

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
FFY 2022 Planning  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

COURTNEY RYLAND: Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for joining us. I just received a text message from Randall. He will be joining us shortly. If you don't mind, we will wait for him to log in and we will begin.

RANDALL BROWN: Good afternoon. Courtney, do I have a quorum?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir. You do.

RANDALL BROWN: Everybody, good afternoon. Welcome to the planning committee for the fiscal year of 2022, correct Courtney? And so can we put the agenda up on the screen if everyone could see it before we get started please. Here is our agenda for today's meeting. I am Randall Brown, chair of the council. Go around and let everybody on the committee introduce themselves. Courtney, could you just call roll, and they can introduce.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Of course. We have Mr. Randall Brown. Mr. Rashad Bristo.

RASHAD BRISTO: Rashad Bristo, present.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Ms. Liz Gary.

LIZ GARY: Present.

JILL HANO: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Hey y'all.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Good afternoon Ms. Hano. And Ms. Bambi Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi. It's Bambi.

COURTNEY RYLAND: This constitutes the entire planning committee. Thank you all for joining us.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. And I believe the vice chair, Dr. McKee, will be joining us shortly today as well. But not on Wednesday. She should be joining us shortly, just for your knowledge, Courtney. And thank you all for your willingness to serve today. And let us begin. We have our meeting, our mission statement.

If you could post that, I will read it quickly. Here on the screen before us you see the mission statement for the council and that is to increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

Posted now on the screen you see our protocols for today's meeting and every meeting we have via zoom listed there. I won't belabor the point unless someone request I read it. I will give it a few minutes for everyone to review before we begin today's work. I do believe Dr. McKee has just joined us. So welcome madam vice chair. Again, there you see the protocols for today's meeting and every virtual meeting we have. These are our standard protocols. All right. I believe we can move forward now unless someone request more time.

At this time I would like to call on our guests, if we have any present, if they would like to introduce themselves.

KATHY DWYER: Good afternoon. This is Kathy Dwyer. I'm chair of the Louisiana State Advisory Council for Developmental Disabilities and cochair of Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with Developmental Disabilities.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Kathy, thank you for joining us today.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Good day and greetings to everyone. This is Hyacinth McKee just calling in to support today. Greetings.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, madam vice chair. Thank you for being present.

ASHLEY MCREYNOLDS: Hey. This is Ashley McReynolds, parent and program director of Arc of Louisiana.

RANDALL BROWN: Hi Ashley. Good afternoon. Thank you for being with us today.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Hi y'all. It's Lillian DeJean.

You guys know me. Good to see you guys.

RANDALL BROWN: Hey. Thank you for being here today. I believe Kelly Monroe from Arc of Louisiana is present. She is having some mike difficulties. Thank you for being here Kelly. Is that everyone? I believe it must be. Okay.

So if we put the agenda back on the screen Courtney. Please. So the first thing we should probably do is review the budget. You have it ready to pull up for us to see Courtney? Thank you. So would you like to give us some background.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sure. So as of right now I cannot anticipate that we would receive the additional 500,000-dollars that we are advocating for for 2020 for our state general funds. As of right now I just have the 507,517 budgeted for our Families Helping Families contracts.

RANDALL BROWN: The current budgeted number, correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. But if we are successful in our advocacy that amount could increase.

RANDALL BROWN: Right.

COURTNEY RYLAND: And then this amount, the 645,000 amount, is actually a little higher than it was two years ago. It was 600,000. And then when the onset of covid occurred a lot of our contracts were not able to be successfully fulfilled. So last year during the planning committee, which met in June, we were able to beef up that allotment to 750,000 because we had moved funds that weren't used the previous year to this year. That's what led to a lot more initiatives for the 2021 plan. We are not anticipating having those same amount of funds as last year Which is why the federal allotment is back down. But it's higher than it was before. 645,000.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think you have a couple questions from Bambi and Liz when you are ready.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay. Go ahead. I don't know who was first.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Bambi.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just wanted to know with the new funding, I hear there is a lot of federal funding that is coming down, does that impact any of the funding the DD Councils are getting or allocations of the funds you were just speaking of?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If it affects our state general funds then I am not aware of that. But the NACDD has not indicated to us that we will receive additional funding. They indicated we would see pretty level funding. Like I said, this 645,000 amount is slightly increased from the previous 600,000 amount. I have not been notified from the feds. If that answers that question.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And Liz.

LIZ GARY: Thank you. So I'm not familiar as much with the whole budgeting for the council. But my question is is that when you get your five-year plan you get a five-year budget, basically, and then you divide that. So how could it come in at 750 last year? You're saying there was excess from 2019 that wasn't used or 2020 that bumped it up.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Right. When we had contracts for 2019 initiatives that run into the calendar year 2020. But like I said, because of covid those activities got stopped and therefore we didn't spend all the money from 2019 during that contract year. So that's how last year's budget got beefed up to 750 because of the funds that weren't used for 2019. But we're not expecting. We have created new initiatives and contracts. We're using all of that 750. This year we are starting over and going back to our original amounts, but with a slight increase.

LIZ GARY: Okay. And so was that allowed with the rollover because of covid. Because I know in the past it was always said you can't roll over money if you don't spend it, you lose it.

COURTNEY RYLAND: There's a two-year obligation and a one-year liquidation period. So because it was 2019,

we had through 2021 to spend those funds.

LIZ GARY: Okay. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Which will be done. We will have spent it by that timeframe.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So we have 645,000 to come up with activities that are both possibly continuing from what we were doing during the last five years or for new contractual activities. Our total budget for the year, which has already been reported to LDH is 1,152,517. But if that increases, if we do see more federal allotment, then like I said, this could go up both in our advocacy for more state general funds, or if more federal funding comes down the pike. I figured this was the best amount to start with because I don't want to assume that we're receiving funds and I don't want to create initiatives that cost funds that we might not receive. This is what I felt would be best to start with. Or actually the truth. What we actually have to start with. Like I said, we can always increase it if we are notified of more funding coming our way.

RANDALL BROWN: Changes in funding, yes.

COURTNEY RYLAND: And we can do that at any time of the year.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. And obviously, if we are notified by the feds that we have more money coming from Congress than we will be happy to convene again and allot the funding. Of course, if we are successful in our advocacy efforts at the legislature everyone will know that and we will convene again, in that case to allot that funding if needed. So that's where we stand with our budget. Any other questions before we move into planning?

All right. Hearing none, can we put the agenda back up on the screen for a moment please. All right. So next we have the recommendations from the council's standing committees. That would be education and employment committee, and self-determination committee, and inclusion committees have sent their recommendations to us to be considered. And now there

they are before you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I will say, if I may interject. I'm sorry.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Please do.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I will say I like what everyone has kind of put what objective they would recommend their ideas to be. I think that's going to be really helpful when trying to think of activities underneath each objective.

RANDALL BROWN: Try to remember to do that again. So these are the recommendations for each of the standing committees.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Randall, I don't know if you want to read them or just wanted to show them.

RANDALL BROWN: I could read them, yes. Can you make the print a little bigger.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sure.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. So for the self-determination and community inclusion recommendations they are as follows. Under objective 2.1 create a list of providers by region to be posted to the council and Louisiana Department of Health's websites. The list should include providers for self-services, prevention of chronic disease services, dental, behavioral health and sexual reproductive health services. The list would also be made available to case managers for distribution. And the second suggestion from the committee under 2.2 establish an initiative to educate first responders and direct support professionals on how to treat individuals with disabilities in an unbiased manner. And the final objective from self-determination community inclusion committee is objective 2.3. That is to establish an initiative to address discrimination in housing for people with disabilities.

Next, we have the recommendations from the education and employment committee, and they are as follows. The first objective is to build capacity in higher education institutions for those individuals providing services to special education students,

teachers and support workers. The second is advocating and providing for input on high impact systems that can be used to leverage best practice around IEPs and enable each member to fully participate as members of the IEP team. The third objective is to advocate for educational systems change based on education issues that present themselves during the federal fiscal year of 2022. The fourth objective is to advocate for type two and type five charter schools to be required to meet the 85 percent rule of New Orleans students with disabilities at rates similar to found in traditional public schools and advocate for and monitor equitable funding based on minimum foundation program. Specifically regarding the charter compacts under objective 4.2 in fiscal year 2021 action plan. And the fifth and final objective for education is to advocate for increased meaningful opportunities for stakeholder input, improve practices to facilitate stakeholder input and consideration of stakeholder recommendations.

And the ideas for employment are as follows. The first objective, advocate for access to LRS preemployment transition services with school districts for all students with disabilities. And the second is to provide education to families about what LRS transition services are available and how to access them. The third recommendation is to share Developmental Disabilities Council employment videos featuring individuals with developmental disabilities in their jobs. The fourth objective, advocate for systems change based on emergent employment issues. And the fifth objective, support efforts to examine the effectiveness of Louisiana Medicaid buy-in program.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Jill. You have the floor.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're muted Jill. Jill, can you unmute?

JILL HANO: Yeah, sorry. I didn't want to interrupt. Were you done?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

JILL HANO: What do you mean under number four what

is a charter compact.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct me if I'm wrong someone, but charter schools have to have rules for how they operate and that's called compact. The agreement they make with the state that was with Department of Education is called a compact. And so we want to make sure the charter schools are providing for people with disabilities to be able to participate and use charter schools for education should they choose to. The federal rules already say it should be happening, but we want to make sure it is.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Any other questions?

BRENTON ANDRUS: It looks like we have something in the chat from Dr. McKee. She says, being that we have a contract with Louisiana Post-Secondary Alliance for fiscal year 2021 I see no objectives to address post-secondary opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Is there room to discuss this matter and/or include it somehow? Thanks.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. There is. That's what today's about. These were just the recommendations from the standing committees.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Today and tomorrow.

RANDALL BROWN: Yeah. For the next two days we can suggest anything we would like to include in the plan. And thank you, madam vice chair, for that suggestion.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So today and Wednesday. I'm sorry.

RANDALL BROWN: These are just some very good, I believe, very good options to get us started in the planning process. And these come from the standing committees. I think they have done commendable work here in making sure we have these issues plainly addressed and ready to implement.

BRENTON ANDRUS: She did follow up to say she would not be present Wednesday and asked the committee to address that matter.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. So noted madam vice chair. Thank you for the suggestion. Any other



questions or comments regarding the objectives and recommendations from the standing committees? Do we all agree those should be included as they are written in the plan?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I don't hear any objections. Oh, wait. Looks like Ms. Liz Gary has her hand raised.

