

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
FFY 2022 Planning
March 31, 2021

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Courtney, by my watch it is 1:00. Do we have a quorum?

COURTNEY RYLAND: No, sir. We need one more person.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. We'll give it about five more minutes. If they come on before that let me know.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Okay. We're going to go ahead and start the meeting. One of the committee members said they will be joining us but may take a few more minutes. So we can go ahead and start the meeting. We just won't be able to vote until we have a quorum. So Courtney, please let we know exactly when we have that quorum. But we will go ahead and get started.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: I want to welcome everybody. Just thank you for being here today and thank you for your continued interest and consideration in our planning process. And today we start out with a recap of yesterday. And Courtney, would you like to start us off with any information with regard to that recap?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I hope that, oh, we have quorum now. Ms. Liz Gary has joined us.

LIZ GARY: Hey. Sorry. I just sent you an email. I apologize I'm just getting on. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for joining us. So now we have a quorum.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So I hope all the committee members received the document we were drafting as of Monday's meeting. So I have got that shared on the screen now. All of the activities that were discussed yesterday, sorry, on Monday are in red.

RANDALL BROWN: And I do want to let the committee know and recommend on the issue of the travel expenses

whether they were divided, I believe 7,000 for executive committee travel and 3,000 for council travel. We looked into that. Those can be combined into one activity. So I would strongly recommend we do that. I just wanted to make sure before we did that that we weren't going to violate any rules with our federal partners, or anything of that sort, or have an accounting issue if we did it. But there's none. So I think it would be prudent for us to combine those two into one.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Are there any objections to that from the committee? Okay. So I will combine activity 1.1.4 with 1.1.5.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: No problem. Okay. So as we were progressing, we were going down the 2021 action plan and discussing activities that have a cost associated with them. And discussing if we want to continue that activity. If we want to pick up where we left off, or do you want to discuss what was decided or discussed what was mentioned yesterday?

HALIE BELIN: Bambi has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Let's let Bambi have the floor.

HALIE BELIN: Bambi, you're muted.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can y'all hear me now? I apologize for that. Courtney, I know you have a spread sheet where you can list the activity and the dollar amount. Can you periodically show that to us so we can get an idea of where we're at in regards to the amount of money we have to spend.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, ma'am.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that suggestion.

JILL HANO: Can we also have a copy of that?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That was included in your agenda. The budget.

JILL HANO: Oh, hello. Thank you, Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're welcome.

JILL HANO: So can I ask another question?

RANDALL BROWN: You certainly may.

JILL HANO: Now that we've combined the training that's going to be activity 1.1.4?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, ma'am. I just made that the new activity.

JILL HANO: All right. Thank y'all.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. I do want to say we spoke with O'Neal Communications on the activity to do with the videos, and they have gone above and beyond, actually. And I do, although it's not been released yet, there are two videos forthcoming that prominently feature one of our minority council members and it's extraordinarily well done. That should be released shortly. So I do want to make that clear. That has not only been addressed, they've already done it. Just waiting to release it. We put a schedule out for release on every Friday on those. So that is forthcoming. And O'Neal stressed to me that they had difficulty getting people to agree to do the videos. Finding people to agree do the videos. But the quality is top notch and they're doing according to our plan with them.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. Based on what you said, I feel like we should have people of color in every video.

RANDALL BROWN: I agree with you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: One video, like the one Hyacinth saw, they didn't have representation. And so I would like, find out who did they reach out to and, you know, for them to say they weren't able to reach people I don't doubt that's accurate, but cause outreach looks different for different people.

RANDALL BROWN: We expressed that, and they expressed their commitment to continue to reach out to various populations and groups to make sure it is better represented in the videos.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But if they're reaching out, they really wouldn't know who to reach out to. The council staff or maybe our partners would know who to reach out to.

RANDALL BROWN: We agree. And I think getting the

word out for that is critical and we will focus on that. But they are committed to doing exactly that, making sure the videos are diverse as they can be. They just expressed they had difficulty getting responses for the videos they've so far made. But as I said, they have two forthcoming videos that prominently feature one of our council members. So those are forthcoming.

HALIE BELIN: Liz has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Liz, you have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Thank you, Randall. I was just curious, Bambi kind of asked some of the questions. But I guess it was just more or less who else were they looking at. They were only looking at council members trying to make these videos. Cause you said they were not able to get a lot. Where Bambi said making sure you're reaching out to stakeholders and things like that. Definitely be a way to get it out there too.

RANDALL BROWN: We definitely are. One of the reasons I wanted to reach out to them was to get the prospective on how the process was going so we could help if we need to. Obviously, we do need to, so we will.

LIZ GARY: Great. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Okay. Courtney, where are we next?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Again, I was leaving that up to you if you wanted to revisit any of the activities that were discussed Monday, or just like to pick up where we left off on Monday?

RANDALL BROWN: Let's go ahead and pick up where we left off.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So the next activity on the 2021 action plan that has a cost associated with it is activity 2.7.3 which is our first responder training initiative. And Mr. Dustin Chandler with Interaction Advisory Group is actually here with us today and can give you all an update on the astounding amount of work that this initiative has already begun to see. Mr. Brown, if it's okay with you I'd like to invite Mr.

Chandler to speak.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Mr. Chandler you have the floor and welcome.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: Thank you. Can everybody hear me? Great. Thank you, Mr. Brown. Thank you for everybody on the DD Council and this planning committee. Really want to tell you thank you for allowing us the opportunity to have the chance to be in Louisiana training first responders. So thank you very much upfront. And also thank you for all the work you do for the community, the state. Thank you for that.

To give you an update where we are, we have trained, this has gotten enormous response as Courtney was talking about. We started our official training on February 4th. We had 13 involved in that training. And let me back up a little bit. At the very onset of this we allow about 20 in our training. So this is all virtual training. We like to have about 20 to 25. We've kind of bumped that number up a little bit to get more due to the demand of the training. So early on we had about 13 in February. We trained actually in January as well, we trained some command staff to see what command staff at a sheriff's office, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, thought about it. We like to do that to see what law enforcement in the state is thinking about it. Obviously, they loved the training. We then proceeded on into February. We had, like I said, the 13 in February attend the training. Then we move into March. March, we had 11 from, I would consider kind of all over the state. And then we had a Bossier Sheriff's Office group about 17 to 20 for that training. We are booked up for this first responder training. Just looking at my list here we have 27 signed up for the class tomorrow. Holding a class tomorrow. We are already booked up on May 6th. Which has 27 also. We bumped the number up to about 30. We've got to have room on our virtual training to allow a connection for self-advocates to join us cause they're in every one of our trainings. So that number hovers around 27 attendees with a couple other spots

for self-advocates and/or a parent to be there. So we are fully booked up for May. We are almost booked up in June. We're about halfway full for the June class. And then we will have, obviously, the first Thursday of every month in September.

It's important to know and understand it's exciting for us to be able to train. I am a former law enforcement officer and I have a daughter with developmental disabilities. So it is very exciting for me to be able to do this. It really gets me excited when we have the response that we've had in Louisiana for this training. And to let you know kind of how the training went, one of the initial trainings in February we had chief Raymond with the Shreveport Police Department attend that training. And after the training he reached back out and asked if we could go ahead and train his entire police department. To give you an idea how big the Shreveport PD is, they have 580 sworn personnel that he wants trained under our program after he went through it himself. We were just contacted by East Jefferson Levy District. Wants their entire agency trained. About 60 sworn there, 60 plus. St. Landry EMS reached out to us. They're about 50 plus. They want their agency trained of the EMS personnel that they have. We have others like Kenner PD, Church Point PD wanting their entire agency trained. So not only are we getting these the first Thursday of every month and having a good turnout there, the real good feedback you get is when you have people contact you after your training wanting entire agencies trained. And that's really where you want to be. Training two or three officers, or fire department, or EMS in one agency is good. But if we have them where we can then train entire departments, whole agency training is really where it is because then you know that agency is fully trained. So that is very exciting for us. And also the AG's office has sent several members. We have a lot signed up actually for tomorrow's class. They sent a lot of people through the class as well. The demand has been very

high. That's exciting to us.

But again, it is really exciting to us when we have agencies request their entire department be trained in our program. So we're very thankful for what y'all have allowed us to do up until this point. And we are making great strides, obviously. If agencies are going back and asking for departmental training that's really a positive for us. Obviously on the training side. But really that's a tribute to you guys for carrying this flag, so to speak, and making sure this important training is getting out there. We really appreciate it. But the demand is very exciting. Knowing we have these classes already full. And some parents have sat through the training. We've gotten feedback. I have sent feedback as I could through Courtney in our monthly reports. And just hearing the feedback of the self-advocates with us as well. Having them in that really, really enriches our training. Obviously, we're budgeted to have self-advocates. So them being in our training really allows firsthand information to get to the first responders from self-advocates. So we work along self-advocates. They've been very good. And we have tried to go all across the state with self-advocates. So the last two that we've had have actually been out of Baton Rouge. And we are kind of working on us a list that we keep, and we contact the self-advocates as we go to see who is able to join us for the next training. Who may not be. Who is comfortable in joining us in training and we kind of work down that list. Kind of building up a good list for that as well. It's not just self-advocates. Also could be a family member. Could be a parent. Anybody who wants to share either experiences or just help us really with the training when we talk about communication and understanding of what might be going on in an emergency situation. That has worked very well and I'm very thankful to the self-advocates in Louisiana as well. Just a very quick, really very quick number of things for you. To let you know the demand is great and we're just having a lot of requests

for full departmental training which is excellent. And that's really what I know you guys want and what we want as well. And I will take any questions.

RANDALL BROWN: Would love for you to answer questions if the body has any.

