

LDDC
Executive Committee
September 25, 2020

COURTNEY RYLAND: Good morning everyone. Mr. Chair, you have quorum.

RANDALL BROWN: Courtney, do we have the ground rules available to put up on the screen? So everyone can read those. We can read them before the meeting begins.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I am attempting to pull that up right now.

RANDALL BROWN: I guess she is having difficulty posting those. And so I am going to read our ground rules and they are on the screen for all of us to see. That's actually our mission statement. So I will start with that one. This is the mission of the council. To increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change. Thank you, Courtney.

And our ground rules are as follows. And this is for today's meeting and every meeting we conduct. Members must be recognized by chair before speaking. Be respectful of each other's opinion. Break for ten minutes every one and half hours. Discuss council business in a responsible manner. Except as necessary please restrict the use of electronic communication, such as texting, during the council and committee meetings. Silence or turn off your cell phones. And our mission statement is posted at every meeting. And then be on time for meetings. No alphabets. That means acronyms. Let's try to remember to say the phrase out right, or the title outright, so the public will be aware, and we will all be full aware what we are talking about. Side conversations kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand. Those are the ground rules for today's meeting.

Now there is also, today is an important day because we have to have public comment. And although we always welcome public comment, today it's particularly important. So I want to remind everyone that each speaker will have three minutes for the comments. Are there any other announcements I need to make in terms of the meeting for today before we start?

HYACINTH MCKEE: I don't believe so, Mr. Chair.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Before we begin today, I want to make a brief statement. I want everyone to know that your comments and your prospective are always welcome in every meeting and everything we do. And today was very important because we want to ensure that everyone feels heard and respected in regard to these matters, we're discussing today. So today was very important and thank everyone for making the time to be here today and to participate and share your opinions and your thoughts. And I ask everyone to please be respectful. It's important to know that this work is very difficult that we are doing today. All our work is important. But it is very important to know today is particularly important because what we do, and the mission we have is not just limited to me or to Hyacinth. It is all of us. Part of the important work we have to do for the community we serve. And we take that, all of us, I speak for the entire council when I say we take that very seriously. And we know our work is important to you. We know our work is important to all those we serve and represent. And we bear that in mind every single day with our decisions we make. And these decisions are not easy. And I have every confidence, even though I was not present on Saturday, I have every confidence in this committee and every member of it who I served with and my colleagues.

Having said that, it's very important to note that the vice chair rightly knows and understands today was necessary to ensure that we have conducted ourselves as we are supposed to do. And every upright way. And I commend her for asking for today's meeting and asking us to be here to finish the work that we are here to

do. And I am asking everybody, please be respectful. Please understand that your views are important. You are important and these decisions, as tough as they may be, have to be made. Because the programming we do, and the contractors with whom we do it, are essential to helping us carry out our mission day to day. And we have been told in no uncertain terms that regardless of all the turmoil and all of the uncertainty 2020 has brought us we have to move forward with the business at hand that we are supposed to do federally. And this, today, is a major part of that work. And so having said that, I am going to turn it over to the vice chair to continue to conduct the meeting. And so madam vice chair, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Mr. Chair. Courtney is there a possibility you can place the agenda.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, back on the screen.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you. Not sure if we got an opportunity for roll call. Mike.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: Present.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mary Tarver.

MARY TARVER: Here.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Steven Nguyen.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Present.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I know that Mr. Chair Randall Brown is present. He spoke. Do we have anyone that is on this panelist that staff I don't see? I believe Courtney is here as well and we have staff that is present. Now we are going to move through the agenda for the sake of time. Has everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes from the executive committee that took place September 19th, 2020? I need a motion to approve the minutes for September 19th, 2020.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: I make a motion we approve the minutes from September 19th, 2020 executive committee meeting.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Do I have a second to that motion?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I will second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: So I need to make a comment regarding that. In the minutes for September 19th,

2020 I believe we need to have some discussion. We look at the last motion that was made to make recommendations for the proposals that were received, I need to entertain a motion to strike that motion that was made and then entertain another motion so that we can allow public comment for the solicitation for the recommendation from the proposal.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: Excuse me. So I am just trying to follow along here. Shouldn't we approve the minutes and then have a motion to address that?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Well, from what I understand you can reject the minutes and then ask the minutes be readjusted and introduce your motion. Your reason why you want it to be readjusted.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: Okay.