LIZ GARY: Sorry. My dog just started barking. Forgive me if he starts barking. My question is so 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. So I'm not opposed to it, but it seems like a lot of initiatives. What is a normal year in the amount of initiatives and then how much? I think it's based on how much you would have to put into each of the initiatives to see if you can actually handle 13 initiatives. So I guess that was my question when you said are we opposed to any of this. I would think you have to delve deeper into them or is it that you just approve it and then start talking more in detail.

RANDALL BROWN: That's what I want to do is we need to approve it so we can start talking about it and fine tuning it. Right now think of it like a blank piece of paper. So these initiatives, I think, allow us a very good starting point to begin discussions of the objectives for next year.

LIZ GARY: Okay. So this is just to start discussing. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. Hopefully, we will end up with most of these because this is work done by the committees. It's all very important. But yes, I'm asking we agree this is our starting point for the plan. These initiatives are our starting point.

LIZ GARY: No objection from me.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. All right. Do we have any other comments, suggestions or feedback? Thank you, Courtney. I believe, correct me if I'm wrong, these are the regulations we have to go by, requirements, from the feds.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. I just wanted to make sure the committee was aware of what we are federally obligated to address in our plans every year. If you

look at the capital Roman numerals one, two and three these are activities that every state council on developmental disabilities must address every year in their plans. Just want to make sure everyone is aware this is something that we are required to continue every year.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. And thank you for reminding us. So there before you, I won't read all of that here, but there before you you see it is linked in the agenda today and tomorrow as well. The requirements our federal partners give us to meet annually. So there they are.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I believe Liz Gary has her hand raised again.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Thank you Randall. And Courtney, I just wanted to say it's very interesting that if you, obviously we all can read and notice, but all three of them are specifically directing the importance of making sure that we are working for individuals with disabilities. And so I think it's very, it's a pretty strong message that is being sent that we need to make sure that as we're doing these these are focusing more on individuals with developmental disabilities to make sure we're involved in the self-advocacy movement and making sure we are getting them what they need. I appreciate this Courtney. Thank you, Randall, also for bringing that to our attention.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Okay.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Above these three activities I just want to make note of the statement that our goals need to be derived from the unmet needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. So in everything that we do we need to make sure what we're doing is meeting unmet needs of the individuals that we serve.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that clarification Courtney. Do we have any comments in the chat?

BRENTON ANDRUS: You do. From Dr. McKee she says in looking at 4A3 I'm wondering where we are addressing

this requirement. I just want to be sure that message is clear.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So Roman numeral number three, is that the one she was referencing. Okay. So support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities across disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions. This activity is actually in our current action plan. And I can pull that up and show you that it is an activity that we do address every year. So we can almost copy and paste, I believe. Put that up real quick. So activity 1.3.1 is provide information and support for participation of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in cross disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and advisory bodies.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Was there a follow up? Did that answer vice chairs question, Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. Her follow up was just she wanted to make sure the public had access to it.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Thank you, madam vice chair.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You do have a hand raised from Ms. Corhonda Corley.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Ms. Corley. You have the floor.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you so much Mr. Chairman. I would like to echo what Dr. McKee pointed out. It's listed on there. However, it's never actually really addressed. We put a lot of pretty words on documents and we never fulfill it. We can look at this committee today and we actually see only one person that represents cultural diversity. We do not have that representation throughout the council. And yet we have more than just one person in this DD community that is diverse. We can even address English language learners. We don't have any English language learners on our council. That's a problem. And that sends a wrong message to our members of the ID and DD community. We have had a letter sent from the feds directly speaking about this same problem and yet your

answer to our vice chair is that it's on there from the fiscal year for 2020. It has not been addressed. That was the point in the feds submitting that letter. That is the point to why the vice chair is bringing it up. We're supposed to have a cultural diversity committee that has yet to be formed and has yet to meet. It is a problem. And it is a problem that I'm not going to shut up about until we finally address it. And we need to really and truly make that a priority because there are more diverse groups in this DD community than just Caucasian. I would greatly appreciate if we can make that a priority and we can make it a priority today. Thank you so much Mr. Chairman.

RANDALL BROWN: Your comments are noted Ms. Corley. And that committee is being formed and will be announced shortly. In fact, our vice chair will be chairing it. Just for your knowledge that is in the works. We just had a lot of things we had to get started with with regards to our legislative agenda. That on our radar to begin that cultural diversity committee very soon. And as far as only one member of the council being of minority group, that was not by design. I asked several people to serve and the people who are present are who agreed to serve on the committee. As far as diversity of the council's makeup, that is a constant thing we strive to uphold and do and will continue, you have my commitment to continue to make sure we are meeting those diversity goals. I want to thank you all for being here today and raising the issue with us publicly. Any other questions?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe Dr. McKee has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Dr. McKee. You have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I don't want to take up much time on this, but I believe Ms. Corley is making a strong point and I really wasn't going to say much about it until the council meeting, which I still plan to do as well. But I am very concerned about our presence in

the community not showing enough people of color from our council. I'm very, very concerned about that. And I think that we're at a place where it just seems as though we keep sweeping it under the rug and not addressing it. Case in point, we have this beautiful video that came out just a couple days ago that said meet the council. It was beautiful work. I enjoy looking at it. Just excited to see it. Now keep in mind, I was not aware that it even happened, or it was going to happen. But I think it probably was the committee and probably all my fault I didn't catch it that the committee was planning to do such work. But I'm very concerned about after I watched the video it is not a representation of the public that we serve. There is no self-advocates of color in that entire video. The only picture is a picture of April who was our former chair, bless her soul, and we should let her rest. But she is not the only person, a self-advocate of color that is on the council. I am very concerned about that video and what it represents, and it does not show the people that we serve. Again, I do appreciate people of color and the public that do attend these meetings. And that they continue to attend because they deserve to be heard, they deserve to be acknowledged and respected. And although the work was really good work and I know that people worked to put that video together, it is not a representation of me or any other individual or self-advocate of color. So again, that was an opportunity for us to make people of color feel like they are inclusive, and they are a part. And we missed that mark y'all. We missed that mark. And so I plan to address it at the full council meeting. And I do expect to hear from the council all of the attempts that they made to reach out to board members, council members, self-advocates of color. I need the attempts that were made to those self-advocates of color to include them to speak on that video. Thank you so much.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you madam vice chair. And I'll be the first to say that we could and should have

done better with that video in terms of representation from the community. And also that you are more than welcome, and I welcome your conversation at the next council meeting. But you and I need to get together at your earliest convenience to begin to look at when to establish the diversity committee as far as its first meeting since you will be chairing that as per our agreement. Certainly, something that is high on our priority list now and has been mine all year. But we continually have a number of things that have gotten, had to be dealt with first. But that is priority one for me at this point just to get that diversity committee both formed and begin its work. At your earliest convenience madam vice chair just reach out to me and we'll begin to set that up. Perfect thing to discuss, the video and its work as well.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You have a statement in the chat from Ms. Corhonda Corley that says our DD council currently has six individuals out of 28 that are represented in culturally diverse. We may need to start looking at that angle too.

RANDALL BROWN: You are correct, Ms. Corley. We do need to look at that angle. Thank you for pointing that out.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Randall, I cannot find the raise my hand.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. You have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just two things for Dr. McKee. Are you referring, it's like a two-minute video and there are actually three people, I think I'm one of them in the video? Is that the one or is there another video?

HYACINTH MCKEE: That's the video I'm speaking of. The one that says meet the council.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Right. I noticed that too. And also with Ms. Corhonda's comment. One of the issues is that she said the representation a large number of our members are people from our state agencies. So I just want to say if we need to address that with our state agencies that they need to have more diverse, consider

diverse representation on the council that is something that we can certainly do. It's not just set in stone who they have on the council. Just want to throw that out there for future conversations.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. And I appreciate that Bambi. Thank you. You're right. Do we have any other comments, questions?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't see any Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Your concerns today Ms. Corley and madam vice chair are duly noted. And as I said, I'll be reaching out very soon, madam vice chair, for you and I to discuss when that committee can begin its work. I look forward to a discussion of this issue at the April council meeting. Okay. Unless we have further comment, let's move along Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So right now is scheduled for review of the five-year goals and objectives that have been approved. And a review of our current action plan.

RANDALL BROWN: And Courtney, have we heard back from the feds on approval for the five-year plan yet?

COURTNEY RYLAND: The five-year plan has not been submitted. We have to have activities.

RANDALL BROWN: That's right. I'm sorry. Whole new day here.

COURTNEY RYLAND: And that will be done in August.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. But the council has approved the five-year plan as you see there. If you want to click on it, we can begin reviewing it.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sorry. It's not showing up. There it is. Can everyone see the document? Does it need to be enlarged any?

RANDALL BROWN: Just a little bit if you could.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Is that better?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. I think so. So before us on the screen we see goal number one, self-advocacy and advocacy leadership goal of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to information, supports to become effective leaders of their communities and advocate for systems

changes on behalf of themselves and other individuals with developmental disabilities. The objective provided there for 1.1 is individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages will have access to opportunities to increase their awareness and knowledge of rights as contributing members of society including subject matters on, but not limited to advocacy, voting, exploitation, prevention, financial stability, and responsibilities and decision making. And then objective 1.2 Louisiana self-advocacy network partner groups and citizens with developmental disabilities will be supported in self advocacy training, systems change, advocacy and through participation in a variety of boards and commissions. Goal number two, community living and supports. To be fully parting members of the community, individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs and their families will have access to quality supports and services inclusive of affordable healthcare, resources across various service delivery systems and shall be treated equally by all members of the community. Objective 2.1, individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased access to appropriate and affordable healthcare, including primary and specialist providers, preventive health services and prevention of chronic diseases, dental care, sexual reproductive health services and behavioral health services. Objective 2.2, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to and be served by qualified trained professionals, including direct support professionals, first responders and other professionals who will value and promote inclusive community living. Objective 2.3, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will have increased access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing allowing for inclusive community living. And that's what I can see on my screen. Thank you. Goal number three for education and employment. Individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to quality



education and in inclusive and safe environments throughout all stages of life and access to self-determined, individualized, equal and gainful employment opportunities and provide competitive wages and integrated work environments. Objective 3.1, parents of students with developmental disabilities will have increased access to early diagnosis, identification of needs, early intervention services, childcare, and information and opportunities to collaborate with educators regarding individualized educational planning or programming to meet the needs of their students. Objective 3.2, individuals with developmental disabilities will have increased employment outcomes upon transitioning from secondary education settings, access to employment opportunities inclusive of services from highly qualified employment support providers and increased competitive and integrated opportunities from employers who are educated on how to support people with developmental disabilities.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So I know this is a very lengthy document. I don't know that Randall would want to read.

