and I appreciate what you are saying Tara, but maybe we needed to look at them from each segment of employment, something from employment, something for education, something for housing and something for transportation. Just start with a list of the top highest rated from the list. And so we have these same struggles. It is difficult because one of the things, and I think y'all have said if there is some way Families Helping Families can meet some of the smaller needs that are on this list then that might help. So that is where that thought came from. But as far as having an employment, and education, housing and transportation I like that. I think that is, look over the list, it's right here with us.

RANDALL BROWN: I agree with you Mary. I think we can look at ways, it was a good idea of Chris prioritizing and having something from each segment. As an adult with DD there are a lot of things that were not addressed. Probably another 107 if we had time to sit and think about it. What I need now we need to make a motion to amend. I know we talked about the possibility of removing or changing some of these. I



need a motion to amend this motion that is before you so we can begin that process.

TARA LEBLANC: Although I can't vote on this cause it's a conflict of interest. Although I support. I do want to point some of them have dollar figures and some don't. That may be a decision how you prioritize. But the dental for Medicaid for adults is millions. That is not an easy ask. Not a low cost ask. I don't know it off hand. We have done that in the department in the past. It's quite a large amount. Also have for the rate increase for providers depending on what percentage or what rate increase you want that is a high dollar too. Pointing out those don't have dollars on there.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So whenever you say those last two bullets you are saying expand Medicaid for diapers and wipes and cover dental care are y'all talking about entire Medicaid or people who have waiver services in the DD population. Or is it all Medicaid. That is a big difference. And the other thing what Tara said about the funding for home and community based provider rates Governor Edwards at a meeting with providers a few weeks ago he committed to increasing the funding for provider rates if there is a surplus. He didn't

say for sure. If there is a surplus he committed to some increase. Something we already kind of know is favorable. Just for y'all's consideration.

MATT ROVIRA: One more point. These are all important issues and as Crystal was saying bubbled up from a lot of work and a lot of people and parents and families putting together. I know with my previous experience or my experience with working with associations sometimes it's a legislative act that is required. But sometimes it's just finding resources perhaps or working with the department to get this done. Essentially what I am saying is we can never, let's not just rule these out forever. We can always look at possibly the LGEs do they have money to perhaps hire dentists to provide these services. They may. The diapers could we talk to the department and see if there's maybe some resources that are already available. I guess that is the point if we do maybe consolidate this list down the road we don't have to forget this list.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Can I make a motion.

RANDALL BROWN: I would like for someone to make the motion for us to amend, this is a motion. All of this is one motion it's on the floor. I would like for

someone to make a motion to amend this motion so we can start the process.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I would like to make a motion to amend these recommendations from the executive committee.

SHAWN FLEMING: State what you are amending.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Make a motion to amend the executive committee recommendation set forth. To amend the additional half a million state funding for DD Council budget. To remove it off the list. I am making a motion to amend and remove the additional half million in state funding in the DD Council budget for Families Helping Families Center. We have an issue with the language that's why it needs to be removed. Also make a motion to remove the school resource officer training. There is already some funding out there that I believe is happening for the school resource training. Also make a motion to remove the funding for the provider increase. And also make a motion to remove the SPAS.

APRIL DUNN: Roslyn seconds.

TARA SMITH: I think since we are all talking about the potential for including other things in lieu of some of these things it might be easier or most

efficient to go line by line or perhaps everybody come to some sort of consensus on the other issue Bambi and Chris raised. May want to bring up on that other list. I think if we all try to get a consensus on wiping all this it's going to be mass chaos.

SHAWN FLEMING: Can I procedurally help y'all. Tara is suggesting Hyacinth that you amend the motion or just present your motion as an item one at a time. I agree that would probably would be cleaner. Instead of doing the whole slate of things to remove.

TARA SMITH: With the understanding we all intend to discuss and add other things in place.

SHAWN FLEMING: Her suggestion you do one at a time. Do you want to amend your motion to do Families Helping Families funding first.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I amend my motion to whatever Tara just said. We want to go line by line. Okay, so I want to make the motion to remove additional 500,000 state funding for Families Helping Families Centers.

RANDALL BROWN: Do I have a second to the new amended motion.

JILL HANO: I will second it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Are we taking this out because, just want to make sure we are clear, want to take this

out because of the questions and like the language which Jamie brought up, which I think is a good point. Have the language a little clearer. And also to have certain deliverables we would expect for whoever would get that funding. Some targeted areas. Is that what we are doing. I think that our Families Helping Families Centers need to have more funding to be able to reach some areas they are not reaching. At the same time, always pushed we need to have high accountability. Should have accountability of deliverables. Is that what we are doing.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I think the issue is that is something that the DD Council will have to have a conversation whether or not they want to award more money through their contracts. For us to go and ask the state directly to use state dollars to fund FHF that is the issue. It is the language. If we do decide, I have issue with the language with having Families Helping Families name up there and state dollars to directly fund them and also the amount. That's why I am making the motion. If the issue is supporting Families Helping Families with getting more money maybe some things we can do as it relates to the DD Council with the money we get and awarding contracts

to them for the services they provide. But not asking the state directly to provide a half a million to a nonprofit organization. I think the issue is the language. If we are going to start getting a conversation about targets and goals I am not sure this is the time, we have the time to actually do that. So right now the motion was just to remove this and then maybe consider at another time how to rework the language. As it stands the way it is written my motion is to remove it as it is written and the way it is written right now.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: A point of clarity, the money the Families Helping Families get from the council that is all state money.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Not what I am saying. It's done through contracts. The way this is written it says we are asking to take state dollars and fund this particular nonprofit entity directly and it's the wording. We can't just name that entity like that and just ask for that money. It's the way it's worded. I don't have issue with FMF getting more money. It's the way we have it worded.

JAMIE WONG: I would say too along with that right now it is worded set dollar figure of state general

fund to go to a specific agency. And if we are going to include something like this we really need to be having a discussion about a set of services that needs to be provided, that the council needs to be providing and seeking additional state general fund to provide a particular set of services. Because anything that we do will be through a contract relationship. I don't know we're even in a position to figure that out in a setting and going line by line. Either way if we're going to go beyond striking this we're going to have to shift our attention to identifying a set of services that a vendor such as Families Helping Families could provide. But our language is going to have to be specific to a set of services, not a particular agency.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: You are telling me the state legislature does not have the authority to specifically allocate funds to a program run by a nonprofit, but through a state agency. They do, right. And isn't this what that is asking for. Logistically not understanding the way this is working. This seems like in the current language, which I don't really understand, it's asking for the legislature to allocate half a million dollars specifically to the Families Helping Families program, to the DD Council to give.

And that is wrong, why.

JAMIE WONG: Because state general fund when a state agency, the DD Council technically is, when you receive money and then you enter into a contract relationship with someone to deliver a set of services there are rules on how you identify that partner. And the way it's worded right now it is to fund an organization. We don't, you can't use state dollars to fund the existence of an organization. Like you could if someone makes a donation. You Advocacy Center I'm sure has people who just give you money to exist and support your cause. Sure the centers have those as well. But state agencies when you enter into a contractual relationship it is to provide a scope of work on your behalf with your dollars. That has to go through a particular process to do it. That's what I'm speaking to in terms of our relationship is through a competitive process. That is my concern with the language. Why I say if we are going to make any adjustments we need to be talking about the scope of work that we would be seeking with that additional half a million dollars. We would be seeking to find a partner to help carry a particular scope of work and I haven't heard anything in this conversation that



identifies that scope of work.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Does the DD council competitively bid out the money that is used to fund Families Helping Families.

SHAWN FLEMING: I think to answer your question it's my understanding the funds, most recently trying to pull out the budget bill, I think three years ago funding had been reduced by us to 327,000-dollars. How much our state general fund had been reduced to. And they put a line item I believe specified 2000 families. I believe when the half million was allocated it was in recognition of providing information, services, et cetera. And the council oversees that. We do, I agree Jamie the way it is worded in our plan is brief. Because it doesn't capture the totality of those requirements. If you look at the requirements that y'all, the council placed on Families Helping Families Centers in terms of delivery of services and the expectations they are clear. Y'all have specified things and free to specify other things on specific deliverables that y'all want them to provide. And so I do think the legislature has that authority to provide that. I am getting eyes in the audience people who know as well. Short term providing evidence that is

how it's been done previously.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Is that a disagreement then? And I would assume there's a basic sentence you could put in there that describes the supports or services that Families Helping Families conducts and then you say an additional 500,000-dollars from the DD Council should be budgeted for technical assistance and then you could just have the authority. Or is the underlying authority you don't want a half a million to go to that program because you are not sure it's doing what it is supposed to.

JAMIE WONG: I am not saying I have an issue with the money or additional services being provide in partnerships. I was just flagging the language and the venerability.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: I never heard an organization have issue with or a board having issues with their organization requesting additional appropriations to do their work. Sounds strange to me. I feel like there is information that I don't know.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Legislature definitely allocates funds to nonprofits. The DD Council is just one of those entities.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Are we making motions? Where are

we?

RANDALL BROWN: The motion is currently on the floor. Your motion.

CHARLEY MICHEL: This is probably not going to be the right time for the discussion. I think everyone has made great points. But I would like to be involved when y'all are making the discussions about what the deliverables would be, the rationale behind the additional money. But one thing I want you to understand is that part of every one of the contracts we had includes aggressive outreach. And we take that very seriously. One of the results our outreach resulted in a lot more people coming in for assistance and we are able to serve that at this point. The tipping point is getting there where we are not going to be able to provide services or information or referral services to everyone that calls. In our instance in Bayouland Families Helping Families five full time employees and we deal with thousands of people every month. Thousands of contacts every month, which is fine. But we want to make sure that we're able to continue to provide those services. I don't know how we would go about saying sorry, we don't have any money to do that for you today. One of the things

that we do we have a very robust contract with state Department of Education that gives us some funding to take care of IEP problems. But we have no specific funding for 504 questions. Federal funds are used. We can't use 504 and bill the department or count that as an activity. We just kind of do that in between and we're getting more and more services that are requested for 504 because there are no funds for it. And there are more 504 students on IAPs than students on IEPs. Trying to keep up with the changing demand. As you discuss that please let us know so we can help you to give you specifics on what some of those deliverables might be, why the rational for the additional money. I would hope you don't dismiss it. I agree with the language might possibly be an issue, but something y'all need to take care. Please don't discount the need because of the language.

JULIE CROSS: My name is Julie Cross. I am also the program supervisor for the State of Louisiana. Every month I get every centers' data, paperwork which they all hate me for. Since I started this five years ago there has been a steady growth across the board through all the centers the outreaches they do, the contacts. DD council looked at a set number of things.

With my contract I don't. I look at everything as a whole. Every single person I talk to I count. And there has been a steady increase without a steady money increase. Eventually it's going to come to the point we're not going to be able to keep reaching people because we don't have the money. That's one of the reasons why we are coming here asking y'all for this. I have that data. We have no problem with sharing it, a general synopsis of the work that all the centers do. That is just my point on this. I understand some questions of the validity of the 500,000-dollars. Your centers are working hard for you. There's a steady increase of people coming in, but there is no money. I don't understand how y'all want us to continue to reach people when we are not getting the money for it.

JAMES SPRINKLE: James Sprinkle, Families Helping Family, region six. It looks like many of the council are not fully aware of what the Families Helping Families really do across the state. And our situation region six we have developed relationships with the government local to a point they are coming to us asking for help for the people. There are so many people with developmental disabilities nowadays it is unbelievable. Some of the things I just uncovered in

the last month breaks my heart. We are asked now to expand beyond developmental disabilities and we are reaching out to the homeless, the people that have behavioral issues. Not going to take much time. In Alexandria right now there are 2,000 homeless families on the streets with kids. There is a tent city. Our center actually puts together bags of groceries for people with developmental disabilities which OCDD identifies and sometimes we get people off the street and we pass that out to them. We have even gone to getting cleaning supplies and 5-dollar McDonalds card when we see people in need. In the last 20 years our center, and other centers do the same thing, things flow through us because they know who we are. I recently gave away three hospital beds to people who are in need. That's what we are doing. There is more to this than what meets the eye. If some of y'all ever want to discuss the history and why we are where we are. We are doing ten times what we did ten years ago and stretching it to the limit. We're going to continue. Contracts apart from DD Council. But I guarantee one thing, our staff is so dedicated to this. They take money out of their own pocket to help.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Can we ask a clarifying question.

Just unaware I heard you say is that the population all Families Helping Families serve the homeless population.

JAMES SPRINKLE: No. It was expanded into that because the government agencies, mayors were talking to me about it and so.

CRYSTAL WHITE: But if the scope of Families Helping Families is to be with people with disabilities I am just wondering how is that going with the mission and staying in the scope to then go to the homeless population. I am confused on what population it's supposed to serve.

JAMES SPRINKLE: Developmental disabilities is the primary.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I guess I was just wondering how this homeless initiative came into this.

SPEAKER: A lot of the homeless have developmental disabilities.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I'm so sorry, you have to be recognized.

JAMES SPRINKLE: Homeless have developmental disabilities. And I with the homeless coalition. And almost everyone one of them the families on the streets have kids and the State Department of Education which

helps supplies. Kids are living with their parents on the street and most of them have some kind of learning disability simply because of their environment. It's gotten so dramatic. I can talk for an hour and I am not here to do that. Don't underestimate what Families Helping Families are doing.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I am not underestimating it. I think it's great work and it's necessary work. I am just wondering if that is in the scope of what Families Helping Families was founded to do in our contract. And if they are saying sourced so thin and putting resources there maybe those are some things we need to start doing. Saying we need to start focusing on our mission and the population we have to focus on so we have enough resources to do what's in our contracts.

SHAWN FLEMING: We can only hold centers accountable for what we fund them to do. And we actually I think want them to expand. The problem I think what you are bringing up, Mr. Sprinkle brought up expanding to areas outside of developmental disabilities because that is where the funding opportunities are and maintain operations. There is some overlap in some of the services provided. We only give them 56,000-dollars a year. And they bring in a



lot more than that. We can't restrict them from doing other stuff. We can say we expect you to do this.

There is a variety across the centers in what they do.

CATHY DILLON: Cathy Dillon with Northshore Families Helping Families. Just wanted to reiterate what Jim was saying when he said they serve some of the homeless. Majority of the calls I get from people who are homeless or they need help with bills or whatever. They call us because we're called Families Helping Families. I will ask them do you have a disability or someone in your family with a disability. Nine times out of ten they say yes. Most of our homeless population do have developmental disabilities and I just wanted to make sure that you understood the point he was making. Not branching out. A lot of our population with developmental disabilities are becoming homeless. Thank you.

TARA SMITH: Do we have data on which Families Helping Families Centers or how much each one of them individually or whether or not sharing best practice and what is the discrepancy the centers that are raising the most and the least and why is that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Why I appreciate that question I feel like that is more like micromanaging for lack of a

better word. We don't lock, there is a contract and they have to deliver that contract and that is how they get funds. We got data at the last meeting if they met those obligations. Beyond that whatever they do is raising funds or finding other resources goes into the other services they do beyond the scope of our contract.

TARA SMITH: Does that mean any of the funds they raise on their own do not go towards our mission, all things above and beyond our contract, trying to understand. They don't fundraise for us at all.

SHAWN FLEMING: Part of our monitoring we do get audits from our contractors including Families Helping Families. We review those. I do not, I make sure they are financially stable and viable organization. That they are not having issues with making payments and they will remain open. But beyond that there is a large variety. I would say, I don't think any contract they have competes with our mission. We are their seed money and they abide by their contracts, by the principals of the council is literally written into their contracts. Any other contract they do or any other service they provide must be aligned with the principals in the DD Act. Y'all need to appreciate

that. It's not anything competing with what y'all are doing. It must be aligned with that.