HALIE BELIN: There are a few comments in the chat. Give me just a second. Bambi said there are partner's staff and FHF staff who can contribute to the diversity of the videos. And Kathy Dwyer said I'm so glad to hear all of these trainings. This is wonderful. Will the trainings be incorporated in first responder training academy. And Christy Curtis said how do we volunteer.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: Back to Ms. Dwyer's comment and/or question. We agree the trainings are great. This is the information, to be honest with you, coming from the law enforcement background and first responder background. And through talking to those agencies in Louisiana they really don't get that in the academy. What's really exciting to us is we had worked with and continue to work with and train Bossier. Y'all have many training academies in Louisiana. I believe the number's upwards of 14 to 15 training academies across the state. Other states, they all vary. We have good connections with Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office. That is actually a training academy. So the captain over the training academy, which then in turn obviously is in charge of the training of the whole department, she sat through our training and is really working that into her, I don't know necessarily at this moment that it will be actually in the curriculum for their cadets coming through. But they are going to have their entire sheriff's office training with our curriculum. She has been through other training for developmental disabilities and she's actually requested us to train her entire Bossier Sheriff's Office. That department is 450 deputies. So the answer is kind of in short, we don't know if it will be incorporated in the actual curriculum. However, hoping to really prove the training its worth with somebody like Bossier Sheriff's

Office and her being over the academy we hope to kind of from this point forward get into all the other academies and try to set the standard of what this training is. And really hopefully get into the curriculum if we can. If we cannot, reach out to us and we can train the entire agency. Which that is exactly what Bossier did. Again, the captain took it first and then she requested the entire sheriff's office, 450 be trained. So we hope. And that is a positive move towards that direction.

This is not a negative comment. But being in law enforcement you got to have some connections and trust there. And I know our law enforcement background really works there. So we have good relationships. We understand where they're coming from and hopefully can really help them understand, and I think we are, with the demand and obviously with the reactions that we've had to our training really relating to them. Because we're really not a textbook class, so you know. We are more of a practical class. We are not really talking about what is and why does this happen. We are talking about how do we make the best possible outcome for individuals and the first responder. And so we use practical examples from my own training and my own experience with my own child, my family and also my background. And that resonates. Being more practical training, we want them to take that away and we want the information of safety and fair treatment to be on the top of mind at any time we have any of these interactions. Where we focus on the actual interaction.

To Ms. Curtis's question, how do you volunteer. That's a simple email to me. If you're wanting to volunteer to be in one of our trainings, we would love to have anybody and everybody that is interested in sharing their prospective on really life events, things like that. We love to share those stories in our training. That really brings, raises the level of empathy. We want to raise the level of understanding. Not only understanding, but then that leads to

awareness about really what's going on with us and our families. But then more importantly later on down the road, is really acceptance. And not only in their professional capacity. Yes, we want it to be safe. We also want to have fair treatment involved in that. But we want to be accepted in society. My daughter and my family along with everybody else's to be treated nicely out there as we should be and respected. So it's kind of awareness and acceptance through training. Anybody is welcome to join us. All I ask is somebody to email me. Courtney has my email, or I can type it in here as well. And then a phone call to make sure people know, understand how the training takes place. What exactly is involved in training. How long will you be expected to speak. Cause we do have our curriculum we have to get through. But anybody is welcome to do that, and I will put my email, I can put it in the chat. Courtney also has it.

RANDALL BROWN: Please put it in the chat.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: Absolutely. To Ms. Dwyer's other one, there's some legislation out there in Louisiana for that. I don't know about it being in an academy curriculum. Obviously, I can leave state resources for you guys to look at, pursuing that as far as training and curriculum. Just so you guys understand, the academies are training new officers and then you already have officers in service. It's really a large number. Trying get the numbers that are coming into law enforcement and other first responder areas, but then also the ones already in service as well. Ms. Bambi, sure.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: How are you incorporating training in regards to racial and ethnic diversity in regards to our people with developmental disabilities?

DUSTIN CHANDLER: It's a good question. We reach out to as many as we can through the connection through Families Helping Families, the Autism Society in Louisiana, Peoples First. We try to work with every organization that we can. Tell them kind of what we're doing, and we allow them to kind of see who is

interested in joining us and making sure that we're getting the best that we can, getting the best representation of obviously the DD community that we can. And it's not only autism. It can be autism. It can be somebody that's blind or Deaf. Anything like that. And we know so many as well, so we try to incorporate many different examples. But as far as representation as a person, we reach out to the groups in Louisiana and have discussions with them and then they work through their organizations and then work with us to kind of provide us with a list so to speak, or individuals they think would be good for the training. And we kind of, like I said earlier with the previous comment, how do we volunteer. We just want to talk to them and kind of go through the process of having them volunteer with us. We're all about working with the individuals and working with organizations in the state.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. Thank you for the work you're doing. Thrilled to hear it's going so well.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: Yes. Thank you. Again, thank you for allowing us to do this. It's been a great experience thus far. We've many, obviously, training dates left. We're excited about it and thank you from everybody at IEG, to all you guys and we want you to know we fully support you and love you for what you're doing for the community as well.

RANDALL BROWN: We appreciate that. Thank you, sir. And thank your team for us.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: Thank you. I will.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other questions for Dustin before he departs? Thank you, sir.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Hearing from Mr. Chandler, I think we can all agree the program is going very well. That is something I would think and hope we would like to continue. Any comments or feedback from the committee on it?

LIZ GARY: It's Liz. This was the first year that

this started? He's only like four or five months.

RANDALL BROWN: Yeah.

LIZ GARY: I say it's the same thing as before. To be able to give it another year, at least, to ensure that we're getting in touch. Because it's hard to touch people and get the information in one or two, sometimes even two years. I would say continue forward with it.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Are we all in agreement to continue forward at the current levels? Do I have any objections to continuing forward as the current levels for the program? Courtney, is there anything else we need to do on this particular item?

COURTNEY RYLAND: No, sir. Just adding it to the table. And I would like to share that as Ms. Polotzola recommended.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, please.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Can everyone see the screen?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So although we've discussed more activities than what's listed on here, these are the only ones that you guys have discussed an actual amount to associate with those activities. There were some activities that we did not discuss or agree upon an amount.

JILL HANO: Can you make it bigger?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, ma'am. Let me work on that Jill. Thank you.

JILL HANO: No big deal. You need to move on, I don't want to stop you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. I for one am glad to hear the program has gone so well and been so well received. Hopefully, they can get more done the second year than they did the first one. Courtney, let me know when you are ready to proceed.

JILL HANO: We can go on.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Once I get the table enlarged, I will share the screen.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you. So is there any other discussion about the program as it relates to

next year? Are we okay with the levels being what they are, funding levels being what they are and the topics?

LIZ GARY: I got all my paperwork in front of me now. But that was 2.7.3. Is that what that was?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

LIZ GARY: Also had a 2.7.4 and 2.7.5 all related, never mind. Sorry.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Not a problem.

RANDALL BROWN: You got it.

LIZ GARY: Didn't we have something else that was on this 2022 that had to do with first responders, establish and educate first responders and direct support professionals on how to treat individuals with disabilities in an unbiased manner.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Right. That's where this initiative will go under that objective. It's going to be activity 2.2.1 on the 2022 plan.

LIZ GARY: Got it. Thank you. I'm good.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Ms. Hano, is this better?

JILL HANO: Yes. Thank you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're welcome.

LIZ GARY: I have another question. It said first responders and direct support professionals. Is the initiative to try to encourage direct support professionals to attend also as well as families and all that kind of stuff?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I think what the five-year planning committee had in mind was for a new activity to be created to address direct support professional training.

LIZ GARY: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: You are correct, Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So if there is no other further discussion about this particular activity. The next activity on the 2021 action plan that has a cost associated with it is 2.7.4. That is for the emergency preparedness training. Which is currently being conducted by Niagara University. They had some issues with getting some participation to get started, but they actually began hosting some sessions as of

yesterday. They had 55 people register and 31 attended. And they are already scheduling another one in a couple weeks. And they will be conducting 12 training sessions from now through September 30th. And that is to assist both emergency management professionals and for community events. Some sessions will be just for emergency management professionals. Some sessions will be just for the community. And then there will be some sessions to combine the two.

RANDALL BROWN: Those 12 sessions are across the state, correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. It will be statewide. Correct.

HALIE BELIN: Bambi has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: How do we get information about these trainings that are taking place or to be able to help spread the word. They're offering these across the state, we could help to promote it. I don't know if the council is promoting it. I haven't received any information to promote it.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Right. I've actually asked the director of Niagara University who is handling this to send me the list of dates that they have scheduled for the training sessions. He said he had about six to eight of them nailed down, but still some dates he hasn't nailed down just yet. I went ahead and asked for that. So we will definitely, the council staff will definitely disseminate that information. I believe he is also submitting that information to Disability Rights Louisiana, to People First, to Arc of Louisiana. It's not just the DD Council that he's disseminating information on these training sessions to. We will do a better job of letting the public know when these sessions are.

RANDALL BROWN: Once we do everyone is free to share that.

HALIE BELIN: There's another comment.

RANDALL BROWN: Can you please read it.

HALIE BELIN: It says are both of the training

programs for all regions? If so, FHF SWLA hasn't heard anything about either one yet. And then she also said hopefully FHF will be included in the list of people that are getting the training information. A great job of getting that info out. Then Jill said are we on 2.7.4.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, to all of that.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Susan for that feedback. Certainly make sure you're kept informed on how to get involved with those trainings. Get the word out far and wide.

LIZ GARY: I might have missed it. How did they say they were advertising that? Cause I hadn't seen anything.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I know they sent out some emails. Again, I don't know the DD Council sent out anything.

RANDALL BROWN: We did not. We need to.

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's why I requested dates from him. We will definitely post those dates. Whether we do something on our website like we do with LaCAN activities or Families Helping Families activity. We'll make sure we get the information out.

LIZ GARY: And they are located where? Not in Louisiana, correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. That's in New York. Niagara University.

LIZ GARY: Right now they're just doing, most of their stuff is being done virtual?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Everything is being done virtually.

LIZ GARY: And so when we move out of a virtual possible network possibly by next year, what is that going to look like? How will they be training people in Louisiana?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's up to you guys if you want to continue with this initiative. If you want to continue and to do in person trainings, I was advised it was going to cost approximately 8,500-dollars per two-day training event.

LIZ GARY: Okay. And that would be for them to

come here and train. Let me ask you this, by using again the activity, same initiative, doesn't mean necessarily it stays with the same people, correct? Cause they'll do RFPs each year or is it automatic the next group gets it automatically?

COURTNEY RYLAND: What traditionally occurs is if the council decides to continue an activity, we just continue that contract. But if you change that activity then we would have to issue a new RFP because we're changing the activity. Does that make sense?

LIZ GARY: Yes. I guess my concern is making sure the people of Louisiana, maybe it's not that important, but I would have thought it was important to make sure the people of Louisiana would get that training. And obviously we can do that virtually right now. Just worried about in the future if it's a matter of getting the training to the Louisiana people how that works.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I'm assuming you guys want to continue this. I haven't heard a definitive yes, let's continue with this.

RANDALL BROWN: I would say yes.

HALIE BELIN: You have more comments in the chat.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Can you please read it.

