

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

COURTNEY RYLAND: Good morning everyone. We're still waiting for our executive committee to join us. Thank you for joining us this morning.

Good morning Mr. Brown. You are the only member of the executive committee to join so far.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. I have heard from three members that they are going to be running late for various reasons this morning. So I know that means we will not have a quorum as scheduled. But I have talked to each individually and they said to me they could be ready by 10:30. So I am going to go ahead and say that we are going to convene again. I don't anticipate we will have a quorum.

MARY TARVER: Hey, it's Mary. Sorry, I am just getting on. I am on my phone. I was having trouble. Did I just hear you say everybody else can't get on the call so we will start at 10:30?

RANDALL BROWN: Right. They all said by 10:30 they could be on and what we have to do is important. Everything is always important. But this in particular today is very important. I would like for all of us to be in attendance. They have all said by 10:30 they could be available. Is that okay for you?

MARY TARVER: Yeah. Would the meeting have to go past noon?

RANDALL BROWN: I don't believe so.

MARY TARVER: Yeah. That's fine.

RANDALL BROWN: That's what we will do. We will log back in and convene here at 10:30.

MARY TARVER: Same link and everything?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

MARY TARVER: I will see y'all at 10:30.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much. So we will see everyone at 10:30. Thank you all for your patience.

(Break)

COURTNEY RYLAND: Good morning again Mr. Brown. You now have a quorum.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Good morning everyone. Thank you for being able to attend this morning. I apologize to the public for our delay. Good morning everyone. Can you hear me?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir. We can.

RANDALL BROWN: Our first order of business today I am going to alter the agenda because the SOP process, solicitation of proposals that we have scheduled we cannot make those decisions today because we received the information and it's a lot of proposals. I believe it's 21. Is that right, Courtney?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: And you did your due diligence and we thank you so much. But we just got all that information to each of us was it yesterday or day before?

COURTNEY RYLAND: No, sir. That was on Friday, I believe.

RANDALL BROWN: Well, Friday. Be that as it may we need more time to review those 21 proposals, so we are going to have to table that discussion for another meeting. Which we will have to schedule pretty close after this one. Courtney will be reaching out to get everyone's availability for a meeting as quickly as we can have it. We certainly need to review those thoroughly before we have a discussion. That issue we are going to table. Before moving into today's business I need a motion to approve the minutes from Saturday's executive committee meeting. Cause everyone had a chance to review those.

MARY TARVER: I just printed them out. Let me run and grab them.

RANDALL BROWN: I will give everyone a minute to review. I know we just got those this morning.

MARY TARVER: I make a motion to approve the meeting summary from our meeting on Saturday.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Mary. Mary makes a motion to approve the minutes from our Saturday meeting. Do I have a second?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I will second the motion.

RANDALL BROWN: Mary moves to approve the minutes from our Saturday meeting and Mike has seconded. Do I have any abstentions from the motion? Do I have any objections to this motion? Hearing none, the motion carries. So Courtney, can you put our agenda up on the screen? So the public can see it also. So let me do a quick roll call. Forgive my lack of housekeeping skills this morning. First of all, I am Randall Brown, the chair of the committee. I will have, when I call your name just please say present. Hyacinth McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Present.

RANDALL BROWN: Mike billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Present.

RANDALL BROWN: Mary Tarver.

MARY TARVER: Present.

RANDALL BROWN: Steven Nguyen. Steven hasn't joined us yet and he did tell me he had another meeting already scheduled. He would be here as soon as he could be. I anticipate he will join us before the meeting concludes today.

Thank you all for the approval of the September 5th, 2020 executive committee summary minutes. And we need to review, well we are going to table that. I guess the order of business that I need to bring up first will be the issue of the letters we have received with regard to one of our fellow council members and her response to that letter. And that will not be shared publicly because we will have to do an executive session to discuss it because there are matters related to character. That is going to be a closed session for us to discuss as a body, the issues raised in both letters. So do I have a motion to go to executive

session?

HYACINTH MCKEE: A motion to convene and go into executive session to discuss the letters that was received by our fellow council member and her response.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you madam vice chair. Do I have a second?

MARY TARVER: I second.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Mary. We have a motion on the floor to go into executive session to discuss the letters from our Vice Chair Dr. McKee. And we have a second to the motion from Mary. Do I have abstentions to the motion? Any objections to this motion? Hearing none, the motion is carried, and we will convene in executive session shortly. For the public we will return as soon as it has concluded. To this public forum.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Can you repeat that again.

RANDALL BROWN: Can you send us a link. We need to go into executive session. Can you send the executive committee the link to be able to do that?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: No problem.