JAMIE WONG: Calling the question on this. It's 10:00. I think we need to move on. We're significantly far behind and it's time.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Second.

APRIL DUNN: Any objection to the call of the question? Any objection to the motion? Mary and Matt.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Don't we have to call the question has to be voted on first.

SHAWN FLEMING: There was no objection. The motion is to remove the agenda item of increased funding for Families Helping Families by 500,000-dollars. That is what you are voting on right now. A for vote removes it. Against vote keeps it. The motion is to remove the Families Helping Families funding increase 500,000-dollars. If you vote for it it will be removed. If you say no it will be kept it on the advocacy agenda.

HANNAH JENKINS: Patti Barovechio abstain, Kim Basile abstain, Melissa Bayham abstain, Michael Billings against, Randall Brown no, Carmen Cetnar no, Lillian DeJean no, Amy Denarsky abstain, Michelle Guillory abstain, Julie Foster Hagan (left the room),

Jill Hano no, Roslyn Hymel abstain, Tara Leblanc (left the room), Hyacinth McKee for, Steven Nguyen abstain, Bambi Polotzola no, Chris Rodriguez no, Matt Rovira no, Tara Smith yes, Mary Tarver no, Crystal White yes, Jamie Wong abstain. Three to nine. Motion does not pass.

APRIL DUNN: The motion failed.

JAMIE WONG: I am not going to make this motion because I am abstaining, but I would suggest for the recognition of the work that the committee did, the executive committee considered in their discussion and for the sake of time that someone make a motion we adopt the executive committee's recommendation and move on from this discussion.

APRIL DUNN: Who seconds that.

JAMIE WONG: Didn't make a motion. Just throwing that on the table.

APRIL DUNN: Who wants to make a motion to adopt this?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I would.

KIM BASILE: I would like to make a motion we scratch this entire list and set up a committee to meet within the next six weeks. Because the first original 107 or whatever list that we have was divided like

Chris and Bambi suggested between housing and transportation and education and we take that list and come back to the council in January with a new set of agenda items for the legislative session.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Can we repeat the amendment to the original motion.

KIM BASILE: Make the motion to scratch this current list and to set up a committee to meet within the next six weeks and take the original 107 list that was given to us and separate it between transportation, housing, education, all the different areas that Mary suggested we choose from and we redo the wish list for the 2020 legislative agenda.

APRIL DUNN: Who seconds it. Hyacinth seconds. Any objection to Kim's motion. Any abstention. Jamie. Any discussion?

KELLY USERY: My name is Kelly Usery and I am a parent. And I realize there is a lot of talk that there were 107 agenda items brought from the LaCAN leaders. My concern I am in region one and ten and we do not have a leader. So my question is how many of those 107 items came from my region. And if you are going to reconvene I am sure there are a lot of people in my community, I believe one and ten are two of the largest

areas. I think we should also have either a stand in LaCAN leader cause one has been missing since March. Or someplace where we can go and bring our suggestions so they can also be considered as well. Is there a way that is possible.

SHAWN FLEMING: Just want to give y'all a context of where y'all are with this process, what y'all are considering. If y'all wait till January to make a decision on your agenda you have no factsheets, you will have nothing going into educating legislators, you will have no information to have round tables for your leaders to help make legislative visits. And when y'all make that decision in January, if that's what y'all choose to do, y'all being the council and your LaCAN leaders will have about a month and a half to educate the entirety of the legislature what y'all think is important. I just think y'all should think about that procedurally what that does. Ms. Usery we did break it down and did get input from every region. Your Families Helping Families director actually had I guess a LaCAN proxy, someone who has been in the LaCAN role before and they participated in the kick off. They provided input. I can't pull it up fast enough, but they did provide recommendations for that list and

have input based on their experiences with their constituents.

KIM BASILE: I know that we in the past have given the executive director control of making decisions when it is not feasible to pull the whole council together at once. Maybe we could amend the motion to add that the committee be chosen today and made up of council members that the whole council agrees with should be on this committee and we give this committee control to set the legislative agenda. I don't know if that's possible, throwing it out there. But we have done that in the past.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So based on our training that we had over the past two days, and some people were not able to attend, but part of what we learned was that we have committees set up, basically what it's saying we don't want to respect the process that has already gone through. And we have an executive committee which we voted for as a council. They made recommendations. Now it sounds like just do away with that slate and now create another committee because we don't trust what the recommendation from the executive committee we elected. Maybe I am misunderstanding this. That's what it seems like.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: I think this is a fine list. I am sure for the most part reflects the input that was provided. My prospective was looking forward into the future recognizing that maybe we focus too much or we don't have it broad enough. Not to burn this thing down and start over. It was more of a comment like food for thought in the future think about things. Even if we were to try and do, those are important areas transportation, housing all those things even if you wanted to create that. I am not prepared. I have a lot of ideas at my organization, but I would not know what to put up there specifically. These are things that take a lot more thought. I think this is a good list.

RANDALL BROWN: If I may Chris I took your suggestion as food for thought and we did, the list was categorized trying our best out of 107 to put on ones that we felt they were prioritized based on number of people at the kick off who basically just felt like voted for or polled about it. Like April said, dental was a big issue for her. Diapers were a big issue in a lot of our regions. That was some of our personal feelings on it as well. Our best attempt to do that. They did put in the time and the effort and this was



our best effort to bring that down to something we can take and make issue sheets for and advocate for with the legislature. We understand fully that it's a big ask. It's a lot of items, but we had a lot of items to work with. Our best attempt to try to give you all a workable amount of items that we thought should make the agenda.

APRIL DUNN: I want to talk. I agree with Chris. I don't want to get rid of some of the stuff on this list. But I do want to add some stuff that is going to help people like me people that already been through the school system, early steps, you know stuff like. I don't want to get rid of the whole entire list. I want to put something that is for everybody. Not just children, but people like me. People who are 33 or older. Those are the people I want to help. I want to help everybody. I just think we need to be putting something like housing or employment instead of just getting rid of the whole lists. Take one stuff off this list that we don't need and just add either housing, education, or employment or transportation.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Point of order. Are we discussing or vote.

SHAWN FLEMING: Discussion.

SPEAKER: Can you hear from families first before you vote on the motion.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: I did not abstain Marilee.

KIM BASILE: I am going to withdraw the motion.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I make a motion we accept the motion as the executive committee presents it with the legislative agenda. We can always make amendments in January once we have more details.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: I second it.

APRIL DUNN: Any objection to this motion?

KELLY USERY: My name is Kelly Usery again. I still am asking how can you vote on items that there was two regions that weren't represented. I know Shawn said there was some input from Families Helping Families, the director. But there was two directors so was it just from one or was it from both. If so how many of the 107 were represented cause there weren't any instructions that said since you don't have a LaCAN leader this is what you do and you are talking about things that are going to happen at the round table in January. If there is no leader what are families like myself supposed to do.

SHAWN FLEMING: There was one Families Helping Families Center represented. The one we have a

contract with, the one in New Orleans. There were two representatives there, both the director of Families Helping Families, a LaCAN leader, and another person supporting them in that role who is also previously is served as a LaCAN leader was present. They did have items. I don't have the exact list. Don't have all my notes from that meeting.

KELLY USERY: Does anyone.

SHAWN FLEMING: We have them. I asked for a list of all the items by region. I did look at that. Every region contributed to the list.

KELLY USERY: Except for ten.

SHAWN FLEMING: Except for ten, yes.

KELLY USERY: Which is my region. The issue that I have is that families like myself were not given the opportunity to be represented. Things that are going to the legislature that ultimately affect our families and our children. And today you are going to make decisions based on leaving an entire region out. I have great concern with that. My biggest concern is that it wasn't vocally announced to everyone that region ten was left out.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Thank you for bringing that to our attention because that was something I wasn't aware of

that all the regions were not represented in that room and that everyone's voice was not heard as we had charged in the last meeting for our LaCAN leaders to go out and do. I do understand that's a large region. What the New Orleans region, Jefferson. That is a region that we need to hear from. And make sure their voices are heard and getting their concerns to the table.

SHAWN FLEMING: There was an action alert that went out, posted on Facebook, etc. Emailed to all LaCAN leaders. Regions one and ten LaCAN wise are combined and provide them information on sending information to Families Helping Families in New Orleans and participating in their meetings. We provided avenues and information so people could provide their input.

KELLY USERY: Actually we were given less than 48 hours notice and if you have a child that has disabilities it is virtually impossible to make arrangements. Especially if you have doctor appointments that are vitally important if you don't make it wait months out. So I remember the last meeting we asked for at least two weeks' notice so for you to say that we were given time, 48 hours is not

adequate when you are representing a community that has families with disabilities.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I hear you and I believe this parent has a valid concern. And probably other people in her region would also have those same concerns. Because from what you said Shawn that region had to be treated differently than the other regions due to our lack of staffing that we don't have a LaCAN leader. And I don't think we did a good enough job for them to really be notified on how that process was going to work with their voices to be heard. I think if there is a way that we can come up with that we need to get the information out for that region we need to hear those concerns. Everybody in this state needs to be represented. We need to listen to what the parents are saying because that's who we represent here.

SHAWN FLEMING: I agree. I took down the note. I'm sorry if you didn't have notice. We have struggled with having a LaCAN leader in that region, in that area. A very demanding region. Still the same expectation. Families Helping Families contracts previously we hold them to fill in for the LaCAN leader. So we do hold them accountable and I appreciate your input. Apologize you were not given

that adequate notice and we will address it. But that is part of so where there is not a LaCAN leader in the contract it literally says they shall fulfill that role until a replacement is made. Which puts pressure on them to try and find a suitable person or cover it. We will look into it.

KELLY USERY: If that information can be shared with other people that aren't a part of LaCAN. That would also be helpful because if you have things that like to be addressed and don't know how to do it that's an issue.

JILL HANO: Apologizing. Sorry if you felt unrepresented. But just for clarification, aren't the regions there are two Families Helping Families were either of the directors there.

SHAWN FLEMING: Yes.

JILL HANO: So that does count. I am not rejecting the LaCAN leader, but having an FHF director there means these regions were not unrepresented.

SHAWN FLEMING: We strongly try to make every effort to get as much input and feedback as possible from everybody. I am sure not everyone always gets the message or has the time, I understand that. We will look into the timing in terms of the announcements, et

cetera.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Is it appropriate to call the question.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Second.

APRIL DUNN: Any objections to calling the question?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I have a question. For my clarity for the LaCAN position is region one and ten combined.

SHAWN FLEMING: She called the question. You can object to calling the question.

APRIL DUNN: Are you objecting to calling the question.

SHAWN FLEMING: The only way you can have more discussion is to object to calling the question. Procedural motion to not allow anymore discussion so the goes directly to a vote. Bambi and Mike seconded. Says y'all are going to stop discussion and make a vote because it's 10:34. Trying to end discussion. If you do not want to end discussion say I object and we will have to take a vote.

APRIL DUNN: Any objection to calling the question.

SHARON DUFRAN: I do when you have families members standing at a mike I think you should hear us.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I object.

AMY DENARSKY: I object too.

SHAWN FLEMING: Call the question we need a 2/3rds vote to end discussion. A yes ends discussion, a no continues discussion. A yes ends discussion. A no continues discussion. If you want to end discussion say yes. If you do not and want to hear public comment say no. Everybody clear?

HANNAH JENKINS: Patti Barovechio no, Kim Basile no, Melissa Bayham no, Michael Billings yes, Randall Brown no, Carmen Cetnar yes, Lillian DeJean abstain, Amy Denarsky no, Michelle Guillory yes, Julie Foster Hagan yes, Jill Hano no, Roslyn Hymel yes, Tara LeBlanc yes, Hyacinth McKee no, Steven Nguyen no, Bambi Polotzola yes, Chris Rodriguez yes, Matt Rovira yes, Tara Smith no, Mary Tarver yes, Crystal White no, Jamie Wong yes. Eleven yeas, ten nays.

SHAWN FLEMING: Y'all needed 2/3rds yeases and y'all didn't get it. So y'all keep discussion.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I was curious isn't region one and ten combined on that LaCAN position.

SHAWN FLEMING: Yes.

JAMIE WONG: We have to have council discussion before public comment. Not disregarding you. We can't



go back and forth.

SHARON DUFRAN: Sorry, but I am almost completely Deaf. If members can speak into their mike because I have no idea if I am saying the same things you already said. My name is Sharon Dufran.

APRIL DUNN: Wait. Tara, you raised your hand.

TARA SMITH: No, ma'am.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Looking back at the list there is one big discussion that we didn't have which was talking about provider rates and skilled nursing rates. From what the families want and what they are wanting is to ensure those dollars make it to the workers. So we have to have that discussion because parents are not going to want to go testify and then those dollars never make it down to their worker and still left in the same positions that they are in. I think we need to figure out a way to ensure public trust that what they ask for is what we are going to advocate for and what they are going to get.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Like to make a motion we consider each line item individually so we can move through rather quickly.

SHAWN FLEMING: Is that a substitute motion. There is a motion on the floor right now to adopt the

entire slate from the executive committee as presented by Bambi and seconded by Michelle.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think to Crystal's point what my point was we accept this slate, let our council staff work on this. Shawn brought up a good point about they need to start doing the work around this. But in January or during the process we can have, we can always change, can't we pull things and say we no longer want to support or refine how we support something.

SHAWN FLEMING: Yes, ma'am. We may change. The caveat to that changing is as I take it when y'all say whatever your legislative agenda is what we will do is make fact sheets and prepare our LaCAN leaders. And y'all go start making legislative visits to communicate this agenda to the legislators. Once they all get elected. And to start preparing round tables to provide information and identify people with these issues to share their life situations. If you change it in January you have to realize we are in midstream of round tables and already hopefully made visits, etc.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But the question of what Crystal was bringing up, which this is something just historically this has already happened in the past, a

requirement for providers. So I think we have more discussion about that. But the budget item is that funding for skilled nursing rates, increased rates for skilled nursing that is what we are voting for. I would imagine most people at this table want to see an increased rate for skilled nursing. So that is what we are voting on right now. We can then look at it and see how we want different things, how we want it to happen later. But we're voting we want to see more funding. If we want to change it in some way we can if that makes sense.

SHAWN FLEMING: There is the other part Crystals indicating basically flow through dollar directly to get to DSPs. That was discussed, actually done a few years back, five, six years ago. We did a pass through and there was difficulty I guess ensuring, even though the legislature said there would be a pass through specifically like a dollar more for DSP workers whether they actually complied with it. There might be upgrades to track that now. Issues with actually making sure that happened. That was part of the discussion.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Sounds like we obviously have some history that we can learn from and that we can now take

a step further and make sure the parents and self advocates are getting the services their lives and livelihoods depend upon. We can do better. Like we always said, now we can do better and we need to ensure that. I think this is probably something we need to get public comment on.