HALIE BELIN: Kathy Dwyer said when considering contract initiatives I would highly recommend contracts be put in place that make a permanent change. For example, with first responder training a contract could be to develop curriculum for training academies. That way there will be permanent training for all first responders from now into the future. And then advocacy effort to support legislation to incorporate these trainings in all first responder training academies.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Kathy. That suggestion is noted.

HALIE BELIN: And Charlie Michel said I listened in on a two-hour overview of the two-day training and the information was very good.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that feedback Charlie.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So Dr. Michel, you actually

participated in the meeting yesterday? I'm sorry. Mr. Brown, do you mind if we call on him?

RANDALL BROWN: Go ahead. Charlie you have the floor to answer. He may not have his mike ready. Glad to hear the information was good. I think this is something we should allow to continue. Now the 8,500-dollar per person.

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's 8,500 for training.

RANDALL BROWN: That's already factored in? Because we were not in covid when we started this contract. Or we might have been. I can't remember.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So our current contract does not include this 8,500-dollar training.

RANDALL BROWN: That's what I wasn't sure about.

COURTNEY RYLAND: This is if we want to continue with this.

JILL HANO: If we do decide to continue today, we would put that monetary amount on it. But it would be 8,500 times however regions we want.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Who is this it that has this contract?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Niagara University.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I have concerns that this contract was given to an out of state entity whenever we have an in-state entity that is already doing this work. And I don't know if it's a duplication of services. I've had concerns when it was approved last year.

RANDALL BROWN: I remember that, yes.

JILL HANO: When can we see deliverables on these trainings?

COURTNEY RYLAND: You want to see the contract?

RANDALL BROWN: I think she wants to see how they're carrying it out.

JILL HANO: Feedback.

RANDALL BROWN: I think she wants to see proof of how they're carrying it out.

COURTNEY RYLAND: She just said feedback. Like the outcomes?

JILL HANO: Yes.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Being the first one was just conducted yesterday, I don't know that we got that information just yet.

JILL HANO: My bad.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Not a problem.

RANDALL BROWN: So Bambi has a concern that we have an in-state group that does this same work. And so the question would be do we want to have Niagara continue the contract or open it up. We obviously want to continue that activity. Would we want to open that activity up for RFPs.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just to give you a little bit of background, I talked to the person from Niagara and basically everything he explained he did was exactly what's already, we have established in Louisiana. I gave him some advice. Like to give better outreach to ethnically diverse or language diverse people in the state. Of course, we can always do better with that. I don't know if he's done that. I don't see how someone from New York can do a better job than we can reaching out to our communities here. But maybe do. I think to go to Jill's point, if we had some data. Like I didn't see it was promoted. I could have overlooked it if I received an email. And Courtney gave a number of people who participated yesterday. Who are the people that participated. Where are they coming from. Are they professionals. Those type of things. That could be good information. Perhaps it is something good to have that different prospective or different ideas brought to our people in Louisiana. But I would just say that I think if we look at our country Louisiana has the most skilled people in emergency preparedness because we have to be. And so the fact that we're going to New York to tell Louisiana how to prepare for emergencies seems, I don't know, maybe not appropriate.

JILL HANO: I think that's a really good point.

RANDALL BROWN: So we would want to continue the activity. I think we're all in agreement with that.

The question before us would be, correct me if I'm wrong, the question before us would be should Niagara continue the contract for another year and have time to give us those deliverables. Or should we open this up, if possible, for an RFP for bids for work to be done by anybody who submits, obviously.

HALIE BELIN: Liz has her hand raised.

LIZ GARY: Thank you. I agree with Bambi 100 percent. I think us Louisianians have proven the resilience we have, and we know at this point now how to deal with floods, hurricanes, now freezes, a pandemic. I think we've done a good job. And I was with her last year. The concern of having somebody from out of state trying to tell us how to do it when, we've done this for years. And so I do have a concern. I think the initiative is awesome and I think we need to keep it because it's definitely going to be that constant thing of making sure we're preparing individuals with developmental disabilities for pandemics. And not only that, just other agencies. But I do have a concern of somebody from another state telling us how to do it when we've experienced it. I know he came on and I think he said he was around for Katrina. That's totally different for being around than living it every day and knowing how what we need to do to accomplish it. It's a monster when these things happen. But we always figure out how to make it work. I think like Bambi said, we already have a group doing it here. I'm 100 percent for the initiative continuing. I just have concerns with it being with an out of state agency.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. And so Courtney, if we would proceed with activity and then open it up for RFP, correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If you guys would like to make a motion to submit to the full council for consideration of this activity to continue, but for the contract to be released for a solicitation of proposals then that's definitely the route to go. I don't want us to get into the weeds of contractual and programmatic issues.

RANDALL BROWN: That's why I'm asking you. I want to make sure we do this properly. I will entertain a motion if anyone on the committee would like to make it to keep the activity as is. But to open it up so an RFP process could start to allow for bids in state.

LIZ GARY: Can I ask a question?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

LIZ GARY: So whenever there is an initiative out there, most initiatives are on contracts. You have to change how you're doing it each year, you don't just open up an RFP to do it. I guess I'm a little confused. Like why would we have to open up an RFP just because somebody got it for one year. There's no guarantee the same company would get it over and over is there?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That's what I was saying before. Traditionally, if the council wants to continue a specific activity we would just.

RANDALL BROWN: We usually just continue with the existing contract.

COURTNEY RYLAND: But if you guys want to change who gets that contract and you want to make sure it's to someone in the state then yes, I would definitely recommend that a motion be made to the full council.

RANDALL BROWN: And I would confer with your recommendation. I think that's the route to go.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Otherwise we can send out another release and still get people from out of state to submit.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. It won't necessarily fix the problem. And we know as Bambi and Liz have both rightly pointed out, we have in state groups that do this very work and do it very well. I think to open it back up with the caveat of in state being considered I think is the very thing to do.

JILL HANO: How long are these contracts for?

RANDALL BROWN: In this case I believe it's a year.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. So the current correct will end September 30th of 2021.

RANDALL BROWN: So do I have a motion to open this

activity back up for proposals for in state agencies or groups?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'll make that motion.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you, Bambi. So Bambi makes a motion for the activity to be retained and for us to open it up for proposals, solicitation of proposals to in state groups. Do I have a second to Bambi's motion?

JILL HANO: I will second.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. A motion from Bambi and a second from Jill. Anybody abstain? Anyone abstain? Do I have any objections to the motion? Hearing no objection, the motion carries.

COURTNEY RYLAND: We needed to get public input.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm sorry. Let me back up and do it again. Sorry y'all. Long day already. We have a motion. We have a second. Nobody abstains. Do we have public comment?

HALIE BELIN: Charlie Michel has his hand raised.

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

CHARLIE MICHEL: Can you hear me?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, sir.

CHARLIE MICHEL: I completely agree we have demonstrated that there's nothing we can't accommodate. I was wondering in order to make sure the RFP covers all possible options and that we can get the best one. Would it not be preferable instead of just limiting it to Louisiana agencies or providers to putting a preference for in state provider. And then on the rubric when we're scoring RFPs, perhaps we can give more points for Louisiana based people. Just in case there's somebody out there that can maybe do a better job. Just keeps it open for that. Just my thought.

RANDALL BROWN: So we would like to amend the motion to reflect what Charlie just suggested?

COURTNEY RYLAND: So there was a motion on the floor. It was seconded by Jill. And there were no objections or abstentions.

RANDALL BROWN: I didn't call for objections yet. No abstentions. Are there any objections to the

motion?

COURTNEY RYLAND: But before that if we wanted to make amendments to it that's a separate.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. That's what I was originally asking. Bambi, would you like to add language to the motion?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So what would the language be?

RANDALL BROWN: Put it on the screen Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Hold on just a second.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I try to agree with Charlie as much as I can.

COURTNEY RYLAND: What Bambi had asked for was for the full council's consideration on continuing FFY22 activity 2.7.4. But to request new contract proposals from in state entities. And then we had a public comment suggesting that we not limit ourselves to in state entities but put something on a rubric.

RANDALL BROWN: So would you be okay, Bambi, with rewording it to say something along the lines with preference given to in state agencies?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. I think that's a better way to word it. So it's not exclusionary.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. So anyone could submit, but we would be clear at the outset we give preference to Louisiana based agencies on it.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Can everyone see the screen?

RANDALL BROWN: Can you make it just a little bit bigger. Thank you. I think that's better.

JILL HANO: I like that Bambi one, Jill two.

RANDALL BROWN: And so is everybody okay with the language change here? Okay. So this would be a vote on this amended motion. First of all, do we have any further discussion for the motion as is written? Any comment about the motion? And so on the amended motion you see before you on the screen, a motion for the full consideration on continuing the federal fiscal year 2021 activity 2.7.4, but to request new contract proposals, scoring preference emphasized on in state organizations. Do I have any abstentions to the motion? Does anybody abstain? Any comment? Finally,

do I have any objections to the motion as is written? Anyone object? Hearing no objection, this motion is carried.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Was there an amount indicated for this activity?

RANDALL BROWN: I think I would recommend we keep the existing amount.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay. 20,000.

RANDALL BROWN: We don't even have data on how it's going so far yet. So I think keeping the existing amount would be prudent and hopefully we will have some data next year to show whether they need more or not.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Looks like Jill had her hand up.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Thank you Bambi and thank you Randall. All of this is still seems to be online training and webinars.

RANDALL BROWN: Right now, yes. For the foreseeable future, yes.

JILL HANO: Okay. That is the words I was looking for. Okay. Just checking so we don't need to take travel into consideration.

RANDALL BROWN: I would think not on this year and then probably next year will have to be revisited in the same type of process. And that would probably be the best time to review it. But right now we don't even have, it's just now starting the current contract. I think 20,000 in the environment we're currently in probably will be in for most of 2021. I think 20,000 is adequate.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Courtney, what needs our attention next?

COURTNEY RYLAND: The next activity with a cost associated with it is 2.7.5. Which is the rapid disaster and rapid response. I believe that contract is with Trach Mamas for 10,000-dollars. And because that contract was not approved until, what was it, October, November, they have not had any hurricanes since then fortunately.

RANDALL BROWN: That's right. But obviously it's what we want to see continue, I believe. Am I correct in assuming that committee? Someone correct me if I'm wrong.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can you tell me what's the scope of this again. A brief description.

