

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
April Quarterly Meeting
April 22, 2021

RANDALL BROWN: Courtney, by my watch it's a little after 8:30. Do we have a quorum?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sorry. I guess it would help for me to unmute. Yes. If the council members can please share their video or start their video so we can see everyone's wonderful faces to get quorum this morning.

JILL EGLE: Good morning Randall and Ms. Courtney. How y'all doing?

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning. Good to see you.

JILL EGLE: Good to see you. I appreciate your service to the State of Louisiana and all of y'all.

RANDALL BROWN: Same to you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: All right. Mr. Brown, I believe we have quorum.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. Thank you. Good morning everyone and welcome to the spring 2021 quarterly meeting of Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. I am the chair, Randall Brown. And I am calling our meeting to order. So again, good morning. Thank you everyone for being here. Welcome to our guests. We'll begin by doing a roll call of our members. And again, as I said, I'm the chair, Randall Brown. Courtney, would you like to conduct the roll call for our members.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Actually, I'm going to ask Ms. Hannah Jenkins to do that.

RANDALL BROWN: Perfectly fine. Can you please take the floor and do a roll call.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm here.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Barovechio. Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Present.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Here.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Present.
HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Bristo. Ms. Cetnar.
CARMEN CETNAR: Here.
HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Cosse.
BRENDA COSSE: Good morning.
HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. DeJean. Ms. Egle.
JILL EGLE: Here.
HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Fletcher. Ms. Guillory.
MICHELLE GUILLORY: Here.
HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hagan.
JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Morning. I'm here.
HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hano.
JILL HANO: Here.
HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hymel. Looks like she stepped
away. Mr. Iddins. Ms. Katzman. Dr. McKee.
HYACINTH MCKEE: Present.
HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Nguyen.
STEVEN NGUYEN: Here.
HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Polotzola.
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Here.
HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Rodriguez. Ms. Tarver. Ms.
Victorian. Ms. White. Dr. Wilson.
PHIL WILSON: Good morning.
HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Brown.
RANDALL BROWN: Good morning.
HANNAH JENKINS: And Ms. Hymel.
ROSLYN HYMEL: Present.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Hannah. Thank you everyone for being here today. Next, we'll move to our mission statement and our ground rules for today. So Courtney if we can put the mission statement on the screen, please. Thank you. Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council mission statement reads as follows. To increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for all Louisianians with developmental disabilities engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

The ground rules for today are as follows. The council meeting shall be accessible via Zoom and live streamed on YouTube. Council or committee members will

participate via Zoom and shall be considered present when they display a live feed video of their face. I need to minimize this. Hold on a second. Be considered present when they display a live video of their face with their first and last name. Have mikes muted unless called upon by the chairperson. Electronically raise their hand to request the chair recognize them to speak. And that means to press the little hand button at the bottom of your screen, and it will light up and we will be able to, I will be able to recognize you to speak. Once recognized to speak by the chair, their microphones shall be turned on. After speaking the microphone shall be returned to mute. Guests may participate via Zoom or observe meetings live on YouTube. All public meetings shall be recorded and may be made available on the council's YouTube channel as determined appropriate by the chairperson. Public comments submitted during the meeting via any format below shall be considered. During a Zoom meeting guests may electronically raise their hand to request to comment. Upon being recognized to speak by the chair their microphone should be turned on. After speaking, the microphone shall be returned to mute. The chat box feature for today, we're trying a different format just for today's council meeting. The chat box feature for today is unavailable. But again, the formula, the instructions for raising your hand, again, that blue hand at the bottom I believe, I don't have it on my screen, but I believe it's the bottom left-hand corner the hand is blue. If you click on it that will raise your hand electronically and I will be able to see it and call on you for you to participate today. I just want to make that announcement as we move forward here today. You are able to see our meeting today on YouTube as well as post comments on that live stream at the link listed here below for YouTube. Public comments of a person's character will not be heard. If the comment continues after being asked to stop by the chairperson, the council staff may be instructed to end the meeting. The chairperson will

notify the executive committee of the occurrence. Council chair will seek guidance to determine if it is legally appropriate to redact or share the video of the meeting on the council's social media. So those are the ground rules for today's meeting, ladies and gentlemen.

First order of business we have is the approval of the January 2021 meeting summary. And so I'm going to ask for approval by unanimous consent. Does anyone abstain from approval of the meeting summary? It has been provided for you in your packet. It has been distributed. Hopefully, everyone's had time to read that. Does anyone object to the meeting summary for the January 2021 council meeting?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Excuse me, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I did not get my packet. I have a question for Hannah.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: Because I don't know what really happened to my packet so I couldn't read my packet at all.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Courtney, could we please get with Roslyn and find out how we can best assist her today.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. So I need the help today.

RANDALL BROWN: We will certainly get that for you right now. Thank you, Roslyn, for letting me know.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. Thank you so much Randall. I don't want to be a bother.

RANDALL BROWN: You're not a bother. Bear with us and we'll get you what help we can today. Thank you. So is there any objection to the January 2021 meeting summary? Does anyone object? Hearing no objection, the meeting summary for January 2021 is approved. Thank you.

And the next item we have to discuss is my chairperson's report. It's rather brief. I do want to make a very important point to everyone here today that we have a special meeting scheduled for next week, next

Wednesday April the 28th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to interview the top three candidates proposed by the executive director search committee and to select a new executive director for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. Attendance by all appointed council members is essential for this decision-making process. We will be deciding at this meeting who we will select for the position. It's vitally important that every appointed council member please attend. Which is next Wednesday April the 28th. And then the rest of my overall report is brief. You see a list of meetings I have attended or chaired in the last quarter, or the last three months. Are there any questions?

JILL EGLE: Mr. Randall. I have a question. So based on, I will be there next Wednesday. Whomever the new executive director is for the DD Council is there a swearing in. Is it going to take affect before October of this year or not till next fiscal year?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. They will be in place long before October. And I don't believe there's a swearing in for them. Their process is a little different. They will begin working as soon as we negotiate the factors for their employment.

JILL EGLE: I think I know one out of the three. I know there are three. But the other two I don't know personally.

RANDALL BROWN: Let's not mention names. I know the council is aware of who people are. Let's not mention names today. We're not going to talk about that here right now. We will talk about that next week.

JILL EGLE: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: We'll talk more about that at next week's meeting. We will talk all about that at next week's meeting, okay.

JILL EGLE: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you so much.

JILL EGLE: Welcome.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any questions regarding

the information in my report?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I do for that. For how many has to really attend to it. Does the whole body of the DD Council has to or just.

RANDALL BROWN: We would like for every council member who is appointed by the governor to attend. That's all of us.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So everybody?

RANDALL BROWN: I'm calling for every member appointed by the governor to attend. As with every meeting we will have to have a quorum to conduct business. But I want more than a quorum. I want all members who are appointed by the governor to do everything in your power to please attend the meeting. It's extremely important. I can't emphasize that enough.

ROSLYN HYMEL: For that, a log in for it?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. We will send you that information. And I will make certain council staff sends you everything you need for next week. I apologize you don't have your packet this morning. I will make personally certain you have everything you need to participate next week.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Well, yeah. Now you can see where my problem is.

RANDALL BROWN: I do see exactly the issue. I will make certain you will have everything you are going to need next week to participate fully.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you so much.

RANDALL BROWN: Again, I apologize you don't have your packet this morning. I'm not sure why that is. I know it was mailed out. I apologize. Thank you so much for bearing with us today.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's all right. I can swing it.

RANDALL BROWN: I appreciate your understanding. Are there any further questions regarding my report?

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: I know you said it was mandatory or

is essential for every council member to be at the meeting. But I'm a schoolteacher and it's state testing that day and I really can't get out of it.

RANDALL BROWN: I understand we all have issues that could arise. We're a volunteer body. So I understand there may be issues that could arise. But this special session call is for every council member who is appointed by the governor to please do your best to attend. So if you cannot, that's up to you, as every meeting is, to attend. You're appointed and have the authority to attend. As your chair I'm asking everyone who's appointed to this council to please make every effort to attend this meeting. Because it's that important. We are literally selecting who will manage our day-to-day affairs into the future. That's extremely important, as I'm sure we all know. The call is for everyone who's appointed to please make every effort. I understand if things happen, and you cannot. But please make every effort. And I know it's going to be a long day. Just like today. But that was unavoidable. We have a lot of work to do and it's important work. So please, please everyone make every effort you can to attend. Okay. Are there any further questions regarding my report?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Randal, Jill has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning Jill Hano. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Good morning Randall Brown. Thank you. I briefly looked over our agenda for Wednesday. Just wanted to double check. We are essentially going to be conducting three interviews.

RANDALL BROWN: That's what I'm about to talk about for the executive director search report, yes.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: We are conducting essentially three interviews. And from those three candidates one shall be selected on Wednesday. By the end of the business meeting we will have the one candidate we wish to offer the position to selected. That's why it's so important everyone attend. We will have your candidate selected

of who will be the next executive director of the council by the end of the business meeting on April the 28th. And again, we will discuss who those candidates are, and their background, and all of those issues relating to their possible employment with us at the meeting next week, Wednesday, April the 28th. And I will make certain that everyone has the information they need to attend and participate.

HANNAH JENKINS: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I want to let everyone know I will be moving about. I am going to be on campus, but I will be still attending the meeting.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for letting me know. The executive director search report is very brief. As I just stated, we will be selecting among three candidates that your search committee selected. We will be selecting among the three candidates. Our partner in the search, LANO, who helped us conduct the process for the search will be present and assist us with the interview portion. Again, I will fully explain the agenda at that time and what the day will entail. It will look a lot like today as far as the amount of time we'll be there. Except we won't have so many various activities. Our main goal, and our only goal for this special session call of the council, is to interview and select from the three candidates the one candidate the council wishes to offer the job of executive director to. So that will be, that's the overall basic view of what the search process how it will end. And again, we will meet on Wednesday the 28th to select the person who will be our next executive director. There's not really a whole lot I can share other than that, than what I have already shared so far today on that. So if there are any questions, please feel free to ask. I will try ask answer them the best I can. Are there any questions regarding the executive director search? Hearing none. We can move onto executive committee recommendations. And Courtney, can we put those on the screen please for

everyone to see.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sorry. Give me just a moment to find that document.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Everyone please bear with us, but it's important we be able to see these recommendations visually, all of us. And so now here on the screen you should see the executive committee recommendations. The first being receiving additional federal funds for specific covid 19 vaccination activities. We need council approval to include those additional funds. We already have 2,500-dollars allotted for this activity under 2.7.6. But to give background, the federal government is providing, and we don't yet know the amount exactly, but the federal government is providing all the states, every state DD Council some funding yet to be determined for covid 19 vaccination activities. And not only are they giving funding, which they haven't yet announced how much, but the funding they are giving they are also providing rules for how the money is to be used and spent. So we're awaiting, what we basically know today it's coming. What we don't know is how much is coming to us specifically and the exact rules for how we will be able to use the funds we're being allocated specifically.

And so the executive committee felt based on a recommendation from Courtney Ryland, our interim executive director, that the best course of action is for us to place the funds that will be forthcoming from the federal government in with the planned activity of 2.7.6 that we already had for this item, covid 19 vaccination activities. So that funding will be added to the 2,500-dollars already allotted for this activity in our fiscal year 2021 action plan. So we want to allow staff to execute a federally approved activity would require collaborators. What that means is, we have been told that we will be collaborating with our sister agencies and partners, the Human Development Center as well as Disability Rights Louisiana. And I'm not sure if there are any I'm leaving off. Courtney,

if there are, please enlighten me. We will all have similar requirements. And the reporting for this will be just like we would any regular activity. So that's why this recommendation. So are there any questions regarding the first recommendation?

So the second recommendation from your executive committee is we're asking the full council for topic recommendations for the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities webinars. Ms. Jessica Micho yesterday at our meeting suggested one, which is how to access IFS and FFF family funds. And IFS funds are individual and family support services and FFF stands for flexible family fund. So we wanted to ask the full council for recommendations because again, this item stems from the gracious offer Julie made at our last quarterly meeting for she and her staff at the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities to work with us on webinars to help with getting access and getting word out about various points in the system, various activities and such that are a part of the service and delivery system and such. So if you have any recommendations for videos, we would like to hear them. As I said, Ms. Micho gave this one you see before you. But any ideas for topics, please let us know.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Polotzola has her hand raised.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Are you asking for recommendations now, or are you wanting us to just get back with you?

RANDALL BROWN: If anybody has recommendations now, we will write them down. If you want time to think about it just email Courtney or email me and we will get those recommendations to Julie.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: My suggestion may not be directly OCDD, it may be Medicaid. So y'all can just correct me if I'm wrong. But act 421, that's new which is the TEFRA like program. I think that's something that people would be interested in understanding how that works.

RANDALL BROWN: Sure. Thank you for that suggestion. And again, if anyone has suggestions now, they can tell us now or you can email us or let us know at any point in time. We're gathering suggestions and we want to make sure the council has their say.

HANNAH JENKINS: Steven Nguyen.

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely. Steven, you have the floor, sir.

STEVEN NGUYEN: This might be irrelevant in the future, but can we get something what the different type of Medicaid waivers are and who would benefit from what. What the differences are and things like that.

RANDALL BROWN: Noted, sir. Thank you for the suggestion. Any other suggestions for topics for videos for the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities.

NICOLE BANKS: So I have one.

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

NICOLE BANKS: Like Ms. Bambi was saying earlier with the different laws, the new law act 421 that just came in. So could we-- well, could they possibly get a webinar together for all different new laws that's coming into play that maybe people really need to be aware of and that will probably give them some topics to cover for the rest of the year.

RANDALL BROWN: Your suggestion is noted. Thank you, Nicole. I believe Ms. Kathy Dwyer has a suggestion. Thank you, Ms. Kathy, for being here. Has a suggestion for the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities webinars on how to transition from early steps to developmental disabilities services. Very good suggestion Ms. Kathy. Thank you for that. I want to make clear to the public these suggestions are open to you as well. And again, you don't have to have one today. If you want time to think about it and you think of one, please just email me. My email is public on our website, the council website. And you can also email Ms. Courtney, our interim executive director as well. And let us know what that topic may be, and we will pass that

information along to Julie and her team at OCDD and work to collaborate to get videos made that meet those needs so we can address them. Are there any other comments for videos?