HYACINTH MCKEE: So the motion to make the recommendations, that is the motion that we need to address. Recommendations were made without public comment.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: I would like to make a motion that we strike the previously passed motion. To select the organizations and enter into contractual obligations and readdress that.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Do we have a second to Mike's motion?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I will second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Do we have any objections to the motion? Any abstentions to the motion? Any more discussion? Any public comments? Motion carried. Now we need to--.

SPEAKER: Sorry. Temisha has her hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. One of our council members apparently had their hand raised and we didn't see that before the motion was carried. We are going to allow for that council member to make that comment because we did not see that her hand was raised in the box prior to the motion being fully carried. Executive committee let's allow our council member to make a comment. Are we on board with that?

STEVEN NGUYEN: Yes.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Council member Temisha Sonnier wanted to make a comment.

TEMISHA SONNIER: Good morning. Can y'all hear me?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yes.

TEMISHA SONNIER: I just wanted to, I guess, bring up a serious concern and make a comment about if there was representation of diversity of people of color in the solicitation of proposals. And I also had a question about why is one entity being given two contracts when only one proposal was received.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you for your public comment council person Temisha Sonnier.

HALIE BELIN: Michelle Guillory and Bambi both have their hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Michelle, good morning.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: Good morning. I would like to express some concerns as a council member regarding this proposed contract. The proposal is with an entity that is out of the State of Louisiana, number one. Number two, we already have an emergency management coalition for the disabled and the aged in Louisiana. The coalition has been in existence since 2005. The DD Council has been a participant in this council in the past. There are several entities within Louisiana who are quasi-governmental and/or who have made proposals for this contract who are also partners of EMDAC. I have serious concerns we as a DD Council are going outside of the state to someone in another state who does not have the expertise. Number two, a duplication of effort for a coalition already in existence that does not have funding. And number three, we really do not need to be reinventing the wheel when there are already mechanisms in place. I have serious concerns about this contract. Can everyone hear me?

MARY TARVER: Yes, we can hear you.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: I just wasn't sure. It went blank.

HYACINTH MCKEE: We did hear you council person Michelle. Thank you so much for your comments. I believe we have more public comment.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. First off, I want to thank the executive committee for providing this opportunity for public comment and for the council members. 2020 has been difficult for everyone, particularly for our council with the loss of a lot of leadership. Tremendous loss of leadership. And so I just appreciate this and certainly appreciate giving the time to look at all these items and understand how much work is being asked of the staff as well as of council members. Just wanted to acknowledge you guys.

One of the issues that I want to speak about in regards to the emergency preparedness training and that Michelle spoke about. EMDAC is probably one of the most valuable resources that I have found in my job with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and with trach mamas being a leader in that work. As Michelle said, we have a great coalition in our state that has been in effect for 15 years. So I am always appreciative that I came in five years ago and this was already established. Certainly appreciate that we have that mechanism to be able to meet the needs of people who have really complex needs, like most of our DD population has.

I don't want to repeat what Michelle said, but I want to apologize because we were in the middle of so much going on now and I did not effectively share with the executive committee the information I had in regards to the work of trach mamas through their leadership in EMDAC. And I feel like the executive committee did not have maybe information. I know Michelle, who is also a council member, was in the midst of doing that work as well. I would just like to first off apologize for not providing that information to my fellow colleagues and hope you reconsider the important work that trach mamas does. Trach mamas is led by Partners in Policymaking graduates and parents within our state. Just consider those facts as you move forward and make the decision. And thank you guys for giving up your morning and doing this important work.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you council person Bambi for your comments. Do we have anymore comments?

