

Executive Committee Meeting  
October 20, 2020

RANDALL BROWN: We do have a quorum so we can go ahead and begin. I hereby call the quarterly executive committee meeting to order for our October meeting. Courtney, can you put our agenda on the screen please. Thank you. I am going to do a quick roll call. Please say present when I call your name. Steven Nguyen

STEVEN NGUYEN: Present.

RANDALL BROWN: Mary Tarver.

MARY TARVER: Present.

RANDALL BROWN: Mike Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Present.

RANDALL BROWN: And Hyacinth McKee. I don't believe she joined us just yet. She will be joining us very shortly. Of course, you are stuck with me. Here we begin the meeting now. Let me go ahead and start by reading our mission statement and ground rules for everybody. Thank you, Courtney. Our mission statement. To increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change. That's the mission of our council. Next is our ground rules for today's meeting and every meeting we hold. And they are as follows: Members must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Be respectful of each other's opinions. Break for ten minutes every hour and a half. Discuss council business in a responsible manner. Except as necessary, restrict the use of electronic communication such as texting during council and committee meetings. Please silence and turn off all cell phones where that applies. We understand we are in a digital environment. Please silence those cell phones if they would be a distraction to our meeting. The mission statement is posted at every meeting. Please be on time for

meetings. No alphabets. That means whenever we have an acronym to use please try to remember not everyone knows what those mean. Try as much as we can to use the full names of the agencies, or the acts, or whatever it is we are discussing. And please, side conversations are kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand. That is the ground rules for today's meeting. Now next want to introduce our parliamentarian. She has accepted our invitation to come on board and assist us with our meetings and carrying them out according to Roberts rules of order. You will notice a few changes already. Want to welcome Ms. Nicole. Nicole, if you would like to take the floor and let everyone who you are and your credentials.

NICOLE LEARSON: Thank you so much Mr. Chair. It's a pleasure to be here with all of you all and I am looking forward to working with each of you. I am a professional registered parliamentarian through the National Association of Parliamentarians. I have been certified over a number of years of study and testing. In addition to that, I am the president of the Baton Rouge unit of Parliamentarians, vice president of Louisiana Association. In addition to the national association, I do also belong to the American Institute of Parliamentarians. I have clients all over the southeast. I assist with bylaw revision and review. As well as I am a professional presider in some instances when organizations need a third party to come and preside over meetings. And of course, I do workshops and trainings on leadership skips parliamentary procedure. While my expertise is Roberts rules of order, and I am current with the new addition that just was released in August of this year, additionally I am familiar with other parliamentary authorities. I look forward to assisting you in any way that I can and certainly I hope that you will find value in what it is I have to share with you. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: I promise you we will and thank you

for your service. I want to point out that she will be conducting a training for the entire executive committee and that is to be scheduled, it will be after the October meetings have concluded. But we will be having a zoom meeting where she will be working with us to train us with Roberts rules of order and how best to carry out our functions and our duties here. Just want to point that out to you guys. That is something to look out for. Is that all you have to say? Okay. Thank you. Courtney, could you please put our agenda back up on our screen. I want to welcome everybody today. And as we move onto more business at hand, first thing I want to discuss is the amended September 19th, 2020 executive committee summary. If there are no questions, that is there in the link, if there are no questions, I am going to ask those to be considered approved as presented here. If you do have questions or questions you will like to make please now let us know. Hearing none. Is there any comment in our chat box?

EBONY HAVEN: No comments at this time Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Ebony. Hearing no comment, the amended September 19, 2020 executive committee summary is approved as distributed. Next is our September 25th executive committee summary. And again, we will follow the same procedure. Not going to ask for a typical vote. I am going to ask are there any corrections or amendments that need to be made. Again, you see that link there in the agenda. Hopefully, all had time to look over. Do I hear any comments about corrections that need to be made or amendments to the September 25th, 2020 executive committee summary? Okay. Are there any comments with regard to this in the chat box?

EBONY HAVEN: No comments at this time. Sorry. I take that back. We do have a comment from Ms. Jill Egle. She wants to know why didn't anyone call my name, I just got reappointed to the DD Council. I think she is talking about her assignments as far as committees go

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Jill, I was going to ask you either tomorrow or Thursday what committees you would like to serve on. I will reach out to you at that time either tomorrow or Thursday and we will find out what committees you want to serve on and that is where you will be. That was out of order and I apologize. Are there any other comments pertaining to the executive committee meeting summary for September 25th, 2020? Hearing none, the agenda is approved as distributed. Next, we are onto our review of the 2021 legislative agenda items. And we have the LaCAN recommendations as well as the advocacy agenda issues, and highest priorities all linked there. Courtney, if you want to run through a few quick so everyone can take a look at that. We will begin our discussion. So these are the recommendations from our LaCAN leaders and Families Helping Families directors recommended. There are three items listed below, as you can see, for us to consider for the inclusion in the 2021 legislative advocacy agenda. They listed them in priority. One being cameras in special education classrooms and parent access to school videos. Two an additional 500,000-dollars in state funding in the DD Council budget for the Families Helping Families centers. This would double council funding for centers. The third is funding for direct support workers wage increase. Want to point out the LaCAN leaders and Families Helping Families Centers directors all agree due to the current circumstances, which include a reduced number of staff and uncertainty advocating due to covid 19 the recommendation would be two to three items. Funding for direct support workers wage increase was reached after much deliberation on enforcing a wage passthrough verses the option of a home and community-based services provider rate increase. Any questions from the committee? All right. Do we have any questions?