RANDALL BROWN: I don't think the community can stand me reading the whole document.

COURTNEY RYLAND: But this is the current action plan, and it is available on our website for members of the public if you would like to view this. And committee members, this was linked to the agenda for your convenience so you can all review it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think maybe Jill has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Jill. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: So cause when I was prepping for the meeting, I was kind of confused on the document that says five-year plan to 21. That was rectified on September 5th. Is the FY21 plan, is that a separate document just for 21 in the agenda wasn't there?

RANDALL BROWN: That document is for the 2021 action plan. We do, I guess you could say like a

working document over the course of the entire five years. So when you see the 2022 through 26 5-year plan it's intended this is what we're starting with and then every year we are going to add to it a little bit or we'll modify it as needed throughout the five-year period. It's a working document of the council every year.

JILL HANO: Okay. And Randall, can I ask another question?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You may.

JILL HANO: Can I remember it.

RANDALL BROWN: That I'm not sure of. But you are more than welcome to ask it if you remember.

JILL HANO: Good God. When is our five-year plan due to the feds and when is our FY22 plan due to the feds and where is my notebook?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If I may answer, I don't know where your notebook is, but the 2022 plan, state plan is due to the feds for August. And that's for the five year. And being this is the first of the five-year plan then what we create or what the council approves in April and then ratifies in July that's what will be submitted to the feds in August.

JILL HANO: For FY22?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

JILL HANO: Okay.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. Now again, that's because it's the first year of the five-year plan. Now every year after that or after this year within that five-year period if we don't change goals and objectives then I would just have to submit our update to the feds by the end of the year. So by December 2023 I will have to submit the council's 2023 plan. Does that make sense? No. Okay. So I will try to rephrase.

JILL HANO: Wouldn't the 23 plan have to be due in 22?

COURTNEY RYLAND: No ma'am. You guys would not be creating the 23 plan until April of 2022. When you guys approve a plan in April the staff has to release

solicitation of proposals for contractual activities and then we get contracts for you guys to review and approve and then you ratify your plan in July.

JILL HANO: Okay.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So if there's not any substantial changes to a five-year plan then we have until December of that calendar year to update the feds on what that next year's plan.

JILL HANO: Okay. That makes sense.

COURTNEY RYLAND: But because this is the first year of this five-year plan it's due in August.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Which is why we're meeting now to establish the goals.

COURTNEY RYLAND: In compliance with our timeline.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, you do have something in the chat and you also have a hand raised by Liz Gary.

RANDALL BROWN: Could we please get to the chat first and then Liz has the floor.

BRENTON ANDRUS: From Ms. Kathy Dwyer, says I'm not sure if and when this would be appropriate, but if you would like me to give the council an update on dental taskforce and legislation we're working on for this coming session to achieve part of one of your objectives I would be happy to do so.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that offer and very shortly I will call on you to do just that. Thank you. Liz, you have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Thank you. So since we're talking about goal 1 objective 1.1 and in reviewing all of the recommendations from the standing committees it does not appear that any of those would fit under this objective. So at this point we create a new objective, or we present a new objective? Is that how this works? Being that I've never been a part of this before I just want to make sure I understand.

RANDALL BROWN: Well, Courtney, would you like to address that?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay. So can I ask again what

was it you were referencing that's not on our current goals and objectives for the five-year plan?

LIZ GARY: There are activities already listed for your current action plan through 2021. But now we're looking at 22, 26 and it's talking about objective 1.1. And yes, you have something right now you're serving. But if we're making the plan for next year the ones that came from the council standing committee there are not ones on this one that would fit that objective. So do we create something, or make a recommendation of something, or possibly continue something. Is that how we would move forward to make sure we cover that objective 1.1.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. Eventually we're going to get to the point where we are going to consider what do we want to continue from the 2017 through 2021 plan. And then what do we want to create that's brand new.

LIZ GARY: Okay. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: There you go.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Let me pull up the agenda to see where we are right now. So we have actually progressed pretty quickly through today's agenda. The next activity that's listed on there is to discuss continuing contractual activities. But I will absolutely leave this up to the chair and the rest of the committee if you would like to change the order of what you guys want to discuss. Do you want to discuss first what you want to continue and then discuss new objectives or activities. And then also if you want to do every activity that you would want to assign funding to. Which is contractual. Do you want to do all of your contractual activities first and get the budget out of the way and then go to your noncontractual activities. Right now I'm going to leave that up to you guys as to what you would like to do first.

RANDALL BROWN: Before we, since we are a little bit ahead of schedule, let me let Ms. Kathy Dwyer have the floor for a moment to talk about the dental task force since that is part of our plan and she has graciously agreed to inform us of the task force work.

I think this would be a good spot to stop and let Ms. Kathy inform us of that work and how we can best collaborate to help. So Ms. Kathy Dwyer, you have the floor at this point.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you Mr. Chair and committee. I appreciate it. We had been working for about two years now on the dental task force which was defined by the state advisory committee on developmental disabilities, OCCD, on the services that are provided to citizens in Louisiana with developmental disabilities. And the task force is now at a point we created a final report which we shared with the council. We've also recently created a position statement and somewhat of a fact sheet similar to what the DD Council prepares for their legislative initiative. And we also have an infographic I can either share on the screen or share in the chat.

RANDALL BROWN: We can view those if you would like.

KATHY DWYER: How do I share on the screen? I'm not seeing any option to do that.

COURTNEY RYLAND: If you can wait just a moment, we will have to promote you to panelist mode. Hold on just a moment. Are you with us again? Ms. Dwyer, if you are with us you are muted.

KATHY DWYER: Now I'm unmuted. Sorry. When you switch to the panelist mode all these messages popped up.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. Let me bring up, we've already shared the report with you. Let me bring up our position statement if you don't mind. Hold on one second. Let me see. Please bear with me since I'm fairly new, or not new.

RANDALL BROWN: We understand Zoom is always a learning cover for all of us continually.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. There it is. Let's see. Okay, this is the position statement we created. We basically pulled information from our report that we shared with you and I will give y'all time to read

through it and let me know when I can scroll down more for you to read the rest of it. It's two pages. But it's basically pulling key components of the report, stating what our purpose is, the mission to address the needs of adult 18 years and older with IDD who need anesthesia or IV sedation for routine dental screenings and X-rays because of eversions to probing in their mouth. We've up with this position statement, stated the issues that individuals and/or their families have experienced in trying to obtain the necessary and needed dental services. And we've also then drafted some principles that we believe are true in order for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have a healthy and productive life. The priorities we have chosen are in order of most priority. Priority one is what we are working on right now. And that's providing comprehensive dental coverage for those with developmental disabilities in the waiver programs, in the DD waiver programs as well as those residing in the intermediate care facilities for developmental disabilities. We defined, I don't know if y'all need me to go back up for y'all to read it or just listen to my brief description and I can upload it later just for sake of time. We define, let me stop sharing this one. And that's my daughter Jenny in the background participating as well. We've defined comprehensive dental care as the following. Basically it's the same services that children receive under the EPSDT program with a few things that are currently available for adults. That's mostly the denture information. And then at the bottom we add special services. This is primarily to help individuals who have the eversions be able to get the dental care be it under anesthesia or we add behavior supports therapy to assist with desensitization so they can be comfortable with going to a dental office and receiving the care in a dental office instead of always having to go under anesthesia.

The goal of the committee has always been to provide the best care possible dental wise, which is healthcare, for our adult population and to save the

state money. We have found that the state is definitely paying a lot more on the back end due to health issues that have arrived from poor dental care. In one instance one young lady constantly aspirating bacteria from an infected tooth causing an infection in her lungs and then having her lungs removed which ended up costing approximately 500,000-dollars to Medicaid and the wavier program. When you consider all the hospital stays and emergency treatments and the extra direct support she needed.

The next one, the next document would be that's the position statement. I guess I have to do stop sharing again. The next one would be a fact sheet. Let's see where is that one. That's our formal report. This our fact sheet. Again, we pulled this from the position statement in some of the reports. This is what we liked everyone to share. Again, similar to the DD Council's fact sheet what we need legislators to do and why. The principles on the left. Some citation cited on the left and the dental task force contact information which is the advisory council's email. In terms of support, I'll upload these. We would like anybody and everybody who can and are willing to respond to our position statement with a letter of support to the email and then your name or organization, agency name would be added as in support and we will be eventually submitting this to legislators. There is one more item that I will quickly show you. Info graphic that I will also upload.

>> >>: Ms. Kathy, we have the formal plan as you know. If you could share with us that fact sheet, that would be great. Because that's something we can share easily with everyone.

KATHY DWYER: Right. And then there's an info graphic as well.

RANDALL BROWN: Great.

KATHY DWYER: And right now there is legislation that has been filed HB172 it is not, it is not in the posture we would like it to be. We do have permission

to work with a gentleman with the legislature to help prepare amendments to put it in its appropriate form. I'll be sharing that. I could share that with you as well. I made some temporary edits just for my purposes.

RANDALL BROWN: Anything you can share in terms of your fact sheet and any info graphics you have we would love it. Help us help you better.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. And thank you for allowing me some time to share it with you. Right now it's Representative Butler and Edmonston that are working on the legislation. Rep Butler is the author of HB172. I will go ahead and upload these documents in the chat.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much. Thank you for your presentation to us today.

KATHY DWYER: You're welcome. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: So that should take care of everyone getting access to that information. I believe that was in the chat so that should be able to elevate that. Courtney, we can resume schedule now.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So then I will go back to my question is how do you want to proceed? Do you want to do contractual activities?

RANDALL BROWN: Usually it seems to go smoother and faster if we start with what we are already funding. Which would be contractual activities we're already funding and agree which ones we want to keep and at what levels. Then begin to look at new.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay. I'm unsure how to split my screen so I can show you our current action plan and try to show you what we're going to be adding to the new action plan. Since you guys already have access to our current action plan, it would probably be better for me to share my screen of the new action plan as we add to that plan.

RANDALL BROWN: All right.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So if you guys are looking at the 2021 action plan, we're looking at contractual activities only at this time. So the very first activity 1.1.1 is basically funding 20,000-dollars to



People First which is the states self-advocacy organization.

RANDALL BROWN: I would recommend we keep that objective and amount.

COURTNEY RYLAND: The next contractual activity from the 2021 plan is 1.2.1 and that is to fund the Partners in Policymaking program for 90,000-dollars.