Hearing none, we're going to move onto the third recommendation from your executive committee and that's to ask the full council for celebration ideas for the council's 50th anniversary. Bambi was present yesterday and offered to assist in receiving a proclamation from the governor. Thank you for that offer and we look forward to his proclamation and appreciate his involvement in helping us to celebrate our 50th anniversary. A link on the website with chronological accomplishments and past chairs will also be put up on the website soon. So be on the lookout for that. If we go back to in person meetings before the end of 2021, before December 31st of 2021 we would like to host a reception like the one that we did for act 378 30th anniversary. I believe now almost two years ago. But we would like to do a reception if that's possible. We don't yet know that. Still in the public health emergency and we will remain so for the foreseeable future. But if we can safely do so we would like to try to plan a reception for our members and the public as well if they would like to attend. By all means, please, if conditions permit before the end of the year. If anyone has any further suggestions. I also suggested we make sure we announce our birthday on social media. And so if there are any other suggestions again, we're open to them. Again, you can share them today or you can email them to Courtney or I and let us know and we will do our best to implement everybody's great suggestions here. Quite an accomplishment in 50 years. Thank you all for your service today and those of you who served previously we are standing on your shoulders. So thank you very much and thank you to everyone involved in the community and all the work you have done to get us to this point. Fifty years is quite an accomplishment. And as we know many, many things have been done in that period of time

by many wonderful people. We want to do everything we can to highlight our birthday. It's a great thing. Are there any suggestions? And again, you don't have to have them today. You can let us know at any point in time. Just send us an email or let us know and we will be happy to try and implement suggestions we can.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Roslyn Hymel has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. I have been in between with us and that. I have been talking with Oklahoma and they have exact same thing what we have. They also have a council as well. I've been merging a little with them and seeing what they kind of do. I have a little bit coming from them. Is there a way we could-- they said they have the same thing we have.

RANDALL BROWN: They do. All fifty states, and I believe six of our American territories have a DD Council. They do have-- each one looks a little different based on the state we're in. We all basically have the same mission based on the disability act which is federal law. But we look a little different how we may carry that out state to state. But I'm glad to hear you're reaching out and finding out things that Oklahoma people are doing as well.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Because they're going to have another council meeting this coming Friday. I'm going to attend to that and get notes on that as well.

RANDALL BROWN: We appreciate that. Thank you, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I just wanted to mention it to our council as well.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Welcome. I thought I will just mention it.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Okay. And so the fourth recommendation we have from your executive committee is that a survey will be sent to all council members regarding resuming in person activities. And this is a survey because we want to make sure, want to

get a feeling for how our members are feeling about returning to in person meetings. I want to make it clear, we cannot do so until the governor's order for the public health emergency has been lifted. We don't yet know when that will be. But we did have a brief discussion about it, and I did direct Courtney and the council staff to begin looking at contracts for how that will look moving forward because we haven't met in person for over a year. And so we'll need to begin to start the contract process. I did direct them to begin that process so that as soon as the public health order is lifted, we can begin the work of starting in person meetings. We did want to have that in place for whenever the day comes that it's lifted. Can everyone see and hear me okay? My screen went dark.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I can. I can hear you clear.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Courtney, what's on the screen right now?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I'm still sharing the screen with the recommendations from the executive committee. Just finished talking about a survey being sent to all council members regarding resuming in person activities.

RANDALL BROWN: Right.

COURTNEY RYLAND: And then the next two were about motions that were passed in the executive committee.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. I'm going to have to log out and log back in. Something happened to my screen. Could y'all bear with me for just a minute.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: I will try to come right back in. I'm not sure what happened. I apologize. I'm back. Great. Thank you all for bearing with us with the technology. The survey will be sent soon to all council members. And that's just to get a sense of how our members are feeling about the possibility of returning to in person activities.

And the fifth recommendation from the executive committee is a motion passed to ensure contracts with the Developmental Disabilities Council include language

that addresses and identifies cultural diversity and humility and that selected contractors who work with us are engaging in practices that are culturally inclusive.

And the sixth recommendation is a motion also passed for the request for solicitation for proposals/ advertisement process be inclusive of minority, women and self-advocate owned businesses. So these are the recommendations from your executive committee. And then the recommendations from the planning committee are there as follows as well.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Randall if I may?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You may.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe we need a motion on the recommendations.

RANDALL BROWN: We do need a motion on the recommendations. And so at this point I'm calling for a motion to approve the recommendations.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I will motion that.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Roslyn. Do I have a second to the motion?

NICOLE BANKS: I can second.

RANDALL BROWN: Actually, I don't need a second because they come from the executive committee.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: That is correct. When recommendations come from a committee there is no second required.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. I just remembered that. Thank you. Sorry, y'all. It's been-- having some technical difficulties for a moment with my internet so forgive me. So thank you, Roslyn, for that motion. So we can move forward without a second. Thank you, Nicole, for being willing to be the second. We can now move forward. Do we have any public comment? First from the council.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Bambi P has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: In regards to number six, do we have some identified disparities in our contracts with women owned businesses or organizations? I know we

have identified minorities and self-advocates. But I was just wondering, I wasn't aware we had a disparity with women. And the reason why I ask because that could grow into a lot of different groups. And I think we should probably focus if we have identified disparities with certain populations then I think this is appropriate. But if we don't have a disparity between gender, then perhaps that shouldn't be included.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you for that suggestion, Bambi. Any other comments?

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Kathy D has her hand raised.

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

KATHY DWYER: Good morning Mr. Chair. Good morning DD Council members. Thank you for allowing me to comment. And excuse the noise in the background. My daughter is talking to her friend on the phone. Regarding number four, will there be consideration to continued accessibility via Zoom for the council meetings so that we can still participate if we can't come in person? Cause I find that a great accommodation.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Ms. Kathy. That was actually brought up and I neglected to mention. During our discussion yesterday. And yes, we are committed to having some way that Zoom participation can continue. Of course, we will have to look at what the law directs us to do once the public health emergency is lifted. And I want to make clear that we know already that the federal government has extended the public health emergency for the federal government for another 90 days just this week. So we have another three months that we know we'll be in the public health emergency for the federal side and the governor, of course, will be issuing his orders which we will follow. And we are keeping up with that. For the foreseeable future we know we will be in this format. But we're just trying to get an early start on what it begins to look like as we move out of the public health emergency. But let me

be clear, until we are out of the public health emergency, we will remain doing business via Zoom as we have been doing now for over a year. But absolutely, Ms. Kathy, that's a great point that the executive committee and the council as a whole is very well aware of the benefits that Zoom has brought to us in terms of participation. And we always want community participation in our meetings. Meetings are all public and we have enjoyed having the involvement from those who might not otherwise be able to attend in person. So as we brought up yesterday, our meeting attendance is way up. And we like that. So we definitely are looking into ways we can fit a Zoom component into our business moving forward. And, of course, that will be dependent on what the law looks like that we have to follow once the public health emergency has lifted. Hope that answers your question Ms. Kathy.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you. Yes. And I have one more question, if you don't mind. Or actually a suggestion for number two. Two suggestions. I put it in the question-and-answer section, but I wanted to go public with it. I think there also needs to be a webinar for families on how to apply for developmental disability waivers. And there should be a webinar to inform families about the regional and state advisory committees, how they can participate and become a member.

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely. Thank you very much for those suggestions.

KATHY DWYER: You're welcome. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

ROSLYN HYMEL: If I may?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

ROSLYN HYMEL: If we do go meeting again in person are we going to have the same hotel?

RANDALL BROWN: We don't know that just yet. But what we will do as soon as we have that information, we will make sure everyone is well aware of it in plenty of time. And we'll be able to resume just like we did before we went into the pandemic before we started

Zoom. It will look like that. It will be largely like that. As you remember from before. But it may not be at that same hotel. We don't yet know. That's why I directed Courtney at our last meeting to begin the process to look for sites to hold our in-person meetings. Because it's been well over a year now since we were last in person.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Cause I know we was in Embassy Suites.

RANDALL BROWN: We don't yet have that information. But as soon as we do, we will make it public. One of those things I wanted to do was go ahead and get the process started so that-- for the staff to get the process started so that when the public health emergency lifts at some date in the future yet to be determined. But we will already be ready to begin that contracting process which is rather lengthy. Want to make sure that we get everything we can ready for when that day comes. So as soon as the emergency lifts, we would be able to move forward with getting a contract with a hotel to conduct business. So we'll let you know as the process moves forward. Where we will be hosting that will be made public for everyone to know.

So are there any other suggestions from the council, comments from the council with regard to the recommendations from the executive committee? I think we do our best to answer Bambi's question about a disparity among women. I'm not particularly aware of any data on that. These two motions were made by our vice chair Dr. Hyacinth McKee. And I believe her intent here, and she is available to speak on it as well, I believe her intent here was to make sure that our contract process was inclusive for all groups and that was one that she named in her motion. That's how that language got there. But if anybody has anything to add to that, feel free. Any other questions about the recommendations from the executive committee? So Bambi, do you still feel like the language should be amended for number six?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm fine. I'm always an advocate

for women owned businesses. Just concerned if we kind of open it up and someone later on adds another group and another group it may become overwhelming. That's why I just said have we identified the disparities in certain demographics. But I'm fine with it.

RANDALL BROWN: Well, we will work to identify it. I can give you that pledge. Thank you for those concerns. Any other comments from council members. Hearing no comments from council members, do we have public comment? Is there any comment from our public members today on the recommendations you see before you from the executive committee? Recommendations one through six there on the screen.

HANNAH JENKINS: There are not any hands raised.

RANDALL BROWN: I believe Ms. Kathy Dwyer who is a member of the public has already addressed her concerns. Thank you, Ms. Kathy, for that. So now I will call for a vote. We don't need a second because this comes from executive committee. Do I have any abstentions? Does anyone abstain? Do I have any objections to approving the recommendations from the executive committee that you see listed before you? The six recommendations. Is there any objections? Does anyone object? Hearing no objections from the council, the motion passes. Thank you.

Our next discussion topic is for the fiscal year 2022 planning committee. We met over a period of three days. Each of the meetings were very lengthy and exhaustive in discussion. From that came these motions. And the first motion is the motion for full council consideration of continuing the federal fiscal year 2021 activity 2.7.4, but to request new contract proposals with a scoring preference emphasized on in state organizations.

And the second recommendation that the committee had for us to consider is the need for a motion to adopt the federal fiscal year 2022 action plan that we put together as a planning committee. So the first thing I would like to do is ask for discussion from the council on these two topics from the 2022 planning

committee. Are there any comments, discussion from the council members?

HANNAH JENKINS: Hyacinth, Nicole and Roslyn have their hands raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Let's go in order. So madam vice chair, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for being recognized. I do have some more questions about number one to get some more explanation on the reason for the scoring preferences and that language of preference. Emphasize in state organizations. And I believe the council needs more clarification on the language that's used. My concern is when we start using language like preference and we identify only a particular area or demographics then it asserts a sense of opportunity and privilege for that particular area. So I'm asking that we get clarification on what it would look like us for as a DD Council as it relates to contracts, particularly for activity 2.7.4.

RANDALL BROWN: That specifically, what we are addressing with this motion, is that one specific activity. It relates to--.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I know what the activity relates to, Mr. Chair. My concern is the language of using scoring preference and identifying a particular demographical area. Because we may run into excluding other categories of individuals or entities. I would need more clarification.

RANDALL BROWN: I certainly understand your concern. I know you understand as a member of the planning committee what activity 2.7.4 is. But I was attempting to give some clarity to those who were not present at our meeting as well as the public. And I believe this-- and Courtney if we have activity 2.7.4 to put up on the screen that would be great so one can read it for themselves. Do we have that available? Can we get that on screen?

HYACINTH MCKEE: And while we're doing that, part two is I would like to know what that actually will look like for our council in terms of establishing a

scoring preference. What would that look like. What does that scoring preference entail and why that demographic?

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Understood. Everyone bear with us. We're just trying to get the language up for everyone to see. Here's the plan for the potential plan that we put together as a committee. And the activity we're specifically discussing in this motion is highlighted in blue there on the screen. Which is activity 2.7.4. To provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities. And we approximated a cost of 20,000-dollars for this activity. And what we are asking in the motion is that preference be given to in state, to Louisiana entities that do this particular work. And so that was the intent of the motion as was made that day was to give preference to companies or entities that do this type of work routinely in our state. Cause it was felt like we have many people who are doing the work. The current contract holder, I believe, is an out of state entity. It was felt by several members of the planning committee that we have several entities in state, in the State of Louisiana doing the work and doing it well, it was pointed out, of emergency preparedness. And so this motion was made to give preference. Not saying that people-- and we made a point to say in the meeting that's not to say that anyone could not apply. Everyone who does this work and qualifies and wishes to do so, can apply. But we felt it important, at least the committee felt it important to give a preference to Louisiana based businesses or entities that do emergency preparedness work and response work. Because we have several entities and companies that do the work very well. And know the state very well. And so that was the reasoning for the motion. If a member who was present would like to better give their insight into it, I'm open to that. That's just my recollection of the discussion as it pertained to this activity.

The scoring system, I believe, we talked about and I believe it was suggested that one point would be added. One extra point would be added in the scoring so that for Louisiana based businesses based on this motion if it were to pass so that you would give one extra point just because they are in state and we want to give them the opportunity to shine. We are the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, and we obviously want to, in every way we can, benefit the people of Louisiana. That was the intent here. And I understand, madam vice chair, your concern, but I believe that was the intent here was to give just minor preference for those who are being considered that are part of the state and do this work. That's my best explanation I can give on the matter. And again, I believe my memory may be foggy, but I do believe we discussed possibly giving one point extra. If I'm wrong about that, staff or anyone who is present for that discussion please correct me. But I think that was our intent there. So there's the language on the screen. I will read it again. Activity 2.7.4. Provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities. And we approximated the cost for this year was 20,000-dollars. And we carried that forward into the recommendations for the 2022 plan. Are there any further discussions or questions?

HANNAH JENKINS: Nicole Banks and Roslyn Hymel have their hands raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Oh, yes. I'm sorry. Nicole, you have a question.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you. I was waiting. So I was with Ms. McKee when she was talking about the levels that you guys were-- hold on let me go back. It's not up anymore. Well, she was talking about the ratings, like the scoring part. Are you guys going specifically off of the contract or you guys are just basing this off of-- and I know what you're saying I get why you guys are doing why you're doing it. Cause I want

things to go for Louisiana too. But is this scoring, is this held with Louisiana companies and the outside company, is it the same scoring or something different? I know they get an extra point. Is it something different?

RANDALL BROWN: It would be the exact same scoring. There would be no extra scoring. Just the concept was raised of one extra point just because it's a Louisiana based business. I believe, was discussed. But beyond that, it would be the exact same scoring rubric as every other. For each candidate it would be the exact same scoring. Each proposal have the same scoring rubric. Just be an extra point added because it is Louisiana based entity.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. And one more question. It's a training program that provides emergency readiness. Now is this going to be included like as far as natural disasters. I see that for activity 2.7.5, but it doesn't say any kind of training. Just said this is a response. A part of the activity 2.7.4 is the natural disasters going to be a part of the training because in Louisiana, you know, we are already dealing with hurricanes.