SHARON DUFRAN: My name is Sharon Dufran and I am Joe's mom. I came late to the party today, but I am here to speak on behalf of item one. Families Helping Families has been an arm of this council since its inception. You are the faces of the legislature, but families look at Families Helping Families as the face of the DD Council. They have not had a raise since the inception. Every year whenever money is allocated they get cut. They get cut off the list completely and supposed to feel grateful they got back to the status queue. If we don't start actively supporting Families Helping Families funding we're going to lose them. They are the only agency in this state that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities. To replace Families Helping Families across the state, it will never happen. It will never happen. We have to support Families Helping Families. And what I would like to see an active agenda where the legislature is

forced to increase the budget funding for this group. If we don't we lose the face of the DD Council and families no longer have a point of entry into the disability world. So that's what I am urging you. And maybe you said it Bambi cause you are about the only person I can hear, I am not understanding why y'all are looking upon another committee to rehash 107 items. I understand region ten had no input into this. Why not allow them input. Adopt these items and then appeal them in January. You cannot lose two and a half months of actively pursuing this. You cannot sleep when you are talking about disability advocacy. I sure hope we have the same governor, that's political, I don't care. Because if we don't, who knows where this other guy stands on disability. We have to strike while the iron is hot. Right now, today pick up the phone and start calling and please do not forget Families Helping Families. I have to say one thing. Some of you won't understand, some of you may. Never before have I seen staff, executive committee and families pitted one against each other. Never. We cannot allow this to happen. If we continue to fight, and let me tell you where the fight is. You are not listening to families. Because you are here to serve families so there should

be no fight. DD Council executive staff you serve the members. I know I sat on this committee years ago, this council, excuse me. You serve, staff serves the members, members serve the community. That's me, my son. So whatever is going on you guys need to get together and work it out because this is bad for us families. That's all I have. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Have to follow that up. My comment is on the nine items. Realistically that is just impossible to ask of the leaders to do. We have always done four or five. When we have done five that was a struggle. Nine items is really, really hard. I don't know any other way to tell you then you are asking us to fail, which will make y'all fail if you make us do nine items. It can't happen. That is my concern with pushing forward with this slate and then revisiting in January because we are already going to start our legislative visits, our round table planning. Sorry, but y'all have to narrow this down. We came to y'all for help to narrow this down. And I will also on a comment that was said earlier be very careful about adding items because it was brought up about the first item families, parents what was said, parents didn't add that item. So I am very leery about y'all adding

the items after that comment was said because your LaCAN leaders are also parents. If y'all try and do dual with that kind of the same thing. Gets murky. Just since that comment was said.

CRYSTAL WHITE: We need to clarify that it is our job by council members and by law to set this agenda. So we can technically add whatever we want. So that needs to be clear.

SPEAKER: I was saying because of that comment.

CRYSTAL WHITE: But by law that is our job. Period. Why we are sitting at the table.

SPEAKER: Then to go back the nine items are just unrealistic.

JAMES SPRINKLE: I have been watching the council for over 20 years, gone to almost every meeting. Never have I seen what is happening now. What appears to be a complete change in the takeover of the very system that built us. You are trying to take something as a council that used to be all this work for 20 years and try to destroy it and start from scratch. The Families Helping Families if you continue on this we will be destroyed. That is a fact. Twenty years of watching this stuff. You guys did great until recently. And now all of a sudden the very things somebody is trying

to destroy. A lot of things on my mind right now.

APRIL DUNN: I just want to vote on this and get it over with. I am tired of standing up here.

TARA SMITH: First thing I want to say is thank you to the folks that have come from the audience to speak to us. We do value your opinions and your input. I want you to know that the council does value your input and we know you have taken your time to come here and we do hear everything you are saying. Second thing I want to say I certainly believe the whole council appreciates the work of the Families Helping Families Centers and we certainly understand it's an arm of the council and how valuable it is. But this is just a compromise that has downed on me to see if perhaps this could get the ball across the line. In the spirit of recognizing the concerns of the families who said their voices weren't heard, in the spirit of respecting the council's need to get started on the legislative agenda before January, in the spirit of allowing us to amend this if we need to, a friendly amendment to the motion if Bambi accepts it, to accept the legislative agenda with the exception that the additional half million dollars to Families Helping Families be reduced to 250,000 dollars. And while I think that I would love



to give them as much money as we possibly could. What the concerns about the language as it's written and the concerns frankly I have about this excessive amount of ask, doubling of their budget. Which have not been asked previously. I would offer that as a friendly amendment in hopes we could at least move the entirety of the agenda forward and get started.

APRIL DUNN: Do you accept her amendment.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't think that's going to change the vote. These centers need that amount of money. That's what they said they needed. I don't think that changes the votes on it. So no.

TARA SMITH: I call the question. Let's vote.

APRIL DUNN: Any objections to the motion?

SHAWN FLEMING: The motion is to adopt the entire slate, all nine.

TARA SMITH: I think we're talking about objections to calling the question. Did we resolve calling the question. I said we should vote. With all due respect to everybody the law requires we give our self advocates a break an hour ago. All very important, but we're over.

APRIL DUNN: Any abstention to the motion? Jamie, Amy and Kim.

SHAWN FLEMING: Y'all are voting on the original motion, all nine items.

APRIL DUNN: No objection.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I object.

SHAWN FLEMING: A yes vote is to adopt the slate, all nine items that the executive committee recommends to be on the legislative agenda. A no is to not adopt that. Then y'all would have to go back and figure out what to take off.

HANNAH JENKINS: Patti Barovechio abstain, Kim Basile abstain, Melissa Bayham abstain, Michael Billings yes, Randall Brown yes, Carmen Cetnar yes, Lillian DeJean abstain, Amy Denarsky abstain, Michelle Guillory yes, Julie Foster Hagan abstain, Jill Hano yes, Roslyn Hymel yes, Tara LeBlanc abstain, Hyacinth McKee yes, Steven Nguyen yes, Bambi Polotzola yes, Chris Rodriguez yes, Matt Rovira yes, Tara Smith no, Mary Tarver yes, Crystal White no, Jamie Wong abstain. Motion passed twelve to two.

APRIL DUNN: Motion passes. Break.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. Everybody we need to come back to order. Let's take our seats please. A lot of ground to cover. April if you want to have a seat I will speak for a while. During the break in the

interest of transparency it was brought to our attention that Bambi has a perceived conflict of interest. Since she made the last motion I want to see if anyone wants to strike the motion we just passed and make a motion that doesn't have that perceived conflict. And we revote the issue or not. Leave that up to the council. Want to make everyone aware of that.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I would like to if we need to re vote it since I seconded it like to restate the motion.

RANDALL BROWN: Do I have a new second. Roslyn. I asked if we want to strike the motion we just passed on the legislative agenda items because Bambi was the person who made the motion. It was brought to my attention during the break that she has a perceived conflict of interest because is it your sister in law that works for Families Helping Families. I wanted to ask and Mike said yes if he is willing, since we strike the motion, willing to make the motion Bambi made again and Roslyn seconded. Now be on the floor and we would vote again yes or no to the acceptance of this motion from the executive committee.

TARA SMITH: Just wondering in the interest of

time may we move to adopt our prior votes and just have them as the author and the second of it to address this and move along faster. Unless anybody needs to change their vote. Don't feel like we need to waste time.

RANDALL BROWN: Want everyone to be aware and transparent that was an issue.

TARA SMITH: If nobody objects change the author and the second if no one objects.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Sorry that would change the votes because people would therefore be abstaining. We need to revote. Because the abstentions are also going to count towards.

RANDALL BROWN: You're right. Mike has motioned it. Is there any objection. We have a second from Roslyn. Hearing no objection.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I object.

RANDALL BROWN: Now roll call vote. For the motion as from the executive committee.

HANNAH JENKINS: Patti Barovechio abstain, Kim Basile abstain, Melissa Bayham abstain, Michael Billings yes, Randall Brown yes, Carmen Cetnar yes, Lillian DeJean abstain, Amy Denarsky abstain, Michelle Guillory yes, Julie Foster Hagan abstain, Jill Hano yes, Roslyn Hymel yes, Tara LeBlanc abstain, Hyacinth

McKee yes, Steven Nguyen abstain, Bambi abstain, Chris Rodriguez yes, Matt Rovira yes, Tara Smith no, Mary Tarver yes, Crystal White no, Jamie Wong (not present). Ten to two, the motion passes.

RANDALL BROWN: Our next issue is we need to discuss the council action related to Sandee's retirement which will be effective on January 1 of 2020. And starts the process for the new executive director needs to be in place. A final motion for interim director to serve until a permanent director is selected. First we talked about the makeup of the search committee. The motion we put before you is the executive committee recommends the search committee for a new executive director consist of the executive committee members and two members from each education employment committee and self determination and community inclusion committee. A total of nine members of the search committee and offer this motion for the council's consideration. What we are asking is giving this selection committee the authority to begin the search process.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Do we have a copy of that.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: I guess my question would be before we establish maybe what the responsibilities are

of the committee.

RANDALL BROWN: That's the next motion actually.

MARY TARVER: The executive committee recommends the search committee and it list out the bullet points right underneath there and it is in this motion. The next motion is for the timeframe. Job description, to look at the qualifications to seek technical assistance from the National Council for Developmental Disabilities. To seek a firm to assist with the search for the new executive director. To review the resume and review qualified applicants. Select the top two or three applicants for the full council's consideration. And I think what is missing on this list we also talked about was the human resources from Department of Health.

RANDALL BROWN: This should be divided into three. First thing we need is a motion to create the search committee. We have a motion being the executive committee plus two members from the education employment committee and two members from the self determination inclusion committee. Ask for volunteers for that from each of the committees. If you serve you can volunteer. And we're asking for the creation of this search committee on this first motion.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: I make a motion we accept this recommendation.

RANDALL BROWN: It's a yes or no vote.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Just for clarification, the additional members will be chosen by the executive committee.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. What we pretty much agreed we will draw all the names that people volunteer.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Selected at random based on volunteers.

KIM BASILE: Per our policies and procedure and bylaws it gives our chairperson the right to choose people that are not on the council to be on committees. And I think as mentioned this morning we want more parent input. Maybe we should add two more people to this either parents or self advocates that wanted to volunteer to be members of the search committee. I don't know if that is something, just throwing it out there.

CARMEN CETNAR: I would caution you to pull names from a hat of all the volunteers. If you are going to choose two from each committee I would be concerned maybe they would be two state agencies from one committee and no parent or self advocate representation

or two parents and no off setting. Just to not be heavy one way or another.

RANDALL BROWN: Point taken. Thank you.

CRYSTAL WHITE: When we are doing this volunteer thing do we have to say it now.

RANDALL BROWN: If this passes I am going to ask you to raise your hands who wants to volunteer to possibly be one of the four.

SHARON DUFRAN: Once again Sharon Dufran. After hearing there was a vacancy in the executive director's position I spoke with several parents, several family members that have persons with disabilities in their families and we would like this input. We feel that qualifications for the executive director should include that they have a family member with disabilities. That has not happened for a very long time. And we feel in order to have, for an executive director to have a pulse on the community and what is actually going on with persons with disabilities they need to be close to that. That would be the suggestion from several family members that I spoke with. And I would like my name thrown in the hat if you decide to go to parents and the community on this committee. Thank you.



RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Is that legally allowed. You can take it into consideration.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: But you can't exclude individuals on the premise of them quote not being a family member be it parent, sibling, grandparent. You literally can't do that legally.

RANDALL BROWN: I think you are right.

SHAWN FLEMING: Two things that have been brought up. One the training in May that Cheryl provided she informed us when y'all make a committee that makes a decision to recommend to the council certain things those people can have outside influence, outside the council, but not people who make decisions about things. As I look at the expectation for the search committee I think it would be perceived as making decisions about a core responsibility of the council. I will caution y'all to do that. I did look at the laws on disability we cannot ask civil service if people have a disability. Prohibited from asking. I think a question y'all can ask HR when y'all come back in January if y'all follow this process. Have firm legal opinion on it from someone who does this.

JAMIE WONG: I don't disagree with you Chris. I just want to flag, I believe didn't the council vote at some point maybe two years ago to require for the Families Helping Families Centers to receive a contract from the council they had to have an executive director who was a parent of a child with a disability. I recall that being a very contentious moment for the council. I just think we need to take that into consideration in how we move forward with developing this job description. But I agree, I generally don't believe you should limit somebody for certain things. But the council has taken that stance before in prior. Before your time we have taken that stance in previous situations.

CRYSTAL WHITE: So what I was going to say if there would be a conflict of maybe having family, self advocate input we still want to have their recommendations. If we can put out a public request so they can answer what they would like to see in the new executive director just send it in to us so we can take it into consideration.

RANDALL BROWN: That sort of covers the second part of the motion. What I need is your permission for the creation of the search committee. Do that first

and then discuss. Our recommendation is the executive committee and two from each of the committees that sit on the executive committee education and employment and self determination and inclusion. Then I am going to ask if you vote yes and you do create this then I am going to ask raise your hands to volunteer. Is there any objection. Any abstention. Hearing none, the motion carries. So now the search committee is created. Ask is somebody willing or want to volunteer from the council.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Could we talk about the responsibilities. Before volunteering I think people should know explicitly what they are getting themselves into. I want people to understand what they are getting themselves into.

RANDALL BROWN: Now that we have a committee we will talk about this is what the committee will be expected to do.

MARY TARVER: I think we also talked about the human resources from Louisiana Department of Health and I don't see them on the list.

RANDALL BROWN: We would add them in. They would be required. We will add them in. Now we have a motion to create the duties of this committee that you

have just given us the authority to create. This is the motion. The executive committee recommends the search committee to have the following duties. To review and revise the executive director job description, to determine minimum qualifications of applicants, seek technical assistance from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities as needed, to select to affirm to assist with the search for a new executive director, to review resumes and interview qualified applicants, to select top two or three for this full council's consideration. And I now offer this motion for the council's consideration. Having done so if this passes I am going to ask you to raise your hand if you wish to volunteer in the search committee.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: Would this committee also set the salary. Or an HR thing.

RANDALL BROWN: Ultimately be this committee. We all will. HR will give input. Part of what we will all do as full council.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: That's part of it when you start recruiting individuals to apply we have to tell them how much money.

CRYSTAL WHITE: That's also something since we are

going to seek an outside firm they would be able to assist with and have the data if it's going to be a national search. To set that unclassified criteria on what we are going after. They would know the numbers and have the correct data figure to set that salary.

RANDALL BROWN: To help us do so, yes. Any other questions, comments. Do I have any objections.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: About the process and the responsibility, is there a budget for this.

SHAWN FLEMING: Because of the timeframe they came up with the search firm would cost. Two things about the money. One is I am looking at the recommendation for salary would come out in the January council meeting. Y'all can discuss that. And we will have research on search firms that y'all can choose and know dollar figures and what that cost would be so y'all can decide that. They are not free.

RANDALL BROWN: Any other questions, comments, concerns. Do I have any objections to this motion. Any abstentions. Hearing none, the motion passes. Now I need you to raise your hand if you would like to be a volunteer.

SHAWN FLEMING: These are people interested in volunteering, Michelle, Bambi, Chris, Matt, Crystal,

Kim, Amy and Steven.

JAMIE DUPLCHAN: A clarifying question. With the volunteers are we saying, so April for example is on the executive committee, she is already on it. And are these volunteers for the two slots of the education committee so really the list of volunteers will narrow it down to education committee picking two of any of these volunteers are on that committee they will go in that hat.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. Now we have our third and final motion for this portion and that is to determine our timeframe for this search. The executive committee recommends the timeframe for a new director to be as follows. For October through December the selection committee you just created will appoint a search firm be identified. From now to December basically we will select those four members to join us and then all of us together will select a search firm to help us with the process. That is to be expected between now and December. At the January council meeting we will present to council, this council recommendations for salary, information about the search firm to be utilized, job description of the executive director, the input received from the

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and the State Department of Health Human Resources. And then at that point we would announce the position. Then at the April council meeting we will present the top two or three applicants to this full council for votes on the executive director position. Basically we're asking to start now and with the goal of hopefully being able to present you with two to three applicants to vote on for the position at the April 2020 meeting. That is the motion for your consideration. Do I have any objections. Do I have any discussion.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Just to clarify when are y'all going to draw the names out of the hat so we will know.

RANDALL BROWN: Something we will probably do within the next week or two so we can start that process.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Can we do it today.

RANDALL BROWN: Yeah we can. Do we have any other comments. Any objection to this motion. Any abstentions. Hearing none, the motion passes. Thank you all. Now lastly the committee discussed the professional competency of the current Deputy Director Shawn Fleming. During the consideration of

recommendations we recommend he be appointed our interim executive director until the position is filled. So he would essentially be taking this role in January when Sandee vacates and hold it until such time we permanently fill the position. That now is the motion before you for consideration. Any discussion.