RANDALL BROWN: Again, I would recommend without objection we keep that activity and amount as well.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay. Randall, at this point in time do you want just the committee members to just raise their hand, or do you want to just allow them to speak if they have any comments?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. If anybody has any objection to keeping these let me know. Let us know now. Otherwise, it's my recommendation to both Courtney and the committee to keep these objectives and amounts in the plan and at the current levels.

COURTNEY RYLAND: If y'all bear with me on the formatting I will correct all that later. The next contractual activity from the 2021 plan is to fund LaCAN for 215,000.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: What objective?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I'm sorry. That's 1.2.3.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I can't see that on the screen.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I'm adding to the new plan. I'm sorry.

LIZ GARY: Are we just speaking up or raising our hand?

RANDALL BROWN: If you want the floor, you have the floor Liz.

LIZ GARY: My only thought with LaCAN is, and I know this is more of going forward and it is a design situation. But one of the things that I thought for years and years and years with LaCAN is that we spend a lot of time and energy asking these people to share their stories, but I don't find there's a lot of time and energy sharing on them actually, I don't want to say how to advocate, but I think it's more about them getting up there and talking about their stories, but

yet we're not teaching them how to talk about the ideas. Kind of like a mini partners, but in the sense that we're actually educating these people on how to be more than just tell their stories. And I know that sometimes it gets deep, but if we're giving these people trainings as well as just the sharing of the stories, I think it's going to be much more powerful and impactful for these families coming out and understanding.

One of the things I used to remember always asking is that we're sending all these LaCAN alerts out, but yet a lot of the people don't even truly understand what's going on with the alerts, only about writing their story. And I feel like you lose a lot if you're not actually learning about advocacy and how to talk to the legislators other than just sharing a story. Just a thought I've had for years on how with LaCAN to make it more of a systems change as well as it's kind of like both, an advocacy and can be systems change if you are able to talk to the legislators on a level of not just sharing your story, but also giving more on that. I don't know if I'm making sense. That's been on my heart for years. I think a thought we should think about.

RANDALL BROWN: Noted. Thank you. Any comments in the chat Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: One from Ms. Lillian DeJean, she says great point Ms. Liz. Educational disability history and culture can help with that. It lends to empowerment and awareness.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that Lillian.

JILL HANO: I have a question.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Jill. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Cause I was distracted by other personal phone calls. So 1.1.1 is funding for partners?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I just moved the funding of People First down to activity 1.2.1 because that was more appropriate under objective 1.2.2.

JILL HANO: So 1.2. Oh, my God. 1.2.1 you moved

People First?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

JILL HANO: 1.1.1 you mean partners?

COURTNEY RYLAND: You got it.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct

JILL HANO: So there is no LaCAN?

RANDALL BROWN: We're discussing that the now.

JILL HANO: Sorry.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're on point. You're caught up.

LIZ GARY: Can I say something again too?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You may Liz.

LIZ GARY: So, and this is going back to activity 1.2.3 which was last year. It's interesting because it does say in here provide financial support information, training, technical assistance and leadership. And then it goes on to say to effectively educate policymakers on programs. I think it's important when you're looking at those things you're saying in here that you're going to educate and train people to give them information about programs. If all they're doing is sharing their story, then they're losing a lot. Because you're not really truly talking about the programs and you're not training and helping those people. I think it's just something we need to look at as far as that goes to try to get some more advocacy out there and get more people feeling more competent to speak on behalf of people with disabilities as well as family members and things like that. I think that's something we just need to focus in on.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Noted.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, I was going to say Dr. McKee has her hand raised and also a chat comment.

RANDALL BROWN: Can we do the chat comment first and then Dr. McKee has the floor.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. Susan Reems, she said leaders work with members all year to teach them how to advocate with legislators. They have held workshops in the past and work one on one with members as well. And Dr. McKee, you should be able to speak now.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that feedback. And Dr. McKee, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Mr. Chair. I just wanted to say that I'm not sure where the language would be, would it be in this document or would it be in the actual contract with partners. But I believe this is an opportunity for us to include language that involves cultural diversity training. And maybe it doesn't go in this document or perhaps it can go in the contract to partners. Because I'm not sure if in the partners and policymaking, and I did it many, many, many years ago, but I'm not certain that any of the training that they deliver that cultural diversity and culturing (inaudible) is addressed.

RANDALL BROWN: I think we could probably do it in both this document and partners.

HYACINTH MCKEE: And with that I would like to perhaps even consider have that being put in a lot of the language moving forward in these contractual agreements with entities that want to do business with the council. If we can put it in here that would be great. If it doesn't belong here, that's fine. Just making sure it is in the contractual agreement.

RANDALL BROWN: Noted. Thank you, madam vice chair.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. Would it be appropriate to make a motion to make a recommendation that language be included in all of our contracts that there is diversity.

RANDALL BROWN: I think we can make that commitment here and probably at the quarterly council meeting we bring this up.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I was going to say or suggest that Dr. McKee make that recommendation at the next executive committee meeting.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. The executive committee meeting or the council meeting would be the best place to make that motion. And then thereby bind this committee and every contractual committee moving forward with that motion.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Exactly. Perfect timing because

if this plan is approved by the council and when we do our request for proposals, we can definitely make sure that language is addressed in those requests for proposals.

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely. So Dr. McKee, if you would be willing to make that motion, or a similar motion at the next executive committee meeting I'll be happy to entertain it. So we make sure the language is reflected in all our contracts moving forward. This one and those moving forward.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So where are we on the language for the LaCAN activity?

RANDALL BROWN: I think we've had our say on it. I believe the language is already appropriate. I think we just have to make sure, as we talked about diversity issue, we have to make sure our language is matching up to our work. I think in this case the language is appropriate and we would just continue it and at the same funding level as well I would recommend. Unless someone on the committee has an objection.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Then the next activity on the 2021 plan is 1.2.4 which addresses advocacy events for 50,000-dollars.

RANDALL BROWN: I would assume that means like conferences and such.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. And on that note, the council typically does a conference every other year. We did the last conference in November of 2019. So 2021 is due for a conference. However, we don't know if we need to prepare for one or not for this year. And it's getting pretty late in the game to try to schedule.

RANDALL BROWN: Right.

COURTNEY RYLAND: A conference at this time.

RANDALL BROWN: I think it would be fair to say it would be prudent to delay that initiative until 2022 just because planning one for 2021 hasn't even begun and that would be an arduous task for the staff who are already shorthanded and dealing with a lot of various stuff this year. I would recommend that we delay that

until the following year.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We have something in the chat that says we can't see the actual item Ms. Ryland is referencing.

RANDALL BROWN: This 50,000-dollars is for conferences like you're talking about like we normally do every other year. This has nothing to do with our quarterly meetings we are required to have, correct. That 50,000-dollar figure.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I don't believe that includes that. I could be mistaken. I don't oversee that contract.

RANDALL BROWN: I believe it's separate, but I wanted to make sure.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Travel for council members in the quarterly meetings comes out of separate pot of money.

RANDALL BROWN: That's what I wanted to make sure of.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That's strictly for advocacy related functions. Member meetings, round tables for LaCAN, any sort of training sessions that are held throughout the year. Also any sort of advocacy material, things like that that comes out of that particular.

RANDALL BROWN: That's what I wanted to make sure of. We definitely want to keep it at that level.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Wait a second. This is Bambi. We have 50,000-dollars, but we're not going to have the conference. Is that the right number?

RANDALL BROWN: That's up for discussion.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can you explain that Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's why I was asking about the conference. If we're not going to do that, then this amount might be a little elevated. However, it does allow for some training sessions including targeted youth and young adults which I know was an initiative that Ms. DeJean and the council was very pro. But we can make that its own activity.

RANDALL BROWN: I would like to see Ms. DeJean's initiative be its own activity.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So we will create that new activity. So right now I'm just trying to, what are we continuing from the 2017, 2021 plan and then we'll create new activities later.

RANDALL BROWN: We definitely want to keep the activity. The discussion needs to be how much we allot to the activity given we are still in restriction and covid restriction is keeping us from meeting as we would normally would. I guess the discussion really needs to be how much we want to allot to this in that light.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, you have two hands raised. Liz Gary, Jill Hano and a couple comments from Dr. McKee in the chat.

RANDALL BROWN: Let's do Dr. McKee's comments first.

BRENTON ANDRUS: She had asked can we do a conference for the youth advocates with some of the money. We can reallocate the money to the youth advocates. And that was answered. She is in support of reallocation of the money for youth advocate efforts. Thanks.

RANDALL BROWN: We're in agreement there. Okay. Bambi, you have the floor. And then Liz.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I didn't have my hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Sorry. So Liz.

LIZ GARY: It was Jill. And I think Jill was first.

JILL HANO: Liz was first.

LIZ GARY: Thank you. How much did we spend, Courtney, on, roughly how much was spent when we did a conference?

COURTNEY RYLAND: We spent 20,000-dollars on the 2019 conference.

LIZ GARY: Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: No problem.

RANDALL BROWN: So do we want to leave 30,000 then for this activity given we're not doing a conference?

LIZ GARY: What other, facilitate and support advocate events, other than round table and conference

what is the other ones Courtney?

COURTNEY RYLAND: So if we did, like we did for our five-year plan which were the public forums and had to go through different areas of the state trying to solicit input, of course all of that cost money. So that's just some of the things that we did when we were doing in person activities.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. Which we will be doing again, just not sure when. I wouldn't leave this totally underfunded. I do think it prudent to adjust it since we know we won't have a conference this year because of covid. Because the planning alone would take too long to do at this stage. We have so many things on our plate. So would everybody be in agreement to a lot 30,000-dollars here?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Actually, if Ebony and Brenton are on, do either of you happen to remember how much it was for the round tables when we did them in person? Do either of you happen to recall those figures?