RANDALL BROWN: I believe they are, yes.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. That was my only two questions.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. And Roslyn, you have a question.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. So like you was saying, I'm going to go off of what you said. Is that for like the 2,000-dollars would that ever go up for every candidate like?

RANDALL BROWN: No. Not for the candidate. These are contracts that we would do for activities that we want done. Activities are things that we decide as a council this is work we want to see happen. And once we decide that, as you see on the screen, then we have to decide how much we want to give, which we call allocate, to that activity. How much money do we want to see go for that year. So the money you see in

black, bold there for each activity, that's for this year. And then I don't believe we really adjusted these much. We just carried them forward because the work is important. We discussed it at length. I believe just about every activity that we retained, we retained the same amount of money. But no, the money you see would be for the year.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Also with that being said, would it go up for next year?

RANDALL BROWN: It could. Because every year-- because we do this based on a five-year plan. And so each year in the five-year plan we look in that year or the year coming. Like this is 2021 we're in right now. So we're talking about 2022 actually. Which is next year. The first year of our new five-year plan, by the way. So that we're talking about it now so we can implement it next year. And so if we decide it needs to go up then there will be another planning committee meeting for the 2023 plan. And then so each year of the five-year plan we will meet that year to discuss the next year's goals and objectives. And that's where something could be modified in our activities, including the amounts given. It could go up, yes. For this year we're considering, no. Once we decide on an amount, that's the amount that would be used for that activity for the year mentioned. But if we decide next year that went really well or that wasn't able to be carried out as planned, we can adjust the amount at our next planning committee meeting. It's done on an annual basis.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Does that include for the centers for everybody or that's just for the State of Louisiana?

RANDALL BROWN: This has to do with the activities of the Developmental Disabilities Council. The things we want to use our money and our resources for to help address needs and concerns that have been identified that are in line with our five-year plan as well. This are things, most of these things you see in the plan are things we're already doing, and it was determined

by the committee that most of it needed to remain because it was important. And important work still needed to be done in these activities. So what you're seeing here as part of the plan is our activities and objectives for next year for the council, for the DD Council. For our council.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I thought it was for each center. That's why that made me kind of.

RANDALL BROWN: No. This is our activities for the 2022 fiscal year. Which is next year for the DD Council.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Okay. I just wanted to see where the money was going.

RANDALL BROWN: Sure. Thank you for that.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Any other questions with regard to the activity?

HANNAH JENKINS: Hyacinth McKee has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Dr. McKee, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mr. Chair, I will be very brief. I appreciate you allowing me to speak again to this particular topic again. I want to press upon the council that we should be mindful when we use the language as preference. We will open our door, open the door to all kinds of questions when the language of preference is used. I think we need to be more focused on what's the best programs for individuals and our families in Louisiana regardless as to what state it's coming from. We should be looking at what's the best nationwide to serve our people. I recognize the importance of buying local. Like Rouses typically says, buy local. But certainly, if I am able to get something that is of importance or healthy from another region that is better for me health wise, I am not going to give a preference to something just because it came out of Louisiana. So I think my concern is the language of preference. Because it can imply excluding other opportunities for the residents of Louisiana.

With that being said, I would like to ask the

chair recognize Mitch Iddins because I believe he had his physical hand up, but it was not the electronic chat. If he's still on, I am asking the chair to recognize him.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. I did not see that, so thank you for bringing that up, madam vice chair. And thank you for your comment here. Yes, Mitch. You have the floor, sir. And I apologize I didn't see your hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. I was trying to figure out how to raise my hand. I finally figured it out. But my question has been answered during the discussion, so I don't have any comment at this time.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. Thank you for being here today.

MITCH IDDINS: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. And so would we be open to changing the language of the motion since the vice chair raised her concern is establishing the word preference in our plan. And so would it be better to say with emphasis given to in state organizations? Just a suggestion.

HANNAH JENKINS: Steven Nguyen has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Steven Nguyen, you have the floor.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Another way to word it is maybe considerations, strong considerations. I don't know if that changes anything, but that's another option.

RANDALL BROWN: Madam vice chair, how do you feel about the language change?

HYACINTH MCKEE: I am amendable to considerations because it doesn't lend to privilege.

RANDALL BROWN: So Madam Parliamentarian, do I need a friendly amendment to amend the motion, or we just amend it here?

PARLIAMENTARIAN: It would just be an amendment in the form of a motion. I move to amend the current motion to say. And then a second, and a discussion, and a vote.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. I thought so. I wanted to make sure of that. I can't see the screen at the

moment.

MITCH IDDINS: Randall, this is Mitch.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, sir.

MITCH IDDINS: I just have one question for the council. Did this come about because the committee felt like there weren't enough Louisiana based businesses that were applying for this or would apply for it? What was the basis?

RANDALL BROWN: It came about because the feeling was, from several members, that in discussion that they know we have Louisiana companies that are already doing this work and doing it well. And their intent here is and was to ensure that those Louisiana businesses are supported. But not in a way that's exclusionary of any other contracts. They just wanted to have a way to give some benefit to our local and native entities and companies that we know are doing this work and doing it well.

MITCH IDDINS: So simply by a Louisiana based business applying they would get an extra point just for simply applying as a Louisiana based business? Would that be the reason they would be given an extra point? Because I'm a Louisiana based business, I'm interested in this contract, give me an extra point because I'm a Louisiana based business.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. That was, I believe, the intent. If I'm wrong, staff or someone that was there in the discussion, please correct me. But that was the intent. Was no one's excluded from any of our contracts. It's just to make sure there was some mechanism for giving, considerations is the new word, which I believe is a good one, to businesses that are in Louisiana who are doing this work. It's not to say that companies outside Louisiana don't do this work and do it well. It's just to say if we know a company or entities, more than one, are doing this work and doing it well, then we want to give an opportunity for them to be considered because they are in state. And because, as madam vice chair pointed out, the slogan to buy local. I think the intent here is to support local

businesses and our fellow Louisianians who we know do the work. And, of course, they have to do the work well.

MITCH IDDINS: This is a scoring basis. So does by giving an extra point to a Louisiana based business that might apply put other potentially, like Dr. Hyacinth McKee said, put other companies at a disadvantage that maybe could do the job better. If you're doing it on a scoring basis it just seems like it automatically puts other businesses at a disadvantage.

RANDALL BROWN: I can understand. I do understand that. I will say that when we use a scoring system in every instance we've used it, we don't just say they got the top score, they get the contract. There is then discussion based on the scoring as to why that score is what it is and who we feel is the better fit for the contract based on a number of factors. Not just a score.

MITCH IDDINS: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: The rubric just helps us to sort of get a sense of who are our best candidates.

MITCH IDDINS: I got you. Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: And leads to in depth discussion. I've never participated somewhere where we said well, they got the top score, that's it. It's never that simple.

MITCH IDDINS: Kind of helps to narrow down the best candidate.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. That's the intent of a rubric in this case. We've never, to my knowledge, done different than that in our uses of a rubric. It just helps facilitate discussion of, in this case, it would be entities that to emergency preparedness work.

MITCH IDDINS: I agree that maybe we should, and I think there was some comment about changing the language. I kind of agree with that that preference may not be the appropriate language in the motion.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. And again, this wasn't, this was just based on how we always do where we put

our heads together, and we will do it here today, I'm sure. Where we put our heads together and we try to come up with the best language of the motion. I don't think there's any objection to changing the wording to consideration. It has already been done. So now Courtney, and I would assume everyone is in agreement with the new change. Is there any objection to the wording as it is now stated on the screen? Move to amend of the original motion is to state continuing federal fiscal year 2021 activity 2.7.4, but to request new contract proposals with strong consideration given to in state organizations. Is everyone in agreement with that new language? Is there any objection to the amended motion as it now reads? With the change to preference to strong consideration given.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sorry. I have a quick question if I may?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You may.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Just for staff clarification purposes. So if we do amend the motion to just state with strong consideration given to in state organizations, does that remove to add one point on the rating form for in state organizations? Or how is staff to interpret strong consideration?

RANDALL BROWN: I would think that, and correct me if I'm wrong council, I would think that would remain. That would be the strong consideration is the extra point on the rubric because they are a Louisiana based company or entity. We just don't want the word preference in the language. Dr. McKee, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: No. That is not the intent. I am very concerned with a point, just like my fellow colleague Mitchell Iddins mentioned, just being given an assigned because you are a Louisiana based company that you get an extra point. Just because you're Louisiana based. I believe that we open up that door we are going to have some serious questions regarding how we are issuing contracts using this subjective privilege on information. So no. That is not the

intent of the motion. It's just saying strong consideration. Not to modify the scoring rubric.

>> >>: I didn't mean to put words in your mouth. I'm trying to move us forward.

HANNAH JENKINS: That's okay. Thank you. Mr. Chair, I would like to finish my statement--

RANDALL BROWN: So, let me ask you.

HANNAH JENKINS: It's okay. I think we're having technical difficulties. It's a delay.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm not trying to interrupt you. There's a huge delay between us. So please continue.

HANNAH JENKINS: That's okay. Not to modify the existing scoring rubric. Which I don't believe we have on the existing scoring rubric anything about residency. So the issue is not to modify the scoring rubric, Courtney. It's just, I guess, like Mr. Chair says, when the committee goes into discussion that may lend to some precedence to, you know, for opportunities to the contract. But not to modify the existing rubric to add an additional point because you are a Louisiana business.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you for that clarification, madam vice chair. Sorry for the confusion. So is everyone okay with the language change as it has been amended. With strong consideration given, and that would be during the discussion, for clarification, during the discussion phase of the contracts and activities Louisiana businesses be considered strongly with no changes to the rubric for scoring.

HANNAH JENKINS: Steven Nguyen has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Just for staff clarification. Yes. You have the floor, sir.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I just wanted to clarify. Dr. McKee, you said that you wanted to remove from strongly consider to consider. Was that my, I think that was my understanding. You wanted to remove the word strongly and just put consider?

HYACINTH MCKEE: No Steven. I didn't have any problem with the new amended language. I believe the

question that Courtney was asking was the scoring rubric going to be adjusted to reflect an additional point would be given for Louisiana residents. And I believe staff wanted clarification on what that looks like for them. I'm saying the consideration would be during the discussion and the rubric would not be modified.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Okay. I just wanted to go back and just make sure the verbiage was correct. I said strongly consider, but I felt like you took the word strongly out.

HANNAH JENKINS: No. I'm not taking it out.

RANDALL BROWN: All right, everyone. Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Steven. Thank you, madam vice chair. Do we have any more discussion of language of the amended motion before us? And I will go ahead and reread it since we've been discussing for some time now. Move to amend the original motion to state continuing federal fiscal year 2021 activity 2.7.4, but to request new contract proposals with strong consideration given to in state organizations.

HANNAH JENKINS: Jill Hano and Roslyn Hymel have their hands raised.

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

JILL HANO: I think I just answered my own question. But I'm looking on, y'all don't have the 2022 draft in front of y'all. Yes. Cause I'm looking both back and forth from 21 to the 22 draft. I don't see on either activity the word preference.

RANDALL BROWN: When we made the motion, I don't believe it is listed in the plans at this point. This was a motion to consider adding that language to that activity. So it has not yet been added. It was not added last year so it's not there. It would not be added this year unless this motion passed.

JILL HANO: That makes sense. My bad y'all.

RANDALL BROWN: No, no. It's not bad at all. You need clarification, that's what this is about all. Thank you for bringing that up.

JILL HANO: What is this rubric y'all are

referencing? Cause I was on the 22 planning committee, but we didn't.

RANDALL BROWN: We had a lot of exhausted discussion, did we not, over a period of three days.

JILL EGLE: So we didn't receive, I will get it out, I promise. Our committee didn't receive any proposals to review?

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. This would be only if we did not have a solicitation of proposals. We just looked at activities that are already in place. And due to covid a lot of those are still ongoing in ways that are unique. And so we chose to move most of those forward another year. This would be for when we have new proposals.

JILL HANO: Oh, okay. So this is a future rubric?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Correct.

JILL HANO: That's a hard word.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, indeed. We use rubrics whenever we are--.

JILL HANO: Selecting.

RANDALL BROWN: Essentially, yes. This would be in the case where we use a rubric this would apply.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. And thank you so much for your service to the planning committee.

HANNAH JENKINS: Roslyn Hymel has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Roslyn, you have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. In this one it's a little confusing to me. Maybe you can help me out with it.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because what it is that I know we've been discussing it and that. But I need why is it when recommend, like what is this written. You say recommend with strong. But why is it with the word strong with it. Because that's why I'm not getting.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. The intent of the committee or several members of the committee felt strongly that Louisiana businesses and entities are doing this work already and doing it well was the feeling. And so this

is our best attempt to acknowledge that fact. And to without making the process unfair to anyone who wishes to apply to any of our contracts, this is our best attempt at making sure that Louisiana based businesses or entities that do this kind of work related to this activity 2.7.4 can be given consideration in discussion during the selection phase. Does that help?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. It do. Because I was like sitting here like trying to figure it out why it had to be with strong terms.

RANDALL BROWN: I think that's because the committee felt strongly about it. That Louisiana businesses need to be given strong consideration because they are doing the work and doing it well. So the amended motion I need for someone to move for that amended motion and I need a second for the amended motion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I could second it.

RANDALL BROWN: I need someone to make it.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I could do that. I could make it.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Roslyn. So made by Roslyn Hymel and seconded by, do I have a second?

NICOLE BANKS: I'll second it.

RANDALL BROWN: Seconded by Ms. Nicole Banks. Thank you, Nicole. And so now I open the floor to discussion for the public. Any public discussion of this motion?

HANNAH JENKINS: No hands are raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. And so now the amended motion. The question is posed. And so we're ready for a vote. Do I have anyone abstain? Are there any abstentions to this motion? Does anyone abstain? Are there any objections to the amended motion on the screen? Does anyone object to the motion made by Roslyn and seconded by Nicole Banks. Are there any objections? Hearing no objection, the motion passes. Thank you.

And so I believe the next thing we had to consider, I don't have my screen.

JILL HANO: I wasn't on mute. I'm sorry.

RANDALL BROWN: It's okay. Everyone bear with me just a second, please. And so on the screen before you see the proposed action plan for federal fiscal year 2022. Which will be the first year of our new five-year plan. And these are in red you see the proposed activities as the committee worked on them. And exhaustively over a three-day period. Everyone had frank discussion about the topics, about the activities and amounts listed there. In red are the changes, correct Courtney?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

RANDALL BROWN: So there on the screen you see the plan and the changes with the allocations listed for each activity for 2022 federal fiscal year. Again, the first year of our new impending five-year plan. I know it's a lot to review.

