

## Self Determination/Community Inclusion

7/10/20

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mike it looks like we have nine members. So, you do have a quorum.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Okay. Let's get started then. Good morning everybody. Before we get started, I would like to welcome everybody and ask patience on my part. My first time coordinating a zoom meeting. I guess I would say coordinating. We have a lot of staff here facilitating. Since we have a quorum, let's go ahead and call the meeting to order. And then hopefully everybody had a chance to review the virtual meeting protocols that the council has adopted. And as a reminder, committee members to be considered present you must be on the camera and have your first and last name showing. Please have your mikes muted unless you are called by the chairperson. Electronically raise your hand to request to speak and wait to be recognized. Once you are recognized, your mike turns on and after you finish speaking mike will return to mute. Any questions right now? Let's go ahead and go on to the approval of the January meeting summary. Such a long time ago. Hopefully, everybody reviewed the January meeting summary attached in the agenda received by email. Give everybody a few minutes to look that over. May I have a motion to adopt the meeting summary from January?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I will make a motion adopt the meeting summary.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Steven has made a motion. Is there a second?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Second.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Any recommended changes to the summary? Any public comments regarding the

summary? All right, do I have any objections to approving the summary? Any abstentions to approving the summary? The motion to approve the summary passes without objection. First thing on the agenda is review of our contractual updates which Shawn, Brenton and Ebony are going to provide. Shawn, would you give us an update on Partners in Policymaking, the conference. Evals from both.

SHAWM FLEMING: Good morning. So, Hannah, if you can hear me, Jill is on the phone and she can't get in. Send her an invite. I would appreciate it. I have never been in y'all meetings. Apparently y'all requested these evaluations. Those are the evaluations from I think January, February and March sessions of partners. What y'all have linked in there.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Has everyone had a chance to review the Partners in Policymaking summaries? Evaluation summaries.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I really don't understand why is it like so many pages up on it. Is it all the same or are they different?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: They are different pages from each Partners in Policymaking meeting. It starts with the January and goes on through the March meeting. The dates are at the top right-hand corners. And of course, they didn't have any meetings after March because of the pandemic.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Only goes up to like the sixth and the seventh is the last time they met?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: The last time Partners in Policymaking met was March 6th and 7th.

ROSLYN HYMEL: If I read it right cause I was glancing through it.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Sorry, I didn't understand the question.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what made me ask the question.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Okay. After that we were in the

shelter in place.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I have a question. Is that link in the agenda.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: It is. Session summaries.

STEVEN NGUYEN: When I like it, it takes me to the conference.

BRENTON ANDRUS: There is also a conference link. The agenda online, whenever I click on the session summaries it takes me to this here. The actual link. Also, Mike, Kim has her hand up as well. I can email this to you directly Steven if it is not showing up for you.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Yeah. It's linking me to the navigating the system across the life span evaluation.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That is interesting. I will email it to you.

JILL HANO: Do you see me?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: We hear you. Now we can see you Jill. Kim, you had a question.

KIM BASILE: Who presented in March? There are no names for act 378 and about the legislative process.

SHAWM FLEMING: That was me Kim, Shawn.

KIM BASILE: You did both?

SHAWM FLEMING: I did most of those days. I would have to look back. I did majority of the Friday and Saturday morning sessions. I was involved in.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Thanks.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Do you know who could give us a recap of the conference eval? Would that be Shawn as well?

BRENTON ANDRUS: That would be Marilee if anyone has any questions. She is on the call if there are any questions if anybody has any about the conference.

JILL HANO: Where are we?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Sorry Jill. I skipped on and we should have went to the guidance for the FY21 Partners in Policymaking class.

JILL HANO: I tried to be so prepared. I'm embarrassing myself.

SHAWM FLEMING: Mike, if I may, one thing that came up after the planning meeting related to partners if we have partners in 21, just like we have had it right now, is the time we start soliciting applications for that class. One of the bits of information and requirements is we usually establish dates of partners. Which is two points to that. Asking applicants to commit to those dates, but also ask a hotel to commit to those dates. With the suspension of in person activities it puts us in a quandary whether we should establish contractual relations with a hotel. Which they may not be as forgiving. With the council meetings we had scheduled these meetings prior to the pandemic, knowing about the pandemic, but if we schedule them in the middle and say January, February whenever we're still not having in person activities they could hold the council liable, responsible for those charges. It could be a cost with no real in person activities. So that is one part of it. And the other part is the applicants typically commit to, and there has been a lot of discussion over the years related to participation in partners being one of the criteria for continued, for finishing a class. And so, kind of hard to tell people they must commit if we are uncertain. We wanted y'all guidance on that.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Also need to make some consideration for the folks from the last class on whether they complete.

SHAWM FLEMING: Yes, sir. Another consideration is whether they come in, we were thinking give them credit for what they have done and then let them finish it off this year. Whatever guidance y'all want to give on that as well.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mike, we have a comment from Liz Gary. And she says I would recommend you move

forward next year by allowing the class of 2020 to complete their last three sessions via zoom to be able to complete their year. If the state opens back up in January, then you can determine whether or not to go back in person.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you for that Liz.

JILL HANO: I was thinking is there anyway, because of the extraordinary circumstances the later part like June till the second half of the month, and then I like the zoom for the class of 2020. Then supposed to start 21 in January and going through June maybe make it March to September.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: That may be a good idea as well.

JILL HANO: Okay. We got another public comment if someone wants to read it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Another one from Liz. Let me figure out where we left off. She said in addition to her other comment I do not think that you can consider a new class for next year under the circumstances. As Shawn stated, everything should have started, the recruitment by now for next year. Too hard for anyone to commit to this program with uncertainties related to schools and opening the state back up.

JILL HANO: That's true. It' so uncertain. I don't know y'all.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Can we divide this up in two things and address finalizing the class 2020 if we want to make, choose a direction on that.

JILL HANO: It really doesn't seem fair to be talking about 21 when the class of 20 only got canceled.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mike we have two more public comments. One from Corhonda recommending we waited due to the increase in cases. I would also like to know if the zoom option would be accessible to all individuals with disabilities. Especially individuals with low incidence disabilities. And another comment from Liz Gary. The program is powerful, and the in-person session

truly makes the program work. Also said great point Jill. I think Marilee has something she would like to share as well. She is the program monitor for partners.

JILL HANO: Just the both of us today?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Jill, can we get Marilee's comments please.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I just wanted to give you guys some information. Partners is in such a unique position right now because the 2020 class only completed three months. And we haven't started the process for the 2021 class like we normally would because of, as Shawn mentioned, the lockdown on everything due to covid. So, I know you mentioned Mike should we decide what we are doing with the 2020 class before we move on or did you say the opposite 2021?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: No. Just my thoughts is let's make a decision on the 2020 class whether we can finish that up via zoom or not and then to move on making a decision on 2021 whether that is even feasible.

MARILEE ANDREWS: In my mind, of course at the will of the committee and then the council, had kind of rolled it together. So instead of finishing the few sessions the 2020 class missed, wrapping that up and then starting over in January. In my mind, logistically, I was thinking when we start our next class the 2020 participants did not get to complete, skip the sessions they miss. So, skip January, February, March and then start in April. Whereas the 2021 class start in January. Or have the option to attend as well. Logistics wise I think simpler not to do half of one and then a whole one when you could combine them. The planning committee funded it. They had ideas about in person verses online. And they had ideas about the 2021 participants who didn't complete. I think they wanted them to definitely be able to complete. And I think it's important to note some

of the 2020 participants in the last session in March did not make it to the March session because people were starting to get sick and not feeling well. And I think the executive committee wanted to make sure they were included; despite the fact they are missing the March one. So, I would really defer to the people that have the partners expertise. I would put a lot of weight in whatever Liz recommends because she was the coordinator for so long. From what I have experienced I think when you are in person you create a rapport and atmosphere and seems to be very beneficial. I don't know if you could create that online. That is something to consider. And then, of course, you can do online without having a venue or break any covid protocols, but it would be online. And not sure that you would develop the rapport like I mentioned. How even practical that would be for moms and dads. A lot of these people they come, and they are not with their family and able to focus fully what they are doing at partners. So that is just the information I wanted to give y'all. Cause it seemed like we jumped into this discussion. I wanted y'all to be informed of all the facts. Timeline wise at this point we normally have booked hotels and speakers. In early August we announced the graduating class and advertised for next year. And September we advertise again for next year. And then the application period closes September 30th. October the selection committee meets, they select. Send out letters to people. A second round of letters if you have a backup list. And then the session starts in January. Just consider all of that information how it normally works and where we are. Share that with you guys cause it seems like we are diving into that discussion. If anybody has any questions.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We have a few hands raised and public. Comment from Corhonda and a question from

Brenda. So, I don't know when order you want to go in first. But as far as committee members, Lillian and Steven have their hands raised and Liz Gary also has her hand raised.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Start with Lillian.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: As far as the connection part goes, I think probably will be a concern as far as the partners 2020 class finishing virtually because it did start in person. I did want to mention I attended Oklahoma's virtually and a lot of concern whether or not the same atmosphere could be created online. It needs the same sort of connection. It was created as a steppingstone before partners. But the connection was still there. It was really, surprisingly we were able to reconnect that magic over online. So, I think considering having partners 2021 online isn't a terrible idea to try. But my question to you guys would be do we know what other states are doing with their partners program with covid in consideration for 2021?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I don't know. Does anyone else on staff maybe know? Or maybe something we could check into.

MARILEE ANDREWS: As far as I know I have not heard of anyone planning anything. We can certainly reach out to kind of the state that heads up partners and see if they have any ideas. Another option is, and I think Liz would be more familiar cause this was done a few years ago as I understand. I think the issue was there weren't enough applicants to make a whole partners class, so they did regional visits. Now these people didn't graduate. They weren't partners in policy graduates, but the information was put out across the state. Something else to consider.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you. Steven.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Can you hear me.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes, sir.

STEVEN NGUYEN: So, I don't know if this was



discussed already, but how about we let the current class decide what they want to do as far as whether complete the class via zoom offer that opportunity. But also, if they don't want to do zoom also offer them to take it again the following year whenever the state deems it safe. So maybe we can start after the third week or whenever they left off. Kind of let them decide what they want to do and what they are comfortable with doing. I believe Marilee answered my question that I had about why the numbers for the evaluation were a lot lower in March compared to January.

MARILEE ANDREWS: That was why because people were sick and stuff like that was happening.