BRENTON ANDRUS: In person we usually budgeted 600-dollars per round table. Which if you ask me was very much on the low end. But we asked our leaders to make it work. But that also did not include any cost associated if they needed, if they had any request for interpreter or if they had any request for printing of the accessible materials. That would be added onto their 600-dollar allotment. Within that 600-dollars they have to try to find a facility. They have to, depending on the time it's held, possibly offer some sort of food, beverage. All their printing cost for any materials. Any setup, teardown. Pretty much anything associated with the cost of hosting that event. I always say the 600-dollars I felt was kind of low because we started running into a lot of problems whereas more people turned out to round tables the free venues got smaller. And so I think, I don't know, last few years I've always advocated for increasing the amount for round table expenditures. Pretty much anything advocacy related comes out of that pot of money. Back in the day when we did disability rights



day it came out of that pot of money. Any travel that people request to help them get to the capitol for yellow shirt day came out that pot of money. I mean, a lot of it just comes out of that. And there is a chat from Susan Reem who also said that round tables being at 600-dollars a lot of FHF centers use some of their own money to supplement when the cost exceeded that. Also keep in mind any advocacy materials. If there's any council brochures, LaCAN brochures. If there were any hotel stays, we ran into that occasionally if we are an early morning yellow shirt day and we needed someone to stay at a hotel so they good be there. Different things like that. As well as other events that aren't necessarily LaCAN, might be a conference or travel associated with any of the planning or something like that.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So this activity is almost a catchall.

RANDALL BROWN: I would recommend that we reduce it by 20,000-dollars because we know we're not having the conference and let's leave at least 30 in there because we don't want to not have the money we need when we do start in person activities to pay for that travel and such. It would be my strong recommendation. This is kind of a catchall for all things we do that it be that quickly done.

JILL HANO: I will be right back.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You also have Ms. Lillian DeJean has her hand raised. Jill has her hand raised, but I guess she's taking a break. Get back to her when she gets back. But if you would like to allow Lillian to speak, I can unmute her.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Let Lillian speak please.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Hey y'all. Sorry about that. I was echoing from my phone. But I heard y'all mentioned having a conference specifically for youth earlier. I think it's great that we are considering our youth while having this discussion. However, I think it would be difficult to have a conference specifically for youth simply because well, we don't really seem to

have any youth in LaCAN and there's only me on the DD Council. So I'm not sure where we would get the youth to go to the conference. I mean I think the recommendation of having youth leadership forum was so we could get youth involved in this world. But I'm not sure how we would advertise the conference.

RANDALL BROWN: That is the plan and that's why I would like to see it reflected in the plan. Even though we're not quite there yet, I want to keep that objective in our minds and on our plate. So that's why I would like to see it reflected.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Cool. And also, I'm going to probably have to run because I have a doctor's appointment in like five minutes. But thank y'all for letting me chitchat.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for being here and your input.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Liz also has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Liz. You have the floor.

LIZ GARY: I think what Lillian said is great, but I also think this is a great opportunity to start finding ways to start getting to those youth so that we start our self-advocates at a much earlier age. So if this funding is able to help in some way with her getting the word out, or whatever, or the council or other people getting the word out as to getting people involved, youth involved, I think it's a great opportunity.

RANDALL BROWN: It would.

LIZ GARY: And there's also an opportunity to use it towards trying to do some kind of Zoom conference. A youth conference on Zoom if you had to start out with. I would hate to take the money away from her or from the youth program when it could be an opportunity to start really expanding it.

RANDALL BROWN: I agree. We're in agreement there Liz.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Also have two comments in the chat from Dr. McKee. She said thanks Lillian for clarification. I'm in full support of your efforts to

encourage our LADDC to keep informed of our youth. We need to do all we can to support the initiative. And Ashley McReynolds also stated it would be great to partner with People First on this conference. I assume she means the youth conference.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that Ashley.

BRENTON ANDRUS: She said People First works in some schools already.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. It would be a great opportunity and would be happy to look at ways we can partner with People First. And with whomever would be interested from our sister agencies and partner groups. Certainly, something we want to work towards, so I want the money to be there when we need it. I think that recommendation should stay, and this is a fair amount for whatever we might decide to do.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Randall, we are at 2:43. We've been meeting for over an hour and a half. If you would like to take a five-to-ten-minute break I would recommend doing that about now.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can I say something on this topic before we move on, before we take the break. Where do we find the youth, I think it could be from our university programs that are part of another initiative that we're funding. So just wanted to throw that in there to make sure we keep that idea.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that. And Lillian will be chairing an ad hoc committee and we will be working towards getting this off the ground. So I want to make sure the funding stays there for us to start doing some work on this issue. Sooner rather than later. So thank you for that suggestion.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Families Helping Families centers.

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely. Everybody is welcome at the table. Just want to make sure we have the funding we need to do that. Having said all that, let's take about a ten-minute break and we will return. What is the time now?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Time now is 2:45.

RANDALL BROWN: So we will return at 2:55 to resume the meeting.

So Courtney, it's 2:55. Do we have a quorum?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If we can get council members to start their video or share their video. Just so we can get this on record Mr. Brown, you are appointing Dr. McKee to this committee?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

COURTNEY RYLAND: We will need to add her permanently as a panelist. She is not with us.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't think she's on.

RANDALL BROWN: Just note she is a member of the committee.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Do we now have a quorum?

COURTNEY RYLAND: We do.

RANDALL BROWN: Welcome back everyone. Again, thank you for your work and attendance today so far. We will continue with today's planned activities. If you can put the agenda back up, Courtney, so we can begin that work.

COURTNEY RYLAND: The agenda or do you want to go back to the plan?

RANDALL BROWN: You can go back to the plan. I just wanted the agenda so we could refresh everybody where we are, but that's okay.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So we are continuing to look at continuing contractual activities.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. And making sure that the activities we are currently doing and funding, looking at each one to see if we want to continue to do it and fund it next year. And so far, the answer has been yes. So where we left off was 30,000-dollars.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Right. 1.1.3. Please let me know about the language of this activity. I want to make sure it is succinct with what you guys want to include in this activity. And remember we decided to separate out the youth activity later.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. That will have its own activity, objective and activity. You might want to

add some diversity in terms of training for that activity Courtney. Now, is everyone in agreement with activity 1.1.3 both in the language and the funding? That activity. Hearing no objection, I think we can move onto the next activity Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So if you're looking at the 2021 action plan the next contractual activity or the next activity with an amount assigned to it is 1.3.3 and that is for council members to participate in trainings and that's got a cost of 3,000-dollars associated with it.

RANDALL BROWN: I think it's a good objective and it should remain. Cause again, we will be resuming in person activities sometime, I would assume this year, just not sure when. I think that amount is still a fair amount to assume that we would need. Cause I know we used that money whenever a council member asked us to attend a particular training or conference or something that would help us, help better serve the community. I think that activity and that amount should remain.

COURTNEY RYLAND: The next activity with a cost associated with it is 1.3.4. And this is to fund council leadership training. This would be for the executive committee of the council to participate in nationwide trainings and conferences.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct.

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's got a cost associated of 7,000-dollars tied to it.

RANDALL BROWN: That too should remain an objective and remain that amount stable because that's the money we use when the chair or the chairs designee goes to the national conference every year. Among other things.

LIZ GARY: Can I ask a question Randall?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You may.

LIZ GARY: So that particular activity is only to send somebody from the executive committee to a training or networking, it's not for any of the other council members.

RANDALL BROWN: Typically it's been because when you go to the national council it's the chair or the chair's designee. Which is usually a member of the executive committee that's not the chair themselves. I know I went in place in 2017. That money is used largely for that, but it can be used for other things as the chair sees fit in terms of if another council member wanted to use money, or you know, for a conference of some sort.

LIZ GARY: Okay. So that would come from that pot?

RANDALL BROWN: It could.

LIZ GARY: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. Just a distinction, as I recall the 1.1.4 was for council members participation, particularly in partners. Is that correct?

RANDALL BROWN: That's how it began, but we have since used it for other conferences as well for council members.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. And I get what the 1.1.5 is for, but why do we have it separate?

RANDALL BROWN: Well, largely because that 7,000-dollars, or a chunk of it, is used when the executive committee needs to be trained on something. But we can use that, if there is anything leftover, we can use it for any conference that any council member would need.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So Ms. Polotzola, are you referring to possibly combining these two activities?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm just wondering it's separated for a reason.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. It's separate for a reason.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't know why.

RANDALL BROWN: The reason being is the national conference, we don't set those rates. The national conference is set by their staff and then we have to send someone to it. And so usually the chair or the chair's designee which could be any member of the council, but typically a member of the executive committee. That number is high because that's over

several days and it's usually in a major city and you have to fly there, and a hotel stay and what not. If anything is left thereafter that, that could be used as the chair sees fit for any travel of the executive committee for training. But also the 3,000 can be used for training to any council member. But all of it can be used at the chair's discretion for travel to conferences. But I would leave it separate and leave the amounts as they are. My recommendation.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But what you said didn't answer my question or maybe I'm not understanding it. I get the cost and all that, who sets the cost and all that type of thing. It could simply be that support council members participating in training and educational opportunities including national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities and be 10,000-dollars. That's my question. There's no reason why it's separate that I can think of. But I know there is a reason.

RANDALL BROWN: Well, I think the reason is more or less for transparency so that you know exactly what's used for each category. But you're right, it could be combined. I think the intent was to show what's budgeted for each category.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Also Randall, you have a comment in the chat from Corhonda Corley. Says please add training regarding DD Act, Robert's Rules of Order, Civil Rights Act, conflict of interest, cultural competence for the council members and executive committee.

RANDALL BROWN: If we have opportunities to travel for those, we would certainly do so.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Another chat from Ms. Melinda Elliot that ask is the executive committee required to do specific training that would require separate money. And I believe Bambi also had her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi. You have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm sorry. My dog is barking right now.

RANDALL BROWN: And Melinda we don't currently have

a training cause, of course, we're in covid. But that money is set aside for when and if we do it's there so that we can travel wherever the conference, or wherever the training would be that we would need.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So this is Bambi. I think in response to Corhonda's request I believe your response was about we could pay for travel for these.

RANDALL BROWN: This is what this is about in terms of we're talking about travel and lodging and such and participation any type of training. Which would be diversity, any of it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But it's not just travel. It could be, I would see more opportunities like for just for webinar or like some online opportunities.

RANDALL BROWN: Sure. But this is designed like we're in person when we meet in person and have to travel and for conferences and such. Absolutely, any type of training we would see fit to need would be included here we could use the funds for.

COURTNEY RYLAND: That would include registration fees for any cost associated with the training or the conference or webinar.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: The reason why I raised my hand when my dogs were barking, I apologize, can we have someone on the staff go back and look. These items have been on the plan for several years now and may be to see, there's a reason it's separated, and I think it might be good if we identify what the reason is for. Probably could tell that based on going back and look when was this divided into these two activities.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think you are correct and that it used to be separated to just emphasize council members participation in partners. We have not done the best job in the past of when we update activities going in and merging things and we leave it as is. I think that's how it ended up with separation. I would say I'm probably 99 percent sure that's what happened here. But I can't say for certain.