NICOLE BANKS: I have a question.

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

NICOLE BANKS: Were we given this already, a copy of this? Or at least somewhere where we can access it?

COURTNEY RYLAND: It was linked to the agenda and is also available on our website linked to the agenda.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: And I know it's a lot of information, so feel free to click on that link at your leisure and read through it. We're providing it so we can get a sense of what changes were made by the committee. Again, the activities in red are proposed for the federal fiscal year 2022. Are there any questions?

HANNAH JENKINS: You have a hand raised from the public, Ms. Ashley Kellett

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

ASHLEY KELLETT: Forgive me because I was trying to read very quickly. Is there anything in here that was proposed for accountability for appropriation of funds for our kiddos? As far as also the IEP being followed and any type of--.

RANDALL BROWN: We're moving to that portion now. Just a moment please.

ASHLEY KELLETT: So sorry.

RANDALL BROWN: No, no. Thank you. Thank you for your participation today. It's just the plan is rather lengthy so we're moving to that range of activities now. And so here you see listed the activities related to education. Are there any questions that I need to answer with regard to that or does sharing the information help you?

So again, this range of activities you see in red before you on the screen activity 3.1.2 to activity 3.1.8 address our activities with regard to education for the federal fiscal year 2022. The first year of our new five-year plan. And again, we had extensive discussion on each one of these activities and topics over a period of three days. Each meeting was no less than two hours, I believe. This was thoroughly vetted and discussed in a number of ways. But I certainly am open to questions.

HANNAH JENKINS: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

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

JILL HANO: I think yelling hold on and trying to unmute will help y'all hear me. But when we were doing this, I didn't realize that 3.3.1 the post-secondary inclusive education was a contractual activity. When did we-- Brenton, maybe this is a you question, but when did we obtain that contract. Does anybody know?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If I may answer. So actually the post-secondary inclusive education alliance activity is in its second year. So we actually did a solicitation of proposals two years ago for this. So this, to my knowledge, and the time that I've been on the council, has been the only activity that we intentionally established to be a two-year activity when we first issued the solicitation of proposals.

JILL HANO: Okay. Is there any way that I can get a copy of that contract?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Absolutely.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Ashley Kellett from the public has her hand raised.

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

ASHLEY KELLETT: So sorry. I'm really not good at the Zoom thing. I don't know how to mute and unmute myself. I guess my question, again, still arises from I guess the accountability factor. I don't really see that part, that portion. Although, I appreciate the inclusion piece, which is so something I've been fighting for for such a long time. I'm new to this forum. Which, I'm so excited to see this. Someone actually sent me this link. I'm new to partners this past year.

RANDALL BROWN: Welcome and thank you.

ASHLEY KELLETT: So I have three special needs children. My oldest son is 20. So I've been fighting for a long time. I have little girl with down syndrome and she's seven years old. I have my fight against me. I also have disabilities and multiple sclerosis and epilepsy and a cancer survivor. I want the accountability factor is the problem. Following the IEP is implementation of the IEP and the interpretation of the IEP is a problem as well. Because as we know we all have different interpretations of an IEP. Where is the accountability factor as far as are they really implementing it. How do we know there's an implementation of the IEP there. Because my daughter has accomplished zero percent of her IEP for the last three years. And yet when asked for proof or give me, tell me what you're, doing what you're not doing other than telling me the same thing over and over again. There's nothing written, no one to go out and even when I ask hey, can I sit in. I was denied that.

RANDALL BROWN: Have you been in touch with or worked with your local Families Helping Families?

ASHLEY KELLETT: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. My case is kind of extraordinary. I was sued by Livingston Parish School Board. Still undergoing the process of all of that drama. It's craziness. But she went 11 months with no schooling through the whole covid thing. And then her documentation was completely fabricated. They lied. They did a post covid assessment. That kind of

stuff. Where's the accountability, I guess, is my question.

RANDALL BROWN: Great question. We, in the scope of our advocacy, one of the things that's very important to us is accountability. And the reason I ask about your Families Helping Families centers is they do work in this very area helping to prepare you for the IEP process. And I believe also will participate with you upon request in that process. So that's why I asked.

ASHLEY KELLETT: No. I'm not talking about that. I'm very, very schooled on that process.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. I misunderstood you. I'm sorry.

ASHLEY KELLETT: No. That's okay.

RANDALL BROWN: What type of accountability?

ASHLEY KELLETT: Like I guess, in general, for our children. For instance, just an example, and unfortunately, I learned this later in the game, but my oldest son did not get an invitation to senior pictures. We missed senior pictures, right. So then I found out later that he wasn't allowed to sit with his senior class for pep rallies. Then I found out there was a table for special needs kids. He couldn't even sit at lunch with people. And then I found out there was other parts of the IEP that weren't being implemented, that this kind of came along. It was kind of a string of events that occurred that I learned over a period of time, he's my first child, so unfortunately, he became the guinea pig. But I found out over a period of time that as it unraveled that he actually wasn't getting the IEP that was actually in place. And so it was very, very sad to me. He said they just lock us in a room, mom. And so it was a situation had a third-party person been in there to make sure, in addition to that education to the regular ed teachers, I would love to see co-teaching. And that kind of thing. So but a third-party person to go in there to make sure implementation of the IEP is actually being done and that they really are-- even an

assessment. They sit there and they have evaluations by their principals, what about an evaluation of a third party going in there and assessing these teachers to make sure that they really are implementing the IEP. Most of these regular teachers don't even know what's on their students IEPs. It's an unfortunate thing, but it's the truth.

RANDALL BROWN: Your comments are certainly noted here today. In terms of our plan it has to be broad because it covers a multitude of situations as we are made aware of them. In terms of enforcement, we will advocate and do so strongly and take your comments today as noted and advisement. As part of our advocacy in all of these education efforts. Of course, we want access. We want equal and fair treatment of our community, students in our community and families.

ASHLEY KELLETT: Thank y'all.

RANDALL BROWN: You are heard. We hear you.

ASHLEY KELLETT: I appreciate you guys so much.

RANDALL BROWN: And we make sure that as we move forward with those objectives you see listed and activities you see listed your comments are noted and we will look at our advocacy in ways we can better work towards getting those needs addressed.

ASHLEY KELLETT: Y'all are doing such a wonderful job of doing this. It would just be such a shame to see all of these efforts put into effect, but then no one making sure that they're being done.

RANDALL BROWN: Your concern is noted.

ASHLEY KELLETT: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. At this point we have reached our point for a ten-minute recess, break. And so with no objection, I'm going to call for a recess. It's now 10:30. So if we could return back at 10:40 to resume discussion. With no objection, we will now move to a ten-minute break.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Excuse me, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can I ask for the meeting that we have to attend to. What day is that on?

RANDALL BROWN: The other meeting is on April the 28th. The times are just like today. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April the 28th, which is next Wednesday. So we're now in recess until 10:40 a.m. Come back at 10:40 to resume discussion.

So Courtney, by my clock it's now 10:41. Do we have a quorum to resume business?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If I can ask all council members to please start your video. Thank you. We now have a quorum.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Courtney. Welcome back everyone. So we need to resume discussion of the federal fiscal year 2022 action plan. And we were on the part of public discussion. So I'm calling for that to resume if there's any public discussion of our federal fiscal year 2022 action plan. I don't know if you want to put that back up on the screen, Courtney, so we can see it. I know it's lengthy, but you might want to put it back up in some fashion. That's where we left off. Discussion of the education portion of the plan. Activities related to education.

HANNAH JENKINS: Nicole banks has her hand raised.

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

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. I was going to say it before we went to break, but you had already went to break. So I was like, okay. I will just wait till we get back. In regards to Ms. Ashley that actually brought up a really good point with us having someone there to ensure that the implication of IEPs are there. I'm just going to give her a suggestion cause I have two kids with IEPs and one with a 504. You have to actually ask for that kind of stuff. And how you do that is you ask them to set up either a class Dojo or a Remind app. That is going to track the process of them actually implementing the services and you can get it every day. Daily. All they have to do is go in there and press the buttons and be like, okay. This is what I did with them today and that's what I did. Maybe you can have them implement that into the IEP cause I know I did that with mine. Just a suggestion for her. Looks

like she's having a lot of trouble with it so that she can kind of make some movement.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much, Nicole. Is there any further public discussion of our federal fiscal year 2022 plan from our public visiting members today?

HANNAH JENKINS: No hands are raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Hannah. I believe now we are ready for a vote. We have approved the language of the motion from the planning committee. And now we need to approve that language as written in addition to approving the federal fiscal year 2022 action plan. Do I have a motion to do that? To accept the amended language of the motion from the planning committee, the amended motion we accepted, to accept that amended motion along with accepting the plan for federal fiscal year 2022.

MITCH IDDINS: This is Mitch. I make a motion to accept the amendments.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you, sir.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Is there a second motion?

RANDALL BROWN: You are the second, Roslyn. Thank you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Does anyone abstain from this motion? Any abstention? Does any member abstain? Are there any objections to this motion as is on the screen before you? And again, that amended motion you see here made by Mitch and seconded by Roslyn to continue the federal fiscal year activity 2021 activity 2.7.4 but request new contract proposals with strong consideration to be given to in state organizations and to adopt the federal fiscal year 2022 action plan as proposed by the 2022 planning committee. Adopting the amended language as well for the plan for 2022 we have seen and discussed here this morning. From the planning committee. Are there any objections? Hearing no objection, the motion passes. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

At this stage of our morning, I'm going to call on

our interim executive director Ms. Courtney Ryland to be recognized to give her executive director's report to us. Courtney, you have the floor.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Good morning everyone. Thank you again for everyone being able to participate this morning. I'm going to share the executive director's report on the screen. So the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Administration for Community Living had another regional engagement call and there is a possibility that another no cost extension for our 2021, sorry, our 2020 federal funds may be extended. As soon as I became the interim executive director in August, I was notified by ACL that there was an application process for our 2019 funds to be extended. But I had to apply for that. It was not an automatic extension. So I did that, and we were granted that extension. So I'm waiting to receive the official words from our federal partners that this extension will be available. And once that's made available I will definitely, or the next executive director, will apply for that extension for our 2020 funds.

And as we had also mentioned that all state councils will be receiving additional funding that is specifically to be used for addressing covid 19 vaccinations. And once I get the amount that Louisiana council will be allotted and given the final regulations on how we are allowed to spend that money we will definitely get the ball rolling on that. Because there is a lot that will be tied to receiving the additional funds. But I believe we've already agreed to incorporate what's now on our action plan with the allotted 2,500-dollars. We're going to add that to the pot of money that the federal government gives us so that we can make sure to do that activity as it is addressed on our action plan, our 2021 action plan.

Next item was the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities will be hosting a meeting with council executive directors to discuss the current

rule on the period of performance. Which is a federal report that is required every year. And when we receive funding, we have two years to plan how we're going to spend that funding. And then we have one year in order to spend it once we've obligated those funding's. So in July of 2019 they had actually changed the ruling on this. It had previously been a three-year period of performance. But in July 2019 it went back to a two year. And a lot of the councils' executive directors opposed this change. And so they're going to take efforts to try get the change reversed to where we go back to a three-year period of performance. So there's some things going on with our federal reporting that they're wanting to change.

Also they announced they'll be hosting the 2021 executive directors annual leadership summit in Providence Rhode Island. So it will be in person from October 17th through October 21st. And unfortunately, that's the same week that we are scheduled to conduct our quarterly council meetings. So I don't know what the new executive director is going to ask to do regarding that.

So the advisory council on student behavior and discipline has met a few times this previous quarter and they actually developed a subcommittee or a workgroup to help tackle some specific issues that they wanted to create accountability for. And Representative Jason Hughes has filed a bill which the advisory council helped to create. I will continue to work on that advisory council unless the new executive director sees otherwise.

HANNAH JENKINS: Roslyn Hymel has her hand raised Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Thank you. Randall, may I call on Roslyn?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, you may.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Hi Ms. Hymel. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can you scroll back down a little bit. I have a question for right here. The way you

say with leadership in that for October 17th through the 21st. Yeah. Right there.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, ma'am. What's your question?

ROSLYN HYMEL: You got me scratching my head with all of that right in there. Even with the NACDD as well. Is that for this year or is that for next year's 2022?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Actually, this is for this year. This is for 2021. NACDD will be hosting all of the executive directors from all of the state councils will be coming together in Providence Rhode Island to do a leadership summit. This is just for executive directors of the councils, of all the state councils.

ROSLYN HYMEL: The other question I do have is what is NACDD?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That stands for National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because you had me lost up on that. And I'm like totally I couldn't even catch.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Did I happen to answer your question?

ROSLYN HYMEL: For the question, do we have, all of us in different states have to meet up or do we have to kind of go individual and get the report?

COURTNEY RYLAND: So the meeting that we were talking about here is just for executive directors. So it's not for council members. It's for the executive directors. So does that help answer your question?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Cause I was confused.

COURTNEY RYLAND: And I apologize for the confusion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's okay. Can I get for the NACDD stand for?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sure. I'm going to highlight it on the screen. Can you see that? Says National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Did you have any more questions?

ROSLYN HYMEL: That was about it out of it because me when I start scratching my head, I didn't know what

to do.

COURTNEY RYLAND: All right. I'm going to go ahead and continue if that's okay. All right. So during this past quarter myself and other council staff and Mr. Randall Brown participated in a meeting with the Louisiana School Board Association. And the intent of that meeting was to try to reestablish a positive working relationship between our agencies. Unfortunately, they had some issues from the past that they wanted to discuss and make sure we're not going to continue before they would want to potentially collaborate with advocacy efforts with us. But we have begun to make those repairs with that relationship, reestablishing that relationship. And we have been in contact since that meeting to try to discuss possible future collaborations for advocacy efforts. Also a meeting was conducted with the Arc of Louisiana, and the Community Providers Association and Independent Living Centers to discuss possible advocacy collaboration. Unfortunately, we weren't all, all four entities weren't able to agree on one advocacy agenda. So we've had to respectfully agree to disagree. But we all still wanted to continue to possibly, maybe in the fall, come together and come up with collaborative advocacy efforts. So that as a whole that we can affect more change rather than having to advocate independently.

Also myself and Mr. Randall Brown were requested by Empowered 225, which is an advocacy group here in the Baton Rouge area, and the governor's commission on human trafficking to help assist them with some advocacy efforts regarding legislation that they wanted to propose that would increase sentencing for individuals found guilty of human trafficking and/or sexual exploitation of persons with a disability. So during that meeting I had actually recommended that they reach out to Disability Rights of Louisiana as they were a very close partner with us, a sister agency with us and that that was directly in line with their mission to protect and advocate for individuals with

developmental disabilities. So we made that connection and I believe Disability Rights of Louisiana indicated they wanted to assist with the language, drafting correct language for that bill.