LIZ GARY: Thank you. So first off as far as going back to what I had stated about doing the zoom online with the ones that have already gone through it. Clearly since the numbers were low in March means very few people got the full impact. March being one of the most powerful parts of where you learn to actually testify and learn to do the mock testimony and stuff like that. I think it makes sense to still give them the opportunity if they want to move forward for that with the zoom next year. You could always incorporate what Marilee said using the money instead of partners, use that portion for them to finish and the other portion to use the money to possibly do similar to what was done in 2016 where we didn't have class. I think you will lose a lot if you merge a brand-new class with the class and put the two together where you would start a new class in January. And let the other ones June, April and May and June because bonding is huge. There is a lot of sharing, a lot of emotion. If you merge two classes together and bring those in April, May and June to ones already there and connected in January, February and March I think a very difficult situation to maintain. A very

difficult position for bonding and sharing and keeping the stuff that stays in those rooms in those rooms. I would not recommend merging two classes together in that aspect. But I do think that if you were to do anything, consider letting the ones that have finished finish April, May and June. And then also create the environment where you could use online zoom resources and trainings with some of the same speakers. And do that statewide so that people could join and use the dollars for that. And then reconsider bringing partners back in for 2022. But I don't think there's any way you can pull it off and get any commitment from families for next year. One, no way to get them to come in person. Too scary, especially with the lives they are facing and the children. And second, even if you can get a commitment, I don't think we're going to be open to be able to do that to be comfortable. Just my opinion. Eleven years of the partners program. Eleven years of knowing how to plan it and trying to give some feedback as to what I think would work best moving forward under the situation. Thank you very much.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Liz that makes a lot of sense. So, I retract my original, logistically would be easier. But I think it makes total sense what you said because they do develop so much rapport. Like in session one right off the bat. And then have these new people you haven't meet and may not be comfortable with. I agree with that. So, whenever you mentioned 2020 finishing April, May, June. Did you mean 2021 or 2022?

LIZ GARY: No, 2021. But don't necessarily have to finish in April, May, June. My thought was the same speakers, but bring them February, March, April. Whatever for next year starting on the zoom panels. This crew already knows each other. They have already bonded. Not saying an ideal situation, but if you want them to complete it, I

think the potential best way to keep them and still give them the speakers there just do it virtually online.

MARILEE ANDREWS: The other concern with that, not sure what you would do with the people who missed March because they were sick. Have to do March again.

LIZ GARY: How are you going to do March again if everything is shut down. And then remember, March was one of those dates that was told if you didn't make it, it's mandatory to be there. I understand the situation, but those people always would have an opportunity to reapply. Always there and available for those who are not able to complete. Several people in the past who weren't able to complete for reasons and did come back the following year, apply and were accepted.

MARILEE ANDREWS: That was my point. How could you do the March one. Like you said, with everything closed I don't think it would work online. My notes from the executive committee, I think, and I don't know if somebody that was here, I have down their general take away if somebody missed because they were sick that should not, it shouldn't be like it regularly is because the corona virus.

LIZ GARY: I understand. But remember, based on the procedures in policy it stated if you miss that March session, because you are missing the main point of what the whole program is about, that you weren't able to continue. I totally understand, but you can't re-create that. And want to move forward with your people to be able to finish with the session they didn't complete. Look, these are just my recommendations. Not saying it's right or wrong. Based on the policy and procedures. We didn't make a whole lot of exceptions in the past. And I understand covid, but at the same time still move forward next year and get a lot more impact from that. Just my opinion. Thank you.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I don't know if anyone has any questions. I gave you all the information I have, and I think she gave you guys a lot of good information as well.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you. Brenton, are there any other comments?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Chris has his hand up as well as Corhonda. Corhonda also had a comment, but I think she can mention that when she speaks. And Brenda had a comment. Asked if the committee received the recommendation from the FY21 planning committee with regards to partners.

MARILEE ANDREWS: My takeaway, the planning committee funded it. I didn't get any firm recommendations. Anybody here that was on the planning committee? No. So that's what they did.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: So just point of clarification. Sorry, I wasn't on the planning committee. Just so nobody gets frustrated, it sounds like this exact same conversation and debate is taking place probably three committees. This one, planning committee, executive committee. I am unsure who is making the decision. So that people don't get frustrated after having a long debate realizing a decision has already been made. A conversation probably going to be had again in front of the entire council. Seems to be a lot of opinions and good discussion.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I have no idea.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: Because we had this exact conversation in the planning committee with the exact same points. And I thought a decision was made. Just don't want folks to have additional conversation only to find out the decision has already been made. Or the planning committee to find out it's really not in their jurisdiction.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I was really just here to answer questions and give you guys information. I will let y'all work through that. And I am here if

there are any further questions.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Kim has her hand raised and Corhonda.

CORHONDA: Yes, great morning. I want to acknowledge several points. I am very interested in the point that Ms. Brenda and Chris, I think your last name is Rodriquez, both brought up what was addressed on that plan. If we don't know that then we shouldn't even move forward on it. Secondly, addressing Partners in Policymaking and some of the things that Ms. Liz Gary stated. In Partners in Policymaking they also have to abide by the laws dealing with racial inclusion diversity. I would like to know if the individual that is currently the coordinator can actually inform us how many self-advocates we actually have attending this class. As well as how many people that follow up under minority groups are enrolled. If we don't meet the criteria it would behoove our council, still currently under federal state decree, to make sure inclusion and diversity is being addressed under all facets to affect our funding that we actually make sure it's being addressed. Also, in Partners in Policymaking. When I attended it, we only had four individuals that were in minority groups. Which was including myself. And two self-advocates, which one did not complete. So, I think if we are going to try to move forward with Partners in Policymaking, we have to make sure self-advocates and minority populations are actually represented in our Partners in Policymaking classes. As well as we have to make sure that this Partners in Policymaking class is going to be very disability friendly. Because zoom and a lot of the other platforms are not catering to people such as visual impairment, such as those who need switches, etc. I think something we should consider before we move forward with this class, and any other class thereafter, in the midst of

this pandemic.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I have never been able to say it right and read your name so many places. I just think that's a really good point. The accessibility point you made, so I wanted to say that. If it is zoom. And I actually, whenever the selection committee met for 2020 Partners in Policymaking, they did pay special attention, I think Mike you were there, Bambi was there, not sure if Bambi is here now. Paid special attention to the factors you mentioned. And I actually broke out from this selected applicants like the percentage self-advocates verses parents, their region, their gender, and then the minority representation. So, I can say I am confident that they took that into account. I don't know if that helps. And I think it's good to keep on the forefront as well.

CORHONDA: I would greatly appreciate if our chairman, Mr. Billings, if you can make sure that that information is actually put on the record so that we can actually have that breakdown put in record. So that we can actually know how many self-advocates and how many individuals that are minorities are actually in our Partners in Policymaking class. And if that is not fitting our quota on what we actually need then we actually need to restart that whole entire class for this year.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I have it pulled up. I don't think I can share my screen, but I can read it to you, and it would be on the record. If that is what the committee would like.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Sure. But I would also like to point out we have no control over who applies.

MARILEE ANDREWS: So that is right. You get the applications you get. Things to consider, which I have heard brought up before, how to reach minority areas and communities who may not hear about partners. That would be something you could

do to ensure perhaps your number of applicants increase.

CORHONDA: Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind me saying something else, I would also like to say we are not making these applications available to people that does not have English as their primary language or first language. We are not making these applications available to them in their native language whether it is Spanish, Arabic, etc. we are not providing that. So, I would greatly appreciate if we can actually make sure that we make this program accessible to all. And that is a problem that we are actually having. This information is not being accessible to those that are living in rural communities. Nor is it being accessible to those that live in minority communities. So I think if we are going to make, if we were going to make advocating a priority, especially in Partners in Policymaking that's what they focus on then we have to make sure we are addressing all of our population as required under the federal law.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Duly noted. I believe we had Brenda still waiting.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That was partly addressed. Her comment was if the committee had received recommendations from the fiscal year 21 planning committee with regards to partners, and I think Chris kind of mentioned that how a lot of this conversation is a repeat of what was had. Also, just people that are sending comments via the chat if you can just remember to select all panelist and attendees that way everyone participating can see your comments. And Kim had her hand up for a minute.

KIM BASILE: I would like to suggest since we spent so much time on this subject may be good to set up an ad hoc committee for the people that know partners best to discuss it and to make decisions. And then they can bring it forward to us in

October to the full council and they can recommend to us what would be the best thing to do.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Would you want to put that into a motion?

KIM BASILE: I would.

MARILEE ANDREWS: My only concern with that you are pushing back your timeline pretty far.

KIM BASILE: Personally, I don't think we will have a class next year. Aren't we really discussing what would happen with this year's class?

MARILEE ANDREWS: Right. So, let's say we are and go with Liz's suggestions where we re-create April, May and June. If we don't discuss that until August do you see how that pushes back and then pretty soon running into when you should have started planning that. Does that make sense. Just information to consider. Chris has more information than I have about all these other committees that have talked about it. I don't know.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: Haven't these decisions already been made? Kim, weren't you on the planning committee? Didn't we decide to fund whatever?

KIM BASILE: We decided to fund, but don't think we discussed how it would look.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: Maybe you are right. I do remember having this exact conversation. I assumed we had come to a conclusion.

KIM BASILE: If we did my memory is very poor.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: I am with you on that. I do remember a very robust conversation with all these points that were made. I thought a decision was made. I don't know which committee was to make the decision. I don't know if this was meant to be an update or a discussion that was supposed to produce a decision.

SPEAKER: Usually is a partner selection committee that is set up and I don't recall what time of the year, but probably about right now. Is when they



would select the new group.

SPEAKER: No. They select in October. Application period closed September 30th. And as soon as staff can comply all the applications and sanitize them and break them up by all of their different demographics information and the planning committee has a date they can meet. Usually mid-October. I get what you are saying now Kim. If we are saying definitely not doing 2021, re-create three months. Let's say January, February, March. Is that what you were saying. In other words, not a tight timeframe.

SPEAKER: Right. I don't foresee a new class starting in January. Maybe there might be a new class that starts in January and we move it to the second half of the year. But maybe we need a partners committee to decide what is the best way partners should look next year.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: Presumably, there is going to be a report out of the planning committee at the full council meeting next week. I don't know this committee is the right place to form another committee. But Kim, a great idea in the whole committee. And I would agree, it sounds like a good idea based on people who know the program best. Probably a good recommendation to make next week.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Then let's wait and discuss it next week at the council.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mike, you have two comments. The first is from Liz Gary. She says the decision was made to fund, but no decision had been made moving forward. I think referencing the planning committee someone stating we needed to bring this to the self-determination committee and the full council, but no decision was made how to move forward. Corhonda, she also has a comment. Says how many self-advocates and minorities will be included in the ad hoc committee recommended by Ms. Basile. Since no one seems to regard the

pertinent issues, then can a motion be made after that information is provided to revisit. And just to share as far as this committee goes, self-determination you regularly get updates from partners. If it is your will to make whatever recommendation to full council how you think this class should look next year. Typically, recommendation about partners typically do come out of this committee. If y'all want to. That's up to you.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I think we need to consider whether we want to make a recommendation on the 2020 class on how for them to finalize and whether we want to make a recommendation for postponing 2021 and moving to 2022. We have been on this subject for quite some time and it's very important, but we just kind of need to steer ourselves in one direction or another.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I guess I thought the decision that you guys were leaning towards was to bring to the full council meeting a recommendation to create a partners committee. So then that would close it up right now.