COURTNEY RYLAND: They are supposed to provide for items that aren't covered by their insurance. This is for medically complex individuals with developmental disabilities during disasters. Instances where rapid response is needed, and they can't wait for supplies that are desperately needed. Trach Mamas can identify them and provide that to them.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I thought, which one has to do with a website creation?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That was, we've actually already, I think we've already discussed that. We just didn't assign any amounts to it. Let me pull up that activity.

LIZ GARY: 1.4.4.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Who has that contract now?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Trach Mamas as well.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. They have two. I was confused.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. Two separate ones.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So I'm just wondering, so they have 10,000-dollars. I get it, I've been involved in it in emergency situations and sometimes the infrastructure we have in place doesn't act as quickly as it needs to act, so it's great to have an entity that can act really quickly. But I'm just wondering, they still have 10,000-dollars to spend. Which isn't a lot when you're talking about equipment. Would we do another 10,000 and how does that go if there's overlap. 10,000 for this fiscal year, get 10,000.

RANDALL BROWN: For next.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. How does that work out?

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're asking if they don't spend the 10,000 this year?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. Do they have to spend it within, what is it, September?

COURTNEY RYLAND: They would have through September 30th.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So it's one pot of money. Through September 30th it would be a different pot of money.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct.

COURTNEY RYLAND: The activity I have highlighted is for the website. Emergency response resources. We did not decide or y'all did not decide on an amount for that one.

RANDALL BROWN: Is that something, I think that was meant to be a one time, one year contract, am I right about that Courtney?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir. They were supposed to develop the website and our contract also included for some follow up maintenance for them to upkeep the website.

RANDALL BROWN: And according to our deliverables on that contract has that been carried out?

COURTNEY RYLAND: They are on track for disseminating or publishing that website in June. They're waiting right before hurricane season starts.

RANDALL BROWN: That makes sense. Is it something they would need again or?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I don't think we need another website.

RANDALL BROWN: That's what, it says maintenance in there. Is there a cost associated with that maintenance that they would need us to continue to contribute to?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I do not know the answer to that off the top of my head.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This almost feels like it's something that we give the money and then either through donations to their nonprofit or a state agency could help for that upkeep and not necessarily within the scope of what we're to do with these funds.

RANDALL BROWN: I actually agree with you Bambi. I

think that's a very prudent way to look at that. But I wanted to make sure we understood that this was meant to be a onetime initiative for this year. Which is being carried out. So I don't necessarily think we need this initiative here for next year. Just my suggestion. But cause if they do have cost associated with maintenance it can be, they can tell us, and we can help them with a fundraising drive or whatever it may be to cover those cost. But I think the intent is being they're already doing it in this year's contract. I would recommend this one not be carried forward in its current form. The question I have is do we want to give them an amount for upkeep. Or do we want to just take this activity out as having been completed.

HALIE BELIN: Liz has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: And I think you have some comments in the chat too. If those are relevant to the discussion, we can add those in. Liz, you have the floor.

LIZ GARY: I will hold off on my comment because it wasn't about the website.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. Do we have any comments related to this item in the chat?

HALIE BELIN: Charlie said I would think it might be beneficial to launch their website as early as possible so the people would have time to become familiar with it. Waiting till June might make it inaccessible to some. If there are problems, there will be precious little time to fix them before hurricane season is in full force. Kathy Dwyer said there would be maintenance for updating content in platforms and software maintenance.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. I'm aware. Part of what I do every day. I'm aware those costs do exist and will need to be covered. That was why I'm asking do we want to keep the initiative, reword it a little to give money for the maintenance costs we know will come. Or do we want to table this, excuse me, remove this having been completed. If they determine they need funding for maintenance, then we agree to help them to

fundraise or find ways to cover that cost in the future.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, this is Brenton. Just to clarify quickly about the website. They're not intentionally waiting until June. That's their deadline. But certainly it would be launched quicker if they're able to get it up and running before then.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir, for that clarification. That's important. So do we want to say this one's been completed? And then if Trach Mamas determines they need our help with maintenance cost they know where to find us. And we will be happy to assist them in trying to find funding for that maintenance cost or raise funding. Is everyone okay with removing activity 2.1.1? No objection to removing it or not carrying it forward would be the proper way to phrase it. All right. That takes care of that issue. Thank you, Bambi, for bringing that activity up. I had forgotten we didn't assign an amount to it. So Courtney, what needs our attention next?

COURTNEY RYLAND: The next activity is on the 2021 plan 2.7.6. This was just a preemptive activity to if something came up covid relief related we have 2,500-dollars at our disposal. This was just something quickly added and without any guidance on how to administer this.

RANDALL BROWN: Have we used or are we using that funding for anything covid related at this point?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Those funds are still available.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Since we are still in the midst of an emergency declaration and all those things related to covid, do we want to continue this into next year?

HALIE BELIN: Liz has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Liz.

LIZ GARY: I'm sorry, Randall. We just agreed to 2.7.5. I didn't realize, I know we talked about the website. I didn't realize we had agreed to the financial support for the rapid response. I thought we just finished closing out on the website and changed

that. Did we finish with the other one, 2.7.5 Courtney?

COURTNEY RYLAND: We discussed it, and then Bambi asked about the website one.

LIZ GARY: Right. I didn't even know we had gone back.

RANDALL BROWN: We can go back to it if you would like. What today's all about. If you have questions, comments, or concerns with regard to it please share.

LIZ GARY: I just wanted to talk a bit about it. Because my question would be if they were to, say they get 10,000-dollars and let's say a natural disaster doesn't happen. Are they allowed to keep those 10,000-dollars and like purchase other equipment maybe to keep in the warehouse. Is that allowed or how does that work. Do they have to actually provide it on site at the time somebody is requesting it. Just trying to get clarification on that.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. The way it's established right now it's associated with an individual that actually needs those items or supplies. It's not to allow someone to just stockpile supplies.

RANDALL BROWN: If it's not needed in a year, say we don't have hurricane next year. So therefore they don't spend any of the 10,000-dollars, what happens to the 10,000-dollars?

COURTNEY RYLAND: It is not released. Those funds are not released.

RANDALL BROWN: So we don't give them the 10,000 until they need it?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

LIZ GARY: And so how do they determine if somebody needs something and they're not able to get it elsewhere. What kind of questions or things do they ask these people. I thought I made it sound like they had to not be able to get it elsewhere or something to that.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Mr. Andrus, do you happen to have an answer to that? Hate to put you on the spot.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Essentially, they have to show that their insurance company is not willing or able to pay for whatever item it is they need. Cause we certainly can't allow them to purchase something that an insurance company would be able to provide for them. So the way the contract was written basically would say they would have to show that this person's Medicaid or private insurance, whatever it may be, is not purchasing that particular item that they may need.

LIZ GARY: Okay. So then I want us to reread this provide financial support to coordinate rapid response. If you've got to wait for Medicaid or your insurance to come back and tell you no, we're not paying for it, then we're not providing rapid response. Cause in situations like this that could be a response that could take three, four, five weeks or months to get a response back. I think we need to reconsider this. Because I think, I know it's hard when it comes down to is it a judgment call or not. But when you're in a crisis and flooded in and can't get supplies we can't wait for an insurance or somebody to tell us we're not giving it. Somebody has to be able to provide those supports. I know from the flood of 2016 what Trach Mamas was doing when it came down to it. I know the contract is out there. I really think we need to rethink how that's going to be provided for these families that are going need it. I'm thinking about the winter conditions we had in Lake Charles. If they had been able to possibly get people stuff right then and there. I know what Jessica herself went through at some point when she needed to get supplies during the flood. I think we really need to reconsider how we're doing that and providing it to not say we're going to held onto 10,000-dollars if something didn't happen. Just my person opinion with years and years' experience related to trying to get something from insurance and Medicaid.

RANDALL BROWN: Do we want to reword it?

LIZ GARY: I think it's pretty clear what it says. Provide financial support to provide rapid response. I

guess it's a matter of how the contract was written would be different than what this says.

RANDALL BROWN: That's what I'm saying because this will decide the contract for the coming year. Obviously, this one's in place. But this is for next year. Would we want to make sure the contract is reworded and if so how.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sorry, Randall. I wanted to verify something before I continue. The focus was also just on medical equipment. Whenever it comes to medical equipment we cannot, it's my understanding this is written, we would get in trouble if we purchased for medical equipment for someone who's insurance company can pay for it. Not just for medical equipment. Also for generators and things. All the family has to do is say they can't afford it. That part is rapid. I understand the medical equipment may not be rapid, but there are things that can be rapid such as food, water, clothing. It might be generators or something like that. So those things the family just shows I'm having a financial hardship at the moment. They can purchase those things. But when it does come to things like, whatever it may be, some medical equipment was ruined in a flood I understand that may not be as rapid as we would like, but it's my understanding we could potentially be in trouble spending that funds on something that insurance says they might pay for. It's not coming as quickly as you want, but you can divert those funds to other things that we don't have so much red tape around like generators and food and supplies.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that clarification.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And what typically happens, cause I'm usually involved, is that like LaTan will donate equipment for temporary use and they get it back. Sometimes Trach Mamas has equipment they can loan out for temporary use. It sounds like that's one component that this isn't addressing. It's addressing those things Brenton described.

BRENTON ANDRUS: It can be retroactive to some extent. If Trach Mamas had that equipment that they

provided to someone, they could tie it to that person whenever they replace that equipment. Like Trach Mamas gave them whatever their equipment is. They could say purchase another piece of equipment cause they gave that one away to this person who may have needed it and their insurance is not paying for it. Something like that. But that would assume they have the means to replace those things. I get what y'all are saying. Certainly not perfect by any means. Unfortunately, where we're at with that particular activity.

JILL HANO: It's been a while since I read the contract for this. But looking at the action plan and looking at the status report. The status report says to provide individuals with DD and their family equipment and supplies, not other ones covered by Medicaid or private insurance. But the action plan I think it might just be a wording issue. Because it doesn't specifically say not covered by Medicaid. I think to your point Brenton that you legally cannot provide something that is covered by Medicaid. So I think this could be a working issue and we have to put language. We have to put language that says equipment and supplies not covered by Medicaid because my status report says not covered by Medicaid. But my action plan does not say that. So I think if you get the wording, the individual needs met, the council wouldn't be violating any legal. We would be getting needs met and not crossing any lines if we simply just change the wording.

RANDALL BROWN: I think you're right Jill.

JILL HANO: Or completely gone.

RANDALL BROWN: I think you're right Jill. Correct me if I'm wrong Courtney. I think you have made a change now.

JILL HANO: Yes. I see it. A change made on Courtney's document.