Then the next page is regarding meetings that staff has attended.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: So I had a question. You said it's four different agencies that are collaborating to come together to get an advocacy plan going together. What are the other four agencies. Did I miss it? Okay. I couldn't see it all. I'm sorry.

COURTNEY RYLAND: No problem. Do I need to read it aloud?

NICOLE BANKS: No, no. So you guys are needing ideas or is it that you can't come up with a concise just one topic?

COURTNEY RYLAND: We were going to meet in the fall, probably around when our legislative kickoff meeting occurs with LaCAN and Families Helping Families. We're going to try to collaborate with these entities as well. So that we're not all advocating for different things. We can possibly come up with a consolidated advocacy agenda. Does that make sense?

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. That does. Just a whole one thing that you guys can do. But I hope you guys can get that done in the fall so y'all not waiting a whole other year to get things done. Hopefully, you guys can come up with an agreement because it's really needed in some of those areas.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You are correct. Yes, ma'am. So as you can see, again, these are the meetings that staff has been attending this quarter. Followed by meetings that I attended for this quarter.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Jill Hano has her hand raised.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Do you know or have a record of what bills are out there for the Empower 225?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I believe there were similar bills that were being introduced. I know Representative Pat Moore had proposed a bill that addressed charges against individuals regarding disabilities in sexual assault. But the language in the bill that she had proposed was misleading. And I actually spoke with Representative Moore about that bill. And I believe she intends to actually remove the language that would actually provide harsher sentencing on individuals with disabilities who are found guilty of sexual misconduct or what not. So I don't think that was the Empower 225 collaboration. I think that was just a separate bill. But no, ma'am. I don't have the bill number for what the Empower 225 group contacted us about.

JILL HANO: Cool. Thanks.

COURTNEY RYLAND: No problem.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Roslyn Hymel also has her hand raised.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Roslyn, are you with us? Okay. I don't see her on the screen Hannah. Am I missing something?

HANNAH JENKINS: Looks like she must have stepped away.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay. So does anyone else have any questions about all of the activities listed on this report? Mr. Rovira.

MATTHEW ROVIRA: Good afternoon, Courtney. More of a situational awareness to bring to the council's attention. But house bill 628 by Representative Stefanski, I don't know if you're following that bill. But essentially it passed out of house ways and means yesterday. And what's of interest to us, the bill in its current posture essentially levies a tax on a form of gambling in Louisiana called electronic gambling. Apparently, you gamble on the phone now. And it's already passed into law and municipalities have already voted on this and approved this. But what this bill does is essentially put the backbone to how it functions and where the money will go. Of interest to

us it creates a disability fund. It then goes onto state that certain percentage of that money will be going to this new disability fund, similar to the new opportunities waiver trust fund. And from that point the DD Council, this body will make a recommendation on how those funds are utilized. Of course, house bill 628, none of you have read it yet. But I do want to bring it to the council's attention to really read that bill. Obviously, we need more resources to assist the individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently. And from my personal review of the bill and what I anticipate, I see this as a great opportunity for Louisiana's disability community. So thank you for giving me the time to speak on that. I hope I didn't speak out of context. But I wanted to bring it to your attention.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Thank you Mr. Rovira. And if that is not already on our bill tracking list, we can add that bill to our bill tracking. So thank you for that. Ms. Hymel, now that you've returned, would you like to speak?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I was trying to get some help. What I wanted to find out with one of them, I forgot which one it was, but is there a way that with the billing for every, for State of Louisiana and at do we have to raise anything like for the billing as we go along with these years. Like we did throughout the other years as we went. Or how does that work again?

COURTNEY RYLAND: You asked if we have to raise anything with the bills.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Right. Is that on here or not? For like the schooling.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So are you asking if we're advocating for or against any bills that have to deal with education? Is that what you're asking?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Wait a minute.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Or tell you what, can I offer this instead. Would you like for me to share my screen to show you what bills we're tracking right now?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Could you.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I will do that right now.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I wanted to find out.

COURTNEY RYLAND: This is on our website right now. The very first banner you'll see will be our tracking list. This is the tracking list.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I wanted really to find out is on that. Can I get this one as well in my packet.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Since we're going to get you information for next week's meeting, I can print this out for you and make sure you get this as well.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because I don't have nothing. I don't even have my packet. So you know I'm going to be asking questions cause I don't even have a packet. Just going off what's on the screen. I'm going to be confused with this.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I can definitely understand. A lot of this information is confusing. Thank you for asking questions so we can provide some clarification. It might not just be you that has that question. We can definitely do that when we get the information to you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I don't know if my packet got lost in the mail or maybe I got skipped or what. I don't know.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I can assure you it was mailed, but again, we'll probably have to resort to hand delivering something to you over the weekend, possibly. Some of the staff is going to call you so we can get the information to you after the meeting today. Okay.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Good.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, ma'am. All right. The next item on the agenda is the budget report.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, it is. You have the floor as well. Before we move into the budget, I believe Ms. Kathy Dwyer pointed out in the question-and-answer section Representative Butler has alerted her committee that the house bill 172 is scheduled for house health and welfare committee on Tuesday, April 27th. Next Tuesday. She put that in the question-and-answer

section. Now the floor is yours.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Can everyone read the budget report as it is or do I need to enlarge it. That might be too big.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can you enlarge it a little bit.

COURTNEY RYLAND: I'm going to try.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I can't read small print. For me it's hard.

COURTNEY RYLAND: How about this? Does this work?

RANDALL BROWN: For me, yeah.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So I've still been in contact with Ms. Fletcher who helped with the budget and keeping us on track. Still trying to contact various departments within LDH to assist with right now it's called, unfortunately, ISIS to help with moving funds within or moving charges that we have made to different reporting categories or reporting codes so that our budget report actually reflects accurate information. So last quarter you guys had asked to see the actual accounts or the funds that we have requested to be moved. And so at the bottom Ms. Fletcher provided some of that language or provided the language that you see for what we're trying to move. And I think is there a question. I thought I saw a hand raised, but I might be mistaken.

KIM BASILE: Yes, Courtney. I have a question or two.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, ma'am.

KIM BASILE: So the salaries and fringe benefits on the top two lines I'm assuming is what is charged to general overhead. But then there are salaries that are charged to the bottom-line contracts. Is that correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: No, ma'am. The salaries line that you see on the sheet is the total amount of salaries that all of the staff receives.

KIM BASILE: I thought we were told previously that part of salaries were charged to the contracts.

COURTNEY RYLAND: It's coded. So like all of our advocacy and leadership activities get coded, a percentage of staffs' time. But the actual funds for

staff salaries is separated. So staffs' time gets coded by percentage to how much time we spend on contract activities.

KIM BASILE: But the dollars don't actually come out of the contract?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

KIM BASILE: All right. Thanks Courtney.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Did you have another question.

KIM BASILE: I might. Let me think.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Or if you want to email me afterwards, that's fine. Whatever is convenient for you. So every year staff does a retreat and we kind of look at the plan to see who needs to tackle what and how much time needs to be allocated for things. And so staff does a percentage of activities from our council plan and our payroll gets coded by percentage. But we get paid through, it's not taking any funds away from contracts. Again, I hope that makes sense. I'm sorry. Any other questions?

HANNAH JENKINS: Jill Egle and Roslyn Hymel have their hands raised.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Ms. Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. When you say code. Such as like what do you mean by when you say that, and the money don't move from this at all. That's my first question.

COURTNEY RYLAND: We're trying to get it moved. We've already submitted paperwork to the Department of Health to get the money to move. So every time the DD Council has an expense that has to be paid there are multiple codes as to how that money is applied. How we pay it. So for instance, we don't just willy-nilly pay things, say for instance, our ink for our printers. We have to specifically indicate by using codes how this money is being spent. So there is reporting categories and there's object codes. It's very technical, a lot of accounting words. And I don't want to confuse you, but if you want to talk with me about it a little more in depth, we can do that at a later time.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That one, yeah. Now my second

question I do have is I'm seeing on here too from the first quarter, yeah, the first and the second and the third quarter you have at least zeros straight across.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Why is that?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Because those moneys were allotted for--

ROSLYN HYMEL: Three more zeros.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Right. Are you talking about these lines right here I'm highlighting?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. See how it goes to like thousand and then the first and then two lines with numbers then you have three more zeros.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. So those lines are for travel. So actually council meetings is the first one. But the 10,000 amount. And that's one of the ones that we're trying to change. We're trying to change that from no money being spent to 8,125. So look down here at the bottom. You see, I've kind of highlighted it. That should be how much we've actually spent up until now in that council meeting line. It should not be zero. It should be 8,125. Does that make sense?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Right.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So the other lines are for travel. Because of covid we have not been traveling. So there's been no money spent towards travel. So does that make sense? Sorry, my sound must be breaking up. Did you have another question.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So would-- yeah, I do. Would this ever change in the future from the other years when we can start traveling again?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Right. Well, we've still got some time before we have to submit a new budget for next year. But when the new executive director starts that's probably going to be one of the first things that will need to be discussed is the moneys allotted to accommodate for all of this. If we're going to be going back to in person then we're going to have to make sure these funds--.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I'm trying to figure out

right there. We going to meet up face to face and what hotel, the new hotel we'll be going to.

COURTNEY RYLAND: We'll let you know. I believe, Ms. Banks', your hand was raised next.

NICOLE BANKS: Sorry. I had it double muted. Ms. Jill had her hand raised first so I'll let her go first.

COURTNEY RYLAND: My apologizes.

NICOLE BANKS: Jill Engle. And I was after her and then the other Ms. Jill.

JILL EGLE: I don't know if you hear this on the news, the center and the disease control first of all is saying whomever got vaccinated can travel, but y'all have to follow what the governor says for the emergency proclamation in order to make the change if we're ever going to do in person in October or next fiscal year. Is that correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: So I believe Mr. Chair has already stated that as long as we're under a public health emergency declared by the governor that we will not be conducting in person activities. So once that has been lifted then we will be able to resume in person activities.

JILL EGLE: And it was stated earlier today it was extended 90 days. What does that mean? Is that funding in the legislative session? What does that mean?

COURTNEY RYLAND: That was not regarding funding for the legislation.

JILL EGLE: What they said, extended 90 days. Does that mean June, fiscal government year. Little concerned myself.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You're talking about something--

ROSLYN HYMEL: If I may, the 90 days is like for three months Jill. For me, I had to wait 90 days before I got tested. How that one right there would work.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Ladies, do either of you have any questions about this budget report?

JILL EGLE: Ninety days. I'm a little worried Ms.

Courtney. I just want to make sure that everything's going to be okay with the DD Council in the future.

COURTNEY RYLAND: So Ms. Egle, if we can speak with you after the council meeting or during a lunch break. Do you happen to have any questions about the budget report?

JILL EGLE: Oh, no. The budget, I guess, obviously you guys that follows the federal government, correct. Coming like this June 1st or July 1st for next fiscal 2022 year, correct?

COURTNEY RYLAND: This budget report is regarding the state fiscal year July 1st through June 30th.

JILL EGLE: I'll let y'all get back on okay.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Okay. Sorry. Ms. Banks, was it you again?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes. It's me. So the question I had when I'm looking at the salaries and stuff, did we fire somebody is why it went down like it did or did somebody leave?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Correct. We are down to six staff when we typically have eight staff. Our executive director retired in January of 2019. And then the deputy director who became interim executive director retired in August of 2019. So we lost the executive director and the deputy director. That's why next week is very crucial to hire a new executive director. Any other questions about the budget report? Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Can people mute themselves when they're not talking. I can't hear a word anything anybody says. And I do have a question about the budget if that's still the topic.

COURTNEY RYLAND: It is.

JILL HANO: So this budget report, is the state fiscal year, correct.

COURTNEY RYLAND: You are correct.

JILL HANO: So when is this due to the feds? June 30th?

COURTNEY RYLAND: So this budget report isn't due to the feds. We give reporting on our activities and

our state plan. Which that will be due in August. Because it will be the first year of the new five-year plan. In August I will have to submit other reports and our action plan. But we don't provide a budget report.

JILL HANO: Hold on. Is this due to the state?

COURTNEY RYLAND: This isn't due to anyone but ourselves. For the council.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Jill, these are our operating expenses to be able to carry out our business.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Any other questions? Sorry if I'm confusing with answering questions. This has been very much a learning experience. For myself and other staff. Okay. Then hearing none, sir, I would like to hand the meeting back over to you, Mr. Brown.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you everyone for your questions with regard to Courtney's report and the budget report. That concludes those two items. Now we will move into our standing committee reports. And the first report we have to be given is the act three 78 subcommittee. And the chair of the subcommittee is Ms. Bambi Polotzola. So Bambi, you have the floor to give your report.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can y'all hear me now?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. We can hear you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Sorry about that. Hi everyone. The act 378 subcommittee met yesterday, and we do not have any recommendations for the council to consider. We did spend time reviewing the fiscal year 21 3rd quarter data for programs within the Offices for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Behavioral Health, and Aging and Adult Services which is through the Arc of Louisiana. These reports can be found on the council's website under the council meetings section if you would like to review.

If you recall during the last subcommittee, act 378 subcommittee meeting update, I mentioned the committee had discussed at length some concerns about the amount for the individual and family support or IFS

dollars being spent on vocational and employment services and supports. OCDD was able to analyze some of the information collected over the past year and determined the fiscal impact of moving individuals to a waiver for the supports would be significant even with matching dollars. It was also explained that the current rule would not allow recipients to simply be given a waiver to free up some of those IFS dollars. Each individual situation is different. So it was explained that an individual must be deemed as having either an urgent or emergent need in the screening for unmet needs, which is the SUN assessment. And since IFS dollars can fluctuate, screeners have taken into consideration that the person's situation could change. So the department has also had concerns that should all individuals currently receiving these employment supports move to a waiver, they may be taking waiver from someone with unmet needs. We also learned that the amount of individuals having unmet needs for the SUN assessment has nearly doubled.

Also when we started discussing the fiscal year 20 IFS requests and expenditures by service report, which we have talked about over the last few meetings, and we identified some discrepancies in spending of IFS funds across the regions based on the different service categories. So for instance, one region spent over 150,000 dollars on incontinent supplies and another region only spent 4,300. So the department agreed to continue to analyze this report and share it at future meetings with LGE directors to determine if a cause for these discrepancies can be found. The committee was hoping the information in this report and discussions amongst LGEs would prove to be useful to the LGEs as they discuss what their peers at other LGEs are doing to help meet the needs of families in their respective regions. And that is the end of the report. Any questions?