SPEAKER: Corhonda and Annie Cummer

HYACINTH MCKEE: Ms. Corhonda.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Great morning madam chair, Mr. Chair and executive committee. I would like to thank first council member Ms. Sonnier for actually speaking on something that I have said on a number of occasions. Which is that our council is failing to implement and address the very much needs of our people with developmental and intellectual disabilities that are in minority populations. We don't even have it reflected in the proposals. And yet we are here today to vote on approving proposals and give contracts to entities that have never provided our minority populations with any type of service. It is very disheartening, and it is very belittling and a failure to adhere to our federal DD act when we are supposed to have an environment that is inclusive completely. And it's not being inclusive for all. It is hardening to hear that we are not putting these proposals, we're not putting them in areas for other minority entities to even submit a proposal because they don't know that our DD Council exist. We have Hispanic populations, Arabic Middle Eastern populations, African American populations that do not know that this developmental disability council exist.

And so I just think that it would be extremely prudent of us to actually yes, allow these entities. We can solicit the input from the Governor's Office of Disabilities Affairs or our governor's disabilities inequities disparities task force to actually help us provide information to other entities that represent our black and brown people so that they can actually receive this information as well. And that is a problem that we have that has been going on too long. And now we are here again, they sent another situation where I am again speaking about the importance of including all. Inclusion. We talk about inclusion. Inclusion does not say some, it does not say most.

Inclusion says all. And if we're going to embody and embrace what our federal DD act say, then that mean we have to address the needs of all in our community.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Ms. Corhonda for your comment. Do we have any more public comments?

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Annie Cummer has her hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Ms. Annie, you have the floor.

ANNIE CUMMER: Hello. Is it my turn to talk?

HYACINTH MCKEE: You have the floor.

ANNIE CUMMER: I'm sorry. Blanked out on that. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to speak this morning. Before you accept, submit a proposal, or allow a proposal from Team Dynamics I would like for it to be public what their response was to the situation with Team Dynamics.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Is this a comment about the motion that is on the floor or this is just, it has to be a comment about the motion on the floor.

ANNIE CUMMER: It is a comment about the motion that is on the floor. The motion on the floor is to approve the proposals that you all selected. Is that not correct?

HYACINTH MCKEE: The motion on the floor is to remove the existing motion that we had on the floor, the existing motion that we had at the September 19th meeting and open for discussion for public comment regarding that motion. I just was asking just to be clear.

ANNIE CUMMER: I think this is a public comment applying to that because--.

HYACINTH MCKEE: That's fine. Ms. Cummer, it's just for clarity. You have the floor.

ANNIE CUMMER: This took up some of my time as well. The issue is we should hear from Elevatus trainings response regarding Team Dynamics' proposal. So I would like to have that made public. Also I have an issue with the Interaction Advisory Group receiving an award because they have a subminimum wage for the self-advocate. Which is less than 5 percent of what the trainer receives. They are the lowest paid

individual in the group. And it looks like they are being used as a token. So I have an issue with them. And Niagara University had two Louisiana recommendations whereas Interaction Advisory Group only had recommendations from Alabama. I had an issue with that. And with the workforce, I would just like to remind everyone that Beyond Accommodations would be hiring someone with a disability and we would be joining the chambers in continuing relationships with them. That is all. All my public comments. Thank you for giving me the time.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Any other public comment?

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. David Whalin and Jeff Arceneaux have their hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mr. Whalin and Mr. Arceneaux

DAVE WHALIN: Can you hear me.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yes, you have the floor.

DAVE WHALIN: Good morning everyone. This is Dave Whalin, the program director for Niagara University disability rights training program. Any questions or comments specific to the first responder or emergency preparedness program I am here to answer. Just a note to be made well aware of. The trach mamas of Louisiana, one of my intentions would be to work directly with them. I have met them and worked with them through FEMA. We are a recognized program from both FEMA and FEMA region two. Work with those entities as well as disability advocates. Open to answer any questions or concerns you have specific to our program. Thank you.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Any comments on the floor?