MARY TARVER: I just want to make sure out of the things that were attached they went through the other sheets that had like all the issues. And so those things and went to the highest priority and then got to

this top.

RANDALL BROWN: That seems to be how they did it, yes. Any other committee members have a question? Do we have any council members have a question or any members of the public? A question pertaining to this item.

EBONY HAVEN: Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Nicole. Welcome to the council and you have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Good afternoon everybody. I had a question about the wages since it was approved for it to be increased. What did they increase it to? Was it like a board overall increase, like a percentage, or like do they do it from 16 to 18-dollars an hour or something like that?

RANDALL BROWN: Courtney, would you like to speak that question?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sorry, I am having to fight with my mute button. No. I do not believe that the recommendation from the LaCAN recommendations included a specific amount or percentage. I don't know if that answers Ms. Banks question.

RANDALL BROWN: They just want us to advocate that we do an increase.

NICOLE LEARSON: Who decides who get the increase and how much they get? Who decides that?

RANDALL BROWN: We would have to decide it as a council.

NICOLE LEARSON: Okay. And how much is going to be allocated to whatever agencies that is handling that sort of direct care worker process, right?

RANDALL BROWN: We would have to decide what percentage we would like to see go to the direct care worker; I would assume.

NICOLE LEARSON: That would be nice for direct care workers to get a little increase.

RANDALL BROWN: The current rate of pay is at the 2008 level. Where it was restored, I believe sessions ago now. It was restored to the 2008 pay level. And that is where it currently remains at this time. Any

other questions on this question? Any other comments on this question before us?

EBONY HAVEN: Randall, there is a comment in the chat from Ms. Corley. She asked, can the DD Council ask for funding to go to other entities that service under served and minority communities?

RANDALL BROWN: We certainly can do that, yes. What I think we have to decide if we want to adopt these suggestions from our LaCAN and Families Helping Families leaders. Before we do that, I might recommend finishing going through the rest of the documents that relate to this. I believe Hyacinth is with us, is she not Courtney?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir. Welcome.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you. Good afternoon y'all.

RANDALL BROWN: Glad you could be with us. Mary, you have a question.

MARY TARVER: I just wanted to make a comment to make sure that everybody was understanding this is for us to do for the advocacy agenda. This isn't, you know, like we don't have the final say. This is just us deciding if these are the things we are going to work on the advocacy agenda.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. Things we wanted to ask the legislators for.

MARY TARVER: Right.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that clarification Mary. Courtney, can we look at the other documents related to this as well. This would be their rubric for scoring, is that right? The funding increases. Before you are the issues and how the group of leaders has scored them by importance. This is how they got to those recommendations. Any questions from the committee? Brenton, would you like to read Corhonda's question and read your response. I see there is a question there.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Brenton. She asked, does the one mean high or low priority. What I am thinking, based on the document on the screen now, if it's a one then it would mean only one person voted that as priority.

When looking at the document on the screen now, the higher the number looking at the top one additional funding for individual family supports. Three people rated as priority one. Which is top priority. And then five people rated as priority two. Kind of like the lower the priority the higher it would be in their ranking. They came up with cameras, obviously majority ranked their highest priority. And then you can see it has seven people that ranked it top of the priority list. This document y'all are looking at looks like basically the document earlier, the 67 ideas. These are all the ideas, or the recommendations they received from the community input meetings. These are the ones that rank the highest. We put them all into this one document. And then you can see the note at the bottom lets you know why some of the things marked off. For instance, training for first responders. That was something they felt was important but marked off because we have an initiative in our plan that was going to address that. They marked it off because it is something that is going to be covered in the council action plan which begins this month. You can see for the funding for waiver services, that one has a scratch through because the intent, we have clarity on that, the intent of having that listed there was to talk about the SP wages. Essentially what the person was trying to get, they wanted more money in wavers, if you will. That is why that has a line through it. Lumped in with the other requests for funding for direct support professionals wage increase. The only one on this list that was not initially brought up or listed as highest priority a couple leaders made a case for the funding for the SPAS program. And so that's why that has the asterisk there. Something that was brought to kickoff that people wanted to have considered, the leaders felt that be ranked higher than it was actually ranked. That is why it ended up being on the high priority list. A good case the council something should consider as well to be funded. In general. I don't know if you have specific questions

about this or not.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Brenton for that clarification. Does the committee have any questions with regard to that data information?

MARY TARVER: So I guess there were a couple things on the list where you could see all the scoring that has a higher ranking as far as being statewide and whether or not they would be maybe a legislative fix. And one of those things I remembered hearing people talk about was the continued allowance for family members to work as support workers for their loved ones living in the same household. I know that came up because of covid. I just wonder some of these that were on here was there another fix besides it being on this legislative advocacy recommendations or are we looking at that to say off these lists, how many of these other things could we.