HANNAH JENKINS: You have a question from the public from Ms. Kathy Dwyer.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you. Hi Bambi. I had

participated or listened to the meeting yesterday and something just occurred to me that I don't remember if I asked or not. But as chair of the OCDD advisory committee we are going to start tracking how the regions do in transitioning children from early steps to DD services. Is that something that would fall under your committee as well?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't think that's a part of act 378. But I could be wrong. Could someone help with that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You're correct. It's not dealing with act 378 funding.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate it. Is there a committee that would address the early intervention transitioning to DD services?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think our education usually discusses the early steps program.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thanks Kathy.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other questions regarding Bambi's report? Hearing none, thank you, Bambi. Your report will be entered into the record. Since no vote was needed, thank you very much. And we will move to our next committee report. And that is Ms. Mary Tarver, the education and employment committee. So Mary, you have the floor.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Sorry, Mr. Brown. I don't believe Ms. Tarver has been able to join us today.

RANDALL BROWN: Did she designate someone to give her report in her place?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I was not made aware.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Well, did she give a report for our packets, obviously?

COURTNEY RYLAND: Let me see with staff if a report had been created.

RANDALL BROWN: In the meantime, let me call on Mr. Mike Billings, our self-determination and community inclusion committee chair. Sir, you have the floor if you are ready to give your report today.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Good morning everyone. The

self-determination and community inclusion committee met Monday and we have no recommendations to present to the council. We did receive updates on contractual and noncontractual activities and goals one and two of the council's FY21 action plan. I encourage you all to review the status update document that we received quarterly for specific updates on each activity. But here is a few of the things I want to mention regarding Partners in Policymaking. The PIP coordinator Adrienne Thomas, as you may recall, we decided the 2020 class would repeat this year virtually. However, some of the class members of the 2020 class expressed concerns about virtual participation and requested that they be allowed to repeat the missed classes in person when it's safe to do so. Randall had mentioned he would follow up with the executive director of the Minnesota council where partners has started, where it was started to find out how they've been handling their classes due to covid and seek additional guidance. Because they apparently have resumed their classes.

We also received an update on videos. Our video initiative and concerns. We received about the lack of diversity in the first video. Specifically as related to the lack of people of color, persons of color. The contractor has also started working on a second video that will be a continuation of the first video. And has assured us that they will be ensuring diversity in their productions and of the utmost importance.

Dustin Chandler with the Interaction Advisory Group provided the committee with the information about efforts to establish pilot programs in multiple regions across the state on first responder tactics approaches and resources and fostering relationships with and dealing with individuals with developmental disabilities and training for people with developmental disabilities on how to interact with first responders. So far, the trainings have been well received, but the demand is greater than the monthly trainings currently included in the council's contract with IEG. Due to the demand IEG has offered additional trainings at no

expense to the council. We did have conversations about the need to further promote these trainings.

We also received an update on act 421 children's Medicaid option. This, of course, the Louisiana program designed to serve the TEFRA population. As of now the department has still not received approval for program implementation from CMS originally, their original April, May timeframe may be delayed.

We also continued our discussions about the appendix K waiver exceptions that were implemented at the start of the covid 19 pandemic. OCDD held a listening session recently to discuss plans for home and community-based waiver services after covid 19 public health emergency ends. And solicit feedback on those plans. Over 200 individuals participated in the call for providers and over 400 participated in the call for families and self-advocates. Many of the participants expressed the need to continue the exception that allows close relatives to continue to serve as direct support workers. Julie also shared the Office of Community Partnerships and Health Equity within the Louisiana Department of Health is hosting an upcoming webinar event discussing covid 19 and its impact on persons with disabilities and providers. This information session will be held Friday, April the 23rd from 1:30 to 2:30. A council news was sent on Monday with the registration information. And that's all I have to report. Does anyone have any questions?

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Roslyn Hymel has her hand raised.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. When you was mentioning a lot of, when you read from the top in that with parents, is that parents with that child or is it DSPs with their clients? How does that work?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: For the home and community-based waiver services, is that what you are referring to?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: So right now there's an exception that allows for close relatives to serve as

the direct support workers due to the waiver for the pandemic. So that's been for the appendix K waiver. That's been extended for the 90 days. But there's a lot of interest in having that extended permanently and they're working to see if that can be done.

ROSLYN HYMEL: For the 90 days, is that like three months with an extension to it?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes. It's my understanding they can only extend that 90 days at a time.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So does that lead until like months at a time?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Ninety days is three months. And I believe that gets us through to the end of July. But Julie can speak more on that when they get to the agency reports.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I wanted to find out. So does that still work for group homes as well if you're living in a group home? Or living with your parents as well?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: That would be a home and community-based situation where you have a family member providing care.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. I wasn't sure. Because my aunt and uncle kind of takes good care of me for that and I was like wondering if they have, is it the same way if you are your aunt and uncle. Could that work as well.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I couldn't speak to your specific. Probably have to reach back to your agency provider.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. I was just kind of asking. I just use myself that kind of way as a family member. Cause I have two as a family member who takes care of me. I don't even have a provider at all. Not what I know of.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Are there any other questions?

RANDALL BROWN: Any other questions in regard to Mike's report?

HANNAH JENKINS: You have a hand raised in the public, Ms. Christina.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Go ahead Christina.

CHRISTINA PAOLELLA: Thank you. I spoke at the meeting that you had the other day and I want to thank you again for representing that today for everybody. I am part of the Partners in Policymaking class that got to start for 2020 and abruptly had to stop just like the rest of the world in March. And I just wanted to be here again to represent my classmates. I spoke to a bunch of them, and they also were going to try their very hardest to be here today. I don't know. I can't see on my end if like who is here except for the council members on the screen. So I'm not sure if anybody's here again. But I just wanted to let all the council members know that we weren't aware of the ad hoc committee forming and so we were unable to be present and let you guys know how we had felt going forward. And I just think that virtually it would just be very difficult for all of us. Several of our members, I want to say three or four, have said that they will not be moving forward at all to graduate if it continues virtually. So I would really love if the council would consider to allow us. I understand that this year we might not get to anything in person and that's unfortunate for all of us. But when we can come together in person that our class be given the opportunity to maybe have first pick of the classmates for 2022's class. I love the partners experience. I'm getting a little emotional. I miss my class so much. And I know how much it all means to us to be able to really see this through. So thank you guys so much. And yeah, thank you Mike and thank you chairperson.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you Christina.

RANDALL BROWN: Mike, give me just a moment here to comment.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Sure, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: As I said, and Kim we'll get to your question, as I said yesterday in the self-determination meeting, I will check with the Minnesota council and their director to see what protocols they have used and see if they have any suggestions or

pointers we can use to better accommodate you. As far as the ad hoc committee, we did publicize it. I apologize the class wasn't aware. But it was publicly known throughout our social media and other venues. But I thank you for bringing your prospective to our attention yesterday and today. And you have my commitment to look into the matter further and see what, if anything, we can do to accommodate your class as well as any meeting moving forward in this pandemic phase we're in. And I want to thank the partners ad hoc committee for their work as well. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Christina very much for your prospective. Are there any other questions for Mike on his report?

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Lillian DeJean has her hand raised.

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

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Hey y'all. So I'm going to have to hop right back off shortly. My grandfather is in from out of state. But I did want to visit this meeting for this specific discussion. So I guess my question to you guys today is who ultimately gets to decide what happens with the PIP class from this point forward? Is it the PIP ad hoc committee that decides whether they will continue virtually or with the Minnesota like structure?

RANDALL BROWN: That would, at this point, be an executive committee decision. We will take into consideration the work of the ad hoc committee as it was done and I will look into, as I've stated, how Minnesota is moving forward and look into maybe some other states as well if I get some research on it and add that to the discussion. But that will ultimately be an executive committee decision.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So can I have another turn?

RANDALL BROWN: Absolutely.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It was really poignant to me at the self-determination and community committee Ms. Christina's input regarding the PIP class and how the PIP class currently is losing their enthusiasm for the

class through the virtual format. And I will repeat what I expressed at the committee meeting the other day. I think it's really important for us, and now the executive committee, to recognize that the point of PIP is to ignite that fire in advocates. At the end of the day whenever you advocate it doesn't matter really how much you know. Really the passion has to be there. That's your foundation. And so I think we should really, really, really heed the warning of our PIP class. I know we are creatures of habit on this council. We have stayed stagnant for over 40 years now in the way we do things. I would heavily, heavily encourage the executive committee to listen to our public. And I trust that our executive committee will make the right decision moving forward. I did want to emphasize that. Thank you for your time.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. And I promise you we do hear your concern as well as the class's concern. A lot of things do appear stagnant due to a lot of factors. But I want to be clear we're about to have a change of leadership here at the very top of our council very shortly. So I expect a lot of things to move forward quickly once that happens to begin to move forward. So I don't want us to lose hope not only on our partners endeavors, but also all of our work. We're doing our best to move forward during a pandemic, which is difficult for everyone across the world as we all know and are living through. But then also we have two vacancies, not just one, on the top of our council management side. We've done the very best we can to try to ensure all activities and programs are met the best way we can. And I'm committed to making sure everyone is heard and everyone is appreciated. And I thank Christina for her comments both the other day at self-determination and today. I certainly hear you. I know the executive committee shares my-- I'm a PIP graduate as well. I understand exactly what the feeling is when you cannot resume something that you had anticipated being able to do. Unfortunately, that's just where we are in the pandemic. But we

definitely hear you and we will definitely look at all available information and try our best to meet the needs. And we certainly don't want anyone losing their passion or enthusiasm for this or any realm of advocacy. I know it's been a rough year for everyone, particularly for our council. I just encourage everyone to please hang in there. Things are about to get better soon. Just thank you so much. I'll yield the floor.

HANNAH JENKINS: You have Liz Gary and Kathy Dwyer both with their hands raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Liz, you have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Hi, Randall. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. I just wanted to reiterate my-- I know for 11 years I coordinated Partners in Policymaking and one of my passions the entire time was the ability to have in person. There were lots of conversations over the years from the council and from staff talking about the possibility of doing some virtual, this was before covid took place. And I was highly against it and highly opposed to it because I knew it would lose the, what's a given when you're in person. And I know that many of you who are partners graduates also know that feeling of how important it was not only during the sessions to be present, but also the bonding time that occurred over meals and also after the sessions. I would definitely, you know, I really want to instill how important it is. And I know I was on the ad hoc committee. I know I voted for the partial virtual. But by no means was my favorite thing. And now that this has occurred and they're expressing their concerns and we're already into April, I think you have an opportunity to move forward with some of the regional meetings that we had talked about as well as preparing for your 2022 class. Because as you might know, by June you better be ready for the applications to start being present and things rolling in. Because by September 30th all that goes in. There's a lot of work that can be done and give them the opportunity.

The only other thing I will say is that in the

past when anyone would not be able to fulfill their obligation from the January through June if they dropped off in February or March because of some reason that they couldn't continue we did give them first opportunity to look at them. We didn't guarantee anything, but we did give them first opportunity to review them as being able to continue the next year's class as a full class again. So I just wanted to share that, and I appreciate the time. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for sharing that, Liz. And again, take all of it under consideration. Thank you so much. Is there anyone else?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes. Ms. Kathy Dwyer

RANDALL BROWN: Oh, yes. Ms. Kathy, you have the floor.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Randall. I just want to express my appreciation to you and the council for having to handle so many things with two major staff missing, and appreciate Courtney filling in and having to learn everything. I've worked for a state agency for 25 years and now I'm retired so I kind of know all the little details with budget preparation and so forth. But during these times with the pandemic it's been hard on all of us. I know from my prospective as an older senior, and I hate to say that word, but senior raising a young lady with multiple disabilities and not having the support because my first priority is protecting her. And I just want to remind everyone that as much as we all need that in person contact and how valuable it is, we've got to get through this pandemic first. I know I'm preaching to the choir. But our DD population is a high-risk population. And we need to always keep that in mind and keep in mind the parents that are older that are even high-risk taking care of them. And if we could just get through, hang on, find ways, best ways you can to try get through these times when it feels so distant, I think we can all get back. And I definitely want to applaud all that partners has done. I haven't been able to participate in it. At some point I wish they would

open it up to us older folks. I think over the years I've kind of learned a good bit just from fellow parents who have graduated from partners and appreciate all that. So just hang on. I feel for everybody and appreciate everybody's efforts in trying to pull everything together during these challenging times.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Kathy, for those comments and we certainly thank you for the praise. I know the staff is doing everything we possibly can to conduct ourselves as best we can through this pandemic. And I've said repeatedly yesterday at the last executive committee meeting and throughout lately that we will follow the governor's public health emergency. And that is due to the fact that we are a high-risk population. So I'm very mindful as your chair as we move forward. I'm as tired of this separation and divide and Zoom era that we're living in as anyone else. But my first and foremost consideration, our first and foremost consideration as your leadership has to be the safety of everyone's health. We literally lost our leader to covid. I don't have to remind y'all of that, I know. But so that has been foremost in my mind from the moment I assumed chairmanship and remain so. I have to be certain that we are safe as a population as we move forward. And I know it's difficult. And I know it's been so long. It's been over a year since we've been able to gather together and participate together. And I thank you all for your participation this way. And we're doing the best we can, and I really appreciate all of you. I want to make that very clear. Not just council members. Not limited to just our members. All of our community coming together, working together, collaborating, getting ideas out there for these activities as we move forward. We're doing the best we can. And I really thank everybody for their patience. And again, come April 28th we start a whole new chapter in our management. I look forward to good things ahead. And the pandemic will eventually be subsided and when it does, I have no doubt we will move forward with a

brand-new purpose. And I think we'll all be elated just to be able to see one another. I know I'll be glad to see everyone. Thank you all. And again, I yield the floor.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Lillian DeJean has her hand raised.

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

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Sorry to interrupt again. So I also look forward to the day that we'll finally be able to see each other in person and eat together again and go to the hotel and not have to be on Zoom. In the meantime, I think for the sake of our PIP class I know the self-determination inclusion committee I suggested they be specifically invited to the PIP ad hoc committee via email instead of just having to look on a website. But since this decision now will be in the hands of the executive committee it may be a good and kind of a considerate idea to probably email the PIP class when that executive committee meeting will be taking place so they can attend that.

RANDALL BROWN: I actually have that on my list to do Lillian. So thank you for that.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I'm going to run now. It was great seeing everybody.

RANDALL BROWN: Good to see you. Thank you so much for your service.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Nice to see you again Lynsey. I mean Lillian.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Are we just not good friends anymore that you can't remember my name.

ROSLYN HYMEL: It's been so long. I had to pick on you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Sure.

RANDALL BROWN: All right, everyone. It is lunch time. With no objection, we will adjourn for one hour for lunch. It's currently 12:02. So at 1:02 p.m. we will return to resume today's business. Having a recess now for lunch for one hour. See everyone at 1:02 p.m.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Good afternoon council members.

