

Membership Committee

Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Online Via ZOOM

SUMMARY DRAFT

Members Present: Kim Basile, Randall Brown, Mitch Iddins, Hyacinth McKee, Bambi Polotzola, Temisha Sonnier

Council Members: Michael Billings, Brenda Cosse

Staff: Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Guests: Carolyn Burrell, Kathleen Cannino, Katie Corkern, Corhonda Corley, Joel Crowson, Annie Cummer, Liz Gary, Ashley McReynolds, Jessica Michot, Kelly Monroe, Susan Riehn, Karen Scallan, Marie Shultz, Tara Smith

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

Review of Executive Session Opinion

Committee members reviewed the [Legal Opinion on Permissibility of Executive Session](#) for Discussion of Certain Matters by the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Membership Committee by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Bureau of Legal Services. Committee discussed guidance from LDH legal agreed to enter into Executive Session for the limited purpose of discussing and considering the information submitted by applicants for Council membership that relates to the developmental disability status of the applicant or the applicant's child or other relative.

Review of Applicants

Hyacinth McKee (Chair) discussed the protocol for the day and made sure that each committee member reviewed the documents for demographics and letters from the Administration on Community Living.

Interviews were conducted with six applicants from North Louisiana. Interviews were also conducted with five applicants from Region II. Each applicant's name, category (self-advocate, parent and/or family member), race/ethnicity and gender were posted. Each committee member (interviewer) then stated their rubric score for each applicant they were assigned to interview in four categories on a scale between 1-5 (5 being outstanding and 1 being poor) including:

1. Fully supports the values of the DD Act
2. Familiar with the Council and understands and supports its purpose
3. Has the capacity to be, a strong systems change advocate
4. Demonstrates leadership qualities

Scores were recorded and tallied for each applicant.

MOTION PASSED

A motion by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Temisha Sonnier to go into Executive Session to discuss North Louisiana applicants. Motion passed without objection, no abstentions. Once the meeting was reopened to the public, members were reminded that at least one seat had to be filled by a self-advocate. Members discussed the applicant's scores from North Louisiana and two applicants had an equal score of 20.

MOTION PASSED

A motion by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Mitch Iddins for Rashad Bristo to be recommended as the top candidate and Yolanda Jewitt as the alternate candidate to fill the seat for North Louisiana. Motion passed without objection, no abstentions.

Members were then given information about all applicants that identified as self-advocates. Members discussed these applicants. It was revealed to the committee by an applicant attending the meeting that she also identified as a self-advocate, but more information was needed to determine if the disability was considered a developmental disability according to the DD Act. Members also discussed all applicants from Region II, and Bambi reported that one of the applicants that she interviewed was not eligible for council membership. The committee considered the two applicants with the highest rubric score.

MOTION

A motion by Mitch Iddins for Nicole Banks to be recommended as the top candidate and Carolyn Banks as the alternate candidate to fill the seat for Region II.

MOTION

A substitute motion by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Randall Brown for the committee to wait to make a vote for the Region II seat tomorrow (June 25, 2020) when further information can be given on all self-advocate applicants. Motion passed without objection, no abstentions.

A motion to adjourn at 3:12 PM was made by Mitch Iddins and seconded by Bambi Polotzola.

Membership Committee

Thursday, June 25, 2020, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Online Via ZOOM

SUMMARY DRAFT

Members Present: Kim Basile, Randall Brown, Mitch Iddins, Hyacinth McKee (Chair), Bambi Polotzola, Temisha Sonnier

Council Members: Michael Billings, Brenda Cosse

Staff: Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Guests: Jeff Arsenaux, Carolyn Burrell, Kathleen Cannino, Katie Corkern, Corhonda Corley, Joel Crowson, Annie Cummer, Liz Gary, Ashley McReynolds, Jessica Michot, Kelly Monroe, Susan Riehn, Karen Scallan, Marie Shultz, Tara Smith, Kodi Wilson

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

Hyacinth McKee (Chair) opened the floor for any public comment on the recommendations for North Louisiana. No comments were made.

The committee discussed that each recommendation will be coming from the Full Council. Therefore, the committee agreed to provide the Council with a bio-sketch of each applicant recommended by the committee in order for the other Council members to make an informed decision.

Interviews were conducted with eight applicants from the Southeast region of the state. Each applicant's name, category (self-advocate, parent and/or family member), race/ethnicity and gender were posted. Each committee member (interviewer) then stated their rubric score for each applicant they were assigned to interview.

MOTION PASSED

A motion by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Temisha Sonnier to go into Executive Session to discuss Southeast applicants. Motion passed without objection, no abstentions.

Once the meeting was reopened to the public, the committee discussed the self-advocate applicants. Randall Brown informed the committee that he had spoken to the applicant that informed the committee that she had a developmental disability, however, the disability was not considered a developmental disability according to the DD Act. The committee again discussed applicants from Region II and discovered that Region II applicants had not been discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION PASSED

A motion by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Mitch Iddins to go into Executive Session to discuss Region II applicants. Motion passed without objection, no abstentions.

Once the meeting was reopened to the public, the committee discussed sending general recommendations for candidates to fill the seats for Region II and Southeast instead of making recommendations for a top candidate and alternate.

MOTION PASSED

A motion by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Kim Basile for Liz Gary and Jill Egle to be recommended as candidates to fill the seat for Southeast Louisiana. Motion passed without objection, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

A motion by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Randall Brown for Nicole Banks and Carolyn Burrell to be recommended as candidates to fill the seat for Region II. Motion passed without objection, no abstentions.

Comments were made by the public that during the vetting process the Council should not only consider candidates that receive services from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. Another comment was made that in the past when a seat had to be filled by a self-advocate, there was an exception and region was not taken into consideration. A parent advocate position is being taken away from the Southeast region to ensure that a self-advocate seat is filled. The exception should be taken into consideration in the future. The committee agreed that this should be taken into consideration in the future.

MOTION PASSED

A motion by Mitch Iddins, seconded by Temisha Sonnier to send these recommendations to the Full Council for consideration to be submitted to the Governor for consideration for appointment on the Council. Motion passed without objection, no abstentions.

Hyacinth McKee (Chair) stated that Hannah Jenkins should contact the applicants that will be recommended by the committee to the full Council. The applicants should also be informed to write a small bio-sketch that will be shared with the full Council and turn it in no later than July 6, 2020. The full Council will then vote and make the final recommendations to be submitted to the Governor for consideration for appointment.

A motion to adjourn at 2:28 PM was made by Mitch Iddins and seconded by Bambi Polotzola.