EBONY HAVEN: Jeff Arceneaux had his hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mr. Arceneaux, you have the floor.

JEFF ARCENEUX: Thank you. First, I want to comment on the comment that was made about minority public. I actually do a lot of work with minorities with disabilities. But nobody actually knows what I do. I would like to thank all of y'all. I know what y'all do daily and I appreciate that. But that doesn't mean I am going to pat everybody on the back, cause I

am not. I am not looking for pats on the back. I am looking for change. Most of y'all know who I am.

Before I begin, I want to tell you I got a phone call from Mr. (inaudible) yesterday requesting me to speak for his staff in New Orleans. And I am going to do it. My point in saying that is Jeff Arceneaux has the relationships. He also has a disability. He has cerebral palsy. And a lot of people don't know about Jeff Arceneaux. He lived in South Carolina where he ran a grocery store. I repeat that. Jeff Arceneaux had the keys to a million-dollar store with a 40,000-dollar payroll every week. I managed that. I do understand there is very few people in Louisiana believe that. Does my resume match what you see on the zoom call, absolutely not. That is part of what we do in the disability community. We fight perception. We fight for our lives. I can provide you with fifty names right now from that grocery chain.

I would like to voice my frustration over Beyond Accommodations not being chosen for the employment and sexuality contract. I realize, and I don't expect Jeff to get funding for everything. I do expect to know why we scored so low. However, I would like, sorry, could it be because there is no respect or expectations for adults with disabilities. Where do we go from there? I ask you what you wanted at 18 years old. And your answer would be a job and a solid living with solid benefits. I am not looking for a handout. I am looking to make change. I am looking for companies to employ people with disabilities. I am looking for people when they see Jeff sitting at the bar eating dinner, they don't think about how cute I am. They look at me and say, I would like to get that cool guy. I would like to get to know him. What's he like. I know I took up more than three minutes, but that is okay. The number of expectations on us has got to be raised. Your mission statement, I live by that. I do want to strongly suggest, and I need to know that everybody on the executive committee knows what transpired with Team Dynamics contract and why you guys

asked for amendments.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mr. Arceneaux, let me first thank you for your public comment. And let you know that that is on our agenda to address. And so your time is up, sir. And again, I apologize for that. But your last statement there is time on the agenda to address that so when we get to that, sir, we will entertain public comments. Thank you so much. And again, I apologize, but for the sake of time we are going to need to move to another, give another person an opportunity to make a public comment. Are there any other public comments out there?

SPEAKER: Kathy Dwire and Jessica both have their hands raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I believe Ms. Dwire, you have the floor. Ms. Dwire, you have the floor.

KATHY DWIRE: Hello. Can you hear me?

HYACINTH MCKEE: You have the floor.

KATHY DWIRE: Hello, can you hear me?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yes.

KATHY DWIRE: Thank you. I wasn't sure. I just want to reiterate some of the comments made about EMDAC and trach mamas. EMDAC has been an integral coalition since Hurricane Katrina. And I personally worked with EMDAC and trach mamas of Louisiana during the 2016 floods when I was work withing the Autism Society of Greater New Orleans. And they were very responsive as well as being prepared for any emergency situations. I am also working with trach mamas now on a personal level in helping Hurricane Laura evacuees. And trac mamas has been completely responsive and sensitive to everyone's needs. And agree, we really need to look towards those groups that we already have in place in Louisiana to respond to emergencies and preparedness instead of reinventing the wheel. I appreciate you giving me some time. Thank you.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Ms. Dwire. We have time for one more public comment. Ms. Micho, you have the floor.