RANDALL BROWN: I think you're right Brenton.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: What is the rule, like why do we



have to pull this out and not use just the Partners in Policymaking funding. I remember there was some type of rule we couldn't have.

RANDALL BROWN: I can answer that. That was because you're not allowed to use, and we don't do this anymore because we changed the rules because national said don't. Whenever I was in partners I was already on the council. They were allowed to use the partners money to cover my travel expenses for that because I was already on the council. So that 3,000 was used to help me and one other council member that year. Since then before we changed the rule as per nationals advising us to, that's where that came out. It could be recombined back to 10,000-dollars total for travel.

COURTNEY RYLAND: If I may make a comment. I don't see a problem with combining these activities. But the chairperson has the discretion of choosing who goes to what. I think it would be easy to keep tabs on.

RANDALL BROWN: That was my point earlier. I think, although I perfectly understand the 10,000-dollars it's all the same pot of money travel is travel, conferences are conferences. We will go as we need to go to whatever training may be. And wherever it may be. But it's the same pot of money and the chair's discretion who goes to what and when. And so, but I wouldn't reduce the amount. And I think having it separate does help keep things easier to know what's set aside for what group. But of course, the 10,000-dollars is the 10,000-dollars and the chair would use it, me or any other successor, would use that money for myself, any member of the executive committee, or council to attend whatever trainings we would deem necessary.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, we have a question in the chat. Ms. Corhonda Corley says what are we doing with these monies since we are not traveling currently, do we have a surplus of money in these areas?

COURTNEY RYLAND: We have not been utilizing these funds as of late. However, there are some virtual events that do cost money. I believe Dr. McKee has

actually requested to participate in some events. So we do utilize this.

RANDALL BROWN: Any training that we do, any training be it virtual, any training if we go to a conference physically, if we do virtual trainings that cost money, any training activities that the council needs to do or deems necessary to be part of that's where these monies come out of. And whether you divide it up into two different activities, or 7,000 and 3,000, or whether you say 10,000-dollars it's the same principle. It's going to come out of this money. And so have we used all of it as budgeted for 2020, no. Because covid had us restricted for a great number of months. But we would use it moving forward. Now and as things open up more and more. And so obviously needs to remain and I would keep the amounts the same. If you want to combine it, that's fine. But I think having it separate is helpful.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Referencing something Bambi mentioned earlier, I did go back and look at our 2018 plan and it did distinguish between two things. It has council members participation and training and educational opportunities that we see here. Also something about participating in partners. So it was two different things. So I'm not sure why it's distinguished in that way unless it's mentioned there just to keep track of it.

RANDALL BROWN: I think it's just an easier way to keep track of it honestly. I think that's why it was done.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Actually, I want to say maybe we can go back to the DD act requirement. It may have derived from one of those three stipulations. Let me go back to that real quick.

JILL HANO: Can I say something?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Jill. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I think Randall you had addressed it. But I know in probably 17 or 18 had something in activities that didn't allow funding for council members to participate in partners. But then we had

training with Sheryl, and she said we adjust it because the feds, it was really not allowed for council members to be in partners. So we took it off our plan.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. What happened was we had an issue a few years back of lack of participation in partners and so the council decided to open it up to ask if council members would like to attend. I and one other person that year did, and the following year I believe one or two other council members did as well. And Sheryl suggested we change that not because we did anything improper, but because council members do participate in funding partners that it gave the appearance of impropriety and we don't want to do that. That's why we changed, you're absolutely correct, the council voted to change that. So now council members cannot attend. But even before we had pulled out the money for council members to attend, we had been dividing these two pots of money into two separate activities. As Courtney rightly pointed out, I think it might be part of the DD Act to do so. So we will certainly look into that. Whether we combine it or whether we keep it as is, two separate activities, the amounts, I believe, should remain the same. That way we make sure we have plenty of funding for any trainings that the council, any members of the council may need or require.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So I pulled up the DD Act requirements again and number two, that number two, Roman numeral number two is about leadership training. But I don't know if that has been misinterpreted. I would like to share that with you again and see if my interpretation of that is different than what y'all's interpretation is. So number two states support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders. So to me that sounds like we need to have self-advocates training other self-advocates to be leaders. Not necessarily provide funding for council leadership to participate

in training.

RANDALL BROWN: I think you're right. Looks to be a well-intended misinterpretation on our part of the rule there.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So I know People First is our self-advocacy organization, our state self-advocacy organization and that they sometimes conduct training with other leaders. So I'm wondering if we're combining number one and number two with our activity 1.2.1 to provide funding to people first. Maybe we need to state that in the activity to make sure the feds know we are addressing both.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. I think that would be a good thing to do. State what the money is for and what we're doing.

LIZ GARY: So Courtney is that already being done with that 20,000 or are you adding something to it which means you need to increase the pot of money?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's up for discussion with you guys. When we do a contract for this activity, we'll make sure that the promotion of self-advocates training other self-advocates is in that contract.

LIZ GARY: You're saying is you're adding something to activity 1.2.1. If you're adding something more because if they've already been using the 20,000 for something else we need to consider increasing their amount of money if they are going to be required to do something more.

RANDALL BROWN: You're allowed to suggest it. So now the issue would be how much do we provide for this activity. Currently at 20,000, right? Yes.

LIZ GARY: So cause I got sidetracked for a few minutes. What prompted us to go back for you, Courtney, to read what you just read from the DD Act. Was there something related to the 7,000 and 3,000 that prompted you to go back and read that.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I was remembering there was something about leadership training and activity 1.1.5 is why I wanted to review the DD Act again to see what is specifically stated. That's why I thought maybe we

needed to specifically state in our activity that we are advocating for or helping to provide leadership training of self-advocates to train other self-advocates in leadership roles and leadership positions because to me that's what the DD Act stated we're supposed to be doing as number two.

LIZ GARY: So do we have any idea how actively involved, if at all, are any of the DD Council self-advocates on the DD Council are they also members of People First and involved in this. So they could be getting training from People First and also as they become leaders that they can be sharing that information back as sitting on boards so there's this complete collaboration going on. Is that occurring?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That could actually be achieved if you're referencing other council members who are self-advocates participating in training that can come from 1.1.4. And then if we are contracting with someone, probably People First, for them to provide training that's provided by self-advocates for other self-advocates to become leaders. So that's why it could be either one. If it was from a council member. If a council member's participating it could be 1.1.4 or if People First is putting it on it could be through 1.2.1. That way we're catching it in either regard. Does that make sense, or does that answer your question?

LIZ GARY: I'm not sure. I hear what you're saying. I'm not sure it's what I asked. I guess I'm just trying to see if there's a collaboration going between People First and the members that are on the council to make sure we're creating, because let's face it, I'm not saying the self-advocates are not leaders. What I'm saying is we can always, all of us, can always use training to better ourselves and learn more. Just wondering if there's the collaboration going that they are also members of People First or can we get them, if they're interested, that kind of thing. I'm talking out loud now. I'm just wondering if we're going to put an extra, promote self-advocacy, participate in

training of self-advocates in leadership positions then I don't personally think 20,000 is enough if they have already been using it for other purposes. I think there needs to be definitely more money. Do I know how much at this point, no. I would have to do a little bit of research maybe overnight to get a feeling more.

RANDALL BROWN: We can revisit. All of this can be revisited. Nothing's set in stone until tomorrow's meeting. That can be something if you would like to research Liz, I would welcome it.

LIZ GARY: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: And we can revisit this. Right now let's leave it as is and move along.

LIZ GARY: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Is Ms. Kelly Monroe available? Is she on the call? I can't see. I'm sorry. No. Okay. Never mind then.

BRENTON ANDRUS: She's on.

RANDALL BROWN: I think her mike is not working.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Wait, she has her hand raised now.

RANDALL BROWN: Kelly, you have the floor.

KELLY MONROE: Hey.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So actually our current contract is with Arc of Louisiana for People First to receive funding. Can you tell us about how much it might would be for us to fund the activities that the self-advocates training other self-advocates would be conducting.

KELLY MONROE: We can probably take care of it within the amount we have. Maybe we might need a little bit more. But we do have some funds coming through OCDD where self-advocates do train other self-advocates. So if you're wanting like additional training then you could do that with a little bit of extra funds. I don't know if that helps answer your question or not.

RANDALL BROWN: Do you think 25,000 would be adequate?

KELLY MONROE: I think that would be fine.

Definitely be able to do that. I know there are a couple of people who are on the council who are self-advocates who are also People First members and leaders in People First, like chapter presidents. Just thought I would answer that too.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Appreciate that.

KELLY MONROE: You're welcome.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We have a comment from Ms. Corhonda Corley.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor. Or rather you can read her comment, I mean.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Got you. It says if we are not sure of the meaning then it would be prudent of us to seek clarification from the feds, Mr. Fleming or Ms. Winchell. We should never assume.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that. Okay. So is everyone in agreement with the changes to 1.2.1? And again, any and all of this plan can be revisited through tomorrow's meeting as well. This gets us going today. Is everyone in agreement with those changes? Okay. The next item to be considered Courtney is?

COURTNEY RYLAND: The next activity with a cost associated is activity 1.4.3 on the 2021 action plan. And that is for the creation of videos with a 51,000-dollar price tag.

RANDALL BROWN: And that was a recommendation from the self-determination community inclusion committee last year as well. So I would recommend we keep that and continue to work towards that. And that's the amount.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Bambi has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Did we spend the 51,000 last year? That was the amount we had in last year's budget, is that correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's what we're spending right now.

RANDALL BROWN: Right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Are we going to spend that for

this year?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. The contract was written for 51,000.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And it was the intention to have it for another 51,000 as well?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's up to you guys. That's what y'all need to discuss.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm just asking for, I guess, historical information. Was that the intention. Sometimes we do things and it's a onetime thing. Or we know it's a multiple year investment in something. So I guess I'm not understanding what this is exactly.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So I guess that's what we're discussing is if you guys want to continue with doing another contract for another round of videos. I don't know if that's something you guys want to do on an annual basis.

RANDALL BROWN: Let me ask this, Courtney, before we proceed with discussion on this topic. We're doing it now. In terms of what we're doing and what we have done up to this point with this item, have you received positive feedback, the staff received indication this needs to proceed at this level. Some more needs to be done.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Well, we've only released one video. They submitted three to us so far and we've only released one so far. So they have the rest of their contract year. So from now until the end of September we will be releasing videos not every Friday. But close to every other Friday. So it's just now starting, you guys are just now going to be able to start to see what O'Neal Communications has been doing with the contract. So I can't adequately tell you what kind of feedback because it's just now starting.