KIM BASILE: That is what I was hoping to do. But I don't know if that's what this committee would like.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: If you want to put that into a motion format, we can move it along.

KIM BASILE: Yes. I would like to make a motion this committee presents to full council next week the suggestion that we hold a Partners in Policymaking subcommittee, an ad hoc committee to discuss how partners will look next year and possibly even 2022. If anyone needs to massage that please do.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: I think that sounded great. I second.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: We have a motion to bring before the committee an ad hoc committee for Partners in Policymaking by Kim and seconded by Chris. Are

there any public comments?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Trying to capture it.

SHAWM FLEMING: Chris is not on this committee. He is here to present information. So, we would need a second by someone else.

KIM BASILE: Hannah, would you like to second?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I can second it.

KIM BASILE: Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Kim, what I have on screen does that capture what you were saying. Can y'all see it?

KIM BASILE: Yeah. I think that captures what I intended.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You spelled her last name wrong cause it's highlighted.

BRENTON ANDRUS: It's spelled correctly, but it's not a common word so it shows up as misspelled.

JILL HANO: Is your computer about to die or is mine. Cause my screen just got really dark, but all I see is your screen.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Usually whenever I share a screen it will take over your screen. Typically, if you hit escape it will reduce the size of my shared screen and still give you access to other things.

JILL HANO: Okay. I am dying. Y'all hang on.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Jill, do you mind muting. Right now, we have a motion by Kim and seconded by Roslyn.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I think a motion needs to be clear to discuss how to complete the 2020 class and then to discuss the 2022 class. I am not sure that would be clear for the full committee and then may lead to further discussion.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sorry. Trying to keep up with comments. Can you repeat that please?

KIM BASILE: I thought I said how to discuss how Partners in Policymaking should look for 2021 and possibly 2022. And so that way, in my opinion, that takes into account finishing 2020, starting 2021.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I thought you guys were leaning towards we are not doing partners in 2121. Finish the 2020 class and then 2022 partners. Tell me if that is not what you meant.

KIM BASILE: I think this ad hoc committee needs to decide all these questions. Leave it as open as possible.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Kim may be changing the wording to add in finalizing the class of 2020.

KIM BASILE: Perfect. Yes. I am good with that.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Roslyn, are you still a good second with that change?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. I am. I am cool with it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You do have some comments Mike. In the chat Kim had stated the chairperson of said committee make all appointments to all committees. And then there was a question from Brenda, it's kind of long so if you guys want to read threw it in the chat, but I will read it. Could the Partners in Policymaking ad hoc committee consider, and then she quoted the committee developed initial recommendations for the federal fiscal year 2021 plan which included amounts allocated to activities for people first partners in policymaking and LaCAN implementation strategy resuming partners in policymaking. Introduce new concepts related to supported decision making, emergency preparedness and rapid response efforts and addressing police tactics and approaches. And then she has dated June 29th LADDC program manager Courtney Ryland on the website. I guess taken from the summary from the planning committee. But I would say if the council approves this motion and starts this ad hoc committee I guess that would be their will to come back with a recommendation for figuring out how that class worked.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Correct. Do we have any other comments?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Not that I see. I believe that is

everything.

SHAWM FLEMING: A point of clarification, if y'all do an ad hoc committee, and I think it is wise y'all include people outside of the council on that committee. The guidance we receive from the feds is only council members can direct council funds. And so, it will require that ad hoc committee to submit back to this council or the full council for determining a course of action so that you have council members making that decision. Just to make sure that is clear to y'all in terms of timeframes what y'all are going to do.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you Shawn. Okay, do we have any objections to the motion? Any abstentions? Okay, the motion passes without objection and will be presented to the full council. So next on the agenda.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Since we have Marilee on if you have any questions on the conference evaluations and then you can go into LaCAN after that.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Does anyone have any questions for Marilee? Is Ebony on to give us an update on LaCAN and Families Helping Families.

EBONY HAVEN: I am here. Good morning everybody. So, I am going to be coming from the status of plan activities. That is on the website. It wasn't included on the agenda. Just normally in your packets. But it is on the website if you guys want to follow along. I will just give you some updates about LaCAN. On page three of the status report if you do pull it up. Currently there are vacancies in region one, ten and region four for leader positions. In January, the committee recommended that we advertise with vocational rehab agency. I did contact the regional manager for region one and did send out advertisements to the local LRS agency on the West Bank New Orleans and St. Tammany. Both positions are currently being advertised on the council

website as well. And as of today, we have one applicant for region four and an interview has been set up for later this month. We don't have any applications for region one and ten. So, until we receive applications or fill the position members in one and ten will contact FHF New Orleans and region four will contact FHF Acadiana. As always, if you know anyone interested in applying for LaCAN or becoming a leader please send them our way. Or they can find the application located on the website under LaCAN leaders. Does anybody have any questions about that?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Roslyn has her hand up.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What subject like different, how can I say it, different from region four. Trying to really explain it from LaCAN. I am trying to go with it.

EBONY HAVEN: FHF Acadiana and advertising for the positions on our website. Does that answer your question?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. That was one of them. But there is another one you were also kind of talking about too. I was trying to find it and I couldn't find it for what you was talking about as well. Little confused on it. I was trying to follow you and I couldn't follow you.

EBONY HAVEN: So which part did you get lost?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Did you put it in the packet or no?

EBONY HAVEN: Talking about where I am. It's in the status of planned activities. You can follow along or listen to the update. If you wanted to follow along it's on the website.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That explains why I am totally in right field. Trying to follow you, but I am lost.

EBONY HAVEN: If you look on the website the status of planned activities.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can somebody pull up the website for me.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Can it also be linked in the

comments. Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Crystal has her hand raised.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Can y'all hear me?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes, ma'am.

CRYSTAL WHITE: So, I wanted to talk about our recruitment for LaCAN. And I wanted to say that I was thinking about, I think a great place for us to recruit for more diversity would be our new SEPAC committees across the state. There is a great robust committee that is in Jefferson Parish for region one and ten and I think they are very active. Those parents are very well versed with disabilities, developmental disabilities. I would like for us to consider speaking about adding that to the list of people that we reach out to to recruit for membership and LaCAN leaders. And the SEPAC committees, the special education parent advisory committees across the state that consist majority of parent members. I would like to include them whenever we send out recruitments on our list of people to recruit to. Sorry guys, I am all over the map today.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Can you tell us what that stands for again?

CRYSTAL WHITE: Absolutely. Each individual district has a special education parent advisory committee by law now. Last year that passed. So, it started in Jefferson Parish a few years ago, if I remember correctly. And then a law passed last year to model what they had going on across every single district. So, I sit on the one for Ascension Parish for my district. Each committee has to be a majority of parent members and they have to they make recommendations to the superintendent of each district to advise on special education needs. But the parents are all who sit on these committees they are all parents of children with disabilities. So, I think that is a great place to recruit because those groups are already diversified by law as well. I think

along with recruiting for LaCAN leaders and for our membership into the council that those would be great places to also include in our recruitment.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you Crystal. Good idea.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Should I make a motion Mike. Is that something I need to do to motion so we can talk about it as a full council and ensure that happens.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: That would get it before the full council, yes.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I would like to make a motion that we recommend to the full council that we include the SEAP and SEPAC committees as part of outreach for recruitment for LaCAN and membership to the council. Marilee, did that encompass it? Do you feel that was good wording? And Ebony, I would like to get y'all's feedback on that motion to make sure I encompass everybody.

SPEAKER: Yes. Brenton is probably going to be the one taking the motion. So, I don't know if he is going to share his screen. But yes.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Thanks. If somebody from staff could just help me out with that. Make sure I am making a clear motion.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sorry. I had a bog down on my computer. Wording wise you want to include SEAP and the special education parent advisory committees in the recruitment of LaCAN leaders.

CRYSTAL WHITE: For LaCAN leaders and council membership.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Okay.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Also include Partners in Policymaking recruitment efforts as well.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Thank you very much Steven. Absolutely.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You would need a second on that.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Brenton can we spell out SEAP please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: The special education advisory



panel, special education parent advisory committees. Is it named something else?

CRYSTAL WHITE: I think by law called the SEPAC, the commissions at the district level and SEAP is at the state level. I think that would encompass everything.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And then the Partners in Policymaking class or classes.

KIM BASILE: Bambi is saying special education advisory committee is what Bambi said.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That is what is at the district level. Got it.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: When it references Partners in Policymaking. Is that what you were thinking Steven?

STEVEN NGUYEN: No. I was thinking for recruitment of Partners in Policymaking.

EBONY HAVEN: I think he is saying if the recruitment of LaCAN leaders, council membership and Partners in Policymaking. I see what you are saying.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I believe there is a chat from Corhonda. The question is how do we address the school systems, charters who do not have the special education advisory committee. Second, will that change the role which they are serving on that committee. Lastly, how do we ensure the information is dispersed to the masses, including self-advocates and minorities. As far as the makeup of that committee, I don't know if that would be something they would need to address in the education committee. But as far as the recruitment, I think what they are discussing currently how they are trying to recruit to the masses. Our website, our FHF centers to share it. Tried to connect people with, I think it was the ticket to work program or vocational rehab places. SPEAKER: Vocational rehab agencies.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Advertised there. I think Crystal has her hand up as well.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I just want to say I have sat back and tried to think about our recruitment how we can reach more people. But me personally, and I assure you the council and this committee feels this way, you are open to suggestions especially from the public. So, if anyone has any suggestions, I would love to hear them. I feel like this was a good starting place, but we can always do better. Just wanted to mention that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We also have another comment, Mike, from Bambi. Doesn't the executive committee have an item to discuss and address diversity. And that is correct. I believe they are going to discuss that I think the Tuesday meeting. So, there is a motion on the floor. We don't have a second that I am aware of. Just as a point of order.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Crystal, are you okay with the wording of your motion now.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Yes. I am.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: We have a motion on the floor by Crystal. And we are looking for somebody to second.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I think that was Michelle. Beat you at the buzzer Steven. We have a motion by Crystal and seconded by Michelle. Do we have any public comment?

BRENTON ANDRUS: It looks like Crystal's hand is raised. It looks like that is from earlier.

CRYSTAL WHITE: That is from earlier. My apologies.

JILL HANO: I still can't find how to raise my hand. Like there is no option.

BRENTON ANDRUS: There should be three little buttons. Everyone's screen looks differently. When you click on that button it gives you the option to raise your hand.

JILL HANO: What three buttons? Like in my box?

EBONY HAVEN: There should be invite, mute all and a button that has three dots on it.

JILL HANO: I see what you showed me Steven. Okay, thank you. Sorry. I will mute now.

EBONY HAVEN: Roslyn has her hand raised.

ROSLYN HYMEL: If I am reading this right on the screen are, we going to skip next year's Partners in Policymaking class of next year.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: That was a previous motion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: On this one we have to find how many leaders in LaCAN for this and the partners. Does the Partners in Policymaking people too has to have leaders as well?