If I could have you all start your videos, please.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Where's Randall?

COURTNEY RYLAND: We still have people logging in so we're going to take a few moments for people to log back in and to start their video.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay, everyone. Can you hear me okay and see me?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I was just asking about you Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: I apologize. I'm late. Some connectivity issues. But I'm here now. Do we have a quorum present Courtney?

ROSLYN HYMEL: You make me worry about you Randall.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, sir. We have a quorum.

RANDALL BROWN: It's not really me. It's my internet not playing nice today. But we're doing the best we can here. Okay. So welcome back everyone. I call the meeting back to order to resume our business. Courtney is Marilee available to give an update on education and employment?

MARILEE ANDREWS: I am here.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Hi everybody. I am just going to update you guys on the education and employment committee because since Mary Tarver is not able to make the council meeting. So the education and employment committee met Thursday, April 15th. There were no motions the committee has to move forward to the council. It was really just updates. Dr. Sarah Fletcher gave an update from Louisiana Department of Education. And this is also linked in your packet materials. Malissa Bayham gave an update from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. And I believe her update is also linked in the packet materials. And I gave an update on activity 5.3.3 which is our activity on seminars on hiring individuals with developmental disabilities. This is with our contractor O'Neal Communications. And Courtney gave an update on Louisiana Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance, activity 3.4.2. And customized employment training, activity 5.1.3. And Courtney and I's updates are in

the status report. That is everything from education and employment.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much. Is there any questions from Marilee about the report that she's filing on behalf of Mary who is absent? No questions with regard to the report Marilee has delivered, correct? Okay. Thank you, Marilee, very much.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So now we'll move into our standing council member reports. And the first I have listed for today is the Bureau of Health Services and Financing, which is Medicaid. So is Jen Katzman available? Jen, are you on with us? Is anyone from Medicaid available to give the report? It's linked there on our agenda, so it's been submitted. Just wonder if anyone from the Bureau of Health Services and Financing, Medicaid, is available to give that report to us? Okay. I would assume not so we will come back to that in a moment after some other reports have been given to make sure before we take action there. Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Julie Foster Hagan are you available?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Hey, I'm here. I just texted Jen because she told me she was going to be on so she may have just had to step away.

RANDALL BROWN: I understand. We can accommodate that when she comes back. If you're ready, by all means, you have the floor.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Sure. So you guys all should have my report and some of the information that I have I'll work to maybe try to provide some additional information or clarification from some of the earlier questions we had in the meeting as well. And I think it was mentioned that we did have two listening sessions that were very well attended to talk about what happens with our home and community-based waivers after the public health emergency ends. And they were very well attended, and we got a lot of positive feedback. One of the things that OCDD is going to be looking opportunities for is to do that more often.

And so anytime we will, of course, we will let the council know. But a lot of families just said they were very pleased with an opportunity for folks at the state office level to hear from them and for them to be able to have a voice and share what issues and concerns were important to them. So again, that was a learning lesson for me that we need to take an opportunity to do that more often. We will be looking at opportunities to do that in the future as well.

We will be, we heard from folks and we are going to be looking at what are some of the longer-term flexibilities or changes we need to make for after the public health emergency. Those exceptions are all listed in the report that you guys have. We're working to do that quickly so that we can then have additional public forums where we share with folks what our thoughts are on some of the things that people felt were important to them. Such as families members continuing to be paid caregivers and the ability to continue to do some things virtually verses in person. So we'll be developing a plan for that and laying that out and again, plan to have additional meetings where we share with folks what those are.

I do want to try to clarify about some of the questions we have about the public health emergencies. So when there is a public health emergency or a disaster or something, there are declarations that are made both at the federal level and at the state level. When we often, here in Louisiana we often have public health emergencies called for hurricanes or floods or things like that where that requires. When there's that declaration of a public health emergency what that does is it allows for some of the flexibilities like we have in our waiver. And it allows for sometimes some additional funding. That might be FEMA funding, or it might be additional funds that we have available for us in Medicaid or some other state agencies to take certain actions to help folks respond to the emergency. And so under covid this-- it's not usual that we're under a public health emergency for as long as we are.

But because covid has had such a long-lasting timeline and impact they do-- they have continued to declare that public health emergency at the federal level. Every emergency has different, it has different things tied to it. So there has been a lot of additional funding and considerations related to covid while we've been under this public health emergency. But I believe Mike said it is accurate that the federal government can only declare these public health emergencies for a period of 90 days at this point. So the public health emergency has been extended. It was extended this week. The current timeline for that public health emergency to end is July 14th. And so when it gets to be July what the federal government will do is they will consider do we need to extend that for another 90 days or do we need to end it sooner. And so it's just sort of like every three months is when we learn if it will be extended or if it will end.

What the centers for Medicaid and Medicare did is they said we know that you need some time from when the public health emergency ends to when the changes that we made in our waiver ends. So what they did is they came out and said that states could choose to ask for the exceptions and flexibilities to stay in place for six months after the end of the public health emergency. So in Louisiana that's what we've done. So there's not really, I know folks it would be lot easier if we knew a date, but we don't have a date. So right now because the public health emergency was extended to July that means we have until January right now before those exceptions will end. If they do extend it again in July, then we will have more time to be able to do that.

Roslyn asked about intermediate care facilities. We do have some exceptions and flexibilities that are in place as well at our intermediate care facilities related to leave days and what not. So if people wanted to leave the intermediate care facility and stay with their families either because of covid or if someone, let's say we've had some folks who did that

because they had others in their group home who got sick, and they wanted to not be there while they were sick so they might have gone to stay home with their family. So we've extended and made some changes related to the leave days there. So those things will stay in place as well for our group homes. The changes are just a little different than what we have in our home and community-based waiver.

We are also closely watching, and I think someone mentioned, so I definitely have that on my radar to try to make sure we're doing more educational information on state and federal legislation. I can tell you under the Biden administration there is much, much talk about the direct support workforce. And I know that's a big issue for the council and for people who need the services just trying to have a qualified workforce, have people available to work and have people who are qualified and are able to provide those services. And we know that's a big issue, not just in Louisiana, but nationally. So the Biden administration has talked about some potential additional funding and educational opportunities to help improve the direct support workforce. We are closely watching that. I don't have a lot of information on that yet because a lot of it is still just building. We also know there's the American Rescue Act and I've received lot of emails and questions from folks because one part, the American Rescue Act was really large, but one piece of that was that it allowed states to get some additional federal funds that we pull down for home and community-based services. And we do, that funding will only be available for a period of one year. And unfortunately that one year timeframe started April 1st. But we still don't have information from CMS about exactly what we can use that money on. We know that CMS has said it's important, and the federal legislators have said it's important that any additional money we pull down for home and community-based services goes back into home and community-based services. But we are waiting for CMS to give us some additional information

about that.

In the listening session I did share some information there. And once we have a little, once we know more about what we can and can't use those funds for we're also going to be engaging or having some opportunities to hear from the public and from our stakeholder about any ideas or suggestions they have about that funding. But by all means, I've already started getting emails at our OCDDinfo@la.gov and to my own email address julie.hagan@la.gov. If you do have ideas or suggestions or there's things that are important to you for us to consider, please feel free to send those in. But again, until we get that guidance from CMS, we won't be able to really do any in depth planning or outreach because we need to understand what the parameters are that we'll be able to spend that money for. So I'll stop there cause there's a lot more detail in the report. But those are kind of some high level, big picture items and I'm happy to take any questions folks have.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Julie. Are there any questions for Julie regarding her report?

EBONY HAVEN: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Roslyn, you have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you. Yeah, I do. Because well there is a question, but I also want to state it that Magnolia Community Service and they are making some changes here. We are no longer have special creations anymore. I guess you could say we are going to have PJs Coffee Company on campus. So that's one thing that they're using special creations to build on that. That's one thing. The question part is that for the other people with disabilities and that how can they get jobs off campus and that to hold the job so they can get paid to do it living with the waiver.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Roslyn, that's a good question. You know we had been moving full force with an initiative related, and lots of initiatives related to employment, and I know that's important to not just the Developmental Disabilities Council, but also the

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and their council that they have there. And unfortunately, a lot of the-- we were moving forward and then when covid hit it sort of got us off track with that. But there started to be move conversations, at least from OCDD, I can't speak for other agencies. We are part of a group called the State Employment Learning Network SELN. They had done a report and had given us some really great recommendations about a year and half ago. So one of the things that we're doing in OCDD is getting, trying to get back on track with those recommendations. We also know that while covid did stop some of the movement we had, just because employment in general was hard for everybody, persons with disabilities and without disabilities. But we're trying to see what are the opportunities now. So some folks may have had trouble being able to have employment and be able to get out into the workforce. And now we know that there's a lot of employment options that you can do virtually. And so you don't maybe need the transportation and you can do that. So we're trying to get back on track not just with the direction we were planning to go in before covid, but also looking at what are some new opportunities that we might have with work at home and other things that people might be able to engage in.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's my other question. Because I notice a lot with the transportation a lot of times. So how can you get to work and from work and go back to the environment of a house. Especially with the waiver as well. I'm noticing that with different states as well. Not just in the State of Louisiana.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: There's some different transportation options, but we know, and we have heard from the community that transportation is an issue for people with disabilities. So there's some targeted strategies there.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I know I'm one of them.

JILL EGGLE: So am I.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for your input and

questions. Do we have any other questions for Julie?

JILL EGLE: Yes, Randall. Can I say a comment please?

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

JILL EGLE: Okay. Quick questions. What do you mean by the public health emergency extended or not extended. Is that something to do whenever the governor says covid is going to be done. I'm a little concerned about that.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So when I say the public health emergency, I'm talking about the federal public health emergency. So the department, I think it's Health and Human Services is responsible for declaring that, the public health emergency. And they are the ones who would extend it every 90 days. They consider what's going on and whether it needs to be extended. There are additional dollars the state can get as long as we have that public health emergency in place. But there are also some things that we have to follow in order to get that additional funding. And so that is tied to the public health emergency. Also the exceptions that we have in our waiver are tied to the public health emergency. That's different than what the governor might declare. There is a state declaration. But I think what you're referring to Jill, or the governor has made recommendations as we roll out into phase one or phase two or phase three related to our covid response. And then some individual cities have had some different. So there's a state declaration, but then I know Baton Rouge and New Orleans had some of their own individual recommendations related to covid response. So those things are updated more often than every 90 days. They are reviewed at different timeframes. And so that's different. That happens at the state or local level as opposed to the federal level. So when you hear us talk about it being extended 90 days, that's the federal level declaration.

JILL EGLE: Yeah. I have seen a big improvement with covid this year, especially with the vaccinations.

Is there talk, I know where you work with that agency that IDD population has to go get another round of the vaccine booster. Cause I've been hearing that on the news.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I don't have any information about that. I can ask the folks at the Office of Public Health for additional information.

JILL EGLE: In terms of the Arc of GNO how will your department know if a lot of my people are fully ratio back where we don't have the service from the OCDD. How will that be determined?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I'm not sure I understand that question, Jill.

JILL EGLE: So like some of my people go to the day hab center provided by services. Some do virtual.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Right.

JILL EGLE: And the last time I heard indication that if a lot of the ratio people that got vaccinated or in person then they won't, possibly won't have the day hab virtual service.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Well, one of the things that when we're talking about what we want to do long-term after the public health emergency ends, one of the things we've gotten feedback on people would like to see that virtual day habilitation continue to be an option. And so we've already made a decision that one of the things we do want to do long-term is to keep that virtual day habilitation and the small group activities that we put in place, we want to continue that service even after the public health emergency.

JILL EGLE: So it would be their option rather to do that or to go back in person, whatever their care plan is.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Absolutely.

JILL EGLE: Thank you, Ms. Julie.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. Are there any other questions for Julie regarding her report?

EBONY HAVEN: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

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

JILL HANO: Okay. Can I listen to these listening

sessions on the OCDD website Ms. Julie?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: We were having some technical difficulty trying to get them recorded and on the website. Our plan was to try to make that happen. I'll follow up. I know one of them was, we were able to upload. So I will double check that. But we're trying hard to make sure. And I think there was a question in the chat earlier too, any of the webinars that we do that are suggested by the DD Council or others what we try to do is offer a live webinar, offer an opportunity for people to send in questions. And then if there's question afterwards to post them on the website. Our goal is to try to get it recorded and posted on our website. We're like everybody else, still trying to understand the technology to do that. We've had a couple things we thought we could do and then it didn't quite work the way we wanted it to. Our goal is to have the webinar and then when folks can't participate it's recorded and put on the website. But I'll follow up to see if those two listening sessions were able to get there.

JILL HANO: So there were only two?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you so much.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Okay. Excuse my Gumbo in the background barking.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other questions for Julie about her report?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I hate to not raise my hand, but I do. Because there is some initials that I bring up. How can I say it. DHH in that. I wanted to find out through Jill for that.

RANDALL BROWN: You mean through Julie.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: There's some initials in my report that are not clear, is that what you're asking Roslyn?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Because for us we have to wait for like WDDH so we could go back to campus at Magnolia. That's what's kind of confusing me, throwing

me way off balance. I don't know if you know those initials.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: There are regulations that our department has put out, and that's the Department of Health and Hospitals. I think DHH. We now call ourselves the Louisiana Department of Health. And then we also have the Office of Public Health. There are different in the health standards section and they have some regulations and guidelines that are mandated. But then each individual provider also is able to make decisions for what they feel like they need to do to maintain health and safety. So there are some things that are required by the department, but then some things that providers are able to do on their own. So I don't know that that answers your question. But right now there's not a mandatory closure for those work settings. They are able to open back up if their parish positivity rate is under 5 percent. But we know that some providers feel like they can't ensure health and safety, so they have not yet opened up. And that is up to the individual provider to decide at this point.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I'm looking for.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Roslyn, for your question. Thank you, Julie, for your answer. Are there any other questions for Julie regarding her report? Hearing none, thank you so much Julie.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: And I think Jen is back on.

RANDALL BROWN: She is. And your report will be entered into the record. Thank you so much.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: And Jen if you're available.

JEN KATZMAN: I am.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor to give your report today.

JEN KATZMAN: Yes, sir. Thank you, Randall. Hi everybody. Good to see you all. And I sincerely apologize I was not able to be on this morning. I'm sure Julie has expressed this legislative session has been intense so far. Even though we're only in about,

I don't know if it's the second week or third week at this point. Yeah, we were there all morning, so I apologize. In my report, I will be brief, it mostly covers updates on the key services in Medicaid that we usually report on. Permanent supportive housing, money follows the person, our electronic visit verification to implementation, behavioral health, ADA. I won't read over those. It's in the report if you would like to see those stats.