JESSICA MICH0: Thank you. I'm Jessica Micho with

trach mamas of Louisiana. And I just wanted to publicly state what I put in the chat. That our leadership, including our board, it's just me running trach mamas, but we have a great board. And then we are mostly volunteer run. We are diverse and include various disabilities, race, religion and LGBTQ population. And reiterate the federal act of 2000 spells out the funds cannot duplicate services. Thank you.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. That's all for the public comment right now. We had a motion on the floor. It was made by Mike Billings, seconded by Steven Nguyen. We had discussion. We had public comment. Any objections to the motion? Any abstentions? Hearing none, motion carried. Okay, so now we have to move to the agenda. Thank you, Courtney. I know you have that up. Let's get back to the agenda from the screen. So now we would hear from the response from Team Dynamics. Do we have the representation, a representative from Team Dynamics present that would like to speak today?

SPEAKER: Susan Shaffette has her hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Is that a representative from Team Dynamics? Who is the representative from Team Dynamics that is going to be speaking today? They have the floor. We can unmute them. Is it Sharon Delvisco?

SUSAN SHAFFETTE: It's Susan Shaffette

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you. You have the floor.

SUSAN SHAFFETTE: Thank you, madam chair. My name is Susan Shaffette. I am the CEO of Team Dynamics and I would like to address this. The matter at hand arose from an original use going back several years to training that was done using some material that we felt we had permission to use based on training that was attended. But we did not cite the slides. Without the citation, it appeared to be an infringement of intellectual property. We are certainly addressing the situation back and forth with Elevatus. And each correspondence we do with them is being CC to the DD Council to Mr. Brenton Andrus.

It is our belief this was an oversight that they

were not cited. We did have permission to use that based on the virtue of attending the class. However, we have removed all of those slides and had done so. They have never used outside of the training with the parents. They were used only with the parent training. Not used with the individual training. It is our belief that we are handling this professionally through our professional liability team who is negotiating with Elevatus. And that due to this action we are, we have removed everything and rewritten all training that will be used. I would like to ask Sharon Delvisco to interject with anything in addition to this.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Ms. Delvisco, you have the floor. You have one minute.

SHARON DELVISCO: Thank you, madam chair. Susan is correct. We did have a draft version of the training that we used materials that were a part of Elevatus training. It was an oversight. It was not intentional. We are in the middle of a negotiation process. I have apologized for the oversight. And to Catherine McLaughlin who is the owner of Elevatus Training. And at her request we have deleted all electronic versions of her slides. The training was over, it was about 105 slides that was a part of the training for the parents and family members and caregivers. And 22 of the slides should have been credited to Elevatus. Ten about, can't remember exactly, ten of the slides in question were list of resource materials. As Susan stated, we are in the process of having the liability folks work on resolving that situation.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Ms. Delvisco and Ms. Shaffette for your response to what was on the agenda regarding Team Dynamics. Moving through the agenda it appears we have received public comments already. We kind of just dived into that this morning. Which I think was really good. Gave people an opportunity to express their comments and concerns. And so with that, it is time for us to be about the business of entertaining motions of whether or not we are going to

be recommending these proposals that was accepted at the September 19th meeting. That's where we are now.

So with that, I am going to ask for a motion to decide or a motion to recommend the proposals that was submitted for our 2021 year and we discussed on September 19th. I just want to advise the committee that what we are doing right now is either recommending yes, that we recommend. No we do not recommend. Or we recommend with conditions. Excuse me. And so I need to entertain a motion to recommend. I need to entertain a motion to recommend proposal O'Neal Communications for video and visual materials. I need a motion.

MARY TARVER: I make a motion on the video and visual material to recommend O'Neal Communications.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: I second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Mary for making the motion. Thank you, Mike, for seconding it. Any abstentions? Any objections? Any comments regarding the recommendation for O'Neal Communications?

SPEAKER: Annie Cummer has her hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: We are entertaining comments at this time for visual and video materials.

ANNIE CUMMER: Sorry. I do not have a comment regarding this issue. It was before, but that topic has already passed. Sorry about that.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Hearing none, motion carried. Now I am entertaining recommendation a motion to recommend Interaction Advisory Group for the first responder training. Again, this is just a recommendation.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: I make a motion to recommend Interaction Advisory Group.

MARY TARVER: I would second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mary seconds. Any objections? Abstentions? Discussion?