RANDALL BROWN: I think that is kind of what we are trying to determine today before we present this to the council on Thursday. Is what do we believe to be priority. We had this recommendation from our leaders. And so taking that into account, as well as our own understanding of, as you said, the covid crisis. I am sure the budget crisis that will follow it, what we want our legislative agenda to look like next year. And what we recommend to our members should be our priority list. That is an extensive list. We run into this issue annually because they have a lot of good things on the list. But the fact of the matter, particularly in this year, I would argue strongly for a legislative agenda that was, I think they rightly were on the right track when they listed three items. And the reason being cause you are going to have, I believe, a very restrictive budget. I think we are going to have a lot of budget shortfall due to the pandemic and crisis surrounding it. And not to mention two hurricanes we have suffered as a state. I think it's only prudent for us to look at what we consider our most important objectives and have those be our top, and really dare I say, only priority with this



particular upcoming session next year. And that is tough for me to say because this year, as in every year, I would love to see everything on this list done. I know we all would. But the reality is that we have to be mindful of what we are asking and who we are asking. And the legislators are keenly aware of the problems and issues themselves. We will continue to make sure they are for those that may be new or not. Certainly want to be prudent in our choice of how we spend our energy. Cause we also have limited staff for this upcoming session. That is a big thing for us to consider too. They can only do so much. So what are our thoughts and feelings on it? I think is there a clarifying comment from a LaCAN leader in the chat box?

EBONY HAVEN: Julie the LaCAN leader from region three said, I would also like to clarify the leaders scored this based on what our members expressed were important through our member meetings.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Julie. That is important for us to know. Thank you for that comment. I gave my thoughts on the agenda. What do you all think as a committee, what are our thoughts?

MIKE BILLINGS: I am very comfortable moving forward with the recommendations presented to us and I think limiting the scope of those is very prudent of us at this time.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Mike. Any other questions or comments from the committee members? Before I ask for a motion to adopt these recommendations, are there any questions relevant to it in our chat box?

EBONY HAVEN: Liz Gary has her hand raised, but also a question in the Q and A.

RANDALL BROWN: Do the question first please and then Liz is next.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Kelly Monroe asked, how much money is requested in the three different asks?

RANDALL BROWN: Great question. Is there anyone from the LaCAN leadership or Families Helping Families leadership that was there that would like to answer it?

Better than I could.

BRENTON ANDRUS: For FHF I think was 500,000 for the state general fund. Cameras based on the fiscal note from last year. I think around 8 million-dollars. And there was not a recommended amount for the DSP wages. That would have to be something the council would need to decide. There has to be an amount we would ask for.

RANDALL BROWN: We would have to decide.

BRENTON ANDRUS: 8.5 million between the first two, which is the cameras and FHF. And whatever the council would deem appropriate for the DSP wages.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir, for that clarification. Liz, you now have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Thank you, Randall. I appreciate it. I just wanted to, kind of goes back to what Kelly was saying. We are getting ready to go into a deficit coming in January and definitely, for sure, into the next year. I thought you might want to consider thinking about some other options there that may not be having any kind of funding. Because I have a strong suspension that it's going to be swimming to try to get out of, instead of drowning, we are going to be swimming upstream trying to just keep services. I think best if there was some things out there, potentially things that aren't going to cost us anything to consider those. It's been about two years now; we went on about three or four years we literally were just fighting to keep waivers and other services from being cut. And keep in mind, the F map is only keeping them from cutting optional services right now. Once that F map is gone, they can go after the optional services again. Just wanted to put that as food for thought for y'all. Appreciate the time. Thank you so much.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that Liz. And I share your concern with regard to future budget deficits. We definitely will have a budget deficit. The only question that remains, I don't think anyone knows the answer to, is how large of one. We

definitely will be having to advocate to keep the services we currently have, I feel. I think that's pretty much a given. The economy has been so impacted in our state from the natural disasters, there is no question we're going to have large impacts to the budget. And the way our constitution structures everything, healthcare, which we are under, is one of the first that's always looked at for reductions and cuts. I think your recommendation is a prudent one and thank you. I think it's also to point out we are in a period as a transition as a council. And the staff is going to be limited in what they can accomplish for us as well. Because we don't have, we're minus two staff members at present. Everyone is doing their job plus elements of the others as best they can. I think they're doing phenomenal considering the circumstances. We do need to take into account as an executive committee there will be a heavy workload for them that gets heavier the more we ask for. Do we have any other comments or questions from the committee? Is there anything the public or the staff would like to share?

EBONY HAVEN: Mary has her hand raised and two comments in the chat.

MARY TARVER: I have been looking over these previously. I agree and I think some of the things we are asking for, all money related, are going to be problematic for us. But I know there are a couple things on here that were, I guess we could say, like turned out to be a benefit for families during covid. Like having tele health services beyond the pandemic, having the families be able to be the support workers for their loved ones. Just wonder if we could put something on here like continuing services that have helped the DD families during covid and suggest those continue. And I think there is a couple more that were on here that started out during the pandemic. But if you can do tele health service and that helps families I think that is something. Whether the legislative, they scored it as a four. I don't know if that's something to fall up with on the legislative side or on

the community-based services part. I wonder if there is things on here we could pick up on. There was another one, individuals using self-direction should have all unused units in the budget transferred automatically from quarter to quarter to the end. I wonder, I don't have enough knowledge. It hasn't happened in my world yet. As I am reading through them, makes me think it would be something we could look at that don't have any, or a lot to it. But have something else to look at. I guess I just wanted to get some feedback from somebody who might have more knowledge. I am worried we are asking for money three times on projects.

RANDALL BROWN: In this particular budget year, yeah. I think we all agree these three are hugely needed and necessary. The problem we know we are facing already is the fact that the budget simply won't sustain it is our fear. Given the crisis we are in due to the pandemic and the storms we have endured. I think you are being prudent Mary and I thank you for that recommendation. I don't know if the staff has any particular enlightenment they can add on projects that are listed there that won't raise, won't be a huge monetary ask that we can still ask for and hopefully receive in terms of services and things that are needed by the community. Does the staff have anything, Brenton or Courtney, y'all would like to add to help us out there as far as what we could do in terms of projects that are ongoing that wouldn't add to the budget, but would help the community?