EBONY HAVEN: Right now, two vacancies. One in region one and ten and one in region four. So, Crystal's motion is so that we can reach more people to recruit with the special education advisory panel and committees so we can maybe get a new leader for region one and ten. But we do have an interview scheduled for later this month for region four.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Why did they skip region four? And why is it that window right there open. From one through ten has their leaders.

EBONY HAVEN: Right now, region one and two do not have a leader.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I wasn't sure if I was understanding you right on it. Because for me I thought you were saying only on region four. I misunderstood.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We do have a motion on the table, so we need to have a discussion about that motion. We can always partner with you after the meeting Roslyn to discuss.

ROSLYN HYMEL: This motion right here is on, are we going to have the motion going right now?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes. We have the motion on the floor right now from Crystal. Seconded by Michelle for the committee, this committee to recommend including the special education advisory panel and special education advisory committees in recruitment of LaCAN members, council members and Partners in Policymaking participants.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I do agree on that.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: So, do we have any more public comment?

BRENTON ANDRUS: We do not have anything in the chat that I see.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Do we have any objections? Any abstentions? This motion is passed.

EBONY HAVEN: I will keep going with the LaCAN update. For advocacy activities for federal fiscal year October 1st through September 30th. Since October 1st six action alerts and 500 actions taken. I am not sure if you guys checked your email, but as of yesterday there is now an active alert for BESE that was sent out yesterday afternoon and it will remain active until July 13th. So please don't forget to take action on that action alert. There have also been two yellow shirt days with six participants. As you know due to covid we were not able to have yellow shirt days at the capitol during regular session this year, so the two yellow shirt days were BESE or SEAP. That happened earlier this year. Due to covid 19 we are hosting leader calls once a week to ensure leaders are up to date on current issues. We also collaborate with the leaders and FHF directors on the development of strategy to better support, maintain and lead LaCAN members. And currently collaborating on ideas for sharing testimony via video, conducting legislative visits via zoom and our round tables. For legislative sessions and LaCAN debriefing due to covid 19 the leaders and members, as I said earlier, were not able to participate in yellow shirt days at the capitol. However, before session and right before the pandemic that caused the social distancing and stay at home orders leaders were able to complete 56 legislative visits. Our regular session ended on June 1st and LaCAN leaders and FHF directors met June 29th via zoom for the 2020 legislative debriefing. Our debriefers are held annually

after session. Staff and leaders and FHF directors they get together, they discuss advocacy outcomes, strategies to use that are effective and where we can improve. This year we discussed our advocacy outcome via zoom where everyone was able to participate. The leaders and directors also discussed ways for changing the format of round tables. A lot of the ideas were to individualize each round table to fit that region. I think, for example, region six felt like their round table should be less formal. Like more of a town hall meeting. Verses region nine who wanted to continue with the formal presentation by the DD council staff. So, we will talk about more of that in our weekly LaCAN calls with the FHF directors and the LaCAN leaders. More ideas were to have possibly joining forces with other disability groups, so legislators aren't so overwhelmed or confused. Conducting visits via zoom, as I said earlier, and sharing testimony via video. We also discussed continuing to get input from the community for the council 2021 advocacy agenda. And leaders will be hosting regional community input meetings in each region and will be advertising them on our website and via social media. Currently there are two community input meetings scheduled that I have so far for region seven. The meeting is scheduled July 22nd at 10:00 a.m. via zoom. And region nine there is actually also July 22nd Karen is having one session at 2:00 p.m. and one session at 6:00 p.m. And I do believe hers will be via zoom as well. So, you can follow up with your LaCAN leaders and plan to attend your region membership meeting so you can provide your input for the 2021 advocacy agenda. Does anybody have any questions?

CRYSTAL WHITE: So, I was wondering to try to get the word out about our round tables and LaCAN. I know in our planning committee been talking about some of our initiatives. And our contracts will

be to possibly target the youth and to also target transition into college, colleges and higher ed. Could we possibly do outreach, something has to be included to inform everybody about what LaCAN is and the round tables and membership and partners. Is that already happening. Not sure if that is already being done with all of our contracts. Especially whenever with the group of self-advocates or exploitation contracts. Just wondering since we have their attention if we can include to inform the self-advocates and reach them right then in case anybody doesn't know what LaCAN is and how they can participate. Are we already doing that?

SHAWM FLEMING: Yes. We don't do it in any activities. Families Helping Families center contracts, there is a requirement they present on LaCAN and other things as part of their outreach and in-service presentations.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I am more talking about all of our new contracts coming up, all of our ideas and more towards people who do hands on training. I think every one of our contractors should be informed about what LaCAN is and Partners in Policymaking and help us inform those people that we're reaching through all of those contracts. If we're not doing it, I would like to make a motion that we add that language to be done by each contract.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Crystal could you word your motion for us.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Sure. I would like to make a motion that we recommend that all contracts include language that education and outreach must be provided on LaCAN membership, council membership and Partners in Policymaking membership.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Crystal, does that capture what you are looking for.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I think it should be language and what do we say our contracts have, objectives or

something. Or goals. Yeah. That's it. Thank you.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Okay. So, we have a motion on the floor by Crystal White for the committee to recommend all contracts include language and objectives that education and outreach must provided on LaCAN, the council and Partners in Policymaking membership. Do we have a second?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Was that a second or a comment.

JILL HANO: Roslyn was before me.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you Jill. When you say a motion, what was that Jill?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Roslyn we have a motion on the floor by Crystal White for the committee to recommend that all contracts include language and objective education and outreach must provided on LaCAN, the council, and Partners in Policymaking membership. Wondering if you were making a second.

ROSLYN HYMEL: It was the first one I think it was before seconding it.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: We finished with the other motion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. This motion. I can't get my words out. On this one you had said before you go with the second motion you have to have the first motion. That is the one I was going on with the first motion. Does that make sense.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Crystal put the motion forward. Would be the first. She would need a second for that motion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That is what I was trying to get to. Or did I go before Jill.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: You were recognized before Jill.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I think that was me, wasn't it?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes. We are waiting to see if you are seconding this motion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. I am.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you. So, we have a motion on the floor by Crystal. Seconded by Roslyn. Do

we have any public comment regarding the motion?  
BRENTON ANDRUS: There was one comment by Corhonda. Not necessarily in response to the motion, but some of LaCAN meetings. That has been happening with Nicole Williams and FHF of Baton Rouge. So, I think Nicole Williams she is with Families Helping Families in New Orleans. I guess some discussion have been happening in those meetings is what she was referencing.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you. So, do we have any objections? Any abstentions? Motion passes without objection.

EBONY HAVEN: The last thing I was going to talk about today is Families Helping Families. I don't know if Brenton is going to go back to the status report. But it's on page six if you guys have it pulled up. At the January council meeting the committee requested we give you all data from the FHF centers. So, we did provide a data table for you all to go off of. It looks like this. The FHF center follows the state fiscal year ended June 30th. Still collecting data from the centers for the fourth quarter. And the table that was provided to you all is the third quarter data that we have completed so far. The yearend data I will provide at the October council meeting when I have all the centers fourth quarter data to give you all. One thing mentioned on this table I did speak with Kathy at North Shore Families Helping Families, the director there. They were at 59 percent for trainings mentioning LaCAN. And I did speak to her. We got some numbers corrected and now her center is at 73 percent and that is just for third quarter data. I haven't gotten all the data in for the fourth quarter. But if you all have any questions about the data so far just let me know. But this is just third quarter data. And at a glance with the incoming fourth quarter the centers have conducted, I am pretty sure they are going to meet their grassroots advocacy



training and act 378 training. I know during this third quarter data some of the struggles, I mean some of the centers were struggling with outreaches and with their advocacy deliverables due to the covid 19 pandemic. I know a lot of them couldn't go out and do outreaches like they would normally in person. So, the outreach numbers may not be met. And the advocacy deliverables some of the centers may have struggled meeting those due to the pandemic. I will have final numbers at the October council meeting. Does anybody have any questions?

BRENTON ANDRUS: We do have a comment from Liz Gary that says is this data that is required by the feds that is reported for the fiscal year. So, we report some of this data both to the legislature and to our federal reporting requirements.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Any other questions for Ebony? All right. Move on. Brenton, can you provide us any updates on the abuse and exploitation trainings that went on.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. So, for the sake of time since we are really behind, I am not going to go into a whole lot of detail. If you see on the shared screen this document here linked in your agenda, for those of you that aren't very familiar with this initiative, the council has been partnering with Team Dynamics for the last couple years to offer relationship and intimacy classes. So, they focus on healthy relationship, intimacy, as well as ways that you can prevent sexual abuse and exploitation with individuals with disabilities, their family and caregivers. Like I said, this has gone on for the past couple years. They have offered, I think, 20 trainings that have been statewide. You can see in this document here there were total 150 individuals with disabilities that participated and 347 family members or caregivers. This document, hopefully you are able to review. A lot of it is going to be just kind

of flowing numbers from our previous meetings that we have had, just kind of update some of the information as we get it. It breaks down a lot of the strengths and suggestions that we have received from the classes. Just let you know, a lot of these suggestions mostly come from classes that have happened prior to our January meeting. And so, a lot of these things that they had suggested on improving the class the contractor has implemented or looking at ways they can implement those things. Also, just let you know most of these classes it gives you a breakdown of all the classes and where they were offered regionally. Our last three classes, due to the pandemic, offered as online webinars rather than in person. They weren't open to just a specific region; they were opened up statewide. And so, this was offered for anyone to participate. And as you can see there are pretty good participation in these classes as well. I did want to clarify, just in case anyone had any questions, on this last one you will see a large self-advocate registration and then no attendance. That was actually a problem with the way people registered. There was a large group, my understanding about 40 people that registered for the afternoon session, which was for individuals with disabilities. And they weren't aware that was the case. They thought they could opt in to either one. A lot of the people registered for that afternoon class actually moved over to the morning class for caregivers. And they were only about three or four people I think that the contractor was aware of that stayed registered in that afternoon class for individuals. I didn't update that data because they weren't exactly sure of those individuals, how many were actually individuals with disabilities cause they just didn't get a response back, is my understanding. So that is why those numbers look a little bit off. It was

just a glitch in the registration system. That is about it. Are there any questions about this document? They have concluded all of their classes for now. And at the main council meeting on Thursday you will discuss if you would want to continue any of these sessions. Looks like Lillian has her hand raised.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Can I ask why there is such an alarming discrepancy between the participant type. Only 150 individuals with a disability while 347 family members or caregivers. Is it the way we do outreach? Why is there such a big discrepancy between those two populations?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't know if it is necessarily outreach. You will see some registration; you have a decent amount of people will register and not show up. I know Team Dynamics is always trying to figure out where that happens, was it, are people registering and then just as a memo so they can remember about it. No plans on participating or did something come up and they didn't cancel their registration. In general, the only time we have had pretty decent turnout for individuals with disabilities is when they have gone to some of the day habes or some of the group homes to offer the training. They had a good success rate there. That kind of stalled. I think supposed to be a few they were going to go to prior to the, or during that pandemic time they couldn't go to. But I don't think we have a solid, or at least not been communicated to me, solid reasoning we could narrow down as to why not as many have attended. I do think probably some outreach issues in there in that if people aren't checking their emails, or on social media, or if the program they are in we advertise there if they don't share that information as well I think it kind of gets lost there. But I will say this contract year, so the initial year all of their trainings were just offered. Usually partner with