KIM BASILE: I think it was brought up, maybe I am wrong, at y'all's meeting can the interim director be considered for the executive director position?

RANDALL BROWN: Can they, yes.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Does the interim director have to come from current staff we have now. Is that the only choices.

RANDALL BROWN: No, but it was highly recommended by the National Council. When Cheryl was here she advised us they prefer for a number of reasons.

CRYSTAL WHITE: So it's preferred, but we didn't, did we go outside of our current staff now to even give equitable opportunity to find someone.

RANDALL BROWN: No. Anymore discussion?

CRYSTAL WHITE: How many people did we have apply or were considered.

RANDALL BROWN: We asked the question. The question was asked of the staff if any of them would



like to put in. The only person who did put in was Shawn. Is there any other questions or comments?

AMY DENARSKY: To replace Shawn's current position and what does that look like cause we understand that's a big job and we also know staff members are going to be out on leave. My question is what is the plan for that, what does that look like.

RANDALL BROWN: We are working currently to determine, Shawn will have to prioritize what duties have to be done both in his current role as budget director and all the other things he does as deputy director and what he has to do as executive director and delegate where we can among the staff.

AMY DENARSKY: To be clear we're not going to hire or have an assigned deputy director on top of Shawn.

RANDALL BROWN: No.

MARY TARVER: I was going to say in the executive committee we talked about that and asked Shawn if the committee agreed we would say in the next couple of weeks that he would assess what everybody is doing in their office and if that looks like that they will have to prioritize. And then after that if he needs some resources to let us know. This is a short term situation.

RANDALL BROWN: I told Shawn I would be in contact with him at least weekly if not daily to determine what those needs are. If we discover gaps to figure out how we can best fill positions.

SHAWN FLEMING: We had actually proposed a timeline to do it by January. But I fully respect given the distrust and the discord in this community right now to have a full and thorough process. I think the executive committee's process allowing y'all input in terms of have a search firm and input along the way hopefully will help heal and rebuild this community. With that said, I did pause when they asked me if I would do it through April because it's a lot. As Randall said, what I plan to do is look at all the things, a lot of things we as your staff do that you don't see that have to be done to make the council run. Both with our federal partners, state partners, contractual partners and everything else. Doing Sandee's job and my job is, I can't even do it during this meeting, much less to think I am going to do it for about five months. She is probably not going to be there all of December. She has been here 34 years y'all. She knew what was going on and made me not have to worry about stuff. Now I will have to worry about

all that stuff collectively.

KIM BASILE: I would like to call the question.  
We are so far behind and we should just vote.

RANDALL BROWN: Do I have any objections? Do I  
have a second to calling the question.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Second.

RANDALL BROWN: Now do I have any objections to  
this motion. Anybody object to calling the question.  
Anybody object to this motion. Crystal objects to the  
motion.

TARA SMITH: Do we have public comment on this?

SPEAKER: Just called the question.

SHAWN FLEMING: A yes vote will put me as the  
interim executive director until April 2020 or until  
such time y'all find an executive director permanently.  
A no vote is not to accept me through that time.

HANNAH JENKINS: Patti Barovechio yes, Kim Basile  
no, Melissa Bayham yes, Michael Billings yes, Randall  
Brown yes, Carmen Cetnar yes, Lillian DeJean yes, Amy  
Denarsky yes, Michelle Guillory yes, Julie Foster Hagan  
yes, Jill Hano very enthusiastically yes, Roslyn double  
yes, Tara LeBlanc yes, Steven Nguyen yes, Bambi  
Polotzola yes, Chris Rodriguez yes, Matt Rovira yes,  
Tara Smith yes, Mary Tarver yes, Crystal White no,

Jamie Wong abstain. Eighteen to two I believe. Motion passed.

TARA SMITH: I would like the executive committee to keep a very close eye and contact with the staff because I really have concern Shawn has a very big job as deputy director going into legislative session during this time and somebody else going out on leave so in my mind I can't see how they can fill these gaps even with just a small administrative assistant to make copies. I don't think they can step into these positions yet. Make sure y'all have the finger on the pulse of helping them during this time.

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely. Your recommendations are fully noted. We are aware it is a big task, a small time frame and we will endeavor every way we can to make sure the council runs as it should. However we need to adjust.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: At the risk of having another discussion prior to lunch what I am about to say I really believe on based on my experience and being in similar positions Shawn seems to be going into now and overseeing individuals that have to pick up the slack as a result of people stepping aside. I would like to ask the council to consider Shawn's salary being on par

with the current executive director starting at the point Sandee steps down and retires until such time as the next person comes along. If you are going to ask this individual to take on those responsibilities and he has volunteered to do more work than even the executive director alone I believe that he should be compensated as such. I think it's the right thing to do. I can do a motion.

SHAWN FLEMING: Chris I appreciate that. The executive committee asked me that question and I will be honest with you, I declined consideration for that and I will decline it again. I have enough. I am compensated well now, I will be honest with you. I believe I've been blessed multitudes over in terms of my life with one never wanting and always having more than I need. I don't do this for the money or anything like that. I will tell you what I need, and it's not what I need, it's what we need. We need to be united. This council, just putting this on the table for all of you, this council is at the tipping point. If I am in the way of that get rid of me. Y'all just voted to keep me and I appreciate that. January y'all can change your minds. I want y'all to be clear I am fine with that. If that is what y'all think the problem is.

I have committed to work from now till April or whenever y'all decide. The biggest challenge and one of the things I will focus on is trying to repair and heal this community. I will be open to discuss frankly and honestly anything I have done, been accused of or anything else to try and address that healing. I do not feel we could, the council will survive a legislative session being with the current climate. I will tell anyone in this room because one there is an immense amount of passion of the advocates in this room. Sometimes that passion, mine included, it leads us to have our emotions take over and sometimes we need to put that in check for the betterment of everyone. I am pledging to y'all, not just to the council, but to the people in the audience that's what I will do. If y'all don't want me in April I might not even put my name in the hat. I will decide that in January. Cause I have time to decide that. I was scared when Sandee put in her resignation I had to decide then. I said I am not sure. I will decide in January. That was the question posed. But until such time I am no longer with the council I will work to heal this community. As we went through the training one thing throughout the DD Act is community. Usually refers to community

that people with developmental disabilities within the community. And our community, this community is fractured and is hurting and I will work to heal that. I am just telling you one of my goals by April. It's not the compensation, but I appreciate it.

TARA SMITH: Do we have now or do you need a motion from the council to fund a temporary worker during this next couple of months or do we have something set aside that could be used if the executive committee decides they need help in the office.

SHAWN FLEMING: We're civil service so those people who work in the agencies probably understand this as I do. A certain number of TO positions if you will. And I don't think I can double a position. I will look into whether I can get some temporary people to do stuff. One of the challenges as I see it Sandee she had 34 years of knowledge and experience and as you told me at the break I have my own job. I'm going to figure out which things I can delegate and things that won't over stress the staff and make sure they are okay. And then figure out what things I can get assistance from. Sometimes LDH provides assistance. I might tap into that as partial resources. See if that is part of my proposal. Y'all will hear that in

January and y'all will be able to fully see it in January. Because before then I really can't do anything like that. But I appreciate the consideration.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I really got to know you so well now I really don't want you to go at all. Wishing for all the best. Not just speaking for myself. I am really speaking for everybody here as a member of the DD Council. I am really hoping for you to really stay where you are.

SHAWN FLEMING: I fully appreciate your support. I want it to be clear it is not about anyone of us and certainly not about me. This council has been here for about 46 years. I have been here for 12 years of it. If I am not the right person to lead y'all and you find a better candidate I am fine and I want the council to succeed. If I can I will continue to do what I can to continue to empower y'all to have a voice and to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. What I have done for about 30 years now and I will not stop doing that. If it's not in this capacity. It's not about an individual person. It's not about me. I want that to be clear to y'all.

CRYSTAL WHITE: The only thing I want to say is I



think it's not a personal thing but if we're going to focus on getting the community back together then really the only thing we should be focusing on is transparency and public trust. That's what we have to do. I think anytime we are asked or families, self advocates give us something or come to the table they need to be heard. We need to give them our time and attention and that includes the staff. Hear them out. Respect them because we should all understand the staff is to assist the council to do our jobs defined by law. But we sit here appointed by a governor to represent regions which is the people. So they need to be respected. Families, self advocates this is what they have to have an uninterrupted voice. Everyone needs to understand we have to respect these families. Listen to them and if they are calling for transparency give it to them. We have nothing to hide.

KELLY BENOIT JONES: Kelly Benoit Jones, region nine. Unfortunately I wasn't able to speak before the question was called and we were stopped. Me and someone else that was up here. I am glad to hear Shawn that you are going to become transparent as of today and I would like to know what you have to say to us that were secretly recorded, disseminated and then

given to people that you still have not informed us who it was given to. I would like an apology for speaking to me disrespectfully and treating me and my fellow people as if we are not as important because we haven't been doing this for 30 years like you have. What I had to say had to do with you being executive director and you and Sandee working together to stifle all of us. But now since you have decided you are going to change your ways I welcome your apology for the trust you have broken in our community.

SHAWN FLEMING: Sorry if I offended you. Sorry, the partners class was one of the strangest experiences I have had in my life. I do not believe it is fair to say that I violated the trust of partners with the audio tape.

KELLY BENOIT JONES: Why is that.

SHAWN FLEMING: We were advised by legal counsel if we were going to go back into that room to tape it. That was our HR legal advice.

KELLY BENOIT JONES: Your HR legal advice told you to do that secretly under the table without notifying other parties.

SHAWN FLEMING: They just told us to tape it.

KELLY BENOIT JONES: Your decision to do it

secretly, manipulatively was your own.

SHAWN FLEMING: I didn't even tape it. I didn't care if it was taped. In my naivety I believed it wasn't necessary.

KELLY BENOIT JONES: But it was necessary to redact it and remove statements that were damning to you and Sandee.

SHAWN FLEMING: I will explain my prospective on that whole situation. Just for y'all prospective. Give everyone a prospective of the context. Every partners there is a presentation in March on act 378 and on legislative agenda and we prepare them to be advocates. During that time I can only describe it as assaultive. The worst in that we didn't finish the presentation and so the partners class asked if Sandee and I would go back on April the 12th the next month to present. We were advised not to do it, but we went to do it. HR legal advised us if we were to go back was to tape it. When I walked out of the room on April 12th, was it this room or the next room over, it was in here, I really felt there wasn't an issue. We tried to answer the questions. We asked for y'all to ask questions prior to the meeting and we tried to answer the questions. I know it got sidetracked. I know I am

long winded. I respect all that. We also tried to listen to y'all. We heard skilled nursing had not been addressed. That it was, I think when it finally got revealed discussed in both committee meetings, particularly self determination community inclusion that I wasn't there. On that freedom of choice list of the waivers that a lot of the services really aren't available. Particularly some critical ones like skilled nursing. But when I left that meeting I felt okay. I thought we had made amends. On Monday this council was sent like a very long list of accusations about what occurred during that. And the irony is those accusations if there was an understanding that what we said in that room stayed in that room I would never have released that. Those accusations released that. Released it to all the people on this council.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Guys they wrote a letter to the council, the council has to respond to them. We need to get back in order.

SHAWN FLEMING: If I am going to be your executive director y'all will be in charge of overseeing me. Y'all are my boss. Y'all evaluate me. Y'all take any grievance. This was a public grievance. The problem is there was many, many untruths in those accusations.

When I read the accusations my first thing when someone accuses me I say did I do that. I asked myself and I listened to the tape and I said I did not do that. I told Sandee I would transcribe it on my time, on my dime. She said no, we have a transcriptionist. It was shared with two members of the executive committee because they are responsible to determine the grievance that was leveled against our executive director. The information we shared was redacted. There was no way anyone was identified in anything we ever, obviously snippet to share what was actually said because I was accused of things. I am okay with y'all having it, but I ask you to go read it and compare it to the accusations that were leveled. I know I say things inappropriately sometimes or misstate things. I will apologize if I do that. That's not what's happening y'all. What is happening there are some assumptions me and Sandee control your legislative agenda. We don't. I am your staff. Let's be clear, I am a public servant and I serve you. The legislative agenda just passed again this year. I do not vote on it. I provide information relative to it. I'm going to tell you this, I recommended they take off some items relative to information I have. That's not my call. If y'all

say as a council who I serve this is what we shall do I will do it. I try to set the stage if people are not heard and we fail and I thought this year we got more input and I thought it was great. Instead of just driving the legislative agenda, drive other things. But we might not have heard everybody and I understand that. And I will work to address that. I don't set the agenda. I don't make the plan. I help the council get the information they need. I help y'all get the information you need to empower you to make those decisions. The only time I come into play in making a quick decision that this council empowers, puts that responsibility on me cause during legislative session when there is amendments going on in bills to inform the legislature of positions y'all have not necessarily specifically taken. But if I see either positively or negatively effects people with developmental disabilities. Every time I have been put in that position, and people who will attest to this, I have a quandary of people who I would ask. So if I know your interest is on medical issues or on behavioral issues or whatever your issues are I will quickly shoot and say this is what's going on, what do you think we should do. So that I have some input. Louisiana has

built an extremely strong advocacy network. But that network is at risk of being decimated and I don't want that to happen. The accusations, I will accept accusations that are real. I will work on what I need to work on with me. But I will work with facts. The audio tape is just a fact. I didn't share it, didn't publish it. Did I send it out to this whole council, I did not. Shared it with two members of the executive. Shared it with Randall to show Randall if I would have said that I would have a problem with it myself. But I didn't. I showed him this is what I said in that tape. Sorry that comes across as a violation of trust, but I was attacked. My character, my character was attacked, my behavior was attacked. I am a human being y'all and I have rights to demonstrate the accusations if they're founded or not the responsibility y'all have.

JAMIE WONG: I am just going to suggest we take a break I see there is a line of people. I assume lunch is sitting there waiting and I think we are at an emotional moment where it's in everybody's best interest we take a break and regroup after lunch or wherever we are on the agenda. I don't even know anymore. Maybe that's a motion to take a break, I

don't know. We need to take a minute. I think we all need a minute to talk too.

SHAWN FLEMING: This is the other part of this. I don't want this to take up any council time at all. I will stay during lunch and I will stay after this meeting to have any discussion anyone wants about anything that has happened. What I can do, what we should do together. I will answer any questions. But I agree with Jamie is the council business should not be interfered with. The decision was made y'all want me to be interim. I am already acting. I get their concerns and I want to be transparent and address it. Can we do it at lunch or after. I will sit here another or stay after. Y'all call.

SPEAKER: I really had a quick thing and we can leave on a different note. I would appreciate it. I wanted to say Shawn I know there had been some discord with our partners class. I think we felt disrespected when it was recorded because our partners class was supposed to be a safe place.

SHAWN FLEMING: And I'm sorry.

SPEAKER: I appreciate that. This was supposed to be a place go and ask questions in a safe community and we felt that was violated. The fact you are saying



sorry now it does go a long way. I do also want to say I appreciate the fact that you are saying that now moving forward you do want to take it in a different direction and that is noted. But just know although you felt attacked you were coming to families who have been fighting what we feel like alone for a very long time. We're tired, we don't have the help we need and our children are suffering as a result. Some of the people that are self advocates as well. A lot of that stuff you took was actually our passion to try to make change and we came to you for guidance as to how policies are done, what it actually takes and what not. I hope moving forward that you can show parents and self advocates transparency and the respect that we're looking for. We just want to be heard. We want to have a say. And so I hope that moving forward it is on a better note.

SHAWN FLEMING: I will do what I can. Thank you.