RANDALL BROWN: Right.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You have a couple hands raised from Liz and Rashad.

RANDALL BROWN: Rashad, you have the floor, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just curious, must have been before I came on. What is the



purpose of the videos is for exposure, or marketing or what?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe its intent was to help promote awareness and to educate members of the public and individuals with developmental disabilities on certain subject matters. So I can pull up the activity. Cause it was quite a list.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So it was videos and other visual materials on the topics of self-advocacy, obtaining employment, grade promotion and graduation pathways, and accessing home and community-based services including waivers.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I will say I believe OCDD has a stakeholder group that they started for different visual materials as well. But also Liz has her hand raised too.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Liz. You have the floor.

LIZ GARY: So I was just curious where are these videos being shown? Are they on the website, DD Council website or Facebook pages? I haven't seen one. I know I saw something come out recently saying they were going to be interviewing families or something, but I haven't seen one yet.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe it has been shared on our social media.

LIZ GARY: Okay. And show the video, each video is going to be on one of the specific topics and is it focused on how to get involved in self advocacy. Like is it recommendations of different ways. What does that look like, I guess.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Right. I believe one of the videos I've seen so far, they talked about LaCAN and getting involved in self advocacy. I believe they talked about Partners in Policymaking during that one as well. Trying to remember what the other, the other video was about being a stakeholder and being involved in commissions and councils. Things of that matter. Did that answer your question?

LIZ GARY: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: I would recommend we definitely keep this item for now and maybe do research tonight, this evening and tonight to make sure and to see if we would need the exact amount again. But I think the work is definitely there for them to do on topics. I'm not sure how far into the contract, the current contract they are and what's left. So I will do research there for tomorrow. And we will revisit the issue on the amount of money. But I think for the moment it would be a prudent thing to keep this as an activity and then we will revisit the amount once we do a little digging into it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Bambi also has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So I think the question we'll need answered is what is being done, what is the deliverables for the 51,000. Like how many videos, how long are these videos? I saw the video that was published, it was like two and half minutes. Are they all going to be two and half minutes, are they going to be longer?

RANDALL BROWN: I will reach out and talk to them and see where they are in relation to how many there will be, about how long, and that type of thing. Also just want to look and see what based on those answers is there anything left to cover at the end of that contract.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But shouldn't that be outlined in their contract? We shouldn't have to reach out to them.

RANDALL BROWN: No, no. I have to pull up the contract and look at it. If I have to reach out to them, I will do so. It is outlined in the contract. And if I have to reach out to them, I will do so. So Courtney, next item.

COURTNEY RYLAND: All right. The next activity that has a cost associated with it is 1.4.4. And that is for the creation of emergency response resources with a cost of 7,500-dollars. I believe that current contract is with Trach Mamas.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. Keep that objective and amount?

BRENTON ANDRUS: If I'm not mistaken that is to create a website. I don't know if there is continued need at that amount to build another website. I think some of that amount they factored in keeping up the website for a couple years, I think.

RANDALL BROWN: So again, one more thing we will look at and revisit tomorrow. What's the next thing Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Hold on just a second. I want to add that. May I ask is my screen being shared. I cannot tell.

RANDALL BROWN: No.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Thank you. Next activity with a cost associated is 1.4.5. And that is to fund education and information on voting rights with a price tag of 7,000-dollars.

RANDALL BROWN: Again, a contract we're currently doing. So do we have any update on where we are in that contract as far as deliverables?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Actually, that was an activity that was recommended by Chris Rodriguez. The PNA or Disability Rights Louisiana was already doing that and there was a misunderstanding. He was wanting to give the council 7,000-dollars to do that activity.

RANDALL BROWN: So that might be one we can go ahead and eliminate.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So it's currently on our plan for this year so we'll try do something this year with that.

RANDALL BROWN: But in terms of next year's plan, the objective should be met.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. And I think that might be, so if you look at objective 1.1 there's already language in here to address voting. So keep the activity for the videos, that could actually be something that replaces one of these other topics that we're already getting a video on.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's just a suggestion, up to you guys.

RANDALL BROWN: I know. Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This Bambi. I'm a little bit confused. What you're saying in our current, this year's plan we have 7,000-dollars budgeted for activities around voting. But we're not using that?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Like I said, it was a misunderstanding. We thought we were going to contract with DRLA to give them 7,000-dollars. But it was a misunderstanding. He was wanting to give us 7,000-dollars. That didn't work out.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But did the council do anything, even if we didn't spend money, did we have any activities to help with.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe we probably promoted some things on our social media.

RANDALL BROWN: We have promoted on social media. We have promoted some things, I believe, done by the Advocacy Center or what it's now called.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Disability Rights.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just don't think that's enough. I know Lillian was on the call, Lillian would definitely, she has been doing a lot of work around voting and we have some major issues with access to voting. And so I would just like to keep that maybe for discussion for tomorrow. Cause I don't think just promoting videos is enough. I don't have the data, but I don't think that people with developmental disabilities are participating in the voting process as they should be. I think we need to address that.

RANDALL BROWN: Noted.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We have a comment from Ms. Corhonda Corley. Says if we're going to continue to address funding and possibly more funding for our contracts, then why are we not addressing diversity and inclusion in the language.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe that's probably part of the language in the motion Dr. McKee intends to make.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct.

COURTNEY RYLAND: At the executive committee is that our contracts specifically contain requirements for diverse cultural participation.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. That way we ensure all contracts, these and all those moving forward in the future do exactly that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Also Ms. Jill Hano has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay, Jill. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: So, okay. First off, are we going back and forth between the FY for our references from the FY21 plan and the five-year plan from our last five-year plan?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

JILL HANO: Okay. And then my next question so now we're putting in activity 1.1.7 for voting?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

JILL HANO: And where was that before?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That was activity 1.4.5.

JILL HANO: Okay. Cool. Thank you, Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're welcome. Any other thoughts or comments on the voting activity? Anything need to be rephrased, language change? Okay. Would y'all like to discuss the next activity?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So the next activity with a cost associated is activity 2.7.2. And that is to fund training on supported decision making. That has a cost right now of 50,000-dollars. I believe those activities have been going very well. Is this something you guys want to continue or just needs to be a one-year service, one year activity?

RANDALL BROWN: What was the feedback, you said it's going very well, can you elaborate.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Is Ms. Ebony Haven on the call?

BRENTON ANDRUS: She is gone. It looks like we have a hand raised. Jill may have been trying to raise her hand. Looks like Liz has her hand raised. And another comment from Ms. Corhonda Corley.

RANDALL BROWN: Read Ms. Corley's comment.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Question, the five-year plan addresses the subject matters objectives the DD Council feel are pertinent, not necessarily the contracts. Can we please add language regarding diversity and inclusion to the five-year plan in addition to all contract language.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Ms. Corley. Liz, you have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Thank you, Randall. I just think we need to keep in mind that some of these contracts have just started within the last year or two. And I think we just, like for instance, like the one with the videos and with the supported decision making, and obviously the one with Trach Mamas, but that's a website. I think we need to keep in mind it may take more than one year to actually get all the information and get what's out there, get people aware of what's going on and that kind of thing. I think we want to keep that in mind when we are saying this, is that maybe, the fact also that we're only maybe six months into the actual contract so it's hard to know if it really had the impact. The thought of pulling anything would be a missed opportunity to continue making sure there's awareness out there for some of these ones that were just picked up last year.

RANDALL BROWN: Most of the ones we have been currently discussing.

LIZ GARY: Correct.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I mean it's been less than six months, actually.

RANDALL BROWN: Right.

LIZ GARY: So I would be hard pressed to say not to continue it to at least give yourself the opportunity to make sure you're touching the amount of people that could be touched by the different initiatives.

RANDALL BROWN: Noted. Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Not sure if Jill still had a comment to make.

RANDALL BROWN: Jill, do you have a comment?

JILL HANO: I don't know, but now I do. Are we going to get this with the changes, a copy of this?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I will be more than happy to share this document after today's meeting.

JILL HANO: Because I think, I don't know y'all. Thank you.

LIZ GARY: Randall, I see that Ashley McReynolds is on and I know she's been leading up the supported decision making. I don't know if y'all wanted to ask her where she is with it.

RANDALL BROWN: I would be happy to if she has something to add to enlighten us. Happy to hear it. Ashley, would you like to speak to this activity.

ASHLEY MCREYNOLDS: Can y'all hear me?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

ASHLEY MCREYNOLDS: So we started our training in, I believe it was January. And we have completed four or five. We did two in March in region five and had about 30 participants in the training. I have the results of the, like the responses from our survey monkey of some of the questions we asked. Do you have a better understanding of supported decision making. A hundred percent said yes. Is supported decision making something you would now consider using, a hundred percent said yes. On some of the things that were helpful, some of the comments. I learned about supported decision making and how it does not compromise the health and safety of our loved ones. The legal knowledge that I gained will be very helpful. Learning this is now a legal alternative to some other legal options. I have a better idea of how supported decision-making works. And I would love to offer to mentor people throughout the process. And then we talked about what else would you add to make the training more helpful. People responded with nothing. I can't say that anything wasn't helpful. I wouldn't add anything. None. Some other feedback. Great training, will participate again to continue to get a deeper understanding. Might need to hear this information multiple times, it cut off. So it has been

really good. All have been well attended. The only one that was poorly attended was here in region two. We had it the Monday after we had the freeze. We had just gotten our power back like 24 hours before the training. So we do plan on rescheduling that one. But all of them have been very, very well attended. And I am mentoring three people right now out of the 5, 1 of them asked me, reached out after the training. And then I have another one interested, but they haven't committed to actually do the training yet. So we will be scheduling the rest of our training, we'll have probably one or two in each of the next months until the contract year is up. But I do know Melanie and I have talked about once like this year is up, do we sort of shift the narrative into how supported decision making like has worked. So working with individuals to share their stories in their training. Right now it's really more about educating people on the actual opportunities for supported decision making. So looking at maybe shifting it to sharing the success stories around supported decision making.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So do you anticipate you would need the same amount as you needed for the initial program?

ASHLEY MCREYNOLDS: If we switch it the way we have, Melanie and I have had conversations, the way we would shift it I would say yes cause it would be a completely different training compared to what we're doing right now.

RANDALL BROWN: Understood.