FHF centers to host the trainings, but this year they did try to incorporate you will see they went to the Magnolia Homes, Arc Louisiana. I forget where else. Try to get into some of these other programs to try and bring more self-advocates to these classes. I think when they have gone to them it's been a lot more successful if they have been in that program as oppose to having them register on their own.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: With the caregiver classes are the caregivers given the information also like another class for self-advocates?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I am not sure. I mean the classes usually run simultaneously. Well, they run on the same day. So, I do know a lot of the parents, if you are a parent that has registered, we try to see if you would have your children attend. Also, one of the, I don't know if it's necessarily a barrier. For adults. I think you have to be 18 or older. So, a lot of the parents that attended may not have children in that age group. Bringing their children because it was for adults only. I don't know if that kind of hindered some participation there.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thanks.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Do we have any other questions for Brenton? Next, let's move on to Chris. Going to receive an update on the research Disability Rights Louisiana conducted. As you recall, council contracted with them to research existing state policy and develop a report with legislative regulatory and other recommendations designed to help prevent sexual and other abuse of people with developmental disabilities. So, Chris can you give us an update on that please.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: And I apologize. You guys don't have a copy of this. Been a frustrating situation for us. Assigned somebody to write the paper, but unfortunately, they went on leave so I took it over and whatever reason I cannot, I don't

think I saved the final version and ended up sending a version, some draft previously. Rewriting it over the last day and half. Just about finished. And to give you an overview of it, and then dig into it more and take questions. Let me pull it up here. I know we reserved about 20 minutes for this. I can probably give you a lot of detail. Basic lay out of the paper, I don't know what you want to call it, a report, whatever suits you. It goes over the purpose of the study or the research paper. It then goes into understanding exactly and finding what abuse is. Citing some of the national sources regarding prevalence of abuse and neglect among the disability community. Offers some explanation why the stats are so startling with respect to the prevalence of abuse and neglect within the disability community. And then it moves to making recommendations on how to address the staggering prevalence of abuse and neglect within the disability community. And some of those are recommendations related to legislative advocacy, funding appropriation and supporting programs that could combat instances of abuse and neglect among the disability community. With that, I am going to dive in here. Give you a very quick reading of the paper. Kind of a bridged version leaving out certain things that probably aren't necessarily as important. With that I will stop and see if I have any questions before I dig into the paper. Hearing none, I am giving you a quick rundown. This research paper, an effort by Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and Disability Rights Louisiana to acknowledge, examine and begin to more aggressively address the prevalence of abuse and neglect within the community, particularly victimization those with intellectual disabilities. Through the examination of various characteristics presumed to exist within the community, characters that may contribute to a

higher victimization, a number of policy recommendations we believe bolster protection for this population, create environments and settings where abuse and neglect is less prevalent and enhance efforts to educate, empower self-advocates so they can recognize victimization and feel comfortable advocating on their own behalf. So before examining the prevalence within the disability community to have a firm understanding of what these terms mean and what acts constitute instances of quote victimization. For the purpose of this report we then go on to cite a publication produced by the national association of council for developmental disabilities or the DD council kind of parent association. The publication uses several definitions provided by the association to assist helping individuals understand what abuse and neglect entails. So, then the paper goes on to give a relatively brief explanation of what abuse and neglect looks like. And then it cites different categories that different studies related to this topic have divided up crime. We know people with disabilities often times are the victims of property and financial crimes, bullying and harassment, neglect, emotional abuse, domestic violence, physical abuse, assault, sexual assault and abuse. That portion of the paper just lays out making sure everybody has a firm understanding how to recognize or what might constitute quote abuse and neglect. The next part of the paper talks about the prevalence of abuse and neglect within the disability community. According to numerous reports and publications spanning decades far more likely to be the victim of abuse and neglect when compared to their typically able peers. A 2015 report published cites a study asserting individuals with disabilities are four to ten times more likely to be victimized than people without disabilities. Furthermore, the report goes out to point out among individuals

with disabilities those with cognitive disabilities, category by which many individuals with intellectual disabilities are part of the highest rate of victimization when compared to all other categories. These stats are especially alarming combined with the research that suggest the majority of instances involving individuals with developmental disabilities often go unreported. Especially those instances that take place in congregate or institutional type settings. Additionally, research tells us that while situations involving abuse and neglect take place against typically able individuals. Specifically instances that raise or rise to the standard of quote serious crimes typically prosecuted about 70 percent. While the same type of injustice inflicted upon individuals with disabilities by contrast are only prosecuted at the rate of about 5 percent. So that is pretty awful. These stats begin to explain why individuals with disabilities are not only so often subjected to abuse and neglect, also having significantly higher rate of repeated victimization. The individual that subjected them to abuse and neglect are often not brought to justice. And unfortunately tend to be individuals the victim may depend on for primary care. Lastly, while the stats cited speak to non-descriptive instances type of abuse and neglect taking place within the disability community, it is important to recognize that there does exist an exceptionally high rate of sexual abuse specifically among individuals with developmental disabilities. One study published by the spectrum institute found more than 90 percent of individuals with developmental disabilities will experience some form of sexual abuse during their lifetime. Obviously horrific. The paper then goes on to talk about kind of, putting a side note, talking about while the stats in publication

cited in this report are primarily speaking to nationwide rates of abuse and neglect within the disability community. No significant reason or evidence to believe that the portrait painted by those stats do not reflect what is going on in the State of Louisiana. Furthermore, in doing research for the paper there were a number of Louisiana based examples found to support the research. However, the decision was made not to share those stories and instead focus on kind of national trends and to focus on the recommendations to address the subject at hand. So basically, a decision because we wanted to kind of create a report that is informative, but short enough to where people actually read it. Didn't want get into all the examples of abuse and neglect that you might have access to that are Louisiana specific, but wanted to note there is not really any reason why we don't believe the national stats reflect what is going on here in Louisiana. So, the paper then goes on to talk about what our possible contributing factors or explanation for the high rates of abuse and neglect within the disability community for the purpose of then trying to figure out how to address those. There are a number of explanations that researchers have put forth an attempt to explain why individuals with disabilities disproportionately are subjected compared to typically able peers. Important to understand these explanations so we take them into consideration to develop policy aimed at addressing and hopefully mitigate vulnerability that may exist with regards to this population. While there are varying explanations regarding the high rates taking place within the disability community, including explanation focused specifically on type of disability and specifically on individual acts of abuse and neglect. The following are several areas of



overarching consensus. So, it goes on, the paper goes on to talk about basically what all the research shows could be the reasons why people with disabilities are often targeted for victimization or abuse and neglect. We talk about there is a perceived vulnerability among the population. So, there exist a perception which broadly portrays individuals with disabilities as being inherently venerable or weak. This perception may provide potential perpetrators with increased incentive to target individuals with disabilities and view little risk-taking advantage of them. Research cites a lack of independence as a possible reason. So, some individuals with disabilities may require significant supports often provided by family member, caregiver or support staff. Unfortunately, research shows these very same individuals are often times inflicting abuse or neglect on the individuals. Even where the victim recognizes the abuse, they may not feel comfortable confronting the perpetrator or reporting the circumstance for fear of losing necessary supports or services the perpetrator actually provides to them. Additionally, many circumstances, particularly those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the victims abused may actually be their legal guardian. This introduced an increase dependency on the individual inflicting the abuse or neglect and can prohibit the individual with a disability from reporting it. So again, lack of independence may contribute to the victimization of people with developmental disabilities. Additionally, cited as an additional reason could be lack of community engagement and increased isolation. So many individuals with disabilities, particularly those with developmental disabilities, reside in institutions or congregate type settings that do not provide them to the opportunity to be seen. When individuals with

disabilities are not supported and encouraged to participate in community engagement among typically able peers there inevitably will exist a lack of opportunities for others to recognize and report instances of abuse and neglect.

Furthermore, a lack of social interaction and community engagement may very well stunt an individual's ability to understand and recognize what is and what is not an appropriate amount of care. Or how they should be treated. Or what is appropriate treatment of individuals. This may leave an individual with a disability unable to fully recognize or realize that they are being victimized and/or the subjects of abuse or neglect. Lastly, we cite a lack of education and awareness related to abuse and neglect one of the contributing factors for the high prevalence of abuse and neglect among the disability community. So the lack of education and awareness related to abuse and neglect refers to both the education of individuals with disabilities and the education of individuals who may be more inclined to have frequent encounters with them, including direct support workers, law enforcement and the general public. Even the general public within their community because that is where people with disabilities, we believe should be living their lives. In terms of individuals with disabilities many may have never been provided the opportunity to fully understand how to recognize when they are being subjected to abuse and neglect and how to address that circumstance. This may be especially significant when speaking to matters concerning sexual abuse and instances having to do with financial exploitation.

A lack of education around abuse and neglect obviously contributes to increased rates of victimization and continued victimization. Additionally, it has been reported individuals who most likely come in contact with individuals with

disabilities, including general public and law enforcement, do not have a very well developed understanding as to how to recognize signs of abuse and neglect among this population or how to communicate with them about these situation. Particularly those with developmental disabilities. Furthermore, it has been reported that there does exist a perception among some individuals in authority positions and within the criminal justice system that individuals with developmental disabilities are generally unreliable and lack credibility as witnesses. This is evidenced by the unusually low rates of follow up post reporting prosecution and conviction of individuals accused of criminal acts when compared to people with disabilities. Especially those with developmental disabilities. So, the paper lays out, again as I just mentioned, kind of the contributing factors, or what literature tells us are the contributing factors that contribute to people with disabilities being so much more prevalently the targets of abuse and neglect.

From that point the paper goes on to beginning to make recommendations on how to combat abuse and neglect based on those presumptions. So, while unfortunately there is no one policy that will inevitably eradicate all instances of abuse and neglect, there is much to be learned from the previous mentioned factors and possible explanation for why abuse and neglect is so prevalent within this population. If we accept these factors and possible explanation as face value, we can begin to propose policy aimed at combating them. So, to begin moving to the direction of proposing policy to address these presumptive contributing factors, we need to first summarize them and the themes to combat them. Then the paper goes onto, I am recommending the development and support of policies and programs

that promote the following. So, this goes into the recommendation section.

And the recommendation is basically broken down into four categories that are meant to address the exploitations provided earlier in the report. And those are, number one, supporting programs and policies that promote disabilities specific protective supports and monitoring. So, the paper goes onto describe what those are. The disability advocacy community should promote and support advancement of programs charged with specifically monitoring and protecting individuals with developmental disabilities residing in both institutional and congregate type settings. We want to make sure this is a strong recommendation because we know that facilities, institutional type settings and congregate type settings often times are far more prone to provide opportunities of abuse and neglect among people with disabilities than community based environments and circumstances.