SHARON DUFRAN: I will be quick as well. I am retired. I am retired from everything, work, advocacy, the whole 9 yards. I am old. I was researching something else when I discovered that two of our best leaders resigned from their positions. LaCAN and partners in policy making. Multiple years, a lot of

experience. And these two woman have more heart than every else in this room. I know both of them as advocates. I heard about this and then I heard about staff turnover at the council. While transparency is an absolute, we shouldn't even have to ask for that, I think what needs to change is the fact that staff needs to realize they work for the community. When I sat on the council I had a lot of these same feelings. And that was what around 2000. Here is the deal, it's not just about transparency. It's about respect and you said it. If a parent feels they need an apology they should be apologized to. Because no parent should feel like this. But the same thing goes for people who work for the DD Council. Such as the partners in policy making leader and the LaCAN leader. To lose those two people is a huge blow to this community. It's not just about transparency Shawn. It's about the way you guys do business. We need to back off of these people and help them. That's your job. Not rule over them. Guide them and help to make sure they are successful. Because when they are successful we get incredible advocates like the two women who spoke before me. That is my two cents to this.

JANIE GUIDRY: I am up here speaking as Janie

Guidry, self advocate, a person with a disability. I was not coached I was not talked to. This is my own personal opinion. After taking the class, after being a self advocate for 25 years now I think a lot of people's opinions are backwards. I have heard since taking the class I have heard many times the words used someone needs to be in a position where that position should only be filled by a person who has a disability or a parent. In my opinion and my prospective as a person with a disability I feel it's more to have everyone in the world advocating for me rather than having someone who is a parent advocating for me. I am not against anybody who is willing to advocate for the disability community. Proud to know there is people waiting to advocate for me. All this backlash you don't have a disability, you don't have a child with a disability so you don't understand. They don't have to understand to advocate for me. As long as you are willing to be on my side then I am good. And that is coming from a person with a disability. And that upsets me because a lot of time I see people with disabilities speaking they get discredited and I am not about that. Especially because a comment came up yesterday from a parent, who is a very good friend of

mine, saying the position should be held for the partners in policy making director's position should be a parent advocate. It was never even thought about to be a self advocate. Why isn't that in people's heads. Why are we trying to pick and choose who advocates for us. That doesn't matter. Just wanted to make that brief statement as a person with a disability who is an adult and has a college degree. So I am of sane mind and can speak for myself because that is a very big misconception. I know that I would rather a thousand people not have a child with a disability and be on my side than a thousand parents against each other because they don't think people have the right to speak. That is not what we are about. Not what systems change is. That's what we learned in class what system change is. Systems change is not going back and forth about who is right and wrong because they don't have a child with a disability. Systems change is making everybody's mind change whether or not they are in the same boat as you. Sharing your stories and making them understand your situation. That's what I do as an advocate.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you all very much.

JANIE GUIDRY: I did want to personally thank Shawn and Sandee for their so many years of service.

Especially Sandee because she dedicated 34 years of her life not being in the same situation as all of us in this room and that means the world to me. I can't even explain the amount of gratitude I can give to a lady that wasn't even in my position or your position and still dedicated 34 years of her life the way she did. For that woman to be part of the crowd that is the reason I am not in an institution. That needs to be thought of. Instead of she is not in my shoes. That is not the way this world should be. I am done.

SHAWN FLEMING: Sometimes we do have enough room for lunch for our guests. Unfortunately due to the enthusiasm of a crowd we do not have enough to feed everyone. I apologize for that.

RANDALL BROWN: 1:30 we will reconvene.

RANDALL BROWN: Everybody needs to come to order. Take their seats to come to order. We have a quorum so we can move forward with the rest of my report which is very short. But I do need to finish it up. That is the executive committee also reviewed and approved the council's position papers and updated the mission statement. This is done as part of the five year planning process. These recommendations will be

brought to the full council at the January meeting. Giving everyone time to review the information. And finally the committee discussed upcoming vacancies on the council as Robert Paddy and Tara Smith's terms will be ending in February. And we will advertise in the Northeast Louisiana region eight area to fill Robert's position. Also advertise New Orleans region one and Florida Parish region nine areas for Tara's position. That is settled. And that is the end of my executive committee report.

SHAWN FLEMING: I am going to be very quick. Sandee was sorry she couldn't make it. She was ill. I didn't realize last time thinking it was the last time she would be at a council meeting since she won't be here in January. I know there is a little bit of concern by some people, but I think we all respect what she brought to the table. After 12 and half years working for her I am in awe. She brought a great passion and energy and it was incredible and her institutional knowledge will be greatly missed by me. She wanted to make sure I shared the administrative and community living will be hosting two listening sessions in Louisiana to hear from people with disabilities and their family members on how they prepare and recover

from natural disasters. I will send out the announcement. The first one will be, this says October 19th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Red Cross building. The second one in New Orleans October 20th. I thought it was November. I'm sorry. I am reading October, but it's next month. In Baton Rouge November 19th 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Red Cross building. We will send out information if you can come to that one please do. Another one New Orleans Wednesday October 20th they do not have the location. I will send out information shortly on that. Just so y'all know that. In Sandee's written report there's possible recommendations y'all requested on how council members can attend the legislative debriefing. The second page of her report. If you want to look at those y'all made that request. If y'all want to consider those y'all may. We're going to pass around the address list and disability organization list for you to make any corrections. We do have the conference November 18th navigating the system if y'all are interested y'all register. Any questions on any of that.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I see there is a lot of meetings attended by our executive director. I was wondering, especially for system transformation and technical

assistance, if we could get a brief synopsis on what the happenings are of those meetings that would keep us very up to date and I would like to know what is going on in those meetings as well just to be more informed.

SHAWN FLEMING: Yes, ma'am. Any other. Any other questions, comments from the executive director's report. I will transition to the budget report.

APRIL DUNN: For the national disaster is it possible can we get more information how people with disabilities can prepare for national disasters. Example like the 2016 flood I didn't know what to do or how to do for the 2016 flood. It would be helpful if we have more information about how to prepare for national disasters for people with disabilities. And put it in the booklet cause I see it for the general population, but I don't see enough information how people can prepare for national disasters for people with disabilities.

SHAWN FLEMING: I think that's what they are trying to get. Get input how they can respond better and support people better in the face of emergencies. Any other questions or comments?

TARA SMITH: One question. Do any DD Councils own their own buildings or does everyone rent. Just



wondering if it's ever been considered if we're spending almost 50,000 dollars every year in rent. Might be something to think about.

SHAWN FLEMING: Transitioned to the budget. That's fine. Not only that, our lease runs out next November and the cost of rent in Baton Rouge has gone up dramatically. It would be even more than this in future years. As a state agency I am not even sure. I can ask. That is a whole different issue of owning a building. I will inquire cause we are already searching for another place to be anyway.

TARA LEBLANC: We pay rent as a state agency. Like Bienville Building. Not a free thing to move to the state.

SHAWN FLEMING: I don't know if the council would own the building. The state would own the building anyway and continue to lease it to us or something is my guess. I would have to research that. I have two reports. First one looks like this, the end of year report. A little different. It has the total expenditures, etc. But it broke it down by plan activities verse admin. Some questions on that. I think the biggest thing when you look at staff activities we do have some administrative things that

we do. But almost everything our staff does is to execute your plan. You can come in our office one day and watch what we are doing and we are doing things related to the plan. What I try to convey to everybody that's what we do. That's broken down that way. You can see the expenditure. What I would like to bring your attention to one it's the end of year now because there is a 13th month. And if you compare it to like the budget in every major category when you can't go over. So there is leftover if you will. Doesn't mean there is money left over anywhere. We're spending your money. We actually did not in the state fiscal year about 28,000-dollars under your federal allotment. Which isn't great. But I am trying to get to zero or spend a little more just so you know. Because we have two years to spend your money. Each grant. Use all your grant, but you can never make it exactly zero. So we were close. Shooting for overspending to bring that balance so you don't run into a problem of not spending all your money at the end of the September 30th deadline. Then you have September through 2019. The only budget report, the typical, the only thing I want to bring your attention to this last quarter we spent more in travel than any quarter since I have been here.

Not a super alarm. We had the NACDD conference, a lot of different things go on during that time period. We will have an additional day added onto this. And then we're going to have our conference in this quarter as well. Your travel budget is getting hit harder than at any time since I have been here. Last year about 40,000 of the 50,000. I have 50,000 because I can never anticipate where you are going to come from or needs. But make y'all aware of that. At some point in time I might need to move money if y'all keep saying y'all want to travel or have meetings. Or y'all might need to consider the ramifications of that. Just so y'all know.

RANDALL BROWN: On the rest of the committee reports in the interest of time we have a motion, two motions from the education and employment committee. We will need to discuss those which that is the primary focus in the packet. So if you have any questions you can ask the agencies about those. I think of a lot of our committee reports we will just submit. You have those in your packets if you have questions you can ask representatives here today or contact them.

MARY TARVER: Good afternoon our education and employment committee has two recommendations for the

council. One of them was about our discussion about therapies and specifically we talked about music therapy. But we wanted to make sure that we expand that to any type of therapy that is available or should be made available to children. So our motion is to recommend the council request Department of Education provide information and training to the local education agencies on the availability of related services such as music therapy and any other services under the IDEA which could be considered by the IEP teams. So the IEP teams could use that information to let the parents know about the therapies available. That's it.

RANDALL BROWN: This is the motion before you. Any discussion. Any public comment. Any objections. Any abstentions. Hearing none, the motion passes.

JAMIE WONG: I had raised my hand as abstain.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

MARY TARVER: The other motion we have is the council received an additional 38,000-dollars in unspent funds from Puerto Rico so we discussed adding that money back to the activity 1.4.2 in the FY20 plan to create videos covering promotion and graduation pathways for students with disabilities and featuring people who graduated with a diploma and are

successfully employed and information on related services. This would increase the funding level we said 38,000-dollars, but I think both committees discussed it.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Along the lines of the same motion self determination and community inclusion committee we met yesterday and one of our recommendations is to the same 38,000-dollars of federal funding we received from Puerto Rico. Our committee considered whether to recommend making informational videos related to tier waiver and sun screen. But we didn't feel this would be best use of funds as the videos could be rapidly be outdated if there was a change or when the consolidated waiver comes out. We felt the funds would be better used to create visual aids, work flows and other materials to help educate and provide guidance to families and self advocates navigating the service delivery system. And our motion was the self determination and community inclusion committee recommends amending activity 1.4.2 and the council FY20 plan increasing funding by 38,000-dollars and offering this recommendation to full council for consideration. The wording would be produce and provide important information to

individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media such as council website, Facebook, LADDC news, employment and self advocacy videos.

SHAWN FLEMING: So y'all mean for visual aids and work flows be related to the waivers and the sun screening process was that the intent of the committee.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Along the lines of the committee intent was provide that information through various means.

SHAWN FLEMING: Just know what y'all want us to do. Make sure we are doing what y'all are asking us to do.

JAMIE WONG: I am really confused. Did we close out the education committee recommendation. Are we talking about the same thing.

RANDALL BROWN: Same thing. Both committees considered the same motion.

MARY TARVER: The same 38,000-dollars.

JAMIE WONG: Both committees talk about what to do with 38,000-dollars. Did they both decide the same thing. Do we now decide.

RANDALL BROWN: Not exactly.

MARY TARVER: I am going to arm wrestle Mike and

we are going to see.

JAMIE WONG: Separately. One committee, each committee is saying something different and now are you asking us how we reconcile the two committees?

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: There is a recommendation to make videos given to both about subjects pertinent to each committee. Sounds like our committee education and employment accepted the proposed topic to do the video and sounds like the other committee did not. But they have other activities. Now we have to reconcile that.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: And our reasoning the videos could very rapidly be outdated with the change.

JILL HANO: The same proposal was given to both committees so we have to use, cause I have the same concerns as Jamie. We have to use the whole 35.

RANDALL BROWN: Just a second. We have 38,000-dollars in total for the whole project. We're discussing what to do with this 38,000-dollars that we have how long to spend, by September 30th. That is the timeline. We have to decide what we want to do with that full 38,000.

SHAWN FLEMING: As I appreciate it, 38,000-dollars in our committee wondering if it was too much for this.

I still probably will come back in January and seek additional things to consider to cover under this for that much money. If that's okay with y'all. You don't have to put it in the plan anymore. I would want more guidance what y'all expectations are related to producing informational materials. The catch to this y'all Puerto Rico did spend all their money. We received notice less than a month ago telling us we have 38,000-dollars more spend. You have less than a year to spend it. You have to execute a plan and implement it and have the services done by September 30th. And that's very hard to do in any circumstance. This was our suggestion.

MARY TARVER: So can we say we want to promote the graduation pathways for students with disabilities and feature people that have graduated with a diploma and are successfully employed. And create visual aids for families through social media. And we'll figure out what that will look like more specifically. But that we definitely want to do an outreach education program with this extra money.

AMY DENARSKY: I am really confused. Are we still talking about doing a video and we just don't know what to put in the video or talking about we don't know if



we are going to do the video anymore.

MARY TARVER: Our group talked about doing videos and they were going to be like short little, like a video about the graduation how your child would start on a graduation pathway. Our group talked about doing short videos that you would just be able to click on and have available. They didn't talk about videos, they wanted to use social media. We would use videos and social media and information including do some paper.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: We felt the videos we were considering were too specific. They were going to be on informational videos related to tiered waivers and sun screen. If we go to the one waiver, the single waiver then that automatically becomes obsolete. And the sun screening we felt was too complex to get into one video.

JAMIE WONG: On the paper there is a motion from one committee and a motion from another committee, both about the same pot of money. Can we just say there is a motion around spending 38,000-dollars to do X, Y, Z.

RANDALL BROWN: That is what we recommend, yes.

SHAWN FLEMING: Procedurally what Marilee is saying I guess a motion from a committee. So while

someone amends the one motion from one committee to add the information from the other committee. There is not two pots. Do all this for 38,000. If someone wants to do a friendly amendment to either committee's motion to merge into the other one.

CRYSTAL WHITE: What we had came up with and what we know is we had asked previously a year ago for a workflow about how to obtain a waiver which got a lot of positive feedback not only from families, but other places. And having that visual helps parents get through a lot of these processes. But also helps for the professionals who have a lot of turnover in these positions. And so we felt it important to have visual workflows to get through certain processes and access certain services. And that is something we can easily get out to people and we can make changes to and it might be more cost effective. Right now, especially since things are changing so much, thought that would be an easy way to fix things. And people appreciate visuals rather than getting full policies and procedures to read.

RANDALL BROWN: Any public comment.

LIZ GARY: I just wanted to reiterate what Crystal was saying as far as the diagram. Something for years

and years the partners people would always come in and be very confused about the whole process, the system, what comes before what. It takes a lot of time out from that program to help them. I spent a lot of time on individuals aside from the classes making sure they have the information they needed. I think the diagram would be awesome. Also throw in the graduation pathways, I think it's a great idea. But guys, these districts are still having problems on figuring how to make act 833 work. The bigger issue is helping parents fully understand what the law is. Because it's great they can see somebody did it. How do I do it. How do I make it happen because my districts are not listening and this is huge y'all.

TARA SMITH: Just to comment on what Liz said, we did discuss that in the committee yesterday. We did discuss that and part of the education committee's discussion was not only to have the feature that April requested people who have successfully done it. But to give an outline to parents so they understand what their choices mean at a very early stage what the options are and how those choices can affect their child's ability to obtain a traditional diploma or not. Certainly part of our discussion and is our direction

to the staff if this motion passes. That is a large chunk of the video the education committee wanted to be featured directly on that issue.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Do we need to amend this to add more from what happened.

SHAWN FLEMING: I think an amendment adding one to the other is in order.

APRIL DUNN: Who wants to amend the motion.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I stated my weaknesses yesterday, which are framing motions so if anybody can help me with that I am good and I can second the motion. Or I will go ahead and try myself. Can you read what we had Mike and I will go ahead and make the motion.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: To produce and provide information important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of electronic and social media.