RANDALL BROWN: Activity 2.2.1. Is everyone in agreement with that as it's written and with the amount? Is there any objection to the new wording and the amount given to this activity.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. I don't have an objection. I just have some concerns about the funding we use that we're discussing right now is supposed to be for basically money for systems change. And so I know the need for this is great. But I don't see how this is going to change systems. And so I'm just wondering.

RANDALL BROWN: Great point.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Often times what happens, and it's not as quickly as possible, although they're pretty quick, OCDD, if there's an OCDD client that needs something in a disaster type situation I will reach out Theresa at OCDD at the state office let her know or if I know the OCDD person in the region where that person lives to contact them. They will use IFS funds to pay for whatever that person needs. Some human service districts are faster than others. And so there's sources to get our people who are certified with developmental disabilities these things pretty quickly. I also know sometimes we just need to have these nonprofits that have some things stored that we can get really quickly as well. So I just wanted to bring that up. I don't see this as a systems change. Maybe there could be an activity that could help to provide quicker access to resources and can sustain it.

RANDALL BROWN: Great suggestion. Great feedback. This is how it's written now. How do you want to go about changing it so it would fit our plan in terms of how we operate in systems change with focus on systems change?

HALIE BELIN: There are a few comments.

RANDALL BROWN: Please read them.

HALIE BELIN: Kathy said I don't believe donations to individuals, especially in emergencies, affect Medicaid in anyway. And she also said and agree with Liz that predicating assistance based on whether or not an item is denied by Medicaid or other insurance will not be able to address emergency situations.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Kathy for that feedback. Any other comments? So my question remains, do we want

to keep this as we have now adjusted it with the wording and the funding as it's written before you. Or do we want to try and reword it with a focus towards system change in some way. So hearing no suggestions, and I don't currently have any in mind myself on this, are we in agreement to keep it for one more year and see if it's needed and how it will be used?

LIZ GARY: I'm not opposed to what it says and to providing assistance to families when they need it. But I have to agree with Bambi on the fact that when you look at it, I mean you go down to it, cause after Bambi said that I reread the advocacy, capacity building, and systems change. And I agree with her it doesn't fall into any of those three titles. I do think it needs to be removed or reworded.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. What I'm calling for. How do we reword it so it could apply to our mission. Courtney, blow the screen up a little more please. Are there any suggestions as to how we can tie it in?

HALIE BELIN: There's another comment from Kathy. She says systems change would be requiring HSDA to have a rapid response system to address emergency needs expeditiously.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Kathy for that comment. Would we like to take a ten-minute break and come back to this? It's time for a break. Anybody object for a ten-minute break recess and then return to discuss this?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: That's fine.

LIZ GARY: I'm good with that.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So no objection. We will have a ten-minute break and come back at 2:45 and pick up discussion here. Thank you all.

Okay, Courtney. By my clock it's 2:45. Do we have a quorum?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If committee members can please start their video for quorum. We have a quorum again.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. So we are ready to resume discussions about the wording for the contract with Trach Mamas. If you put that up on the screen for

a minute. Activity 2.1.1. To provide financial support to coordinate rapid response during a natural disaster or state of emergency for individuals with the most severe disabilities and medical conditions for equipment and supplies not covered by Medicaid and/or private insurance. A 10,000-dollar allotment for that activity currently. So when we left off, we were talking about how to reword it or to word it in such a way it would meet with our mission and objective of systems change. Cause we don't feel like the current wording does that. Do we have any suggestions on how we can reword this to in some way be more in alignment with our mission of systems change?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Randall, Kathy Dwyer made a great suggestion in the comment. I think a good way for us to address this.

RANDALL BROWN: Great.

LIZ GARY: I agree Bambi. Thank you, Kathy.

RANDALL BROWN: Can you share the comment Kathy made Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Said to incorporate systems change in the current objective activity perhaps require the contractor Trach Mamas to reach out to all the human service districts and authorities and vice versa making human service districts and authority aware of Trach Mamas services offered and have the human service districts and authority assist with getting emergency equipment and supplies to residents in their region.

RANDALL BROWN: That is a terrific idea. Thank you, Kathy. Courtney, can we reword to reflect her suggestion please.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. It seems like the original wording is not there anymore. Like I think what Kathy added was just to be added onto, right?

RANDALL BROWN: That was my understanding, yes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Am I reading this correctly. Basically still do what they have been doing, but the component to be able to.

RANDALL BROWN: The activity remain as it was but

add the conditions that the human service districts be notified.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. To help build capacity.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. Do you have the old wording still available Courtney?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: While she's doing that if we can, I appreciate Kathy's suggestion, but also, we appreciate all the work Kathy does all the time and getting information out to people.

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely. She does a phenomenal job.

LIZ GARY: I think this is important too because way too many times families don't know to go to the human services districts to ask for extra money. If Trach Mamas is connecting with them and create, like we said, a capacity building system right here. Still be able to touch base with them and vice versa if they know that kind of thing. I think we're going to do a lot with this one when it comes to natural disasters and trying to get some words out to other families and stuff. So that's great. Kathy, thank you so much.

RANDALL BROWN: Agreed. Thank you, Kathy.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Can everyone see the activity as it's written or is my screen not sharing.

RANDALL BROWN: It's there.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Does this reflect what you're all looking for?

RANDALL BROWN: I think the request is for the original wording to basically remain, but we wanted to add this to it or something of this affect to the original wording.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes. So from and for human service districts on down that is the new.

RANDALL BROWN: I have no objection.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I guess I didn't notice in the original that it has for individuals with the most severe disabilities and medical conditions. I mean you might not have most severe disabilities, but your need is something that is needed.

JILL HANO: Maybe strike out severe.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't know what the intent was. Things can quickly become severe, even the things that we think that are not the biggest ticket items. If you don't have it, it can become severe.

RANDALL BROWN: So is everyone okay with the wording as it currently stands?

LIZ GARY: I'm afraid if we don't, for individuals with disabilities, I don't have a problem with that. But I'm just wondering if that would open up a lot of requests and things and all of a sudden that money is gone quickly. I was thinking most severe because I was thinking those individuals probably using equipment that needed to be used with electricity and things like that.

RANDALL BROWN: The greatest need.

LIZ GARY: I'm with Bambi that it could quickly change. I'm just worried about those who are more critical that may be needing something at that time. Not that a lot of people don't have critical needs. Just wondering if removing that then opens it up for a lot more. Cause I'm thinking like when Brenton was saying a generator and things like that. You need that for sure for those who are using equipment with electricity and things like that. Just worried, just thinking out loud. I kind of like the more severe only in the sense for those who are in a critical position would have.

RANDALL BROWN: For things like today thinking out loud is encouraged. It helps us brainstorm. So thank you.

LIZ GARY: I'm thinking along the lines of generators and how critical generators are for so many families who have kids. I'm thinking 10,000-dollars if you end up giving several people a generator it's going to go pretty darn quickly.

RANDALL BROWN: Going to go very fast. So do we want to put the language severe back in or leave it as it's written?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm okay with it. It's kind of subjective. I guess we can argue the point it's severe

whenever the time comes.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. There will be people determining this. I think the staff knows our intent here.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Right.

RANDALL BROWN: I think we're okay to leave it, personally. And then we'll see how it goes. It will be up for review next year, for next year's plan. So is everybody okay with it as it's currently written?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I am.

LIZ GARY: I'm good.

JILL HANO: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: No objection, we can move forward. What's the next thing that needs our attention Courtney?

LIZ GARY: Randall, can I make one quick statement before Courtney goes?

RANDALL BROWN: You certainly may.

LIZ GARY: We have about 1, 2, 3, 4 more initiatives that we haven't done that's presently being done. That's about 170,000-dollars in initiatives and we have about 155 left based on the spread sheet and we keep adding and we haven't even touched on the 2022 ones yet. Should we continue putting them all there and then check and see if any of the 2022 have been filled in with some of these 2021s or should we kind of start looking at the 2022s. Or put them all there and then start determining if we need to cut them.

RANDALL BROWN: What I would recommend is to put them all there, see what's there and then see what's being met. I think that's going to be easier.

LIZ GARY: Okay.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Does that mean we're moving forward.

RANDALL BROWN: We are.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So the next activity on the 2021 action plan with a cost associated with it is activity 2.9.1. Which is the relationship training initiative which we have actually been doing now for two or three years.

RANDALL BROWN: I think from reports I've heard on self-determination at various points throughout this past year that has gone very well. Has met a great need. So that's one I would recommend we retain for another year.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall if I may?

RANDALL BROWN: You may, sir.

BRENTON ANDRUS: It's fine if y'all want to continue this as well. Like Courtney mentioned, I think we've been doing this since 2017, 2018. It does get positive feedback. But just keep in mind, the trajectory you guys are on right now you're doing all the same things we were to be doing this year. So I'm scared you're going to run out of money to do anything new.

RANDALL BROWN: What's your suggestion here then. Cause you're the one who deals with this program. So you know it's gotten good feedback. You don't think it needs anymore. Do you think we can adjust the amount to less since we have been doing it two years now. What is your suggestion?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think they already do this activity based on what it cost them to do this activity. I don't think it would be appropriate for me to say keep or toss it out. I just wanted to put it out there even though it's doing well it is something we've been funding continuously for a few years now.

RANDALL BROWN: Let me ask this, this if we didn't fund it it's going to go on without us?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I would have to ask Team Dynamics that. I do know they were doing some trainings, they were able to get a few of them in before we started funding. And I know this is something passionate, that their team is passionate about. I wouldn't be surprised if they found a way to continue. But I can't speak for them to say they would or would not be able to continue. I guess my point of bringing up what I brought up was not necessarily because of this initiative. But just in general, after today and yesterday we're still only under goal two. We're still

funding all the same stuff over and over. So I just want to bring that to y'all's attention.

RANDALL BROWN: I appreciate that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Especially with the education committee. We've got a lot of contractual things we talk about in self-determination cause it all falls under goals one and two. There's a lot of stuff on the education side that may be not necessarily contractual, that might just be things that's administratively done or done behind the scenes. And that committee came up with a lot of ideas. So I just hate for you to put all your eggs in the basket in one area and not be able to address any education or employment issues.

RANDALL BROWN: Fair point. Thank you, sir.