So, we want to make sure there is monitoring, that there are prospective programs out there, and we cite the community living ombudsman program as being one of those that should be supported by this paper and should be increased. So, it goes into talking about this program that protects and monitoring the over 403,500 people residing in congregate and institutional type settings. A good program, but unfortunately despite very gracious funding from the state and the federal government, approximately about one ombudsman to every 350 individuals with developmental disabilities residing in the states privately run group homes. If we are really serious about combating abuse and neglect far more prevalent in the institutional settings we would want to beef up programs like this in order to make sure those individuals are not being subjected to abuse and neglect provided they are in an isolated

environment. The first recommendation. The second recommendations are under the umbrella increasing home and community-based supports, services and engagement. So, this really leans on trying to address the literature that shows that again, people with developmental disabilities are far more likely to be subjected to abuse and neglect when residing in congregate type settings as opposed to being in the community. People with developmental disabilities are residing in the community are far less likely to encounter abuse and neglect. If they do encounter abuse and neglect, far more likely it will be reported. This section goes on to basically continue the argument, I think is being argued quite well in the State of Louisiana, if you want to be serious addressing abuse and neglect then you have to be in support of HCBS services and supports and waivers. So, increasing people's opportunities to access HCBS waivers ultimately combat abuse and neglect is the point of that recommendation. And I think it just goes on to bolster I think the things already occurring in the state related to everybody, I think, support of HCBS services. I think it might be important to address our support of HCBS services under the umbrella of combating abuse and neglect provided we don't know what is going to happen in the future with respect to budget cuts and unfortunate circumstances with covid and the economy and things like that. I think an important thing to have in this report. The third recommendation is around education awareness and training. So, this goes to try and combat the earlier suggestion that one of the contributing factors is a lack of education awareness related to abuse and neglect. I think everybody would agree that is a contributing factor. So this goes on to make recommendations about funding programs that educate both people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

about how they recognize abuse and neglect when they are being victims and how to appropriately address and report it and feel comfort in that. That includes education awareness and training of people with developmental disabilities and also education awareness and training to people that might come in contact with people with developmental disabilities. Really anybody and everybody about how to recognize signs that an individual with developmental disabilities might be subjected to abuse neglect or exploitation. Includes law enforcement, this includes people in the criminal justice system. Helping them better understand how to communicate with people with developmental disabilities helping them better understand that these individuals, despite disabilities, are credible witnesses. And when they express the feeling that they may be being victimized they should be taken just as seriously as anybody else. We need to start combating the extremely low and unusual instances of prosecution when these things are being taken into, when law enforcement and the criminal justice system is being made aware of these circumstances. Obviously, as we cited earlier in the paper only 5 percent of individuals are often prosecuted for this type of stuff. As compared to 70 percent if the victimization was a person without a disability.

And then lastly, we talk about recommendations related to empowerment, independence and self-advocacy. With the understanding that the more independent an individual is, the more likely they will be able to recognize again victimization and understand and how the empowering knowledge to bring it to somebody's attention and to address it. This goes into some of the recommendations in here even go into supported decision making. A person who has more independence will likely be less inclined to be in a position to be victimized

and to be able to speak up on their own behalf. And combat this perception that disability is equal to venerability and weakness. Which are some of the things we pointed out earlier in the paper. Reasons why individuals who may perpetrate these types of situations believe, they believe do that and target people with disabilities and get away with it.

It goes into recommendations around empowerment, increase independence of people with developmental disabilities and strengthening self-advocacy as ways to combat instances and the prevalence of abuse and neglect in Louisiana. And then it goes into the conclusion when the paper lays out very dire and startling view of abuse and neglect upon people with disabilities. Specifically, people with developmental disabilities. But the conclusion cites all the recommendations making things that are taking place here in Louisiana. We just need to do more, be more aggressive, and need to continue and make sure we never go backwards. Again, when we look at the recommendations, the supports and monitoring. We have a program in Louisiana, we just need to make sure we are supporting it and advancing and developing it more. We do a really good job I think in terms of home and community-based service and supports, getting people on waivers. We just need to make sure in our recommendation we continue that and don't let anything get in the way of that and continue it. Move in that direction.

Some incredibly good education awareness and training we have talked about in this committee today. About sexual abuse and about education of law enforcement and things like that. They're being done, just need to make sure we do them more aggressively, more statewide. And make sure that they don't get cut. And again, to the conversations we had today, we have programs that

talk to empowerment, independence and self-advocacy. We just need to make sure we continue to do those. Again, supporting those programs, being more aggressive about those programs, exercising new opportunities to increase independence and supported decision making and things like that. The conclusion is, things are really bad, but that Louisiana is already engaging in lots of activities that would begin to combat abuse and neglect. We just need to bustle those, continue to educate legislators so they can garner even more support and strength. And hopefully by doing that we will see instances of abuse and neglect among this population go down.

And again, I will say all that while saying, and this is a discussion we had with Shawn, this paper is your paper. We just happen to have written it. If you want us to redo it, that's perfectly fine with me. We are going to write this paper in such a way and continue to write it until you feel comfortable it is articulating the goals you want it to focus on. We're going to try and do the best we can to provide you with that product. No hard feelings if you are like that is not where we are going with this paper. We can always rewrite it. I think the goal was really to have this done and maybe even, like with many reports, wanted to keep it short enough we feel people would actually read it. About six or seven pages of text. If we decide to put in a glossy format, put some pictures, probably end up around ten pages. Also predict that we would summarize it into a one pager. It would be formalized, done and people would have familiarity by the time the next legislative session. So, we can use it as an example to say hey, if you are serious, several things. Number one, abuse and neglect is widely prevalent among the disability community. And that is awful. Number two, if you want to address this these are the ways we need to do it. These



are the things that need to be funded, the programs that need to be supported by the State of Louisiana and the legislature. So, I say that to say we have time to redo it if you would like or to make adjustments and edits and things like that. And you will get this the report in the next couple days so you can read it yourself.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you Chris. Look forward to your finalized report. If anyone has any questions for Chris. I would just like you to encourage you to keep them brief. We only have a few minutes. We are running behind and need to move on. With that anybody have any questions for Chris?

CRYSTAL WHITE: So, I listened to your paper and--.

SPEAKER: You're on mute.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Can you hear me now. I have spoken to legislators about some issues like this before and have told me when you come in with a lot of information on the first page it needs to be like a quick rundown. And they like visuals. If there is any stats that you have, put it on the first page, is my recommendation. So, you can quickly get them to read the rest of it. It's very hard to have people even read one page of information. I think this is extremely, extremely valuable information and important and we need people to have the buy in and the understanding. So, my encouragement would be a quick one page on the front with visuals to capture attention and then make them read to the seven pages.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: I couldn't agree more. My previous life I was a lobbyist for years and years on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. I think once we get the paper where you guys feel comfortable, we would then create a one pager exactly what you are talking about graphics, stats. Gets legislators' attention without spending lot of their time. Hopefully, provoking interest so they actually read the five

to six pages. But I couldn't agree with you more. And Shawn and I had talked about us not only writing the paper, but creating supplemental materials that can be used as well. I think a great recommendation.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Jill has her hand up as well.

JILL HANO: Chris, when did you say that this report was going to get out to council members.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: We wrote it and I didn't save it correctly. I have been rewriting it. I have two pages to go. You should get it no later than Monday.

JILL HANO: Can I ask two questions at once. You said the reporting incidents was like ten to three or something. Like why is that and why aren't people, like I am about to get on the soapbox. Why aren't people like if I get assaulted and you get assaulted why in a cops' eyes, or whatever eyes, why are you more.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: A great question. As an organization who often times encounters or represents people who have been abused or neglected, one of the challenges we have is the perception that people with developmental disabilities are not credible. That they don't know what they are talking about. On stand when they recount something it may not be accurate as a result of their developmental disabilities. Which we believe is largely, in many circumstances, just nonsense. Perpetuation of this ideology people with developmental disabilities are incapable of expressing themselves. When in fact, typically more a reflection of individuals trying to gain information. That's why we make the recommendation educating people in criminal justice to understand how to communicate with people with developmental disabilities. Instead of just writing them off because they don't know how to speak to them. And again, the great work the DD Council does. I know the DD Council already

supports trainings of law enforcement and things like that. I think a great first step we need to take that and expand across the entire criminal justice system to educate attorneys, and educate judges, and other people of authority about how to communicate with people with disabilities. Particularly those with developmental disabilities and help them understand just because you have developmental disabilities doesn't automatically make you any less credible than anyone else.

JILL HANO: Cause since you mentioned this paper, probably close to a year ago. And Liz can actually vouch because before we went to the conference in New Orleans last July, like I for no apparent reason. I am so passionate about this particular project. Again, look I told you many times and you are probably sick of hearing me say this, but if there is anything I can do I am definitely want in.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: I appreciate that. There is multiple purposes for the paper. Obviously, write it in a way you can educate policymakers, but I think it can be seen threw a lens to help facilitate a conversation about the programs that the DD Council supports. And how the DD Council spends its funding. Again, many of the things and recommendations in the paper the DD Council is already involved in. This might help bolster some of those goals.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you Jill. I hate to cut you short, but we need to move on. Brenton, do I have any other comments or questions.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. There is one chat comment from Carmine. I am a sexual assault nurse examiner who performs exams. I recently did a presentation on this exact information to all the nurses in my program. Great information. I hope this paper gets circulated well for more awareness.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIQUEZ: Very important work.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you Carmine. I would like to move along on the agenda. Next would be the noncontractual updates. Brenton, would you start us off on that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. So one of the things we wanted to give an update on quickly was just, it was a couple years ago, you can see the letter here on the screen linked in your agenda, act 378 subcommittee started up a committee to look at the individual and family supports and consumer care resource program policies. We made these recommendations, which are linked here to the department. Which they did accept. And so, every meeting giving updates on where they stand. Just want to let you know that in March the final rule was published in the Louisiana registrar. I believe currently rewriting the manual. The new rule is out, these recommendations have been accepted. So that is great news. And I just want to give you a quick update on that. Are there any questions about this?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: The annual draft has been completed and is in circulation at this point.

LIZ GARY: Julie, I think you just answered that. I got a copy of it from Shawn because I was one of the members on the original ad hoc. So, he was requesting any updates or reviews. So, this is basically from when we met saying we are now putting it into place. From what I could tell, mostly updating. It looked like also updating some forms to be more conformed to everything. Am I correct with that?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes. That is accurate. Reflect all of you guys work and wanted to circulate those to workgroups members because it has been a while. So, there may be some other things at this point we need to look at, but we were just trying to memorialize all the work done with that group and get it put in the manual. And as he said, the rule is already out there.

LIZ GARY: With all fairness, I was not sure if that's what it was. But yes. I do have some changes since then, but being it's taken two years to get it, I am going to leave that alone and maybe revisit in a year to see how it plays out with the changes before I make any more suggestions.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: We may want to regroup on that because my staff too had some other suggestions as we started looking at it.