CRYSTAL WHITE: So can we just amend, does it go under the same activity. So we're going to amend it to say.

SHAWN FLEMING: Save y'all some time. What Mike read is what the activity is now. I will tell y'all with the education employment committee added one sentence to add videos on diplomas. And I understand

the intent of the et cetera is diagrams, workflows, visual aids, et cetera related to waivers and other services. I get it, I am okay. This is all transcribed. I will work to make that happen.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Just need to add that line to here Shawn. Is what you are saying.

MARY TARVER: We talked about if Department of Education already has some things that are developed we won't redevelop, just trying to get it on a video or a way to help to get it out to more people. Not like we are reinventing the wheel. Work with Department of Education on you already have it, we're just going to help re get it out there.

JAMIE WONG: I have a clarifying question. What I'm seeing on the screen only includes a portion. So the one on the paper coming out of the committee also includes. Wait I am looking at the wrong thing. The therapies is just about the first thing. Got it. Never mind.

APRIL DUNN: Who seconds it.

AMY DENARSKY: I will second it.

APRIL DUNN: Any objection. Any abstention. Any public comments. Hearing no objection, the motion carries.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Finish up the self determination and inclusion committee report. Self determination community inclusion committee met yesterday and we had two recommendations which we already considered. The committee discussed the importance of continuing Lillian's outreach efforts at transition fairs to engage youth and advocacy. Council staff assisted her last year, but a new activity would be needed to be included in the 2020 action plan for this initiative to continue. Also a discussion about Lillian collaborating with Families Helping Families Centers and LaCAN leaders since they conduct outreaches and share information about advocacy throughout their communities. Thus the motion would be the self determination community inclusion committee recommends the following activity be added under objective 1.2 in the council's FY20 action plan and offers this recommendation to the full council for consideration. Activity 1.2.5 collaborate with Families Helping Families, LaCAN and others to support the provision of information on advocacy to youth and their families at transition fairs. Do we have any comments. Any public comments. Any objections. Any abstentions. That motion would pass. Some of this you have already

heard. We also received multiple updates contractual and non. Most of those in the staff reports, left hand pocket of your blue folder. We received 41 applications for the partners in policy making class. The selection committee selected 27 participants. Twenty-one parent and six self advocates. Additional trainings on relationships, intimacy and avoiding abuse and exploitation for individuals are being scheduled around the state. That information can be found on the council's website. The Advocacy Center will be researching existing state policy and developing a report with recommendations to prevent the sexual and other abuse of people with disabilities and coming months more information will be shared. And the Medicaid and Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities have been working closely to implement TEFRA. Continuing to research what other states are doing and plan to convene a stakeholders meeting in the near future to share ideas and feedback. We also discussed the lack of therapies available in the children's choice waiver. Julie with OCDD informed the committee the department has been made aware of the lack of available services, specifically art and music therapy. And plan to submit a technical amendment to

the children's choice waiver which would allow art and music therapy providers to become Medicaid waiver providers. Ms. Hagan stated in the coming weeks this amendment will be passed out for public comment and is confident CMS will approve the amendment.

TARA SMITH: I don't have a question. We talk a lot about what we do wrong and I think we did something really right here. Even if I went around it wrong, I emailed everyone. I just want to publicly thank Julie for her effort, reading my email and moving that ball forward with respect to art and music therapy. I really appreciate that effort. So she came back to the committees, both of them I would say, and to the council with clear actionable items ready to be pushed out and I genuinely appreciate you guys taking that step on behalf of the kids that are looking for these therapies. I think a great example when we work together with each other with respect I think we can really get some things done. I just wanted to say thank you to Julie for that.

APRIL DUNN: Next is Jill Hano with the membership report.

JAMIE WONG: Sorry. I know we have moved on from that previous motion that was certainly tripping me up.



What I was trying to highlight is when we combined those two motions on the second page is where it said and related services and I wanted to make sure we were clear are we including that or not including that in the new combined motion. It is included.

JILL HANO: I am Robert's proxy on the membership committee. Met in September to find a parent advocate for region five. We received four applicants. Our selection for the new council member is Temisha Sonnier. She is a parent advocate from Overland. Once again, we will be submitting to the governor for appointment. We elected Elaine Harmon, another parent as our backup. All right, cool. Bye.

RANDALL BROWN: Is there any discussion?

APRIL DUNN: Any discussion about the membership report. Any public comment. Any objections to this motion. Any abstention. Hearing none, the motion carries.

RANDALL BROWN: I need to make a brief announcement here. We have chosen our four members for the selection committee. They are as follows. Michelle Guillory, Amy Denarsky, Kim Basile and Chris Rodriguez. You four will serve along with the executive committee as the selection committee for the

new executive director. Congratulations. Thank you everyone who was willing to serve. I know a big task and thank you for those who were chosen. We can do some of our reports.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: In your packet for the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, the report submitted in September. I just have a few numbers quickly that I did not have available at that point. The Aging and Disability Resource Center who serves anyone who has a disability or is aging received right at 1300 calls the last fiscal year which ended in June for people who had multiple disabilities. And this is self declared. Physical disability callers, 4200. We have MRDD callers at 51. And other callers at 4300. That is individuals who call and actually say they are disabled or taking care of someone. Not all of our callers will declare the disability. Sometimes it's just they are caring for an elderly parent. Other reports are on the yellow sheet. We are also finishing up our annual report which the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging will be publishing. And that will be on our website. That will be available in January. Any questions?

TARA LEBLANC: Office of Aging and Adult Services

report is on white paper since I passed it out before lunch. The only thing I want to highlight is that we're continuously reducing the waiver registry for the community choices. The registry has 12,830 individuals, but the wait list is only 7,400. The difference between the registry and the wait list is that 4,000 individual difference is currently receiving services meeting their needs, but still on the registry for a waiver. Any questions?

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Our little booklet here is the orange report and as you can see under the Office of Public Health the title five program sits within the Bureau of Family Health and we have programs that serve families and persons with disabilities. One of the things I would like to point out is that we have a family resource center that is I feel very under used. So if anyone needs resource information, especially related to health issues and such, that is on Children's Hospital campus in New Orleans. They can email, they can phone, or they can go to room 2020 off the green elevators and obtain resources at that center. It was also mentioned yesterday that is through the relationship training there was a call out of some feedback about reproductive health services.

Reproductive health services is also under the Bureau of Family Health and I will bring that feedback back to my colleagues. And I will bring back some information on what those services look like and how our individuals in the community can access them.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Jen Katzman was unable to be here for Medicaid. Their report is in blue. A couple things just to point out for her. In the past had a lot of families ask us about the LaHip program and people who are receiving home and community based waivers and will be eligible for LaHip. And we had shared we were working on an amendment. That amendment was approved by CMS and so we are working to be able to enroll people in LaHip who reviewed waiver services starting this month. There will be more information from Medicaid coming out about that. And then also in her report it talked about self direction. We had a request in OCDD we have bimonthly provider calls where we share information with our home and community based and ICFDD providers about information. And we got feedback from folks in self direction they would like to have opportunities since they are employers as well to have provider calls focused on issues for people in self direction. Starting in November we're going to

start having bimonthly calls. So those of you who use self direction can be on the lookout. And hope within the next couple of weeks to get that notice out. It will be available for webinar kind of setting. Where we will focus on both information that we share with providers that will be relevant for people with self direction and self direction specific issues. And then the OCDD report, or booklet, is here and happy to answer any information about that. Just three quick highlights. One we are in the process of going to all the regions right now to talk about value based payments. And we had done an initial road show a year ago we got a lot of feedback about what how we needed to proceed with value based payments. Which basically means, it's just a way we can incentivize providers who are able to provide quality services to people. For those of you who were at the retreat we talked a lot about needing to figure out ways or look for ways not only provide care for folks that need it, but how do we actually have services in place that help people have more independent lives, more inclusion. And looking at things a little bit differently. So we're wanting to start with our planning process. And so for this year we are doing a lot of work to try to do some different

forms of education for how you really plan. It's come to our attention that even once you get a waiver a lot of times, especially a new opportunity waiver, the way we do resource allocation it's more about what is the number of hours you need to receive. Not about what do you want your life to look like. And how do we then help you. A variety of services, not just individual and family support. But all different services we have. And when we look in our waiver about 85 percent of the services that we use are simply individual and family support. And we are not really using the other services. So we really want to start to talk to people about that. Our road show is not just talking about what we are looking at doing value base payments, but looking at we believe that we need to have a culture shift in the way that we have our services. We spent, we have a budget this year 585 million dollars for home and community based waiver services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. While I know we do have things to look at with rates and things like that, we really believe we need to spend our money differently. And we need to be able to make sure the way we are spending our money is in a way that is helping people have better lives. Have more

independent lives. People do look at me like I am crazy because my mantra is if we all do our jobs the right way people need us less, not more. Not about saving money, not about me trying to do any of that. About us spending our money differently so we help people need us less and have more independent lives. We know that is a culture shift and know it's going to take us a while. When you read our plans of care it really upsets me when I start to pull them because when I see things like people's goal in life is to reduce seizures. Well not that we want people to have not have seizures, that is not really any of us have for a goal. We have to begin to look at things differently. That is what we are trying to do in baby steps as we start to look at value based payment and incentivizing when the system is working the right way and helping people meet outcomes. Second thing I know there is some concern, and we talked about this at the last council meeting, with the sun screening. And that there is a more of a delay than what we would like to have from the time somebody becomes eligible for services or needs a rescreening. From that time. And there is a delay. Our original intent to be able to get those sun screens within two to three weeks of the

need. And we're more like two to three months. We have just re purposed five staff because we had a backlog. And so we re purposed five staff. Just finished their training to do the sun screenings and going out, I think some went out last week, some needed more training this week. But we hope to catch up. So moving forward have a process where people can get that sun screening within that two week time frame. Which is what our original goal was. And we believe we can do that now that we have some of these additional staff. Final thing our state about three or four years ago we stopped, we were in partnership with the supported employment learning network. And that is a group that comes in, national experts on employment for people with developmental disabilities. It a little bit expensive to participate, but they actually send in national experts, look at what we are doing with our system, look a lot at our partnerships with LRS and other agencies related to employment and make recommendations for our system as a whole. We rejoined and they came a few weeks ago to do, we had different, they were here for two days and meet with different groups of people. And I am anticipating getting a report which will give us some strategies and



recommendations related to how we can improve employment services for people in our state. And I will be happy to share that report and what actions that we plan to take as a state agency based on that report. That was a whole lot in a quick time. Happy to take questions about any of that.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I had a few questions and I am not sure if you are going to be able to answer them. Might have to take them to Jen or something like that. We had talked about and have been talking about a waiver interagency program task force, more programmatic level. With our waiver services so we can sit down with people who maybe are actually doing more of the work and explaining what is going on in these processes that are maybe not working and how it's breaking down. Do you know where we are at on that. I know we had talked about in our partners class.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I can follow up.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Technically no one has received LaHip yet.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Not to my knowledge.

CRYSTAL WHITE: But they should be, do we know a timeline.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: According to this, shooting

for October. But I can ask to get an update.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Another thing I had was I am hearing that the certification determination in Medicaid where they are doing the actual determination for Medicaid that there's a backlog and that's where parents are waiting after they get their waiver for an excessive amount of time and not receiving Medicaid because they have a backlog. And I am wondering what are they going to do to help these parents who are waiting for six months and longer.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: When they implemented the new LaMeds system, and they are still working on that, I don't know the number, but they have hired a significant number of new staff both in the regular Medicaid eligibility section and in the long term care section. Which is what helps to process those. We are still meeting weekly on issues to try to address that. My understanding is that they have made a significant dent in the back log, but there are still some issues. I do know they're putting additional resources. Also made some edits to the system in general which will help with efficiencies in terms of being able to get that process. And then we have other staff that have been assigned to work overtime to help.

CRYSTAL WHITE: The frustration with parents is they are calling and what they are hearing is we have a back log and we don't know when we will get to it. That is frustrating for a parent who has been waiting for the waiver, get the waiver, they need these services and nobody can tell them when or anything. I think it's a frustration call I am getting. All I said was we have a meeting Thursday, I can just ask if there is any way to start letting them know a goal of when you guys will have that back log completed.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I can't answer that for Medicaid. My staff will probably kill me for this, but I can tell you we have gotten a lot of calls in OCDD. They can give us a call and we have two or three different staff that are working. We have a relationship so we can call and ask to prioritize. That doesn't always help the back log, but if there are people having significant issues. Again, not the way we want this to be long term. But sometimes we're finding there is just some confusion. If we are able to call them we are able to get it cleared up any confusion that might be out there. There seems to be some lack of understanding about and we're trying to make sure everybody is clear in the long term care

office about the 30 day waving of parents' eligibility in children's choice. And some other things we are continuing to try make sure there is education there. Sometimes when you call the office we're able to clear those questions up so we can move forward.

CRYSTAL WHITE: One is do we have an update on the customer service number for the waiver population that they will be able to call. We talked about it last time. We said we would like to actually include waiver customer service. Wondering if we had that to give out yet. The last thing I wanted to see if we could get a breakdown for the children's choice waiver all the services offered the different therapies, the parent support. How many people are accessing those different things other than just the respite care. How many people are receiving any other children's choice waiver services.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: We can get that, yes.

SHAWN FLEMING: Can I clarify. Make sure I follow up. Is it just for children's choice or every waiver.

CRYSTAL WHITE: We can start with children's choice.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: For example in a year's period.

CRYSTAL WHITE: A year would be good. Like parent training see who is accessing.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Curious if you can give an update on the implications of individuals booted off Medicaid. I think the council actually put together a really good document I saw that basically said what to do. Do we know exactly at this point the implications of that. I keep on reading news stories.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I can only speak for I have been involved in meetings as it relates to folks with developmental disabilities. Have not been in all of the meetings as it relates to some of the other news stories. The decision was made anybody receiving long term care. Anybody that is receiving a waiver service there's been a lot you will see auto closure verses not having. Anyone on long term care will not be part of auto closure. Not to say that someone receiving long term care services wouldn't potentially lose Medicaid eligibility if there was a reason, their income was higher. But only after that was verified then it's a manual process of closure. We also have time to help that person transition to something else. For the long term care population for an indefinite amount of time won't be any auto closure. There would be a process.

And we have done some other work how we make sure that we have engaged the support coordinator or ICFDD provider to try to help make sure we covered everything that we need to to try to get in touch with a person. A lot of people that there was a potential auto closure due to no response. We wanted to make sure no one closed when they might not have understood the letter, might be other confusions. And again, there is not like an end date for this.

TARA SMITH: Would you mind in January giving an update on the submission to CMS for the amendment when the public comment period was, whether or not you guys had got it out. Would you let us know the status on that. Thank you.

APRIL DUNN: Try to be brief with this for lack of time. I feel like the parents of people with disabilities that are trying to get the services I feel like they are waiting, still waiting for something. I have the feeling of parents still waiting for services or other stuff they need for their child. I was wondering do some of the parents in this room feel that way.

SPEAKER: I do.

APRIL DUNN: Any other parents feel like they

still waiting for something.

AMY DENARSKY: I feel like as a parent I am waiting on things, but one of the main concerns I have as a parent is our support coordinators I feel are not up to date and trained. For example, recently a group of us asked for parent training dollars and our support coordinators, and we have different agencies, had absolutely no clue how to navigate that. We had to go find out for them. If we had to go find that out for them. And we understand that there is parents that don't understand that.