(executive session)

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you everyone. Sorry for the delay today. What we just concluded was executive session with regard to the letters. The consensus on that is the issues related will be referred to our grievance committee that we have set up to review our policies. For sharing information and participation at our meetings. That has been recommended and we are going to forward a request for our grievance committee and its members to look at procedures and policies and hoping to ensure our meetings have a decorum that allow us to do the work we are here to do. That request is going to our grievance committee to help us figure out

ways to develop a process that allows us to share our feelings, but also to conduct business we are here to do. And do so in a way that is fair and values everyone. Both our members and our public. Does anyone have anything to add? Hearing nothing more on that matter.

>> >>: Sorry, Randall. Looks like Ms. Corhonda Corley has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, you have the floor.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Greetings Mr. Chairman and executive committee. First and foremost there were multiple complaints that was documented in that letter. One being ethical violations--

RANDALL BROWN: Let me address that. The ethical concerns and the other concerns you raised in your letter we are working closely, Hyacinth and I both with LDH and with their compliance team. LDH is our Department of Health, particularly their legal department and their compliance team on those matters. And I shared in the session that we are working closely to get their advice and opinion on the entire process. And of course your letter is a part of that. Anything we share with us in terms of how they feel we should proceed will be used as guidance determining how we proceed with this matter. We are awaiting response from them on the content of the letters as far as how they proceed and what we should formally do.

CORHONDA CORLEY: May I proceed, Mr. Chairman?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

CORHONDA CORLEY: One of the things documented in the letter, besides the ethical violation, was also the breach adhering to our actual federal DD Act and our bylaws. And we don't have to consult with LDH in regards to violating our actual federal DD Act and our bylaws. But it also, in accordance with that, we also just received a federal letter that complimented saying we are in violation in regards to our hiring practices. Which is another compliment in regards to my letter of how we are not adhering to our federal DD Act. Now we have a third letter that actually talks about our

breach. But, in addition to that, you are recommending for us to send it to the grievance committee in which Ms. Basile sits on. Along with some of the people she is friends with. So I don't see we would have any reconciliation if we send it to a committee that she actually sits on unless we are going to have her remain absent from that committee. Because that committee still have yet to address any other complaints that were actually sent to the council a year prior. That wasn't sent by me, but from other people in our actual committee and our community.

RANDALL BROWN: We understand.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Just inquiring on if that committee is actually going to one, have Ms. Basile remain absent from actually being on there. And two, will the council, will the executive committee once they actually get more insight from LDH actually revisit this actual topic.

RANDALL BROWN: I have already committed to, we are working closely, vice chair of the council and I both are, working closely with LDH and we will follow their recommendation. I don't have any idea what that will be at this point. But I will certainly take into consideration everything that needs to be done. I don't believe Kim sits on our grievance committee.

CORHONDA CORLEY: She does.

RANDALL BROWN: Well, I am the authority on that. We will visit that issue. That is noted. Your concern there is noted. As far as the things that have any legal bearing, that is being looked at by LDH and they will guide us how to move forward with all of those matters. I know there has been a delay on a number of things. We don't have any control on that. We are working closely with LDH and the compliance department to get these issues addressed.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you so much Mr. Chairman. And I just want to also make it a note because I see that someone actually posted a comment in regard to defamation of character and slander. And I just want to urge everyone in the community to actually look up

what defamation of character and slander actually is. Because I think you actually have to know that I am actually friends with Ms. Kim Basile and have been for some years. And Ms. Kim Basile actually has been on our council for more than one year. So she is actually very knowledgeable on what the process is. And I am not doing anything that has not been done before. So I think that everybody actually needs to know that is the only way we can bring about a unification to our community is if we actually follow our federal and state laws. And our laws are not actually being followed. It's not defamation of character or slander. I thank you. Appreciate that Mr. Chairman and what you and the executive committee is trying to do. And I anticipate immediate reconciliation on this matter. Thank you so much.

RANDALL BROWN: Let me speak to the fact that we need decorum in all our meetings. And so anything that is a personal attack on any one of us or perceived as such that is something I am very sensitive to as your chair. And I want everyone as part of these meetings, our council members and our public to know you are here as a valued member. And you're here because we want you to be. We want to hear from everyone. We want to do so in a way that's respectful to all members at all times. The grievance committee will be looking at ways to ensure that we have meetings that are one, more productive and pertinent for what we are here to do, by the governor to do as per the DD act. And we want to make sure we do our work in a way that values everyone. So when we speak at our meetings that people can do so in a way that's respectful, number one, of everyone whether we personally agree with each other. Personally like each other or not. You have to be respectful at all times of all of us because we are here because we care. Certainly, something I believe is true. We certainly all don't agree and that is fine. But all be aware that kindness is key. We're all volunteering. We're all doing this because we want to. I want to thank all of you. Our council members,

our public. You are all essential. Everyone is essential to the work we do. I want to make that very clear. And so any policies we make moving forward are going to reflect that.