COURTNEY RYLAND: As I am sure Brenton is probably more familiar with this list, I will defer to him.

RANDALL BROWN: Brenton, do you have any thoughts on it as far as what you feel would be advantageous to put that wouldn't necessarily be a huge monetary ask, but could feasibly see them being able to be done.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I would have to do more research in the list. A lot of the stuff we looked at it is based on what the leaders and directors have said their members felt was important. While we have this list of

67 ideas, I can't say I would know everything about everything on this list. We also, we don't have the capability right now to go through and vet every single one of these things on this list. I can tell you a lot of things that has already been talked about. My opinion is probably not a legislative fix. Might just be more administrative type fix or rule change or something. No, I can't say I have information on everything on this list. What was reported to us as the most important. I will say, reiterate some things you mentioned earlier. I do think it's likely, multiple times in committees it's been mentioned we need to anticipate cuts coming our way. Also if you are still considering DSP wage increases, I do think it's something that is very important, but I also just want to remind everyone again, I don't know if you have been paying attention to the special session, but keep in mind I think in the supplemental appropriations bill 36 million-dollars going to providers. So when you are thinking of including that in your ask if that is something you are considering, especially if you are thinking about the amount of money it would cost, I just recommend taking that into consideration. Because you are going to have probably some legislators that are going to ask, some of the legislators are going to be asking about this money. I know it's not going directly to DSPs. It is one of the things they are going to consider they have already given money to providers. Not saying a disparity. Need to share that information since that was discussed in our committee before this.

HYACINTH MCKEE: That money is not going to staff. It was clear that is going to be administrative or whatever the agency feel they need to use it for. Is it possible we can advocate some of that money is directed to DSPs? Would that be more of a push on the DDC to ensure some accountability for that money?

RANDALL BROWN: Brenton, how do you feel about that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: My understanding that bill has

already made it through process and sent to the governor.

RANDALL BROWN: I want to remind everybody to please remember to ask for the floor before we speak. I know we are not accustomed to that.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I am so sorry about that. I came on late. I apologize.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for your input. I encourage it. I want our parliamentarian to know I am paying attention to her. And she is correct, we need to ask for the floor before we speak. So I guess what we have to look at now is do we want to accept the three recommendations from our leaders as they have presented them. Or do we feel given all that has been shared with us today and what we feel to be pertinent information as well, do we feel that we need to modify our ask to reflect the budgetary crisis we know we will be facing. And therefor come up with a different list of recommendations that might include one of these or some of these three items. Might also include items that wouldn't necessarily ask us for, have us asking the legislature for more money next session.

STEVEN NGUYEN: So I guess my question is one of the questions in the comment box, is it feasible to have two priorities lists. One if there is a deficit and one if there is not. Can we have two lists going at the same time?

RANDALL BROWN: The problem, I think we would have, we are almost all but certain there will be deficit. Any list we create would be a wish list we are almost certain we would shelve. I would question being able to create that at this time. And then have staff create that and that not be a feasible option. Because we are already hearing from our legislators in this session that cuts are to be expected. I think we are going to have to focus our energy a lot more than we would like protecting the services. Was there another comment to that in the chat box?

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Kathy Dwyer has her hand raised.

KATHY DWYER: Good afternoon. Thank you for

letting me speak. I am reminded of Katrina being a survivor. Also a state employee at the time. Legislators were clear we would have a deficit. They started initiating furloughs for a lot of the state agencies, all the state agencies. As it turned out because of all the influx of federal money, we ended up with a surplus, not a deficit. You may want to prepare just in case there isn't a deficit. I know it looks like that and this is a statewide national, international world problem. We are getting a lot of influx of federal money. That might make up for what appears to be deficit. Not that anybody is going to know that until all the accounting has been completed.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. Thank you very much for that feedback. We appreciate it. I saw Charlie had a few comments. Would you like to speak?

CHARLIE MICHEL: Can you hear me now? I was just saying I know when I was working for the school system after Katrina she is actually right. But for the school systems, and I can't speak for other government entities, it was years after the expenses were originally incurred. The school systems had to pony up the money, whether loans or reserve funds in the here and now while those expenses had to be dealt with. New buildings, new roofs, new everything. My opinion, while that is true and it will correct itself overtime, I think we need to look at the here and now. And to think there won't be some sort of budget implication, severe budget implication, I think would be short sighted. Also am concerned about having dual priority lists. Looks like we can't make a decision. My last point is I think if we decide, Liz made a good point. If we decide to go with things that are only on the no cost list. Don't cut these services, critical to the people that are receiving them. I think that does two things. Shows we are cognizant of the problems that legislators and our governmental officials are facing right now. And the other thing shows we are team players. Not always out asking for more. We're recognizing there are other people that may need things