APRIL DUNN: That is all I need to know. If the parents are still asking for help and stuff wondering why we still calling it not waiting list if parents are still asking for different services. I just don't understand and maybe I never will. That's why I asked the question if the parents are still waiting.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Can I clarify something. When we talk about the registry, the request for services registry that is or when we talk about waiting for services we are talking about waiting for waiver services. And so even with the sun screening I hear, and I do know we definitely need to do things differently, and if there is somebody who has gone

through the process and feels like they have a need for waiver services and the sun didn't pick that up I would really like to know about that. What the sun tool was not designed to do, so what I hear from a lot of families, still waiting for things that are outside of the waiver. And so I guess I just want to make sure we have that distinction differently. I hear there is a lot of families who are in need of things that are in our Medicaid state plan service. And so our sun tool wasn't designed to pick that up. It is sometimes a matter of semantics. That doesn't mean to say I think everybody is getting what they need right now. There may be things that aren't in our waiver services that we need to consider putting. We've had some of that discussion this morning about some other things. When we do the sun score and we talk about waiting it is waiting for waiver services that we have available. So sometimes that is an important distinction to make in terms of what it is we need to advocate for. Want to make that clear.

LIZ GARY: I think what the clarification is there is still people waiting. There are still people waiting. They may not be a level of a three or four, but all still waiting. I think the big disconnect



comes in when these tests are being done I still have great concern how they are being done, what the questions are being asked, how they are interpreted. I was getting a text at 11:00 o'clock last night from a mom who basically was told she's a two because her case doesn't compare to the single mom. That right there is a problem. There is also the confusion the legislature thinks there is no more waiting list. People are still waiting for services. They may not be that top notch level, but I also think a lot more people that are waiting have not been really truly assessed correctly. And I have grave concern for that. I think a lot of parents out there. When I start a conversation with a parent and I say can you tell me what your day looks like. Within the first 20 minutes of their day I can tell you they are in a bad situation when they can't get their kid out of bed and dressing their kid in the bed dragging them out. That is not normal. That is not an everyday thing happens. That is fighting a battle with a kid. Trust me, I have been doing it for years. I have a waiver. I don't know have problems because I know how to go out and get my services. If my support coordinator can't give me the services I go out and find it. I have done it for 17 years. I am

not worried about me. I am worried about all the other parents who don't know the system, who don't know how to get it. Why it's so critical to have this wonderful flow chart. It's also getting these parents to fully understand what their needs are. And not saying I'm good, we're surviving, but we're good. No. I'm sorry, but I am getting passionate about this. I get these phone calls every day.

SHARON DUFRAN: Liz Gary is my hero. I don't know if it's changed since we were screened, but we weren't asked questions about me my age, my health, my ability to care for an adult child. The big misnomer, high functioning autism. Because Joe cannot cross a busy street without assistance. We have always been looked at as if Joe was this high functioning, able to get a job, money producer and none of that is true. None of it is true. My health is failing. It's supposed to. I am 65 years old. I am not going to live forever. But is the sun screen addressing the fact I am a single parent with health issues cause I know I am not the only one out there.

CHARLEY MICHEL: I just wanted to say my son is an adult. He is 39 years old. And he is a four on the scoring system and he has been waiting for nearly a

year to get the advanced services. We have taken care of making sure he is home with someone at night. But during the day he still has several hours a day he is home by himself. He runs the risk of choking at anytime. He is by himself. If someone walks into his home he could not defend himself. And it seems, and this is not a complaint, just an example. It seems like, and I forget the terminology, support coordinator comes in every 4, 6, 8, 9 week comes in needs more information. Not sure if he is going through the appeals process and this is the third or fourth visit or the support coordinator doesn't have a grip on what it is she needs to collect. My son is waiting for services so as far as I am concerned my son is on a waiting list. Again, not a complaint because we started this off when there was no DD Council or was no waiver. So we appreciate the advances in the last many, many years. But right now this is not working for him the way it is designed to. His mom and I are in a position we can continue to provide supports. But as someone else said, we're not getting any younger. My wife can no longer lift him. All the personal cares needs. And we still work for a living. Not that that's an excuse. But just so you know there are some gaps in

there that may not be as visible because we are able to fill in those gaps. But they definitely exist and people less fortunate than us it could be catastrophic.

SPEAKER: I wanted to talk a little bit about my personal experience with the sun assessment. So in 2017 in April I had a stroke that had me in a coma. Was really severe. I almost died. In June so about two months after my stroke when I had my sun assessment and like one of the ladies said earlier, my health wasn't taken into consideration. And my son got a zero. I just wanted to say the caregiver's health is not being taken into consideration because I was walking with a cane. I was going through therapy struggling to care for him and that wasn't a thought about it.

APRIL DUNN: Thank you. I needed to ask cause I hear a lot of parents struggling trying to take care of their kids. Like I told my mom, I don't understand why we are still saying there's not a waiting list. We still have all these problems. I don't understand why can't we just fix it. We need to fix it. I still hear parents saying they are confused. Even I am confused. Too technical. Needs to be parent friendly.

JILL HANO: Curious because they are talking so

much about the caregiver's health. But does a single parent take precedence.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Should not. Should be looking at the person's individual situation. There is nothing that has any one particular situation.

JAMIE WONG: Looking at the printout looks like something must have happened and you guys didn't get the complete version because I am sure other agencies do this, open up your old one and edit it. The IDEA funding is from a previous report and the main content is not here. I will make sure you guys get the updated one. The main thing in addition to making sure you are all aware we have three vacancies for roles of parents of individuals with disabilities on our special education advisory panel. Make sure you get your application in next week on the 24th. Three vacancies we will be filling in advance of our November meeting. The thing that's supposed to be in our report that didn't make it, may have seen a news release that went out earlier this week, end of last week around a set of funding sources the department recently received. One of them I think is a particular interest to this group around we received a little over a million dollars over the course of the next five years to build a leadership

academy to train leaders who are running special education programs in districts. Really excited about the opportunity and begin that this summer training those who are new to the field of leading special ed program or aspiring to be leaders. I will make sure you guys get the updated version of my report.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I don't know if you can answer this more about the local special education advisory committee for all the local districts. Do you know how parents can reach out to get information. Has anything been said to you guys.

JAMIE WONG: Last legislative session there was a bill, I forget the author, that basically the state level special education advisory panel mirrors that concept and requires local school systems have a similar one. The bill does put some parameters around the makeup. It doesn't prescribe numbers, but says generally your makeup should be inclusive of these roles and ratios. I guess intended to recognize the different sizes of school systems across the state. But ultimately it's our local superintendents to implement. I have seen some school systems advertise. I believe they have until January to get them established. Some further along than others. If you

wanted information about a specific parish have to go to that superintendent directly.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Our report is on green paper and just a couple things that I wanted to add. The gold awards the deadline to submit nominations is October 31st. I encourage everyone if you know people deserving of the governors outstanding leadership disability awards please submit their application. The link is on the website. And if anyone is interested in participating in selection, doing that on November 1st. Let Jamar know. Also inclusive art contest that's going on now. Open to anyone. It's actually any age with or without disabilities. And that accepting art work through October 31st as well. The ceremony will be December 10th at the Old State Capitol. The Statewide Independent Living Council is having their job and resource fairs across the state. So today they are in Shreveport. Tomorrow in Metairie and next week Shreveport, New Orleans. And the following week is Pineville and Hammond. All the information is on our website. So if you have people out in those areas I encourage you to let them know about those job resource fairs. Any questions?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Does that really consider for

Jefferson Parish as well because we have another group is called Kiwanis Club in there. Yes we do that like speeches, we do drawings and everything. Does that consider.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: You can do it as individuals. Sometimes we have groups. The art work has to be individualized. Sometimes have organizations multiple members will send in their art work. Anyone. Any age, any person can submit the art work.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I am also besides being here also on another committee for the Kiwanis Club. I am on that committee as well. What made me ask.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: All the information is on our website as well our newsletters. You can disseminate that information to other people that you think are interested. If you go to our website is gov.la.gov. You can find it that way. I want you to share it with everybody.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: I apologize for not getting a report. Holding off in hopes of a very comprehensive summary of our class action lawsuit on behalf of children who are in need of skilled nursing. Unfortunately I think a couple days off from being able to provide that summary. Planning to ask the council



at the January meeting for some time to bring in our lead council, our lead attorney on that case to kind of lay it out for everybody and talk about the conclusions, things like that. Hopeful to have that wrapped up pretty soon. I think a really cooperative back and forth. Certainly has been different from our other class action lawsuits with the state. Certainly a really, really big deal I think in terms of the outcomes. Excited to share that with everybody when we are allowed to do so. From what I understand we will be able to do at the next meeting. Planning on putting out a video or webinar again detailing how the lawsuit came about, what the needs are, what the remedies are. And helping individuals understand what they should expect as an outcome, and who to contact, and how to contact folks if they feel as though the criteria are not being followed. Stay tuned for that. We are in the process, along with a number other stakeholders, in convening a supported decision making group. Something that I have been very interested in and I think as I have talked over the last year lot of interest in alternatives to guardianship. Bringing in a national expert to give us some pointers in terms of what a legislative initiative would be behind supported

decision making as an alternative. Really excited about that. And includes the council, the arc, people first, Families Helping Families, partners in policy making and a number other stakeholders. Excited to get that underway. I think an important area that a lot of the other states have taken leads on.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Our office has been looking into that as well. Glad to partner with you guys on that.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Jonathan Martinez, that's his thing. I worked with him in DC. Can include you guys. Continue to do our monitoring through our clock program. We received state funds to do monitoring of ICFDD facilities. Kind of understanding that program over the last year. Probably have 12 investigators that are allowed to go into ICFDDs unannounced basically do checkups and on the lookout for individuals, residents being subjected to abuse and neglect. I have seen some really awful things and read awful reports. Thinking hard how to address those things. Working closely, not necessarily a new, but a reinvigorated with AG Medicaid fraud unit to address some of these issues. Looking into the areas I am most disappointed in, I think could use some work, is the

Department of Health Standards which is really my opinion the ones responsible for holding these places accountable. Trying to get meetings with them to try and understand their interpretation of responsibility and how to express our interpretation of their responsibilities. Ask questions to why we are seeing some of the things we are seeing that we think could be addressed in a number of different ways. Something we are going to be working on over the next year. We are in the midst of a re branding campaign. The next time I see you all we will be The Disability Rights Louisiana. Excited about that. On our way to launching our new website, hopefully January 1, 2020. Much more updated and user friendly and give a much more idea to the public who we are and what we do. I think that's all I have for now.

SHARON DUFRAN: The actual reason I am here today is about supported decision making. That is my big push right now to make sure Joe is taken care of when I am gone. I was under the impression the arc was sponsoring this and we have a representative who is willing to put forth legislation. Is there a collaboration going on there.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Kelly and I are working

together on this.

SPEAKER: Liz, and Ashley, and Chris, the arc, hopefully OCDD, whoever wants to join we are looking for people to help push it.

SHARON DUFRAN: And I am willing to do whatever kind of footwork is needed for that. Extremely important. Thank you.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: Our board just approved our new public policy platforms. Basically two to three, four sentences under a number of different categories affecting the lives of people with disabilities. Get that up on the website. Get it out to everybody. Basically the categories is education, healthcare, long term supports and services, autonomy, criminal justice, employment, transportation, housing, abuse and neglect, and disaster relief. The categories we are going to be focusing on in terms of building our legislative agenda and public policy platforms in general.

MELISSA BAYHAM: The LRS report is on the hot pink. We included some additional data we felt like you had requested. But I just wanted to give a couple of small updates. LRS still is under order of selection. We do still have under of selection group five closed. On October 1st only two individuals on

that waiting list and we did remove them. As of right now we don't have anybody now waiting. As we are able we do take people off that waiting list when we do have individuals on it. I know a hot topic is customized employment. We are still certifying individuals through the pilot with the DD Council. Also working with the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center to come up with a method for us to continue certifying people even when that has finished. Our staff, as Bambi alluded to, she talked about the Statewide Independent Living Council job fairs. We are participating in them. For all of you who are not aware it is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Does anybody have any questions?

APRIL DUNN: Any public comment?

RANDALL BROWN: Liz you are recognized.

LIZ GARY: Good afternoon. As all of y'all know I am Liz Gary and in 2008 I took the partners in policy making class and graduated. And during that year I did not want to stop. I thought the class was amazing. It was unbelievable. And so at that time the coordinator Linda decided to resign cause she was driving back and forth from Monroe and it was too much. So I put in my name and I was chosen August 1st of 2009 I took over.

That very first year was a reunion. So in 2009 we did like a November reunion for everybody to come together. We had some extra money that came in after the 2005 hurricane so we had extra money so that money went to a reunion. The following year I started my first class and I would have to say it was probably one of the most challenging classes I said ever had right out the gate. Ebony who was an amazing woman whose husband sat on the council, but I actually knew her from living in the same area, she said please tell me this is not going to run you away. And I said no way, this is not going to stop me. It only made me stronger. And then in 2012 I met an amazing advocate, Ashley McReynolds, and together we joined forces to be the best we could in the state for all individuals with disabilities, parents and everyone to fully represent in every way shape or form we could our heart and our souls and our passion were in it. Our heart and our souls and passion are still in it. It hasn't stopped. But unfortunately I put in my resignation as all of you know because you received that letter about two weeks ago. And then about a week later Ashley McReynolds put in hers. I am no longer the partners in policy making coordinator. And I am going to tell you I am very,

very sad about it. It is painful to know that I will not continue with that program because the program was never ever about the money. For the money I made it was a joke. And I am going to be unkind because I didn't care about the money. I would do it for free today. But I am going to tell you I have some concerns and I think y'all need to really, really check into it. I was raked over the coals as to how I am a leader and if my leadership skills were still there and if I could control the class and if I can control this. And I am sorry, I will never ever control people. I will empower, I will educate, I will give them everything they need. I will guide them, but I will never control somebody. And I want you to know that yesterday I know there was conversation about going forward with the partners coordinator and how it is going to be picked and this and that. And I understand that Cheryl Matny stood up there and explained how there was an application and the application can be created by the council staff. But the council staff can ask and be recommended to be on the choosing committee. But the person who is responsible is James Sprinkle. I want you to know that for 11 years I was micromanaged. Not by James Sprinkle, by the council. And I am being

honest and open right now. It was very difficult to constantly be told this policy, this procedure, you're not doing this, you are not doing that. Not from Jim Sprinkle, but from the staff. And I'm sorry, but that is unacceptable. And it was clearly stated yesterday by Cheryl that they need to be super careful when you are doing this because you are actually stepping in and dictating and that is not your role. Thank you.

JAMIE DUPLECHAN: At the end of August I made the very difficult decision to step down as the region four LaCAN leader. And it all stemmed from the fact the council decided to place Matthew Rovira in a nonprofit seat. My original resignation stated that I felt the Community Providers Association was not a title one nonprofit agency. Turns out it is and I correct my wrong. When Sandee replied to me saying she couldn't understand why I felt our core values were not in line and how I felt disrespected or unappreciated. I replied to her, here we go, word of the day today, redacted. My email was redacted. So I'm here to read it to you in its entirety. Sandee I would like for you to consider some things. Regardless as to how Mr. Rovira applied under a 501C6 nonprofit organization or association he is still CEO of a private for profit



agency which provides care for individuals with disabilities which I would believe to create a conflict of interest. Keep in mind, not just any for profit agency, but one that makes money off individuals with disabilities. I remember quite specifically when we were all in the room for the legislative kick off before this last one that there were not very many people who wanted to move forward with raising provider rates because of what was going on with the provider agencies. And Mr. Rovira was the main person of interest. I was coming in from the restroom and heard his name when I mentioned what happened with me, while a client of his agency, and I am not sure if you remember or not but I was quite emotional. As individuals with no disability Ms. Winchell you nor any of your DD staff can relate to the detriment and fear that comes with the possibility of losing the core supports that keep me in good health and alive. The fact that you are aware of the issues and how the situation was handled even after I won the appeal that I filed against the discharge on him goes completely against my core value. It is unethical, disrespectful and disgusting to me that the application was even considered. This next exert is what I took from a

piece of the recruiting letter. Are you or someone you know interested in improving the system of supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Do you support the self determination, independence, productivity and full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. If so please consider submitting an application for membership on the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. Allowing your for profit agency that receives funding from the state to provide care for individuals with disabilities to disrespect an individual with a disability such as myself and so many more most definitely does not improve the system of supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Neither does it support anything regarding all facets of community life for anyone, much less an individual with disabilities. The fact that Mr. Rovira even considered putting in an application for that position only furthers my belief that he has absolutely no integrity and makes me question yours. Therefore my apparent disagreement with one decision the council made resulted in my decision to no longer be associated with the council feeling I am not respected or appreciated

and that we do not share the same values. I will accept my wrong, and this was a typo, I was very upset when I was writing this email. And it should say and I am happy about doing so. That I did not do the correct research and find the Community Provider Association is a nonprofit. And I will even take it off of my Facebook post. However, I do feel it is ethically and morally wrong for him to sit in that seat. I would like to make a comment on the statement taken from the email you sent me. Thank you for your service to LaCAN. You have been a great leader. You are welcome and if nothing else your organization has helped me grow and become a more effective advocate and for that I am grateful. It was not a decision made lightly because I genuinely loved everything about being there. Have been a good leader seems like the past to me and I know I am and always will be an exceptional leader with or without LaCAN in front of it. Sincerest regards, Jamie. That's all I have to say.