RANDALL BROWN: I just want to reiterate I will be abstaining from today's votes.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Please note that in the record that Mr. Chair has abstained from any and all votes made today. Hearing none, motion

carried. Now we will entertain a motion to recommend, sorry, for employment seminars and to recommend O'Neal Communications for employment seminars. Need a motion.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: I move we recommend O'Neal Communications for employment seminars.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Any seconds?

MARY TARVER: I second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Mike. Thank you, Mary. Any abstentions? Any objections?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I object.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Your objection. Any discussion? Hearing your objection, any discussion, Steven, you would like for us to have.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I would like for us to take more of a consideration for Beyond Accommodations.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Are you recommending or not recommending O'Neal Communications?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I am not recommending O'Neal Communications.

HYACINTH MCKEE: We have an objection to recommending O'Neal Communications for the employment seminars. Committee we need to, the recommendation is that, what is your recommendation Steven?

STEVEN NGUYEN: To consider Beyond Accommodations for the employment seminars.

HYACINTH MCKEE: There is an objection and a recommendation on the floor to reconsider the original recommendation and consider Beyond Accommodations.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: Need a second? I will second so it can have comment.

HYACINTH MCKEE: It appears as though Mike is seconding the motion that Steven made regarding reconsideration and recommending Beyond Accommodations.

MARY TARVER: I know one of the questions or one of the notes I had was Beyond Accommodations was not across the state. Didn't include all the regions. And I know that caught my attention. I think there is somebody here from Beyond Accommodations if they want to address that. I don't know that that's what we do now or not. I guess that would be my objection to

changing any of my thoughts on this one.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Go ahead, Mike.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: Go ahead. I was going to see if I could make a comment.

HYACINTH MCKEE: We are doing a lot of work. I want to say I really appreciate y'all hanging in there and giving it a lot of time and thought. So what we have right now is a motion on the floor to reconsider this recommendation of O'Neal Communications and to consider Beyond Accommodations for this proposal. So committee, if that is the case, we need to be able to, you know, we have a motion, we have a second. And if we don't have any objections to that motion, it would serve as the substitute to the recommendation of O'Neal Communications. And so if that is where we are, then we are saying we are recommending to consider Beyond Accommodations for the employment seminars contract. Mike.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: I have a comment. Myself, and I am sure the other committee members spent a lot of time reviewing and scoring the proposals. The question was asked if we had reviewed them blind. I can tell you that yeah, we knew who the proposals were, but when I scored them, I took away all of that when I scored. Otherwise it would have affected my decisions. So I am going to stand by my scores, but I just wanted that known on the record. At least in my actions on it, I looked at them objectively without any personal opinions or relationships with any of the folks that I do know that have submitted proposals. And I think some people might be a little angry at my scores, but that is what the work that we put in and to do it service. If not, we would be having questions the other way. That we gave consideration because of relationships or working with different people and entities in the past. I wanted that known.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Again, thank you Mike. And again, thank you committee for the work. We have this motion on the floor. It appears as though it has been seconded. The motion has been seconded. And so we

are, from what I am hearing, we are considering the recommendation is to consider Beyond Accommodations. The motion is to consider Beyond Accommodations, to accept the proposal for the contract. If there are no objections or abstentions to that motion if I don't hear any.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: I object.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mike objects. And Mary you object as well?

MARY TARVER: Yeah. I was just trying to figure out what we are doing. Cause I agree with Mike. If we go through all these all over again, even after hearing the public comment, I agree. We took time and effort. So yeah, I would have to say I would object to Beyond Accommodations and I would continue our recommendation O'Neal Communications.

HYACINTH MCKEE: With that, I am willing to entertain a motion that we accept this slate as it is, as it was discussed and voted upon last week. That we accept the recommendations that were made last week on the contracts, the decision we made last week that we accept this based on the September 19th meeting.

MICHEAL BILLINGS: Yes. I would like to make a motion that we accept the proposals as previously selected.