more right now than we do. But we can wait our turn till next year. For the last, I have only been in this job for two years. Prior to my getting here, the accomplishments of DD Council and LaCAN all the efforts have been astronomical and significant positive impact on many, many people. I think if we can, my recommendation is to consider being team players. Keep what we have and let's not appear to be part of the problem as far as the legislators who already have these other things they have to deal with. Just my recommendation.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. So we had significant discussion and feedback from our public today. Recommendation before you from our leaders, Families Helping Families and LaCAN leaders. I want to also make clear this is a year that we are certain will have budget implications. There is no question. The only question we have that no one can yet answer sufficiently is how large of a budget deficit. Therefore, how large will the cuts be. A fair point to bring home to us that we have to protect what we already fought for. That is going to be a necessary thing. We're going to have to do, we already know that. I think it's prudent to take that into account. I also think there is always next year. Ms. Kathy is exactly right. The FEMA will definitely contribute for hurricane relief at some point. We will receive covid aid at some point. The problem we have as we are preparing to ask for things it will be next year before some of that, maybe any of that, will reach us. We could ask for things next year is what I am trying to say. Wanting to do where we ask please, don't cut the services we already have for this coming year. And then for 2022 if things recover as we are more flush with funding then step forward and say these are our priorities for additional spending for our community. I think Charlie has a fair point. That does help us to let the legislature know that we are aware of the total of things going on around us and how important, not just our community is, but all the suffering our entire



state is enduring. I think we are all for advocacy, a very tough thing to have to say, we know we are going to have to do less than we would like. I think it's an enormous effort we are going to have to put forth just to save the things we all fought for up to this point. Are there any questions from the committee, comments from the committee? Are there any comments in the chat box?

EBONY HAVEN: There is one comment from Ms. Kathleen Kanino. She says, I just like to request that cameras remain on the list and the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs has added it as well. I think working together will be a tremendous benefit. It will protect the children and teachers.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Kathleen, for that prospective. So are you guys comfortable with a motion? Asking the committee? How do we feel about a motion?

STEVEN NGUYEN: A motion asking for?

RANDALL BROWN: We need to make recommendations to the full council for the legislative advocacy agenda. I guess my question is what are we thinking in terms of a motion? If you are not comfortable making a motion, I believe there are some options for us to look at. Just want to know where y'all are at in terms of a motion. We have to produce something today. We have to be able to do something on this topic.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I guess my question is what on this list does not tie funding? I am looking at the list, I am thinking something like tele health services would be important.

RANDALL BROWN: The things that we know are already being done would be a place to start. You are right. Tela health would be one. Currently ongoing.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I don't know who it was in the chat box, but it was someone from the public that made a good comment about we should focus on our advocacy efforts to make sure that there are no cuts to advocacy. Maybe priority needs to shift to that.

RANDALL BROWN: Just trying to clarify. You are

right, and I agree with you. We are going to have to do that regardless of what we choose today. We are going to be in a position of fighting for no cuts.

HYACINTH MCKEE: It sounds like, and maybe I am not gauging the temperament of the executive committee well but sounds no one is really comfortable with making a motion right now as the way it stands. We have been on it for a while.

RANDALL BROWN: I think you are gauging it perfectly. If that is your suggestion that should be the motion.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I would like to make that motion. And I am only, I am going to see if I can word it in such a way so that the public understands that we are not saying that the three that has been brought to our attention, based on our meetings, are not important. It's just that we should focus all of our efforts on making sure that we don't have the cuts. I have heard several members today say that some cuts are going to happen. Maybe the motion should be recommending that due to covid 19 and the anticipation of possible budget cuts to our existing program that the DDC should shift its priority to advocating that we do not have any cuts to our existing programs for our families, services for our self-advocates and families. That is the motion I would like to offer to the committee right now.

RANDALL BROWN: Is there a second to Hyacinth's motion? That is for us to have the motion for us to advocate solely for there to be no cuts to our existing services and systems for the 2021 legislative agenda.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I will second.

RANDALL BROWN: Hyacinth made the motion and Steven seconds. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed no. Do I have anyone who abstains? If you are in favor, please say aye. (collective aye) I think this is the motion we will present to our council on Thursday for their consideration. Courtney is asking, could you please repeat what your motion is.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Let me see if I can recall what I said. The motion is that the LADDC shift its

priorities to focus on ensuring that services to our self-advocates' families and the community are not cut. But I did say it clearer than that. Basically want to shift our priority to ensure services are not cut for our families, existing services are not cut due to covid 19. And the anticipation of a budget shortfall our advocacy effort will shift to ensure existing services will not be cut for our families.

RANDALL BROWN: Even though we are wording that as we speak the intent of the motion we voted on and it's unanimous. We are getting our language together here. Excuse me, our parliamentarian wants me to note it's not unanimous, but majority have agreed. So the motion has carried. Can we move forward to our next item? We need to decide on future council meeting dates and in person activities or virtual meetings. This means for 2021 how do we feel about our future meeting schedules and the way we do it for 2021. Here on the screen you will see a tentative schedule and I would urge its adoption. It follows the three-month pattern for each quarter of 2021. And then you see below a proposed schedule for 2022 meetings. I would recommend that we pass those by majority. Because that is the schedule we have always maintained, but we wanted to, in this time of uncertainty and covid, wanted to go ahead and get approval for this. I guess I will ask is there any objection to this being our tentative schedule for 2021? Is there a motion to adopt, I should say, this tentative schedule 2021 and 2022? Do I have a motion from the committee to adopt?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I would like to make a motion to adopt this tentative schedule for 2021 and 2022.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you, sir. Steven has made the motion to adopt the tentative schedule you see on your screen. Do I have a second?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Second.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you madam vice chair. Do I have any abstentions to this motion? Anybody abstain? Excuse me, I didn't ask for discussion. Any discussion on this motion?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If I may have the floor for just a moment. So this schedule or these dates are typically for in-person days. Since we normally meet on Wednesday all the committees and the council meets on the Thursday. Well, with virtual meetings now continuing is there wiggle room for additional days such as for January, possibly doing it from January 19th through the 21st? I don't want to rope us into something and limit us when we might not be in in-person settings at that time.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. And that is something I don't think we can decide today. I think we have to look at medical evidence at the time closer to the time. I think we have to look at the medical evidence and recommendations as well as whatever orders may still be in place with regard to covid closer to January. I think it would be prudent to add a scope of days if everyone agrees. Just to give us more flexibility in scheduling due to digital meeting setting.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Just a question. Is it only applicable for January?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. We would have to meet quarterly. That is set in the DD act.