LIZ GARY: If somebody can possibly consider making an ad hoc for an IFS that would be awesome.

BRENTON ANDRUS: There was one that was created in the act 378 subcommittee. And so, it would be that committee. This update will be provided to that committee later next week and they can determine if they want to reconvene. A comment from Carmine asked if these recommendations would be for OCDD and the behavioral health side.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I am not sure. I will have to follow up. I thought they were combining them, but I am hesitant to say that because I am not positive. I can follow up and by the next meeting I will have an answer.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I do know behavioral health was at the table.

LIZ GARY: We tried to match the two of them together on both sides. So, we did go through the IFS manual as well as the CCR manual. And Brenton, can you clarify one more time. You said there was an ad hoc suggestion already. What did you say about a committee?

BRENTON ANDRUS: So that committee was formed via the act 378 subcommittee. Next week when this update is given, I think would be that committee to determine if this workgroup would meet again.

LIZ GARY: So, they could reconvene the same committee to look further into it or make a new one.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Have to look and see who was on

that committee. May have had some council members turnover by that time. Maybe able to reestablish that committee. I don't know if Shawn is on here, maybe he knows the answer. If there would need to be more appointments.

SHAWM FLEMING: Selection of committee is at the discretion of the chair. I am sure Randall would consider, can't speak for him. The people who were on it before have historical knowledge. But then other people that may want to be considered. At his discretion per the bylaws.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Also have hands raised from Crystal White and Jill Hano.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I need to put my hand down because my question was for Brenton to go over that process that Liz just asked about how it goes back to 378 and what committee. Got it now. Thanks.

JILL HANO: So, this Mark Thomas that I am looking at that our committee gets every quarter, I always assumed it was the same information every quarter, but is the information up in this Mark Thomas packet for every quarter.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We had a request, we would give updates every meeting so we had a request that in our meeting packets as long as we were giving updates to continue to put what our recommendations were so people could have a refresher. This letter is the same one and the recommendations are the same ones you have seen every meeting for the last year or so that we have been including it in there. But every time that we have an update as far as if the rule has been published in the registrar or something like that, we link that in our status reports. Which is on our council meeting page, on our council meetings on the website. If you go to the link through there you can actually read the rule if you would like to. This actual letter that gets included has not been updated. Just the original recommendations. Liz has her hand up. I don't

know if that's from earlier.

LIZ GARY: It was a mistake. Sorry.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: So, let's move onto community and family support.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We had listed the budget cause I know there has been questions about the budget. I didn't know if Jen with Medicaid or Julie with OCCD if they had anything to share. I know some discussion with administration over this week. I don't know if there is any updates they could share. But I just wanted to give them that time if there was something they wanted to share about the budget if there is going to be any impact to services or anything before, we move onto the next issues.

JEN KATZMAN: So, I was able to get some further information since we last spoke for those who were not following the budget bill through the process. However, through both the regular and special session. However, the good news is those cuts at this time will not impact any of the home and community-based services directly. Basically, what we have been able to do is because of covid we had some initial enrollment projections that were impacted by the pandemic. So, we were able to, based on that impact, and so it's not going to be a cut to services as a result of that adjustment that we were able to make on our anticipated enrollment. Also, some small adjustments that we were able to make in our managed care rates. So again, not an impact directly to services being cut or anything like that. So that is basically it.

The governor did issue a gubernatorial veto that reduced our cut. It was about, originally the way the bill was passed, it was a fifty-million-dollar state general fund cut to the Medicaid program on the payments side. That is not including administrative expenditures. So that fifty million dollar cut translated to about 167

million-dollars total. Total means of finance when you include the federal dollars, we get with those state funds. So that was reduced with the governor's veto. By 15 million-dollars. They have gone ahead, and we are at the, I think 35 million-dollar state general fund cut still. That is where it landed. That translates to, I don't know the exact dollar the 35 translates to cause the governor's veto just came through yesterday. That is the final Medicaid cut as of today on the services side. So where we're going for the fall that I need to just kind of lay the groundwork for is in the governor's veto he also indicated that all state agencies, all executive state agencies should plan for a deficit avoidance plan because of the impact covid is having on our revenues in the state. And we're not sure how the revenue estimating conference will come back with projections for the state budget. And what the revenue estimating conference does is basically tell the state legislators and the executive branch department and all the state agencies how much income the state might receive based on many different factors. But they are tracking the impact of covid especially closely. And so that is having a very real impact on revenue due to reduced tax income and many other business factors. So that is why the governor is planning ahead and he is saying all state agencies should prepare a deficit avoidance plan. To do that saying we should look to, let me make sure I say this correctly, we should look to what might be a 10 percent state general fund reduction as preparation. Now that is not to say we will have a 10 percent state general fund reduction. This is planning ahead so that no one is surprised, and we're prepared for what may occur depending on what the projections come back as in the fall. So, in the Department of Health, a 10 percent state general fund amount translates to around, so



this is rounding, around 200 million-dollar state general fund. So, I just want you to understand how large that impact could be on the department. 200 million state general fund is in many cases matched with federal dollars and so that could translate up to quite a significant cut to the department. And we don't know how that will look. We don't know what that will mean. We don't have a plan yet. The governor's veto came yesterday, but we are working with the Division of Administration on guidance and we're working on whether we will actually have the 10 percent cut or not. Right now, it's just putting together a plan in case it comes that our revenues are down. If you see things coming up in the news or if you see things coming up in the council around budget that is what the entire state is planning for. The directive that all state agencies plan and get ready for a potential 10 percent state general fund reduction. We just got the directive yesterday, so nothing planned yet.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you Jennifer.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I was wondering if we could just open the line of communication between Jen and yourself as the chair of this committee to let us know and inform, may be then you could inform this committee about any potential cuts that we're looking at. I think this is something we have to stay in front of and also be aware of and let the population know that we serve and keep them informed. So, I am just wondering if maybe we can keep that pipeline of communication about this budget issue because there could be a potential crisis.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Sure.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Jen, is that possible as you get updates you can identify Mike.

JEN KATZMAN: Absolutely. Julie and I will both be involved in that process as state agencies under LDH so we will make sure we report back to the

council as plans are finalized.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Not as they are finalized, because we need to be proactive about our budget. Because we can't wait until after a decision is made. I would like to you inform Mike of everything that is going on.

JEN KATZMAN: Absolutely. To clarify, the legislature is planning to go back for another special session in the fall. We're told around October. Specifically, to handle this issue and also legislative issues that might have been missed due to the shortened duration of the regular session. In particular, looking at revenue. I want to clarify when I say finalize, I don't mean after it's done. Proposals that have to go before the legislature for consideration. When we have the proposal finalized, I will make sure we share that. That would be when you advocate with the legislators.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Jennifer, is this budget is going to be like for this year only or for next year as well.

JEN KATZMAN: Yes. A very good question. What I am talking about, you are correct for this year. So, it starts July 1, it started July 1 and it will go through June 30th of next year 2021. So that is the year I am talking about is July through June.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you on that. I didn't know if they are going to have an ending date. Do they have it from the start date to where it was going to end at.

JEN KATZMAN: We have kind of a weird year. Good question.

JILL HANO: Did you say Jen that these budget cuts, you said something.

JEN KATZMAN: We have to look ahead to, in October we have to revisit the budget, and depending on what we are seeing the impact of covid on the state finances, will determine if services are

impacted. Then when I submitted the quarterly report it was before the budget information was available. But I can give an update there if you would like me to.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What month.

JEN KATZMAN: July of 2020 through June of 2021. So, 12 months.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You said June or July?

JEN KATZMAN: It starts in July of 2020 and it goes all the way through to June of 2021. A full 12 months from this month. June 30th.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Move onto emergent issues.

LIZ GARY: I had a quick question. I know she expressed everything to do with the Medicaid budget. I don't know if Julie was going to address anything with OCDD, if there was issues there, I don't understand. On a call yesterday talked about possibly the--.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I got you. On social media it looks like folks misunderstood what I said. So basically, and this is in regard to the act 378 programs, the IFS and FFS programs. And back in the 2017 regular session act 73 required all of the local governing entities have an amount equal to 9 percent of its state general fund appropriation for those programs. And so, we did send out, there was some questions, we did send out clarifications to all of the LGEs. And basically, just letting them know during this budget session. There was some of our state general fund dollars were replaced by cares act funds for our LGEs. So, there was clarification. What my intent was to share when you look at what the state general fund dollars are for the LGEs, the requirement there is that they spend 9 percent. And so, the issue that may have some having to look at some reductions is that their total state general. So therefore, the 9 percent requirement might be less funding from last year to this year because their total. So that 9

percent total would be reduced if their state general fund dollar were reduced. And so, all of us are really struggling right now as it relates to budget. Because there were lots of changes all the way up to June 30th. And now some additional changes with the governor's veto. So, at this point in time I just was trying to play just a warning that requirement will be less. Some reduction in state general fund dollars even with the cares act funding. Is that clear?

LIZ GARY: Yes. So, I have one more question on FFF on flexible family fund. Want to say Brenton you know who usually tracks that form and gets the information as far as the state general funds and the percentage that is used for act 378. But I am hoping that we will continue to have a close eye on that to make sure they are merging the two together. I had addressed this with Julie and Mark quite some time back when I heard the buzz using state general fund. Even a reduction, not the reduction because of the cares act, just the reduction that they have from state general funds to this year from last year. And the only other thing Julie is the FFF. I understand Jefferson Parish some people supposedly got phone calls their FFF wasn't being renewed. Is that in direct relation, is that not true. Or a buzz people are saying and not really happening.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I spoke with Lisa and Nicole Green one day this week. We are working to clear up with the families. There was a bit of a delay, but are working to get all of those contracts back in place. I believe they set up some tents or locations for people to be able to sign the contracts so they can get all that resolved by the end of the month.

LIZ GARY: So, I know that for a fact because I know Florida Parish was having trouble getting their stuff signed. But also know they were doing it through email as opposed to having to make

those people actually sign. Anything in law that says those people have to go to a tent area to sign those documents

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Not to my knowledge. And I shared with Jefferson Parish that we may could look at an exemption there. Some of that can be left to them. They felt strongly because it was a contractual agreement, they needed the signature. They did share with me they were sending staff to people's homes to get the signature if families were not able to make their way to Jefferson Parish to sign. We're looking at accommodations. But they felt strongly for their accounting purpose they needed to have a physical signature.

CRYSTAL WHITE: So, I know we don't quite know what the reduction would be towards IFS dollars to each one of the regions. But as you can imagine hearing any type of reduction in these funds gives me quite angst hearing about it because I know for our region, in region two, I know Mike is aware how important those dollars are and where they go to. It's rent and I am concerned housing is going to be effected for some people if there is a significant reduction. My ask is if there is a reduction and it happens before we meet can we be updated on those numbers beforehand.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I guess let me be clear. When the LGEs, the state general fund dollars that the LGEs get to my knowledge they are not done what we call a line item way. Where we say this is the funding you get for FFF. This is the funding for IFS. They have a state general fund allotment and then each of the LGEs with their board of directors identifies what those state general funds dollars will be used for. Verses some have grant money. All different ways they have money coming in. So, it really is left to them to determine what that allocation would be. And again, they just, we do have a requirement they meet the 9 percent. And in reference to something

Liz said too, what we can do we won't have it ready to the department fiscal office allocation of the state general fund dollars and cares act. So, include that in the report. This is what the 9 percent expectation is, and this is what they have budgeted. If we need to get that updated before our next quarterly meeting, then we can ask for that so we can share that with you guys. And the act 378 committee would want that as well.