JILL HANO: So I'm sorry Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: So what's the best way. Hold on, Jill. I'll let you speak in just a minute. What's the best way to proceed then. We don't want to be here until 9:00 tonight. What's the best way to look at everything we can look at to make sure we're giving everything its due diligence. Can we do split screen or what. To look at the current plan.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think everything that's being pulled up right now is on the current plan. Everything you're looking at is currently being funded. Just a matter of the committee making a decision if they're going to continue funding the same things. You have updated some things. I don't want to say you funded everything exactly as we've done in the previous year. Kind of tweaked some things as well. It's already three. Just to really give y'all, really put some thought into is what you've been getting going to be what you want to keep having done in the next year. I'm strictly just putting it out there for y'all.

RANDALL BROWN: I know you are. I'm not trying to pick on you. I'm just trying to find a better way to get this process done quicker and get it done efficiently.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think as the planning committee you should really decide what it is that the council

needs to focus on to really implement systems change and what's going to be our thing next year that's going to get us that step closer to our five-year plan. Unfortunately, there's a lot of things we've done this year, and this is my personal opinion, we give a little bit of funding to, and we can't be great at everything if we're trying to fund and do everything. We really need to find something we're passionate about. We really need to focus in on a few things that we can really put our money towards and really start trying to come up with whether it's a training or whether we're funding a different entity or something to really make something work. Because, honestly, take the rapid response thing for 10,000-dollars. That's not a lot of money when you have five hurricanes roll through in one summer. That's going to be blown in no time had this been implemented in the previous fiscal year. We're hitting some hot topics that are really important. But the way I see it we're stretching ourselves thin and really not funding, we're trying to do too much. The feds tell us every year our plan is way too.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. Since we've done this one for several years it's at a point to where it needs to be able to sustain outside of the DD Council.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm fine with that. We can take this one off the table.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I know Jill had something to say so I apologize.

JILL HANO: What are our new concepts? Like the only concept I know we have is for 2021.

RANDALL BROWN: That's my point from earlier. Is there a way we can look at what we're doing now verses what our concepts would be for 2022.

LIZ GARY: Can I ask a question.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

LIZ GARY: Sorry. Are we looking at possibly the ones that are already there, reducing them down and trying to go from there?

RANDALL BROWN: In that one instance, yes. I don't think we're going back over everything. Not unless

y'all think we have to. But I don't think we have to. I think we're looking at eliminating that one because it's had several years of funding at that level, and it should be sustainable. I don't disagree with that.

LIZ GARY: No. I don't either. I would agree with that. Kind of like I said before, some of the other initiatives that we've just done this very first year and we're only three or four months into it and we're in a covid pandemic, I would say those should continue at least for another year to give two full years. But I think it's very, very important to keep focused on the fact that we're not supposed to continue to be the source of funding for every activity over and over, year after year. Definitely has to be capability of sustaining itself. I would agree to move on and try to get some other stuff in here that is massively important too.

RANDALL BROWN: All right.

JILL HANO: Cause we have been like, y'all have emphasized, like we haven't gotten into education.

RANDALL BROWN: That's our point. Cause we want to get all of this. Want to do due diligence to everything. We'll be here till 10:00 tonight if we don't find a way. Hopefully exaggerating but look at the time we're eating up. The longer we talk, the longer we're here. My thing is that's fine we eliminate the one from the trainings we've been doing the last two years. We've declared that one finished. So what's next Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So the next activity on the 2021 action plan with a cost associated is 3.4.2. And that is the creation of the alliance for the post-secondary inclusive education programs. That contract is currently with Southeastern Louisiana University, the lions connected program. They've already gotten two universities to begin the process of establishing programs on their campuses. LSU A will be, their first year will be the 2021 fall semester. Grambling State University has already begun the paperwork to begin their program. I spoke with Dr. Beckers last week to

find out where Grambling was and their status. Unfortunately, they missed a deadline to submit to the feds for something and so they have to wait until the next period is open for them to submit for their program to be accepted. But they are actively wanting to pursue that. Also she has been in contact with Southern University in Baton Rouge. So that university is starting to make the contacts necessary to begin a program on that campus. Dr. Beckers indicated that she wants to do another and will be doing another town hall, quote unquote, to get some more universities throughout the state on board. But like I said, she's already gotten LSU A on board, Grambling is getting started, and now Southern has expressed interest. Ms. Polotzola

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm just noticing that Dustin Chandler has his hand raised. But part of what Dr. Beckers is doing, and I imagine the process of having of getting their programs approved, that's a lot of supports she has to give to these universities to help them through that process. I think it might be a lot we might not necessarily see. Although, if they get two new universities on board, to me that's great progress. And she's also talked to me about in Florida how they fund their programs. If you ever look at the map Florida has almost all their universities have these types of programs. But the Florida state government, they have legislation where they fund these types of programs. So I thought that was very interesting. I think it's something we would continue to work on, something we need to focus on. And I also think that there's opportunities, perhaps and I'll get with her about that, to where we could get more in some of the other universities that maybe she might not have contacts with. Just want to throw that out there. I think a lot of opportunities.

RANDALL BROWN: Definitely one we agree to carry forward?

LIZ GARY: Absolutely.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. With no changes. No

language changes? I don't think it needs it. Just have to ask.

HALIE BELIN: Dustin has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. I'm sorry. Dustin, you have the floor, sir.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: Unmute would help, correct. I will lower my hand.

RANDALL BROWN: Sorry you had to wait.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: No problem, sir. To the gentleman's earlier point, and I apologize for not mentioning this earlier, under the current funding that we have, Interaction Advisory Group, we're doing one training per month. Which reaches, it has a good reach. We've kind of got another, I respectfully request additional funding the point of trying to focus on more to expand our reach. And under the new budget that I can propose we can raise those trainings to where we're doing 12 under the current proposal, we can increase that to 36 training sessions, first responder training sessions, 12 community events. And we plan on, and we have kind of put in a new budget for you guys to respectfully consider, three weeks of in person travel to come into Louisiana and have in person first responder trainings. As well as in person, as long as everybody is comfortable with in person, community trainings as well to try to build a good sense of community. So I can share with you that number. As I mentioned a little earlier, and I appreciate you letting me speak again. Shreveport PD just by themselves has 580 officers that wants trained. And under one training per month we don't have the capacity to train that agency. And we came up with something new that if we could get the funding for it, we can increase that to 36 through next year. That meaning 2022 from October till the next September if I'm making sense.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, sir. I understand you.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: And I'll just share the budget number with you. To do that would be 14556. 140,556 would get us up to 36 training sessions, 12 community

events and we will come into Louisiana, as long as everybody is comfortable of course, for three weeks in Louisiana. And we will go to different regions in Louisiana. We won't just choose one area to go. Just wanted to toss that out there. Cause the demand is great. One training per month in the virtual setting of having 25 to 30. And some of them don't show up for that training. We are making headway. It's got a lot of excitement behind it, but we just feel we could do more with additional funding of these 36 trainings. I respectfully, and I appreciate you giving me extra time, and I just wanted to make that known that if we had that additional funding, we could do a lot more in the State of Louisiana.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. Again, we appreciate you.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, sir. Thank you very much.

RANDALL BROWN: In light of Dustin's comments, would we like to adjust the figure for next year's contract?

JILL HANO: So for IAG if we increase the funding would the 36 trainings a year.

RANDALL BROWN: If we gave him the 140,000 he's requesting he's saying they could do 36 trainings next year. Not necessarily suggesting that we do the 140. What I'm saying is, in light of his comments, do we want to adjust the amount we are giving them for 2022. Right now it's at 50,000-dollars. Would we like to give more or keep it as it currently is this year.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. There's other sources of funding for this. These law enforcement agencies have budgets for training. So it could be kind of a blended type of way that maybe they provide training for one group within an agency, but we don't need to fund for all of Shreveport's law enforcement.

RANDALL BROWN: And I'm not suggesting that. He throughout the number he needs to make that happen. What I'm saying is, in light of his comments, are we comfortable leaving this ask as we already have it or change it to a little bit more?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think as is and encourage for the capacity building of getting funding some of these agencies or maybe other organizations would fund the training once you get into those areas and want the person back. They will find ways to fund it.

RANDALL BROWN: Sure.

LIZ GARY: I think one of the things we probably need to consider that may not have been considered in the past, I think we need to consider the fact that being the DD Council is part of the DD Act, which is with UCEDD and the protection in advocacy, Disability Rights Louisiana, I think we need to start looking into working with the three agencies together and seeing if we're not able to start pooling resources.

RANDALL BROWN: I absolutely agree on all of this. I've said this numerous times in meetings I've had with various groups this year. Everywhere we can collaborate we're all for it. Particularly with our sister agencies.

LIZ GARY: Absolutely. I would agree with Bambi. We need to keep it as it is right now. We have so many initiatives we're looking at. We need to definitely touch on to see the potential. I think if we keep moving forward and making sure we're touching and see which ones will be most beneficial and put more money possibly the following year if it needs to be amped up.

RANDALL BROWN: Got you. Everybody in agreement with that?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yep.

HALIE BELIN: Dustin has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Dustin. Sir, you have the floor.

DUSTIN CHANDLER: Yeah. Thank you. I just wanted to clarify. I did not mean to come across saying we would be funding for just one department. I just wanted to clarify. We appreciate anything you can do for us. Thank you for the consideration.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. We appreciate you and the work you're doing. Again, thank your team for us. We are ready to resume.

COURTNEY RYLAND: The next activity for contractual consideration is on action plan 2021 5.1.3. Which is the training of employment support professionals in customized employment services. So we actually have funding this year to support 37 employment support professionals to be certified in discovery and job development components of customized employment. As of right now, Mark Gold and Associates and LSU Human Development Center, they can't do the in-person components of systematic instruction. Which is the third and final component of customized employment. Because that has to be in-person. We're trying to build up the bank of employment support professionals going through the discovery and job development components virtually so that when we are able to resume, or when those entities are able to resume in person trainings, there will be a massive amount of employment support professionals ready to be trained in the third and final component so they can provide that service. I would really recommend continuing that for at least one more year so that we can see that through. Make sure they're all able to finish through the systematic instruction component. And then see where we are after that. But that's just my recommendation.

RANDALL BROWN: Is everyone in agreement to accept Courtney's recommendation and retain this activity in funding as it is for one more year?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So Courtney, based on what you said, so they're not able to do this in-person instruction so therefore they're not using the amount we budgeted for this activity. So does that dollar amount roll over?

COURTNEY RYLAND: No. We're using this year's funding for them to go through discovery and job development. So that next year, or I guess starting in October after they finish the certification mentoring process for discovery and job development, they'll be immediately ready to roll into systematic instruction.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I definitely support it.