RANDALL BROWN: Saying if we are being flexible.

RANDALL BROWN: You can add an extra day or two to all the dates. I would recommend it be for wherever additions you make it be for all of these.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I will go ahead and amend my motion to consider, I guess, alternate days for January 2021.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. Like if we are going to add additional days, I would recommend for all the schedule. Because we will eventually go back to in-person meetings. At this point though, we have no idea when. Until that happens, we would need the flexibility to allow for digital meetings. We can always go back and amend the schedule as we need to. Not set in stone. Just gives us a way to plan. Make the motion to amend your motion on the floor to add additional days to each proposed meeting date.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Okay. I will go ahead and make a motion to amend my motion to provide flexibility as far as dates for future council meetings.

RANDALL BROWN: Courtney, would you like to share what your feelings are about that?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sure. I was actually just going to reflect on what Steven just said. Going to open up another motion and share that document so that everybody can see what the motion actually states.

RANDALL BROWN: And I will need a second to Steven's motion to amend.

MIKE BILLINGS: I will second.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Mike. Do I have any objections? Or first of all, do I have any abstentions? Anybody abstain? This is a vote to change, a vote to amend the dates. All those in favor say, aye.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Aye.

RANDALL BROWN: All those opposed, no. Steven, did you say aye?

STEVEN NGUYEN: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: Mary, Steven, Hyacinth, Mike. Now we need to vote to adopt the amended schedule. Now we have the amended schedule on the floor. Need a vote to adopt it. Do I have any abstentions to the motion on the floor? Anybody abstain? Hearing none. Do I have all those in favor say aye? (collective aye) Opposed? The motion carries by majority. Next item. So the creation of email address for the executive committee. This actually doesn't need a vote. Something I have directed Courtney to begin doing. We are going to create a .gov email address for the executive committee which will forever be in place. It won't fluctuate with our terms. It will belong to the committee. A place for all, on our website and it will be where people can email us all their concerns, questions, ideas, whatever the case may be, will go into that email address. We will have, each member of the executive committee will have access to the account. But myself as chair and Courtney as interim executive

director would have the ability to respond. And that is because we typically are the people who respond to correspondence between meetings on behalf of the council. So that is something I have already directed her to do. Just wanted to inform y'all of and I'm also going to request that I, as your chair, get a .gov address because as y'all know there was a hoax that went around where someone was using some email that is not even mine to request money from council members. Deeply concerned me and I don't know that we can prevent it but creating this would allow us to get that somewhat under control. And that you will know when something comes from me and it's a .gov address that it is from your chair. So I think that is important. I requested that I get an email address that will go up on the website once created for those to email me. That will allow the IT department to assist me in matters like hackings and what not. Also, I think it's important for continuity sake when April passed away, I did not have access to some of her communications because they were in her private emails. I want to create this so that whenever I transition out of this office the next chair will automatically have access to the documents and to the emails, they need that is pertinent to carry out the work of the chair. I think it's important for the executive committee to have one source, one place we can all go that is secure to view emails that are sent to us. I have already directed Courtney to begin creation of that. If each of you would like a .gov address, I would encourage it and would replace the ones you currently have on the website that may be from a private account once created. You don't have to do it. Voluntary. As your chair I would recommend it and it would be easy to create. Not something I am going to ask the council to adopt right now as a whole. I think as an executive committee something we can certainly test and try out and make sure it works. And we could open it up for everyone to have one if we so choose. For the moment we will be creating one for the executive committee

itself and for myself as your chair. Have any feedback on that? Questions, comments?

MARY TARVER: Would there be an issue about all of us having access to the email and it being like open meetings because we are all getting the same emails?

RANDALL BROWN: Again, only be able to publicly respond Courtney and I. Would be something we would have to essentially go by the honor system. That we could not discuss. Which is that way now. We could discuss things we get by email, but we do not. I think by having a.gov will allow those emails we do receive to be in one place for the staff to have in one place for the committee to be able to review and look at as needed. Right now we have sort of disjointed, I got that email, no I didn't, did you see that. I think that will cut down on that. Also the IT department can help keep track of those as well, which I think is important.

MARY TARVER: Would we have to go in there and check it to make sure somebody didn't send an email? They are asking me a question or is that something the staff is going to be monitoring the emails?

RANDALL BROWN: The chair would. The chair will monitor the executive account and Courtney would assist me with that. If we did get comments or questions I have directed, it's my job as your chair to speak on issues for the council in between meetings. So I would have the authority to be able to speak to questions that may come in for any of the executive committee or council between meetings. And not just me. It is authority of the chair. This is just a way to centralize the emails we are already getting. And discussion would take place, as it always does, at our meetings. Any responses would come from either myself in regards to executive committee council, either myself or Courtney. Does that answer your question?