RANDALL BROWN: I want to thank everybody for the comments. We do hear you all. We are working as you have seen today to do a lot of work very quickly. And I can say to you that April and I as both self advocates and as leaders of your council leadership we

take your words to heart, all of you. And we thank you for coming out today and expressing it. We pledge to work hard to be effective leadership for you. Having said that, Shawn.

SHAWN FLEMING: First I will concur with Sandee. And Liz and Jamie y'all demonstrated your passion, commitment to service. If you don't know how much I respect y'all, I'm sorry cause I do. Liz, I've not micro managed partners. I have not really been involved in most of the meetings. I was involved in the meeting to try and figure out how to make sure the classes this year got the information, competency based program and we had individuals they felt they were not getting all the information. And I appreciated you modifying the last session to try to get that covered. That was my intent during that meeting. That was what I felt was accomplished. Regarding the selection of applicants this came up in May what is the role of the executive director. Y'all asked me and I have accepted to be interim. Sure some opportunity to deem that position of vetting people to make sure they meet the qualifications to be submitted. Seems to be a catch 22 on the table to me. Put it out there what that is. There is a membership committee that will be chaired by

Randall now. That is the process. That committee will interview and determine the candidates for this council to submit to the governor for appointment. That's how it works. If I am in the position of having to vet someone of whether they meet the qualifications I will determine whether they meet the qualifications. I will not go through and determine my judgment on that person verses any action they have taken. That is not my role. That was Sandee's role. Jamie, we respect you. You served as a great LaCAN leader and I still think you are a great leader. I feel Sandee was doing her job. And if y'all want me to do my job I will do that without bias. I think it's important for the entire community to realize the role of the staff and the role of the council. If there is a project, and this is where Liz comes in, we're responsible for implementing that contract and making sure that initiative is filled. If there is any hiccup, with any contract, delays with the intensive employment training, we are responsible to make sure we figure out how to pick up the pieces and make it happen. Your childcare project had delays and snafus. We are responsible to fix it and make it happen. Partners we are responsible to call in and there is accountability. But when it gets

to a decision the council makes I do feel the attribution that staff then decided something we didn't decide. To be clear Matt met the qualifications and the membership committee was authorized and they determined he was the best candidate. The governor appointed him. When a member is appointed to this council the governor is the sole discretion. None of our authority other than the governor. I respect that. Regardless of how anyone has gotten here. We have had members get appointed that we didn't even know before they showed up. And that's fine. As a group we have to respect that.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I believe with everything that we have gotten from public comment the thing that needs to be done is for these letters to be sent to our executive committee to review, it needs to be outlined what we're going to do, put them in employee folders, we need to respond to the letter that came to the council from the partners class, we need to respond to them on how we are going to take action on it. They have been waiting three council meetings. Needs to be added onto the executive committee's next agenda, discussed, and as a whole how are we going to get this public trust back. It's broken and that's on us. This

is our staff, it's on us. But we also need some accountability in this if people are going to make complaints and grievances on our staff we need to develop a process in there where how are we going to put it in employee folders for it to be recognized during evaluations. We need to all have this information whenever we are charged with evaluating the executive director. I would like for our executive council to please consider taking these things in and getting our processes more refined and that we can keep track of these instances. And people know that we are listening, there will be accountability, and we're taking our job seriously. Thank you.

SHARON DUFRAN: I have a bit of a problem. I appreciate your desire to start healing process. But when you have people standing up saying we have grievances the response that I feel is inappropriate we did everything right and that's it. I don't really see how that is starting a healing process. I don't know what Matt's position is. When I was on the council he was with the governor's office. So to say the governor gets to decide I don't know, kind of smacks of a little bit, call it gubernatorial nepotism. If he in fact does not represent a nonprofit organization. But we

can't just say he's here, he qualified when someone is saying-- a seat on this council we make law. We are responsible for going to the legislature and saying we want this. So if we don't start with absolute honesty, transparency here how can we expect legislators to do it. I have a problem with this. I served many years ago. But this is not right. To just say we're going to adjourn now, thank you guys for coming. Thanks for crying, that was good. Why aren't these issues being investigated. And that is the committee you need to set up right now is an investigative committee. Because if they have to go to just the staff and it's the staff they feel are the problem where does that end up. If you guys don't get all the information that makes even less sense. Because you know what, I loved the staff when I was here. I still do. We had problems back then. I'm very concerned that this is a historical situation that is not going to change. I have strong concerns about that. So please don't dismiss these people. Please do something to at least investigate this. Not just assume it's taken care of. Thank you.

JAMIE DUPLCHAN: We hear a lot of the times the DSWs are to blame a lot, but it doesn't start with the DSWs. It starts with the agencies. The agencies are



the ones who are allowing these DSWs to go into the home. It starts with the agencies. Y'all want to raise provider rates. That's good. But who is doing the majority of the work, the individuals in the homes taking care of individuals such as myself. I don't have natural supports. I take care, I solely take care of my care. So if I am being discharged from an agency other agencies have the ability to say we won't accept her. So what's left for me to do.

Institutionalization. Because I can't always guarantee self direction. Which is about to be the route I am going to take. If someone can't come to my home and I don't have back up I am left alone. What happens then. Then who is to answer to my parents if something happens to me. And it was also brought to my attention when I had a meeting with a legislator just this past week that he received an email from the Developmental Disabilities Council stating they knew he was still in contact with me. Just a bit of information. An email was sent by the DD Council letting this legislator know they were aware he was still in contact with me. Thank you.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I would like to make a motion we make an investigative ad hoc committee please to look

into all of this. And to get some outcomes.

RANDALL BROWN: Do we have discussion about the motion.

SPEAKER: I agree with Crystal's motion. Just also want to make a suggestion. If we are going to have an investigative ad hoc committee we have volunteers publicly so we can form that today.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I would like to volunteer to be on that committee.

RANDALL BROWN: Let's have a vote.

CHRIS RODRIGUEZ: You can't have a motion to investigate all of that. I don't understand what all of that is.

JILL HANO: I have a public comment. The July meeting bugged the crap out of the staff because I have a specific request. When Shawn called me at nearly the end of the business day on what I believe was a Friday he called me my worries of to shed light on what I was concerned about. He could have shot me an email on Monday. It was a Friday. I have my own opinions on different issues. He called me on his work week to ease my concern. Just wanted to make sure everyone was aware of that. I did very much appreciate that.

CHARLEY MICHEL: I am relatively new, been here

for only a year. Last maybe eight or ten years worked with Shawn, Sandee. Directly gotten to know Liz and Ashley. And I have a tremendous amount of respect for a lot of the individuals that have being talked about today. I have a lot of respect for the council and the work this council does. I also have a lot of experience with committees and to me the biggest waste of time is creating a committee. In my opinion, just hearing what I have been hearing in the last few weeks, what we need is not an investigation. What we need is conflict resolution. I don't think that requires a committee. I think that there needs to be an impartial third party. If you want to get the trust back, get to the problem. We have been admiring the problem for months. It doesn't do any good. Move into the solution phase. And while conflict resolution can be extremely painful because it forces the truth to come out, what people say about you in which you realize about yourself it is the only way to move past. If we want to get the trust so the work of this council can continue, because it does some wonderful work, we need to move into that mode. That is just my opinion. I hope y'all can find a way to do what you are looking to do because I don't want to sit here in my new position

and watch all of this go away. Too many people are depending on the very important work you have done. If you have any questions about important work look back, Shawn, how many years. Look back in the 70s when this started. Look where we are now. If you think that you question the value of what has been done with all the work this committee does the LaCAN, partners in policy making you will have no question left. So let's move into a solution because this could go on for a week like we are doing now and nothing will be solved.

TARA SMITH: I want to thank the folks that have come every time, but certainly in the last couple of months from the public to offer us their thoughts and perspectives on the issues as they see them. And I take their concerns very seriously. My greatest concern here is the extreme turnover that we are experiencing, not only with our staff, but with absolutely amazing polished seasoned advocates. I also have grave concern about respect for the individuals from the partners class. I don't know anything about what happened, that's not my sandbox. I will say these folks didn't know each other from all over the state. And I just don't believe that a whole bunch of people saying the same thing. We need to give respect to

these issues. I would offer a substitute motion that the executive committee be charged with contacting LDH Human Resources Division, their legal department and the Louisiana Board of Ethics to take a look. If we were using those folks for other thing such as selection and guidance on the executive director's qualifications and selection process I interpret that to mean they are at our disposal to be used. And my stomach flipped when I heard a self advocate say someone from the staff sent a note to a legislator, whatever that intent was, about them still speaking with Ms. Duplechan. In my opinion it needs to be looked into and I hope there is some context that can explain why that email would have been sent. I would offer that as a substitute motion and Crystal can take it or leave it.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I am going to accept that substitute motion.

TARA SMITH: LDH Human Resources. There is where I am getting these resources. My motion is for the executive committee to take charge of this and no one else.

SPEAKER: I have an issue with having the executive committee look into this. The DD Council

does not have a grievance position. Do you not have any kind of policy about grievance. To hand this over this is not their council.

TARA SMITH: The reason behind me suggesting the executive committee take charge of this is because they meet and convened and addressed issues in the interim. If I didn't say it clearly enough I hear what everyone is saying here and I take it all very seriously. Where we have had very grave concerns this is just my attempt to most effectively and efficiently address it so we can put it to rest and move. And I would point out, and you may know this or not, we have a new executive committee now sitting and they are taking their new seats and like to give them the opportunity to address this within the resources as I understand them to be available. I think this needs to be a third party investigation. Not that we don't have grievances. I am not a member of the executive committee. That is my motion. I am just asking this to move this along so we have some answer in time for the next meeting.

SHARON DUFRAN: My intention was never to stand up here and beat up Shawn Fleming. This is an in house problem for some time and I have never in my life stumbled across this many parents and parent advocates

and former employees who have been disgruntled. Sounds like absolutely the way we advocate for other people not to treat us. If we are going to ever have an impact our purpose, our morals, our ethics have to be pristine. And how does this look when we can't even clean our own house. Where we have to go to another agency to have it cleaned. I don't mind third party, not my decision to make to begin with. But we can't have the rooster guarding the hen house making the decision or do the investigation. So you decide who the roosters and the hens are.

CODY WILSON: Cody Wilson. Parent. I am not up here to beat a dead horse. I just did want to offer a point of clarification. One I hope y'all can revisit the mission statement at some point. Choice is very important whether you call it choice or whether you call it individualized inclusion. What inclusion looks like for each family looks very different. My son is alive because of the choices I made for individualized inclusion. His inclusion comes to him. His community comes to him and that is the safest way. That's why he is still alive today. Secondly I just wanted to offer a point of clarification on the email that was sent. Shawn, it wasn't just from me. I wanted the council to

understand I am just the girl who has been around the block a while. I have the oldest kid in the room. I had email addresses already. I had worked with Shawn and Sandee since 2008. And so I was merely a person nominated from our class to send the email that recapped everything. So that was not like some sort of personal vendetta or decision or opinion. It was based on like I am still learning how to pronounce the last names of our class members, that's how close we are. Wanted to offer that point of clarification. Did not come from me personally. Nearly the person nominated to send the recap how the class felt after we met with Shawn and Sandee and just things that we wanted the council to know. That's all. I appreciate your time. Thank you for recognizing me April.

JAMES SPRINKLE: I wanted to mention that idea is great. Board of ethics appointed somebody, looked into it, came up with a conclusion, clear cut. I think if you do that the council will probably be willing to accept whatever conclusion. Be this way or this way. I like that.

APRIL DUNN: I am very disturbed by all of this. Especially Jamie's email. I am very disturbed by it. And what I mean when I say disturbed I am very



disturbed by this way of you know of needing healthcare and providing service for individuals with disabilities. Very disturbed by it. The workers, no offense to some of the good workers from there. Some of the workers what they give to individuals with disabilities I am very disturbed by them because the way they treat people with disabilities. It just needs to be resolved. I don't know if forming an investigation committee is going to help. I don't know.

RANDALL BROWN: We have a motion on the floor.

MATT ROVIRA: Wow April, how do you think I feel. Jamie is completely welcome to criticize me and she did. I will say there are two sides to every story. Obviously this is very personal to Jamie and I am not sure why it's so personal. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with her and talk this through. Obviously she was concerned about the 501 nonprofit. You can go in the Secretary of State's website, you can look that up. The governor appointed me. I wanted to resolve this with Jamie. I will say this, there are two sides to every story. She can file a complaint with health standards if she feels we didn't do things in order. But she personally attacked me, which she is

welcome to do, but that in itself should give some light to the issues. This is a personal attack. And I hope to go out there and resolve this with Jamie. I would like to. I would like to resolve this with the individuals behind me. Cause I can assure you for the last 15 years I have done nothing but try to work with everyone here to advance people with developmental disabilities. From discharging people out of Pinecrest, the list goes on. And obviously Jamie has a poor outlook on me, but I don't think, and I hope you guys reserve judgment and get to know me and get to know my history and we can hopefully heal these wounds. I don't disrespect what she said and not even saying it's not true. She is welcome to say whatever she wants. But I just hope you don't judge me by that one comment.

TARA SMITH: My motion is on the floor I think.

RANDALL BROWN: We have a motion on the floor. Discussion. Any objections. Any abstentions. Hearing none the motion carries.

APRIL DUNN: Any announcements.

SHAWN FLEMING: In January you are going to be asked to bring two sets of concept proposals related to your plan. The last the fifth year of your current

five year planning cycle. And so what you currently see as your goals and objectives. If there are other activities to accomplish those goals and objectives you have that on your place. Y'all brought up a bunch of things during the discussion of the legislative advocacy agenda and so the second opportunity is for your next five year plan. In that plan you actually have the luxury of creating new goals. Two planning cycles ago gave each council the responsibility to select which areas of emphasis it would consider. So we do not have housing, transportation, recreation. A list of them. And I will send them out so y'all can see a full list. But goals that are not included in our plan. Just so y'all prioritize your resources to the ones you have. As the years progressed been a movement to want to add activities to things we do not have goals on. Which made complication on things. I want to queue y'all now. First focus on the five year plan as current objectives in that. And then like open game on any areas of systems because you will be formulating goals that we do not have now on areas of systems we have not covered.

CRYSTAL WHITE: It is like the end of the day and I know the five year plan is very important. Can you

please email what you just said. I can't remember.

TARA SMITH: I move to adjourn.

JAMIE WONG: Second.

APRIL DUNN: Don't forget to fill out your  
evaluation form.

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