RANDALL BROWN: I think we all agree support this

one. Am I wrong? Does anybody object to continuing support of this one as it's written and with the dollar amount given?

LIZ GARY: Yes. I do.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. With no objection, moving forward.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Y'all are moving too quickly for me. Hold on a second. Let me catch up.

HALIE BELIN: A comment from Charlie

RANDALL BROWN: Please read it. Thank you.

HALIE BELIN: It says post school outcomes are really weak in Louisiana. So continuing this would be very beneficial. I'm curious, however, if you know what criteria a candidate must have.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Talking about the customized employment training?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So in order to be a vendor to provide the customized employment service through Louisiana Rehab Services they require those employment support professionals be certified in discovery, job development and systematic instruction components. So if a vendor does not have staff that's been certified in all three of those competency areas, then that vendor cannot provide customized employment. Does that make sense? Sometimes I say things and confuse myself.

HALIE BELIN: He said thanks. Will you be keeping data on the training efforts. My experience has been negative with such agency. And it does make sense.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, absolutely. Our status reports will always include what's going on with that initiative. Absolutely. And actually, the next discovery gateway is being scheduled for next month. So it's about to happen with a new class for that.

RANDALL BROWN: Great.

COURTNEY RYLAND: And I guess just to further explain, I hate to take up time, but in order to be certified in each of those competency areas the employment support professional has to go through a gate way training and then they have to go through

certification mentoring. So it's not just attend a training and you're certified. It's a lengthy process to get certified in each component. And then you have to have certifications in all three of those components. It's not a quick and easy feat. If we are ready to move forward.

RANDALL BROWN: We are ready.

COURTNEY RYLAND: The last activity on the 2021 action plan that has a cost associated with it is activity 5.3.3. And that is for seminars, I guess you could say webinars on inclusive employment. And those are actually beginning in April. And they will be conducting two per month through September. That contract is currently with O'Neal Communications who is also doing our videos.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. So that's in its first year at this point?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

RANDALL BROWN: We are in agreement to continue this one for another year?

LIZ GARY: So these are videos? It says conduct seminars with chambers of commerce.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Because of covid everything has been virtually. So it's been webinars. That's how they're going to be doing it. If we were all in person, they would have done it in person.

LIZ GARY: So this is like chambers of commerce would be on screen where businesses can get on screen and O'Neal conducts the webinars. Is that kind of what that looks like?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. And it's a lot of entities that deal with hiring. So the Society of Human Resource Managers, LRS and Department of Labor is very involved. They're reaching out to hopefully increase employer awareness and get more employers to be inclusive in their hiring practices.

LIZ GARY: And is this something, and I mean this is probably a little bit detailed, wondering if this is something where those with disabilities or families could also join just so they're actually experiencing

and talking with those with disabilities so they're possibly getting more comfortable. At least have them on camera. I don't know if that's part of it. Just a thought.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe these are actually open to the public. The intent is to increase employer opportunities.

RANDALL BROWN: Again, another thing we can promote on social media and such. And let people know it's available and they could choose to attend it, correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe so.

LIZ GARY: Great. Thanks.

RANDALL BROWN: Something I would recommend we promote it. Definitely something we want to keep, right. Everyone is in agreement to keep this one? Okay. Great.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Now I need to update the budget sheet so y'all give me just a few moments.

JILL HANO: Where did they go?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I'm sorry?

JILL HANO: I'm not on mute?

COURTNEY RYLAND: No, ma'am.

JILL HANO: I talk to myself.

COURTNEY RYLAND: In an effort to save time, would y'all mind if I did a share screen of the current 2022 action plan draft and y'all can go ahead and begin talking about it.

RANDALL BROWN: I would prefer if you did that, actually.

COURTNEY RYLAND: The noncontractual activities from 2021. What you want to carryover.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. I take that recommendation.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Or maybe sharing the 2021 plan.

RANDALL BROWN: Just to be clear, these noncontractual, is it they have no funding attached, we would need to review?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. So the first one is activity 1.3.1.

RANDALL BROWN: Everyone in agreement that one stays?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I would hope so as this is one of the requirements of the DD Act.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. It has to stay, basically.

LIZ GARY: I have a question. When you say contractual and noncontractual, these are activities, in other words, the staff will be working on as well as the council to ensure that this information is getting out. Is that basically what it means? It's still an initiative, just not under a contract done internally.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Right. No funds attached.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Either Ms. Halie or Mr. Brenton, can one of you possibly share your screen of the 2021 action plan. And just highlight the activities that this committee would like to continue while I update our budget sheet please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Working on trying to find it guys. I don't have a word version I can pull up. I just have what's on our website. So which initiative were you guys talking about? 1.3.1 is that where you left off?

RANDALL BROWN: I believe so. Yes, sir.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Basically looking at 1.3.2 now?

RANDALL BROWN: Correct.

JILL HANO: 1.3.1, no 1.3 is a DD Act requirement, correct?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. It is. So it will remain. This is just reviewing.

LIZ GARY: Noncontractual initiatives have like a layout on how they will accomplish those specific activities?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Not always. It sort of depends on, I guess, what the activity is. At least what we're looking at now, we don't necessarily have something like a layout of how it's accomplished. Not that I'm aware of, anyway.

LIZ GARY: I was asking Brenton only cause it's kind of broad. I just didn't know specifically like support council members and participation in council meetings and other functions. What exactly does that support look like. Just curious. The first one, 1.3.1

provide information and support of individuals, how would that be accomplished. What's being done to make those accomplished. Those were the kind of questions. The topic is definitely ones that are needed. Just A matter of how you actually make it happen.

BRENTON ANDRUS: As far as the 1.3.2 this one at least sounds broad, but it certainly is mostly just our support of council members at meetings. Whatever that looks like. Whether it's making packets, making sure they have information at meetings. Making sure they have, this all entails all the council travel and what not to get them to the meeting. Pretty much any support tied to our meetings or any sort of council function. So this traditionally 1.3.1 pretty much as we are made aware of these particular opportunities that we try to provide this information to individuals and families so that they can participate in any of these leadership coalitions or advisory bodies. So, for instance, if we're aware there is a position open in region eight or something, we may try to get with FHF or LaCAN leaders or other people we know in that area and see if they are aware of anyone that might want to participate in that particular advisory body. So that's kind of how those things have traditionally been done. A lot of those activities kind of fell on the director deputy at the time. So I don't have experience, myself personally, telling you how that was accomplished. Typically the process used for that particular activity.

LIZ GARY: Thank you Brenton.

RANDALL BROWN: So since this is to remain, move to the next.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Some of these it looks like they don't have funding attached. But this is a funding. I think you are moving onto 1.4.2 now.

JILL HANO: Why don't we have an amount attached to 1.4.1?

BRENTON ANDRUS: It's probably an oversight. So this Word document that I have here, Halie was able to get what we had in PDF and put it in Word for me. The

entirety of our state general fund.

JILL HANO: Okay, yeah. I knew that. Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You're welcome. So now you're looking at producing, providing information through electronic and social media.

RANDALL BROWN: Of course we want to continue.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That's all of our LADDC news, our social media accounts. I would recommend maintaining that one since that's how we disseminate a lot of our information.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. We today discussed the need to push out even more of it. So that should remain.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Here is adequate funding for waiver services. And I think this was changed last year or maybe the year before to be more broad. Cause I think it was waiver slots.

RANDALL BROWN: I think it was the year before if I remember correctly, yes.

LIZ GARY: Brenton, this would be whether you're talking with LDH trying to get them to do something or encouraging legislators to do something. Is that what this would be?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Exactly. Yeah. Pretty much any of the, a lot of times information that would be provided in here in status updates would be whenever our director has standing meetings with OCDD or LDH there was typically advocacy done there or through systems transformation there was always a lot of conversations about waivers in that stakeholder group. A lot of stuff that allowed for staff advocacy or administrative advocacy was kind of funneled under this area. There's some other areas too, but one of the areas that allowed for us to engage in that.

RANDALL BROWN: I think it should remain. One would hope we would continue to have those discussions.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Here you would have activity 2.5.1. That's just overseeing implementation of community and family support system plan. And it's a very broad activity. I would recommend you probably keep that or something similar as well. Cause this is

where we have a lot of things which is our act 378 committee monitors a lot of funding. This is where we're able to advocate with our local governing entities or local district and authorities about different policies. Or just general policies within the department. So like all of our activities or our advocacy or discussions that we've done with, for instance, the act 421 children's Medicaid option. That would be something that would fall under this activity that would allow for a lot of that advocacy and discussion of those policies.

RANDALL BROWN: No one objects to it remaining in the current plan?

JILL HANO: Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes, ma'am.

JILL HANO: Did you say act 251, activity 251? That oversees the 421 implementation as well?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. I mean, we're not solely responsible for being the monitors of that particular program. But us being involved in that stakeholder group or trying to advocate for that particular issue or that program kind of falls into this area of our plan where we look at the expansion of services, we look at adequate funding. All kind of falling into the community and family supports system plan. Looking at policy implementation. Kind of, it's written very broadly. To some extent it is a catchall. But it allows us to participate in a lot of those policy discussions and a lot of that advocacy as it relates to pretty much any of the service delivery systems that we talk about. Like our self-determination committee, usually whenever they provide an update on act 421 it's under this particular activity that they're discussing it.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. I think we can move on. No one objects to it remaining? Hear no objection.

BRENTON ANDRUS: All right. Activity 2.6.1. The row 50 pilot. I think it was updated a year or two ago that added the other opportunities to transition out of institutional settings. I'll be honest, I don't have a

whole lot of information what's going on with the row 50 pilot. I know it kind of stalled out.

RANDALL BROWN: That was going to be my question. Is it still ongoing.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I know it's not, it's still available. I just don't know with the pandemic it really hasn't been something that the department has pushed. But I would say maybe a year ago, year and a half ago when we got an update, they were still having issues with trying to get people to participate in the pilot.