MARY TARVER: Yeah. I think if the chairperson and the executive director are the only ones that would have access to it, then that might be better because then if you see it and it has Mary Tarver needs to do

whatever, you are just replying it or sending it to me and we are discussing it and not having a whole committee. Is that what you were thinking?

RANDALL BROWN: Yeah. That's fine. I want a centralized place cause I didn't have one when April passed away. It was a lot of work trying to figure out where we were on all these different things when she passed away. I don't want this to happen to another chair.

MARY TARVER: I think having the email would be good. Don't want us to get into a thing where somebody sends the email, and we have a whole thing talking about somebody else and all of us have seen it. I think it would be good if we had the executive, the chairperson and the executive director then you could funnel through the emails to whoever it needed to go to.

RANDALL BROWN: Noted. That it still being worked on. We can set it up that way. That is fine as long as y'all are okay with it. Any other comments or questions?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Clarification. The email that we know that is going to be set up, you and Courtney will have the authority to reply. But the executive committee will have the authority to view it, but not to reply, correct. But what Mary is recommending is the executive committee not view it and it just be the email will just go to you and Courtney under the executive committee.gov. And then you and Courtney will decide to forward it to executive committee members that is involved or respective to. Is that what I am understanding the clarification is?

MARY TARVER: That's what I was recommending so we don't have four or five other people on executive committee all see something that we don't need to. Because it might violate open meeting laws and then some of the stuff coming through could not be appropriate, I guess, is the word.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you for the clarification.

COURTNEY RYLAND: It looks like we have lost our



chair. We will try to reconnect with him shortly. We will continue to stand at ease until we try to reconnect with the chair.

RANDALL BROWN: Can y'all hear me? Sorry y'all. My battery went dead. Where are we?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Finishing the discussion of the creation of the email address for the executive committee.

RANDALL BROWN: Is everyone okay with that?

HYACINTH MCKEE: HM. Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Seeing no objections, that will proceed as I have outlined to Courtney and shared with you earlier. Do we have any public comment? That is our next item.

EBONY HAVEN: Julie has her hand raised. I think she has something in the chat box. She says sorry, no sound. Julie, LaCAN leader, region three. I would like to suggest in regards to the advocacy agenda maybe we could do the items or one or two and then say if there is cuts then we shift advocacy. I am suggesting this because our members are really passionate about the items we listed, and I don't want them to feel they are not being heard or get frustrated and stop being active LaCAN members. Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I apologize. It looks like we have lost Randall again. We will be at ease until he can join us. Welcome back chair.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. I don't know how long it will last. Are we still discussing public comments?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir. I think we just have one comment from Melinda Elliot in the chat box. Would you like for me to read it?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

COURTNEY RYLAND: The DDC has always been known for having an agenda looking for proactive agenda. If our major focus is preventing cuts, we are basically agreeing to a reactive agenda.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Melinda. Committee, how do we feel about it?

STEVEN NGUYEN: Personally, I see it both ways.

MIKE BILLINGS: I do as well. I think they put a lot of time and effort into selecting their priorities. We're basically taking them all out of consideration.

RANDALL BROWN: Anymore feedback from the committee?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Since I made the motion, I actually see it both ways as well. My only concern is to go to the legislative asking for 8 million-dollars for one and then asking for half a million for another priority. My biggest concern is the amount of money that we are going to ask for that is tied to the priorities. So I do see it both ways. And I do so a lot of work that has been going in that went into that. But again, if we go back to looking at all of the priorities it is going to be upon us to sit there and dissect the entire list to determine what has more priority over another one and all of that. We have 8 million tied to one and we have a half a million tied to another one. We are going to ask the legislature for \$8.5 million without even targeting the third priority. Again, I made the motion because we have heard from several committee members today and from public members the concern of us looking at some budget cuts next year. Again, that is why I made the motion. But the committee can feel free to amend the motion and then go into more discussion how they decide to proceed.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Can we consider maybe taking a couple of them off? I know funding is going to be an issue. Narrowing down to maybe top two instead of three. And having the third one as what we originally mentioned.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Are you making a motion to, are you putting a different motion, are you making a motion now? And then if we do that, it will be up to the committee to determine are you going to amend the motion that was previously adopted to reflect what you want to include? Are you going to amend the motion that was already adopted on the floor?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I was just trying to solicit,

wasn't really making a motion, seeing what everybody else's thoughts were.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Any other committee thoughts about this? I see Mary's hand up.

MARY TARVER: I do think it's probably unprecedented we are asking for anything as far as money goes. I know the biggest ask about the cameras and the special education classrooms. With all the covid and the changes it's rare to get an opportunity to be in a classroom now if your kids are back in school and not doing virtual. I am sure one of the things just moving forward how things will look with continued lack of access. I know it's the biggest ask, but maybe the one we ask and if nothing else fight for no other cuts. I do feel strange about us just saying let's not have cuts. Either way it's not an easy decision to make. I would be open for us still asking for something. And out of these things to me the cameras and special education, I know it's been something we have been talking about for several years. It won't be anything new that we haven't already asked for. I guess that is what is running through my mind.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mike, you have the floor.

MIKE BILLINGS: I wasn't asking for the floor, but I do agree with what Mary said. Cameras in the classroom I think is an important issue. But there is others on there that are important. I know cameras is one of mine. But there are others on there that are important and maybe we take a look at the ones with the limited cost associated to them and see what we can put on there. Just not asking for anything but no cuts. I feel like we have short changed LaCAN and Families Helping Families members.