HANNAH JENKINS: You have a few other public comments Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Are they pertinent to the discussion?

HANNAH JENKINS: Three of them had to do with the previous discussion and one of them has to do with the proposals.

RANDALL BROWN: On the issue of the proposals, I stated earlier, I don't think I had a chance to state again when we returned. The SOP process, solicitation of proposals, we are going to have to table. Not going to be able to get to that today because we had a large amount of interest, ultimately 21 proposals submitted. A lot of information contained in each and we received it on Friday. But we haven't had a chance to review every one properly as would be necessary for a discussion. We are going to table that for today and schedule a meeting as soon as possible to address those specifically.

HANNAH JENKINS: I think she had a question about the timeline of that rescheduling. Ashley McReynolds said, Randall, what is the executive committee's plan to get the proposals reviewed and voted on in time to ensure staff has time to get contracts written and signed and submitted in order to start them for October 1st?

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Ashley, for the question. We are going to look at our schedules immediately at the conclusion of this meeting and figure out a time that gives us both time to review all the proposals we now have. And to be able to get the work we need done on time for all of the procedures to still happen as they need to. As soon as this meeting concludes we are going to look at our schedules and schedule it as quickly as we can. We are aware of the tight timeline. We're going to do everything we can to

adhere to deadlines. We certainly want to give all 21 participants due diligence in making sure we are fully abreast of all things contained in the proposals as we discuss. The answer is as soon as possible we will schedule our next meeting. Anything else?

HANNAH JENKINS: You also have a public comment from Corhonda Corley. The DD Council should always have a space that represents every person in our DD community. If our DD Council should include more individuals then I would recommend an attorney who is knowledgeable on the federal and state DD Act, The DD bylaws, Louisiana ethics, open meeting law, Robert's Rules of Order and the Civil Rights Act.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Any other comments?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mr. Chairman, may I be recognized?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You may.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I wanted to be recognized for us to be mindful of the time. We are actually 11 minutes over our scheduled time for this executive committee meeting today. And so I am going to ask that we go back to the agenda and conclude this meeting in accordance of the time we have scheduled.

RANDALL BROWN: So be it. Thank you. So let's move along. We have tabled the proposals for another meeting to be determined as soon as we can. So those issues will go to our next meeting agenda. The next thing we have to review is the virtual procedures, correct? Courtney, am I right about that?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir. Is there a motion on the floor?

RANDALL BROWN: Right. I need a motion to make some changes that the committee felt might be pertinent in light of the executive session we just had. Do we have a motion on the floor in regards to the proposals or the procedure?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Looks like Mary wants to be recognized.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Mary, you have the floor.

MARY TARVER: Wanted us to look at the teleconference meeting protocols. They are always part

of the agenda at the very top if people haven't noticed them. I know whenever we were meeting face to face, we read through our mission statement and we read through the rules of the meeting. And I think we need to go back to doing that. But I do have some comments, would like to make a motion about adding some things to the teleconference meeting protocols.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

MARY TARVER: Under the public comments section I would say that comments of a person's character would not be heard. The speaker would be asked to stop the discussion by the chairperson. If the speaker doesn't stop the chairperson may ask the DD Council staff to stop the meeting and disengage from the Zoom or the YouTube. And then after that would happen the chairperson would notify the executive committee of the meeting being stopped and the executive committee chairperson would review and determine if those videos would need to be redacted before being published through social media.

RANDALL BROWN: That is a formal motion?

MARY TARVER: Yes. And then the last part of that would be LDH would be consulted to help with any legal issues.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

MARY TARVER: I would like to make that motion.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So Mary has made a motion regarding the protocols for our meetings. Do I have a second to Mary's motion?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I would second.

RANDALL BROWN: Mary made a motion and Mike has seconded that motion. Do I have any abstentions to the motion? Hearing none. Do I have any objections to this motion? Hearing none, this motion has carried. Thank you all. I believe that concludes our business today. Does it not, Courtney? Most everything I see before me would be related to the solicitation of proposals.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir. Before leaving we would need a motion to adjourn.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I would like to make a motion to adjourn today's executive committee meeting.

RANDALL BROWN: Do I have a second to Hyacinth's motion to adjourn today's meeting?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Second.

RANDALL BROWN: Do I have any objection?

STEVEN NGUYEN: Randall, there is a comment in the chat box.

RANDALL BROWN: Can you please read it, sir.

STEVEN NGUYEN: You may want to consult with legal before redacting any video and/or transcript.

RANDALL BROWN: We would. Let me make clear, we would. That's why Mary added legal consultation into that motion. The chair would seek legal consultation if something should be redacted or not.

STEVEN NGUYEN: That was from Ms. Corley.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. All right. No other comment, we are adjourned. Thank you all.