ASHLEY MCREYNOLDS: Like we do have a lot of feedback of please let me know when the next training is. We do have people participating in the training multiple times. It is a lot of information in an hour and a half. I do send them a copy of the training. I try to incentivize people to complete the surveys cause we don't have a very high success rate in getting our survey monkey backs. I try to wait until I get a majority of responses back and then I send out the PDF version of the power point. I send out the sample



agreement in the word document so they can just type in it. And then I also send out a handbook that we created for individuals with disabilities and their families or caregivers for them to use.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So is everyone in agreement with keeping the activity of funding for this item and the amount?

JILL HANO: Yes. But is there any way we can get some kind of like report on that so we can share with the council just to know how well and monitor the progress of the initiative?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, ma'am. We will be discussing the status report during the quarterly meetings. So the self-determination and community inclusion committee will specifically be addressing this activity.

ASHLEY MCREYNOLDS: All of the results from the survey monkeys, I send all of that to Ebony every month.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Ashley.

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's why I was asking if Ms. Haven was available. I was going to have her speak, but that's okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So if we were keeping the 50,000 attached to this activity?

JILL HANO: I think definitely. I am very impressed with the feedback.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, you have two hands raised. Liz and Ms. Corhonda Corley.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. We will get to Ms. Corley and then Liz and take a ten-minute break.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Actually it's about 4:00 and we need to recess for the day.

RANDALL BROWN: Do you have anything else we have to cover before we do that?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Public comment and Ms. Liz Gary.

RANDALL BROWN: Just want to make sure we're at a stopping point you're comfortable with before we adjourn for the day. Okay. So Ms. Corley, you have

the floor.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. First and foremost, it is very problematic to me to actually sit back and listen to the numbers that were actually given a few minutes ago of how many people were actually reached. Because I would really like to know how many people from diverse backgrounds, culturally diverse backgrounds considering indigenous black and brown people are not brought to the table as much. So I would really like to know how many from different racial ethnicity groups are actually having access to these services.

Secondly, I would like to know how much English language learners have actually had access to a lot of these programs and services too.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to know how many people that are blind and Deaf have actually had access to these services and have actually been able to receive any of this stuff in writing. Such as Braille for those that are blind. I would really like those numbers. Because when we take all of that into consideration then we will then know we should not be trying to say let's continue with these contracts. No, let's put the language in in regards to not only our five-year plan, but all contracts for now and future references going forward so that these different groups are not left out.

That is our requirement of the DD Act. That is also a requirement of us courtesy of Civil Rights Act. That is why I specifically said that we actually need to make it mandatory for all council members, including executive council members and staff of the DD Council to actually learn the DD Act, to learn Civil Rights Act, to learn Robert Rules of Order, to learn conflict of interest. Because we continue to violate all of these laws every single time we have a meeting. And it is entirely disheartening that we are failing this disability community.

Again, we really need to make it imperative, make it imperative that we actually address not only those

trainings, but all the information that you asked that you're going to bring back tomorrow, that we actually bring that tomorrow, but we also bring forth that language that I'm desperately asking for, that Ms. Bambi Polotzola asked for, and that Dr. Hyacinth McKee was requesting as well. Because it's imperative and that way we can make sure that all members of our DD and ID community can and will be serviced. Thank you so much.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. And as I stated earlier, we will entertain a motion, hopefully given by the vice chair, at our next executive committee meeting which would address making sure that every contract, including these, contains the language you're requesting. So you have not been ignored today. It's just we want to make sure that the motion is well worded and done properly and would apply to all, any and all contracts from now moving forward. I want to be clear your concern will be addressed. And we'll always work towards better compliance for federal regulations and rules.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, you also have Liz and well, Jill did have her hand raised as well. And Ms. Kelly Monroe has her hand raised too.

RANDALL BROWN: Liz, and then Jill, and then Kelly.

LIZ GARY: Thank you, Randall. Just want to touch base based on what Ashley had said about the stating that they would love to attend again because it's so much information. And I think that definitely states the need to continue. I know we said we did, I just wanted to reinforce that. And also the fact that she said they would move in a different direction. I think it would be a good thing to do both. If you're going to move in a different direction, but also continue to still offer. Because I think there are a lot of people out there that do not know what supported decision making is and I think it's important that they do know.

We've lived years and years of talking about making sure that we have independence and self-determination for people with disabilities. And this

is an opportunity to not get their tutorship done and to not get interdicted. This is probably one of the most important, in my opinion, things that needs move forward for people with disabilities to ensure they are able be able to speak for themselves and not have those rights taken away. And I think this is a very, very important issue. I think everyone knows that two or three years ago is when Ashley and I went to a conference that the DD Council supported us. They actually gave us the money for it to be able to attend that conference in Maryland. And it was powerful to learn about supported decision making and know how important it is for individuals with disabilities to be able to have those rights and not have them stripped away when they can't speak for themselves. This is very, very important. And I will for years carry forward with this because of the capabilities it will give to individuals with disabilities to have their own self-determination for sure.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Liz. And I think we want to make sure in doing so we reach every member of the community, and all levels, and all ethnicities and diversities.

LIZ GARY: Absolutely. One hundred percent.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. All right. And then was it Bambi?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Jill.

JILL HANO: What activity was supported decision making.

COURTNEY RYLAND: On the 2021 plan, it was 2.7.2.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're welcome. I believe Ms. Kelly Monroe had her hand raised.

KELLY MONROE: I wanted to get more clarification of what you guys were, not really what you guys were requesting, but what Corhonda was requesting. I'm not sure we would know someone's ethnic background. We don't ask those questions. We do advertise the training through Facebook, through the website, through other groups. If someone requires any type of

accommodation, such as Braille, we will make sure that they get that. So I'm not real sure how to address that comment. I guess I'm looking for more clarification on that.

RANDALL BROWN: Well, do you have data as it relates to anyone who is blind or with difficulty with site. Has anyone currently fit that criteria that you're serving?

KELLY MONROE: That really wasn't my question. But yeah, no one has requested that thus far, but we know how to get that if we do. I guess I'm trying to go back to the diversity comment and I'm trying to figure out, we wouldn't know. We don't ask that question. Like who is attending and what their backgrounds are. Is that something you guys are now asking for us to do? If so, do you have an example of what one might look like. I guess I've just never seen that on an evaluation.

RANDALL BROWN: Is there data that you have related to that, you said with regard to ethnicity, you don't ask the question. Obviously, you don't have that data. Which is why I asked about the blind question cause the other thing she brought up was about those who are blind.

KELLY MONROE: Only if they request it.

RANDALL BROWN: Has anyone requested it?

KELLY MONROE: No, they haven't.

RANDALL BROWN: That was my question.

KELLY MONROE: No. And then like we have put it in different formats and make sure that we don't put things in PDFs all the time because readers can't read things that are in PDFs. We make sure it's done in both ways. But no one has asked for anything in Braille. But if they do, I can assure you that any type of ADA requirement or request would be made.

RANDALL BROWN: Honored.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah.

RANDALL BROWN: That's important to note. Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: If I may interject just for a

moment though. We do have language in our contracts, or at least the ones I approve about collecting demographic information of participants that include their gender, their race and their location whether it be urban or rural. And we also ask them if they are a self-advocate or if they are a family member. If they are a direct service worker, a provider agency, or other professional.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. So do we have that data in relation to this contract?

KELLY MONROE: Well, we have the location, whether they're a self-advocate, a parent, a provider. We have that. But we do not ask what their race is. And we can usually figure out what their gender is. But we do not normally ask those things on an evaluation. You usually only usually get a good five to seven questions and I guess we could use those questions to fill it out. But I didn't think, I guess in my mind didn't think it was appropriate. Anyway. If that's what you guys want, we can get that. But they're already, the evaluations are difficult for people to get them to fill out five questions. I know when I received a registration the other day and it was a LaCAN round table. I was like why do they need to know all this. I was trying to hurry and go to a round table. Really almost missed it cause I was filling out the registration form. If that's what you want, we can do it. It's just a lot of questions to ask someone when what we really want to know is did you get the information you needed. And if not, what else could we provide for you.

RANDALL BROWN: I guess my question is can it be asked and I think you just answered when you said you can ask it. It can be asked at registration, correct?

KELLY MONROE: Yeah. We can ask it.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other questions or comments Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: There is some things in the chat. Bambi had made a comment that I'm sure if ADA accommodations were requested the contractor would

provide it. Ashley already made the comment that they did not have any request for SDM trainings. Ms. Corhonda Corley clarified that she was not singling out a particular contractor. Just wanted to make sure all contractors address ADA. It looks like Ms. Kathy Dwyer asked if the council should start asking contractors to track that information. That was during the conversation about should we track race. Because some federal grants, and she alluded to FHF of Greater New Orleans does ask. Susan Reems stated FHF centers collect that type of data on their registration. Bambi asked if it could be requested on registration, it can. Ms. Kathy Dwyer also said that it is okay to ask about race, ethnicity as long as it's optional. And Ashley McReynolds said they will add that question to their registration from now on on their SDM trainings.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Ashley. Any other questions or comments?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Looks like you do have a hand raised from Ms. Rhano.

RHANO: Good evening everybody. (audio distorted) I know when you talk about diversity. I don't see anybody reaching out to diverse communities asking them to join. Or try to put out any information, even at a church, or synagogue, or mosque. Or anywhere there is a concentration of population. New Orleans East has a lot of Vietnamese Jefferson Parish a lot of Arab and Spanish. I don't see you guys making an effort to reach those where they are and just taking data. If they don't know, they are not going to be attending. You are going to have a check box because you are not going to them where they are. And we know where the populations are. So I think every contract, every agency that's working under the contracts need to make an actual effort to reach out to those communities where they are, provide printed materials and maybe we can see in the future those diverse populations sitting at the DD Council seat. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. We certainly want that as well. Thank you for bringing that point up. Any

other questions or comments?

BRENTON ANDRUS: None that I see Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you everybody for your participation today, your points of view and your feedback. We very much appreciate it. Tomorrow, excuse me, Wednesday will be another very busy day where we finalize these recommendations. We will be looking into things that would need our further review. I look forward to a more robust discussion and finalizations on Wednesday. Thank you everybody for your attendance today and thank you for the public for your feedback.

LIZ GARY: Can we get Courtney to send us an update on what she typed up today?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. I was going to have her send that to everyone.

LIZ GARY: Thank you. Appreciate it.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. With no objection from the committee hearing none, assuming there is none, then I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

COURTNEY RYLAND: To recess, not adjourn.

RANDALL BROWN: To recess. I'm sorry. A motion to recess. My apologies. It's late.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Just need a unanimous consent.

RANDALL BROWN: Does anyone object to us taking a recess? Hearing no objection, we have unanimous consent. We are here by adjourned ladies and gentlemen.