HYACINTH MCKEE: You all have to make a motion. We are at 2:53 p.m. A motion need has to be made. We had a lot of discussion about this topic. And so if the intention is to change the previous motion that was made, that was asked by the majority than someone will need to make a substitute motion or another motion to replace that. Another motion, it has to be a motion to

amend the motion previously adopted. You will have to amend the motion that was previously adopted. Someone will need to do that. And then when you amend it, make it clear as to what the motion is supposed to be written as and what is supposed to be said. And if there is no motion we are going to have to move to the next item. I am going to allow for a minute of reflection so that someone from the committee can make an amended motion to the motion that was accepted.

MARY TARVER: I feel like I am on a crazy show where we can't make up our minds. These are huge decisions and I think my gut is telling me we still ask for the things the people have recommended. I am sure we will have discussion about it tomorrow. I would make the motion that we have the three, I am going to say all three of the items back on the legislative agenda.

HYACINTH MCKEE: There is a motion. We need a change. Kind of like undoing. Are you rescinding the previous motion?

MARY TARVER: I think I am making a substitute motion.

HYACINTH MCKEE: We have a substitute motion on the floor from Mary. And the motion is to consider the three recommended items received from LaCAN leaders and FHF directors to be included in the councils. We have to undue this previous motion and then make a new motion. So Mary, you are going to have to strike, going to motion to remove the existing motion that was there to rescind the existing motion that was there. And then go in and put your substitute motion.

>> >>: Mary. I make a motion to rescind the previous motion and substitute the motion to consider recommendations of all three priorities from LaCAN and Families Helping Families.

HYACINTH MCKEE: The first one. So now we need to rescind that one first. So the motion that you made is to rescind, to consider shifting focus on cost existing services for families and communities due to covid 19. We need a second to rescind that motion. Do we have a

second to rescind that motion?

MIKE BILLINGS: I will second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mary made the motion to rescind. Mike seconded it. Now we need a 2/3rds vote on that. All in favor? (collective aye) Any opposed? Any abstentions? I am going to abstain. Hearing no other. Any public comment on that?

EBONY HAVEN: Liz Gary has her hand raised.

LIZ GARY: I just wanted to say two things. The first thing was yeah, LaCAN always had agenda items regardless of the fact there was a risk and a budget deficit. You just never know what could happen. And as far as what Melinda and Kathy were saying, yeah, we did have influx of income. It was about a year or two after because of sales tax. But there is always that possibility there is. I just wanted before to make sure it was aware there was a possibility there would be deficit just to be prepared and ready that even if you had an agenda it's possible you would have to switch it to just maybe simply going in and save. All I wanted to say. Thank you so much.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you. All right so it looks like it's been carried. It's been adopted. Now Mary's substitute motion is up on the floor. So Mary's substitute motion is for the council's three recommended items received. We got a second for the first motion with Mike. So now substitute motion for council to consider the three recommended items received from LaCAN leaders and FHF directors to be included in the council's fiscal year legislative agenda. We need a second for that.

MIKE BILLINGS: Mike. I will second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mike seconds. And on this one we need all in favor? (collective aye) Any objections? Any abstentions? Hearing none, motion carries. Any other public comments? If not, we are going to go right to the next item.

EBONY HAVEN: There are several comments in the chat.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I don't see the chat. How many

are there cause I can't see it.

EBONY HAVEN: About six or seven.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Are they pertaining to what we have already discussed? I will allow it at a maximum because we are over schedule now. We are over our 3:00 time. I will allow the public comment, but no more than three minutes per person. If they want to speak to their comment instead of reading it from the chat. I can't see the chat.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Roslyn Hymel has raised her hand.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can everybody hear me? I was really wondering even when we do make this kind of change like we do even what I want to know how many more changes can we make total?

HYACINTH MCKEE: A good question. Are you asking about the change we made with the motion or asking about the changes in terms of what we intend to present to the legislature?

ROSLYN HYMEL: All of that.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Want to bring you through the whole process, we make motions and all majority votes, we act on that. I am hoping your question is asking what other public members were mentioning that if we don't have a deficit, if we don't have these cuts, I think some of the concerns was we still need to have something to present to the legislature. I think what I am understanding your question to be. And so I think right now what the committee just did was to ensure we do still have something in place to advocate for. If we don't have those budget cuts that we don't want to have, but we are anticipating. I hope I answered it. The question is we wanted to make sure we had something in place even though we are fearing we may have cuts. Does that answer it, I hope? Thanks. I hope I answered it. Anyone else in the public comment we can get to?

EBONY HAVEN: No one has their hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I hope that we were able to address the comments that were in the chat box. Again, we are going to, if there are no other public comments,

we are going to move forward with the agenda. And so now we are at announcements. Do we have any announcements we need to make? Any announcements?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Just a reminder that at the January meetings all of the committees are going to be requested to present activities or initiatives they would recommend for the FY2022 action plan committee for that development for that plan. So I know we just implemented some things and we're still actually deliberating on the five-year plan. It's already time to start thinking about the 2022 plan.

HYACINTH MCKEE: That time went by so fast. Thanks, Courtney, for sharing that with us and letting us know we have to start getting in gear to prepare for that January meeting. Again, thank you for that. Any other announcements? Hearing no other announcements we are ready to entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting for today.

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

HYACINTH MCKEE: Do we have a second?

MIKE BILLINGS: I will second.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Steven for your motion and thank you Mike for your second. Hearing no objections, right? Can we adjourn this meeting folks? You guys have a great evening. Thank you for your time.