CRYSTAL WHITE: That would be wonderful. Only because we are meeting now hearing about this and maybe October would be too late for us to really understand what has happened. I appreciate that. Thank you, Julie.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Who else?

MATT RIVERIA: Julie and Jennifer, just to paraphrase what I heard essentially there was a fifty-million-dollar state general fund cut to LDH, but the governor issued a veto of approximately 15 million. So therefore, you guys did take a 35 million-dollar state general fund cut. Did I get that right?

JEN KATZMAN: Yes. But that was specific to Medicaid, not the whole department. I believe they had other cuts that I did not address. The 35 million-dollar cut to Medicaid specifically on the payments or services side, not the admin. We had additional I think 13 to 14 million-dollars state general fund cut on admin, but I don't have that exact number with me.

MATT RIVERIA: Is that general fund throughout the department, but I guess if I heard you correctly this is not going to affect home and community-based services.

JEN KATZMAN: Julie, I don't know what you were talking about for the 9 percent.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: The 9 percent Matt had to do with solely to the family flexible fund and the individual and family support programs. And there is a requirement all of the LGEs that 9 percent of

their total state general fund dollars be appropriated to those two programs.

MATT RIVERIA: We just had a board meeting with the community provider association on Wednesday and of course this is what I am feeling too. I am a provider agency, but it was shared throughout our 42 members covid 19 this reemergent of CV19 is really impacting providers more than initially in March. We are seeing more of our clients test positive, more of our direct service workers. Of course, if you have a worker test positive and he or she is with a client that has a domino effect too. Having a very difficult time retaining because of the danger that may present to they themselves or family. Also because of the robust unemployment that is currently in affect till July 25th. Unbelievable the amounts of unemployment claims throughout our personal company and really impacting our services. But the 2-dollar hazard pay approved by CMS if you guys could find something in the couch as they say, or underneath the couch pillows and implement that specific provision it would really mean a lot to providers. Particularly us, because when someone test positive it's really a challenge to find workers in that home. I know y'all are under a lot of constraints. Sounds like the budget really has just gotten clearer now as far as the amount of revenue available.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: We are working now with the financial review committee and Medicaid to try to move that forward.

MATT RIVERIA: I appreciate it Julie. I thought we were out of the woods maybe a month ago. Lake Charles, Lafayette, even Pineville office it's really hitting a lot closer to home than that first round. I appreciate it so much.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We have a comment from Liz Gary. Does that two dollar per hour increase apply to self-direction workers also.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I think so, but I am going to verify.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Steven and Jill.

STEVEN NGUYEN: In the Jefferson Parish area. Can you briefly go over that again and where we stand as of now?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: There was a concern I think some families were notified about the family flexible fund. Lisa who is the executive director of Jefferson Parish Human Service Authority and Nicole Green Developmental Disability Director had a phone call with them. I believe it was Tuesday. And what they told me is they weren't, they knew there was a lot of information out there. There were families indicating they were contacted. Some of the misinformation may have come out of their office. They were working to clear it up. But what they indicated to me the intent was to get the contracts back for flexible family fund for all the families who continue to qualify, who still had it previously, or who had it last year. That they were working expeditiously to be able to get signatures on all those contracts so families wouldn't miss a month on the stipend or the payment. I believe they told me they gave me a date the 20 something so it could be processed and make sure all the payments, that no one lost July payment. If anybody did reach out to you, you may want to reach back out to them because it should be resolved, and all the families should be contacted at this point.

JILL HANO: Now my notes are conflicting.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I am going to have to get that. That's what I shared with Crystal. What we can do is hopefully within the next month we will have all of the, kind of the budget stuff finalized. And what I can do is make sure that we have an accounting for by region. Last year what was their total SGF funding and the 9 percent requirement. And then for this upcoming fiscal



year identification of what is the current state general fund and cares act funding by LGE and what that 9 percent is. So that you guys are see what the total is and what the difference is from last year to this year.

JILL HANO: Sorry. I meant was the total decrease for Medicaid.

JEN KATZMAN: Sorry about that. The total funds that we have currently cut state general fund is 35 million on our services. To the future. And it has not happened yet and might not happen. Get ready, a plan in case the state revenues do not come up.

JILL HANO: I am on SSI and social security. Would my two checks be cut as well.

JEN KATZMAN: Not to my knowledge Roslyn. Those checks are not part of Medicaid. They are part of like you said, supplemental security or social security. So that would not be impacted by the numbers that I just gave. It's a different program. The numbers I gave are just state. I am going to have to hop off. I had a hard stop at two.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I understand.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We had the discussion of exemption.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I had a 2:00 o'clock as well. I can give a very high-level overview. And actually, I was hopeful we would be able to have a more in-depth conversation today as well about the exemptions, but we sort of had a plan and path moving forward. And when we didn't move to phase three, and now cases are spiking again, caused us to really take a step back and rethink some of our planning anyway. I can share, and so if there are folks who would like to engage have put together a crosswalk document for all these exemptions you have here. There is different ways you ask CMS for those exemptions. One way is through what is called an appendix K. Basically, a document when

you have a federal declaration, a document where you tell CMS these are the rules in our waiver, but asking to change these rules during a certain period in response to the waiver. We have approval for many things through appendix K that are approved right now. So those timelines impact what we are able to do with some of our exemptions. Some things we have to ask for through what is called 1135. Those things have to end around the time that the federal disaster ends. And so, there is a different timeframe for that as well as some of our emergency rules. So, we're working to do a crosswalk for all of these exemptions that you have listed here. Where that exemption is, cause some of them are just in one place. Some of them in two or three places. And so, the timeline for how long we can continue them is different. So, we are working on a document that will show for each of these exemptions this is where the exemption is. And then for each of these what is our plan for individuals and families who are currently using that exemption to help them think through. If we change things. So, for example, right now we have an extension people can work beyond the 16-hour limit. Each one of those individually and where we could return. Together to help us dive into the details of all of those. Again, we can pull people together. I think that is what we are going to do here today. If folks here want to be included, and I see some chats with folks saying they would like to be included, so we can include them. Another thing we are currently in the process of doing we just developed a survey that went out to all of our support coordination agencies. And so, the support coordinators have until August 10th, given them a month. Anybody on a waiver going to be contacted by their support coordinator to participate in this survey. And the survey is really just having us try to get an idea from

individuals and families who receive or participate in services kind of what their feel is for return. Emdac calls. Not being able to return to day programs or work again. Just trying to really get us a feel for where our waiver population and community stands on some things. So again, that outreach will happen. That is also going to help us as we look on these workgroups how we move forward based on the feedback we are getting from families. And finally, we are also doing a lot of work. Next week we actually have meetings scheduled in all ten regions that will involve the local governing entities and day programs and vocational providers in those regions to be able to get feedback from them on a return or an opening again of some of our day programs. We do tell folks if they have individual employment and no underlying health conditions. We can still have billable time for folks to engage in that. And so those have started, but we have not gotten permission from the state health officer yet, Doctor Guidry, to reopen those congregate facilities. He is not comfortable yet to allow us to have folks return to a physical location in those large groups. But once we get to phase three, we can start to consider possible options and what does that need to look like. Those conversations with providers. A high level overviews. And look at the chat and write down the names of the folks who said they want to be on the committee to make sure we include you guys. I know we are short on time. If you want to hold those thoughts and we can vet them.

CRYSTAL WHITE: You mentioned a crosswalk about where services would end and how people can navigate what they are doing right now with their waiver services and when it would end and when it would not or potentially end. When would that crosswalk be available? And thank you by the way for that. Going to be most beneficial.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: We actually have the crosswalk document finished. The thing that looks at the exception. And this is where it is, I can probably send that out. The part that is not as clear on here when each one of those ends. I need to get that added to the document. The details of it are already there, just need to add that to it.

CRYSTAL WHITE: If I could just get that when it ends or potentially ends.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Comments from Liz Gary like to participate in the workgroup. Also, from Matt, he said the exemptions had been essential to home and community-based service providers and recipients help to keep them safe and staffed. And also like to participate in the workgroup.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: That wraps up our agenda. Is there any other comments?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Crystal has her hand raised again?

CRYSTAL WHITE: For the TEFRA stakeholder group, just got an email from Susan Meyers. They are going to do the public piece to get input on TEFRA and there is two dates, but they are going to do it via zoom. It's going to be on 7/22 and 7/27 when they are going to do the zoom. If we can send that out as an action alert since TEFRA was high on our agenda last year.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I don't know how to raise my hand. We have actually developed fliers and we have, I don't remember, I know for sure the flier is going to be sent to DD Council. We are also developing things that are going to go out to social media, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Alerting you guys Monday when we have the fliers. If y'all want to use the flier it will give information about where to register and how to register.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We already have a plan to share everything via social media. It's going to go out either way. I don't know necessarily an action alert or info alert or LADDC news the information

to register and participate. It will go out in the same format we send out our action alerts and that stuff.

CRYSTAL WHITE: I don't want it to get lost with a bunch of other stuff in like a newsletter. I think it needs to stand alone.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Our list serve we don't have a way really to distinguish from one thing to another. Anything that gets pushed out it goes to the same group no matter action alert, LADDC news. All goes from the same inbox. I don't recall having a way to distinguish from other stuff. I don't know that we have anything else scheduled to be pushed out via emails. I don't know if any of the other staff are working on anything else.

CRYSTAL WHITE: Just like to make a motion to request that we send this TEFRA public stakeholder input as an action alert.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Crystal, does that language look okay to you? We have a motion on the floor by Crystal White. Seconded, waited on a second. Committee to recommend sending TEFRA public meeting information as an action alert to the council's list serve. Do we have a second?

KIM BASILE: It's Kim. Will second it.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Is there any discussion? Any public comment? Any objection? Any abstention? Okay, the motion to send the TEFRA public meetings information as an action alert has passed. We have ran late today and I apologize for it. I am approaching my hard limit. I think the one time I looked we had approximately 30 people on zoom and on YouTube. That was good to see. If nobody has anything else, do we have a motion?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I make a motion to adjourn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: When is the next meeting going to be held.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: The full council meeting is Thursday on the 16th.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That is this month.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: It's this coming week. You should have an email. You will have to register beforehand.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What is the date.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: On July the 16th.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I make a motion to adjourn this meeting.

MICHELLE GUIDRY: Second.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: We have a motion to adjourn and a second. Is there any discussion? Any public comments? Any objections? Abstentions? Motion to adjourn passed.