RANDALL BROWN: That was about a year and half ago. I was still chair of that committee at that time. I guess with that uncertainty I guess we should leave it in for one more year until we get clarity on where the department is with it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We also have activity 2.7.1 which is basically for us to be able to advocate based on emergent issues that arise. I would recommend keeping that in there. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to react and be proactive about everything. This allows us to do that.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. Good point. No objection? I certainly have none.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Activity 2.8.1. Let me make sure I didn't skip anything. Publicize healthcare provider continuing education opportunities. My recommendation is going to be either that it is this activity is removed or consider something in its place. I think this was done, so this was before my time, probably 2012, 2013 the council funded or assisted with funding to develop modules that LSU HDC has on their website. Continued ed credits, different healthcare professionals would get credits for this program. I believe in 2018, I think it was 2018, the report that we got was, I want to say the continuing education credits were, it's outdated. I think it needed to be re-credentialed but it wasn't worth doing because the information was outdated. This is something to update every few years, at least as a minimum, cause things

change in healthcare. But so essentially this just we're promoting these modules occasionally. This isn't an activity that has a lot of activity on our part with the exception of occasionally we push information out to remind people.

RANDALL BROWN: Which even if we were to remove this we would probably continue to do, would we not?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. I mean the information, the thing is from the recommendation we got a few years ago is basically if this is something, if those modules are important it would cost about the same amount of money to actually update those modules to make sure they can be re-credentialed for the continuing ed credit as it would be just to have it redone. The recommendation at that time was possibly if the council considered doing something again that it would be to just come up with a new curriculum. I don't have a lot of information about this. There hasn't been discussions with LSU HDC or anything like that about how we would go about developing this. Certainly be in y'all's prerogative if that's something y'all wanted to do. I'm not sure how much costs, I would have to go back and look at our 12, 13 plan.

RANDALL BROWN: I don't have a lot of problem this year removing it since there's not a lot of activity related to it. Moving forward we can always, as we collaborate with sister agencies and they express the need, can always be revisited. For now since we're not doing a lot with this one a good opportunity to remove an activity, I think has run its course.

BRENTON ANDRUS: It is on LSU HDC's website. I do think they have that in some of their trainings and curriculums as well.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. I actually, Lillian brought this issue up to me last week and I actually looked at these modules. And the modules are outdated. Basically narrated power points. But the reason she brought it up was because of the issue about, I think she sent me an article about a quality of life, like doctors don't see the quality of life of

people with developmental disabilities in the same way as a general population. That's a red flag. If you see people with developmental disabilities as having less quality of life. Why do medical professionals see that. There's definitely a need of people in the medical profession understanding people with developmental disabilities. I don't know if we keep it on this plan. I just want to make that comment. Because we definitely need to address that in the future. Because it is a need. Might not something we can address this year.

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely. I couldn't agree more.

JILL HANO: That is insulting. Because my quality of life is amazing.

RANDALL BROWN: You're right, Jill. The way it's currently framed is kind of insulting. It's good to have that point on record. But I think in terms of this activity since the modules are outdated, I think it's a great opportunity for us to reach out and try to figure out a way to collaborate to make it better. In terms of this year's plan right now and this particular way this is worded, I think it has been long met and we need to revisit it at a later time.

HALIE BELIN: Lillian has her hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Cause I was talking about her.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah, my ears were burning. Just obviously if this is something that is not appropriately addressed in this plan, I think it's definitely something to keep in mind and keep in the forefront of our minds. Like Ms. Bambi mentioned, a study that came out from Harvard that polled US physicians from across the country and three out of four said that they felt like people with disabilities had a lower quality of life than their nondisabled peers. And I think this is particularly pertinent and relevant especially through the covid 19 pandemic as we've seen care rationing and practices that are very reminiscent of eugenics where we're saying if there is an able body person that comes into the ER and a

disabled person, obviously we're going to give the medical care to the able body person because they will have a better quality of life. So obviously this is an issue. So this study from Harvard really illuminates the thought processes behind these discriminatory practices. We know this is not only impacting healthcare during the pandemic, but also likely impacting healthcare across everything. And every specialty and at every point in time. Just because we know that bias impacts all of our actions all the time whether it be consciously or unconsciously. I think this is really important whether this is addressed in this plan or not. Thanks for letting me chitchat with y'all.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for bringing that to our attention.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ultimately, I think anything you do around this issue is going to have a dollar figure that you have to attach to it. I guess just for the committee to decide if there's something.

RANDALL BROWN: Since it's tied to outdated modules, I guess my question would be do we keep it with the rewording that we try to collaborate to improve to have new modules made? Cause right now continue what is. That's not working. I'm all for making it better and getting materials and modules and whatever is needed done to make Lillian's points that she made here that we're not second-class citizens just because we have developmental disabilities and such. I guess my question would be if it stays, how do we word it to ensure that how do we go about making it happen to ensure that we improve what was here or what currently is covered under this activity. Which we have established is outdated.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Before y'all start debating this, I need to stop sharing my screen. Unfortunately, I have a hard cutoff at four, so she is going to have to takeover sharing this. Sorry about that.

RANDALL BROWN: That's all right.

HALIE BELIN: Before I share my screen, Lillian

made a comment. She said I think it would be particularly powerful if we had the training being taught by an individual with a disability speaking to the quality-of-life point. Quality of life based on disability is generally imposed by society, not the physical condition.

RANDALL BROWN: Very good point, Lillian. Thank you. So if it remains is that the wording we use that we want to see materials made that take into account the use of self-advocates to help train, for lack of a better word, professionals to know that our quality of life is better than they may think that they're currently taught and we're not second-class citizens just because we have a DD.

LIZ GARY: I think this is another great opportunity to involve UCEDD. Granted Lillian said the stuff that's up there is outdated. Curious to know where it is if Bambi or Lillian wouldn't mind sending it to me. I think it's important because I'm the policy and advocacy coordinator for the LEN program which is over HDC. The leadership, education and I just went blank. Sorry. Anyway, basically 300 hours of master level students, or a self-advocate, or a parent with a disability go through this training. So I think it's a wonderful opportunity to be able to get to the healthcare providers, or the training and health science centers since it's right there. But I think a wonderful opportunity to be connected with the UCEDD and collaborating.

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely. I guess we word the activity now to reflect that. That we work towards collaboration with the sister agencies in improving the educational materials, I guess it would be, for medical professionals. And to provide opportunities for self-advocates to train. So we can leave it here and we'll work on the wording. I think I know our intent. But we will leave the activity in place and reword it to reflect today's discussion. So that leaves us with, where are we at now Halie? So what about this one. Can you blow the screen up just a little bit. Thank

you. I don't guess there's a cost associated with this one. How do y'all feel about keeping it?

LIZ GARY: Can we go back to it? Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Not a lot of context with it. So I'm not real sure. I don't think there's a cost associated particularly with it. Just to advocate for waivers to provide access to services listed in the freedom of choice provider listing. Continue exemptions and flexibilities initiated with covid 19 and consider individualized emergency preparedness considerations for people with severe disabilities and medical issues. Since we're still in the throes of covid 19 somewhat, I think to leave this for another year would probably be pertinent. And I don't have a lot of background on it either.

LIZ GARY: I think this is good. And I think we need to take note of what it states. Because the Arc of Louisiana has put out one of their fact sheets and alerts is making sure the exemptions on appendix K are continued. And there's already a bill out there. I think this is important that that is brought up and pushed forward. Talking about allowing family members who live in the home to be the support workers as well as moving forward with 16-hour rule, getting rid of it. And one other I can't think of. I think this is critical. Advocating for that because this has potential to really help a lot of families.

RANDALL BROWN: Great.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Is this also in regards to, I know there was some services within some of our waivers, but because of some issues with some providers being able to get Medicaid certified, like basically the service exist, but providers, the credentialing. I think that was part of that. I don't know if that's been resolved or not.

RANDALL BROWN: I don't think it's been fully resolved. So I would recommend we keep this activity as is. Anybody disagree? We can move on. So that's down to 2.9.

LIZ GARY: Randall, I'm going to have to sign off

shortly because I'm going to have to go get my son.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Understood. I think we will lose our quorum and we won't be able to make motions. But I think we're good. I don't think we will need any more motions.

COURTNEY RYLAND: We will need a motion for the draft of the action plan to go to the full council.

RANDALL BROWN: That's right.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Now would be the time to decide if you want to just recess and let's quickly schedule another meeting date to finish or if you want to power through?

RANDALL BROWN: How many more of these activities, noncontractual, do we have to review?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Let me look and see.

LIZ GARY: But even noncontractual we still have to decide, we haven't even touched--.

COURTNEY RYLAND: We haven't even discussed new.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. No, we're going to have to have another day. That's obvious. Trying to see what's left.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're at 2.8.2 right now. After that you will be finished with goals one and two of both action plans. And you will move into education and employment initiatives.

RANDALL BROWN: Can we power through till we get to education?

COURTNEY RYLAND: This is the last to discuss.

RANDALL BROWN: Let's do it.

COURTNEY RYLAND: There are quite a few noncontractual activities for education because that was two goals on the previous plan.

RANDALL BROWN: Yeah. But I'm saying if we finish here, we still have education left to do, correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

RANDALL BROWN: Cause we're out of time. We'll lose a quorum. We are out of time. So if we can agree this one stays then we can set up a time for next week to do another round and get it finished.

LIZ GARY: How do we keep this objective? Didn't

we decide we're going to continue to move forward with the sexual training. Do we continue to have an objective if we don't have an activity.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Oh, I'm sorry. I must have missed something. So yeah, I did not include the activity 2.9.1 on the new action plan because I thought you guys had decided to not continue that.

LIZ GARY: I thought we had decided to not continue it.

RANDALL BROWN: We have decided not to continue it. So that would go away.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

RANDALL BROWN: Is that it for today?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If you guys are ready to recess, I will email the committee to find out what day next week you guys can meet. I'm going to assume it's going to be another three-hour meeting, unfortunately.

RANDALL BROWN: You would be correct to assume it.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay, you guys. Thank you so much for all the hard work that you all have put in. Sorry if I'm speaking out of turn. I believe y'all are doing wonderful work. I'm already excited about the plan. I know we've still got some changes to make and new initiatives to create. Looking forward to it.

RANDALL BROWN: We thank you and the rest of the staff Courtney for all your hard work to help us do it.

LIZ GARY: So Courtney you're going to send us a doodle poll or something?

RANDALL BROWN: Send a doodle poll. Definitely be next week, just don't know what day.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Since it's just a few of you, it might be easier for me to email you or call you instead of setting up a doodle poll and waiting for that email, then me getting the email.

RANDALL BROWN: I can certainly, you just let me know what day is good for everybody else and I'll make it happen for me.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Thank you for that. All right you guys. Randall, I guess if you want to recess the meeting.

RANDALL BROWN: Do I have a motion? Do we agree to recess the meeting? Any objection to a recess? I think everyone is in agreement to recess. Hearing no objection, we are in recess and we will see everyone next week. Thank you everybody.