MARY TARVER: I second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mike made the motion, Mary second. Any objections? Any abstentions? Any discussion? I am not sure if I am able to make a discussion as a chairperson about this, but I do have some serious concerns that these contracts, these proposals is not an adequate representation of people of color. I am very concerned about that. And to be frankly honest with you, it is not a representation of the population. I have serious concerns about that. And although there was a lot of work that was put into it, I also want to note that we have three, I believe we have three proposals out there. We only received one contract. It brings another question, what type of work do we do to ensure that information was put out to everyone who

had the ability or access to the information to apply for these. I just want to note that in my discussion. That I am very concerned about the direction that we are moving towards as it relates to diversity. With that being said, hearing none, motion carried. Thank you all. I believe that is it for the agenda today. Mr. Chair, do you have a comment that you would like to make?

RANDALL BROWN: I do, actually. I wanted to let you know that your concern, madam vice chair, is noted in our process. And I am committed as your chair we will review our process and make certain that we are reaching out to more people and more entities in our processes. And make sure we do everything we can to be known what we do and how we do it to the community at large. And to try and increase our reach and scope within the disability community among all entities. I note your concern and commend all of you for your work today.

I would like to remind you before we adjourn to be sure that all public comment has been taken before adjournment with regard to this vote. Just bear that in mind. We definitely are committed to inclusion and diversity. Although your concerns are noted, it wasn't adequately reflected. We will make every effort moving forward to ensure that we do meet those criteria and we are working for the diversity that we should be representing. That's all I have. Thanks.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay, so it appears we are over time. We are at the end of our agenda. I hope that we did do our due diligence to make sure that public comments, like Mr. Chair said, were received regarding these solicitations of proposals. And if there is nothing else to discuss at this point, I really would like to entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

HALIE BELIN: Jeff Arceneaux has his hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I believe we have allowed time. I am willing to allow one minute because we are well over our time. Cause we are well over our time. If the committee is okay with that, I am willing to allow one

minute and that one comment.

JEFF ARCENEUX: Okay. Sharon went over, but real quick. Why isn't Randall Brown voting? He is the chair of the DDC.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Randall, do you want to speak to that or me to speak to it?

RANDALL BROWN: Would you speak to it, please, ma'am.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you. Mr. Brown was not in attendance at the meeting last week. Therefore the individuals that were in attendance in the meeting last week casts their votes. We had a quorum in order to cast, score for the document and the individuals that were present at the meeting. He was not there last week on September 9th.

MARY TARVER: I am seeing these comments about people concerned about this process. This is what we have gone through. This process, we have been talking about it. It was sent out, put on public on our website. So for people today, after we have made decisions, to start questioning it is very disheartening. If we need to look at the process beyond what we have taken into consideration and these proposals were accepted, if that is a process issue then we need to talk about that moving forward. But for me to be on the executive committee, us go through the process that we already have in place, receive 21 proposals, look over them and not have anybody have any comments about it or bring it up before now is not helping us. Everybody has comments after the fact. Even if we would have taken the comments before we made the vote. We'd already gone through the process of reviewing them.

I guess I just want to say is it something that we need to look at before the executive committee gets the proposals. Something that we need to do differently to make sure that when we get the proposals, however we do that, that we've already taken into consideration anybody's concerns about diversity, about us having the federal DD act followed appropriately and all that

stuff. Nobody on the executive committee wants to approve or wants to go through a process that everybody questions after the fact. Please help us in advance. Not after the fact. And bring up your concerns prior to. Not after the fact. I guess that is my comment today.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Mary for your comment. Okay. Hearing no other comments, we are entertaining a motion to adjourn this meeting today. It is 9:45 folks. Thank you so much for your time. Motion to adjourn is on the floor.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I make a motion to adjourn.

HYACINTH MCKEE: All right. Steven motioned. I think Mike is going to second it. I see it coming out. And Mike seconded the motion. All right, y'all. Hearing none, motion carried. You guys have a great weekend. Thank you for your time. Take care now. Bye.