However, at the very top of the report I do provide an update on act 421 children's Medicaid option. And it looks like I have a typo, so I apologize. It should say act 421 children's Medicaid option implementation and timeline. What this is is our TEFRA like program. And as you've heard me speak about in previous meetings, we submitted our application for that program back in September of 2020. But we're still waiting on CMS approval. And we have not, we have not been able to get a firm commitment from them on when they think we will be able to get that approval. So we had hoped to roll it out by now and unfortunately because that federal approval is required, we have been unable to do so. So we are just working with them as much as we can to answer any questions they have. And we have submitted all the documentation required and we're ready to roll it out as soon as we get the go-ahead from the feds.

The last piece we are working on is just that registration portal online for folks. And that will be ready this month. Like I said, we're ready to kick it off as soon as we get CMS approval. I do want to go ahead and let you know that typically for projects like this CMS prefers that they start at the beginning of a quarter because they tie to some very specific reporting requirements to the federal government. So I would anticipate that whatever approval date we get from CMS to start the program will be at the start of a quarter. Whether that is July 1st, or October 1st, or January 1st, or April 1st. I think that's what we're looking at. So I think that's really the only new

thing that's an update.

I know in our subcommittee earlier this week I did report out on the budget. Just high level to let everyone know that given, as Julie talked about a minute ago, the covid public health emergency, the extra funding that Medicaid is receiving from the federal government due to the covid public health emergency has protected our budget for FY 22. So we are able to maintain the same level of services without cuts at this time. And also because of that influx of federal funding we've actually been able to support a lot of other state expenditures outside of the Department of Health. And so that does, however, limit our ability to expand things right now due other state needs. But we are able to maintain our existing services. So that's very good news. And I think that's it. At a high level. We're tracking a lot of legislation right now.

RANDALL BROWN: Well, thank you, Jen. Are there any questions for Jen regarding her report? Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you for all the work you're doing. Your report will be entered into the record. Next, we have Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. Melissa are you available and ready.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. Happy to be with you this afternoon. My report has all the statistical information that I always provide to you all regarding our numbers in the vocational rehabilitation program and preemployment transition services as well as individuals open who have developmental disabilities. One thing I wanted to touch on very briefly just in response to some things Roslyn was saying earlier. I know the different programs within the Department of Health have employment initiatives. Just to remind everyone for individuals who are wanting to seek competitive employment, which is employment at or above minimum wage in the community, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, our vocational rehabilitation program has never closed. We are open. Our offices are open.

Generally by appointment so you need to call first just so we can make sure that we create a safe environment for everyone. But we also see clients virtually. So please, if you are interested and you're not working and would like to go to work we are open and ready to serve anyone who is interested.

One thing I wanted to talk about Ms. Mary Tarver wanted me to talk about this to the whole group is something I reported on before. But she thought that maybe I should give everyone a refresher because it's something that's still pending. Which is some promulgation or some rule making we have pending at Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. We have some technical things being changed in our rule just from when we moved from DSS to Louisiana Workforce Commission that was never changed in our rule. But more importantly, the two major things that are changing, the first actually already in affect through an emergency rule. But we did change the poverty guidelines for our services that are based on financial need from 250 percent poverty level up to 500 percent of the poverty level. So we are able to serve more individuals for services that are based on financial need. And just a little-- we have several services based on need and several services that are not. But just so you know, any employment development, job development, or job placement services including supported employment, or time limited job coaching, or customized employment, none of those services are based on financial need.

But the other issue that we are tackling in our rule making is our order of selection. For those of you who are not aware vocational rehabilitation, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that vocational rehabilitation programs serve individuals with the most significant disabilities first in the event they do not have the funding to serve or the staffing to serve everyone. So when states cannot always do that, we had to implement what's called an order of selection. Which is basically a waiting list. So right now we

have five orders of selection. One being the most significantly disabled and five being non significantly disabled. Right now we don't have any individuals on our waiting list. Although order of selection group five remains closed. But we're typically able to take individuals off the waiting list if we do have individuals on that waiting list. But what the rule making is going to do is change our order of selection from five categories to three. So this is really just some technical things when counselors determine eligibility. But right now we have two most significantly disabled categories. Categories one and two. And we have two significantly disabled categories which is three and four. And those categories will be collapsed. In other words, now we'll only have one category. Which will be category one, most significantly disabled. And category two will be significantly disabled. And three will be the non-significantly disabled. So I just wanted to give some updates on that.

Our rehabilitation employment development specialist position, I know a lot of members have expressed interest in that particular position. Like an in-house job developer. At one point we weren't hiring because of different funding issues or staffing issues. But we are, we have been approved to hire that position for all of our eight regions. At this time we have five. We still have vacancies in New Orleans, Alexandria and Houma. We have submitted a name to hire for the New Orleans region. So hopefully that one will be filled soon. But we're still actively recruiting for Alexandria and Houma positions. If any of you have any individuals that are interested in those, please let me know. But like I said, the job development position that's in house within Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

Also like to let everyone know that our advisory council, Louisiana Rehabilitation Council does meet Thursday April the 29th if anyone is interested. And that's all that I have. But if anyone has any other

questions or any other topics regarding LRS I would be happy to do so.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for your report. And I echo her sentiment. Does anyone have any questions for Melissa about her report?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Melissa, is there a link to the meeting on Thursday or does that go for anybody?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I believe it's on boards and commissions. But if you would like me to get that information to you I certainly will.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Can you please do that for me. I would like that so much.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Sure will.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Melissa. Thank you, Roslyn. Are there any other questions of Melissa regarding her report?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Bambi has her hand up.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Bambi, you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just wanted to remind y'all about a scheduling issue that Robin Wagner with Office of Aging will have to get off soon. I don't know if y'all would be able to rearrange.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for reminding me Bambi. So Robin, if you're available and ready you have the floor assuming there are no other questions for Melissa regarding her report.

ROBIN WAGNER: Thank you, Randall. Can you hear me okay?

RANDALL BROWN: I can. Thank you.

ROBIN WAGNER: I appreciate you taking me out of order. So I won't read our report to you. You have that. It shows the current number of participants in each of our programs. And also provides stats on our adult protective services program. I always like to take a moment though to talk about what's going on with our registry. Which is our kind of the folks who have requested and/or waiting to receive the adult day healthcare, the community choices waiver. We do have a short list of the adult day healthcare waiver. That's

largely due to the fact that we haven't been taking new admissions into adult day healthcare during the pandemic simply because those centers are unable to do their usual intake and services during the pandemic.

On the community choices registry, that is our longest registry which as of March, or at the time of this report, end of April that was over 11,000 individuals. However, it's important to note that of those 11,000 most of them, over 6,000 of them are receiving home based services. Mostly through our long-term personal care services program also known as long-term care. So that leaves a much shorter group of people who are waiting without a service. It's 5,476 who are waiting without a service. So while the average wait time on our waiting list for those folks-- I just want to say the wait for them is now about three years or so. Substantially shorter than what we've seen in the past for that group of individuals who aren't already receiving a service in their home.

We are making 500 additional waiver offers through the current fiscal year. So between now and the end of June. And so that's a good thing because that means that list of 5,476 people will probably go down. New people get added to the list, but we should be able to serve more people than are going to get added over the next few months. So that is progress there.

There was one other thing I wanted to share with you, but I don't want to take up too much time. I know you have lot of reports. But the Office of Aging and Adult Services and OCDD have both been collecting data on vaccination rates in our home and community-based services. I just wanted to let you all know that matches we did on April 14th about 38 percent of people in all of our home and community based, Medicaid home and community-based services both for OCDD and OASS have at least started the vaccination process. So we're really happy to see that. We're watching those numbers closely to see how that changes. And hopefully those numbers of both vaccinated will grow over time. We've also been working really closely with Office of

Public Health to arrange for in home vaccination of folks who can't get out for a vaccination. That is my brief report. But I hope I hit the high points and happy to take questions.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Robin. So does anybody have questions for Robin regarding her report?

ROBIN WAGNER: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much. Thank you for the work y'all are doing.

NICOLE BANKS: I had a question. You probably just can't see me cause how the cameras are. Can you go up a little bit on her report just a little. Says community choice waiver registry. Now I'm new to the council, so I just wanted to know what is the process that these people have to go through. I know you said the waiting list is three years. I know you said some of them are getting services and the waiting list is technically like 5,400. So what is the process that they have to go through, or you guys have to go through to determine these services and how quickly this should go. And I know 2020 was crazy, crazy so I get that. To me I feel like that year should just be, so yeah.

ROBIN WAGNER: So the process is, and as I said we're going through this process right now because we have 500 additional waiver slots that we are funding for this year, right. So we're going through that process. And what we do is we send out a lot, a lot of waiver offers to folks that are on this registry. And we focus first of all on that 5,476 who aren't getting another service. We send out a bunch of offers to them and we wait to get their responses back, then we assign-- or excuse me. They select, when they write back to us and say yes, I will take that waiver, I still want it. They tell us which support coordination agency they want to work with. The support coordination agency then schedules an initial assessment and care planning meeting with that person. That can be done virtually. So even though we're still in this horrible public health emergency that can still

happen. The person selects a provider and services start. Now I'll be honest, all of that takes longer than we would like. We would like to see that happen in 45 days, at most. Sometimes it's taking longer than that. But that's the basic process and hopefully, especially for people living in the community to get these offers that can happen pretty quickly. We also have a process where we use our own staff called transition coordinators to go into nursing homes. When the person who is getting the waiver offer is somebody who happens to be in a nursing home then we go in, we make that offer using our own staff so they can plan all the transition services for them as well. Sometimes that takes longer because sometimes if somebody is in a nursing home, they may have lost their housing or their natural support. In general, does that answer your question about what the process is?

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. Cause I was just seeing so what is the actual process they have to actually go through, or you guys have to go through to tighten this up a little bit. I know everybody is working very hard because people still need these services. I know 2020 was a hit and miss with a lot of stuff. It is what it is. Nobody can control the pandemic. But maybe we can offer those technology things where things can be done quicker, maybe.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Uh-huh. Well, and Nicole, so it took us a little while to get that set up. Definitely a slowdown. And new people starting in our services. I think we've been able to figure a lot of that out. And so now people should be able to get into services without more than the ordinary delays that we have. And some good news too is that despite all of this we've been able to use technology and we've also been able to use people just using social distancing and meeting outside and being careful to make sure we're also doing nursing facility transitions. You would be surprised even during the pandemic when the nursing homes were not letting a lot of visitors in, we still transitioned out over a hundred people from nursing

homes into the community.

NICOLE BANKS: That's good.

ROSLYN HYMEL: It slowed us down, but it hasn't stopped us.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Robin. Any other questions of Robin regarding her report?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I did have a question for her, but Nicole kind of shined a light for me. Thank you, Nicole.

RANDALL BROWN: Great. Thank you. And thank you, Nicole. Thank you, robin. Your report will be entered into the record. Thank you very much for all you do. Okay. And so we'll go back up the list to Department of Education. I believe Ms. Sarah Fletcher, correct.

SARAH FLETCHER: Yes. Hi everyone. I'm excited to present our report today. I have some covid 19 updates to start. We found out from a tracker that was developed by the American Enterprise Institute that Louisiana schools ranked seventh for in person instruction. So that means we've been able to get a lot of kids back into the school building. We are also launching a lot of new initiatives around how to make up some of the learning that was lost this year and now that students are coming back, how we help catch them up. So we released some guidance around summer programs. And we also have related resources around the pandemic relief guidance. As we know there's going to be more money coming in.

That's related to the next item which is about the IDEA budget. We are currently in the public comment period of the draft of our IDEA budget application for the upcoming federal fiscal year. And this grant application we outlined the big categories of how the money will be spent. However, we know the American Rescue Package includes a significant amount of money that will be coming through the state to school systems. And we do not know the final allocations yet. And so the budget that is currently posted on our website right now does not include the final dollar

amount. And the final dollar amount will likely be higher. When we get the final allocations, we will update the draft on our website and make it very clear it has been updated. And we'll post it again. I do not have a timeline for when those allocations will be received. But I do know that our final application is due to the federal government on May 21st. And so I'm assuming we'll get those allocations before that time. So all the information can be found on our website. And there's link in the report as well.

We are currently also working on enhancement to the statewide special education records system. And so we have, the platform has existed for a long time and is due for some major updates. One of the first initiatives that we'll be rolling out this summer is our reevaluation and waiver process and update to that. This will require school systems to collect and/or enter certain information at least every three years. So this will functionally change the waiver process that currently exist in schools. And will house more-- the goal here is to make sure IEP teams have the most up to date information and that parents are not confused about what they should be getting every three years as students with disabilities are in school. And so that will be rolling out this upcoming school year. And at the same time we are planning major enhancements to the system so that the system is more user friendly, and we just get better documents out like in the form of IEPs, but also, we encourage best practice to school systems around the state. So there will be more enhancements coming in the 22-23 school year. Very excited about that.

The next item is about SPED fellow academy which is a yearlong comprehensive development program for novice special education leaders across the state. This fellowship provides in person training, and virtual training, coaching and mentorship with other leaders around the state. And so our applications are opening, they opened on April 12th and will close on May 14th. And then this will be our second cohort

coming up for the next school year. We also had some upcoming vacancies on our SEAP panel. As you probably know, SEAP panels members each serve a three-year term and appointments are staggered so 1/3 of the membership rotates off at the end of every year. Our application, when I wrote the report the application was not posted, but it is currently posted on our website now. We have those vacancies advertised. We'll be conducting interviews in May and appointments will be made in June.

The last part of our update is about the fast forward regional planning grant. The fast forward initiative is designed to increase the number of high school graduates who earn an associate degree or participate in high demand apprenticeship programs. Right now the department has awarded I think eight regional planning grants. So they can figure out how these programs will work in the areas. You can see they're in Assumption, Desoto, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Rapides, Richland, St. Landry and Vernon Parish. This will be a really cool program to watch, and I think it could have great implications for students with disabilities and how they graduate. That's the report. I'm happy to answer questions.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much. Does anyone have any questions for Ms. Fletcher regarding her report? Any questions regarding the report for education?

EBONY HAVEN: There are no hands raised right now, Randall.

JILL HANO: I have a question.

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

JILL HANO: A literal, technical question. I'm sorry, but is the link to the IDEA budget that you have on your report?

SARAH FLETCHER: Yes. I think on the report it doesn't appear in the color blue, but I do believe it still works if you hover your mouse over it.

JILL HANO: I'm going to go through it and get to it through website. Just wanted to take a look at it

cause IDEA is my jam.

SARAH FLETCHER: Mine too.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. And thank you Sarah. If there are no other questions for Sarah your report will be filed.

EBONY HAVEN: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn. You have a question for Sarah.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. For the idea for the budget, how does that work? Does it have to be with the paperwork to go through to get it or what?

SARAH FLETCHER: So the application process it's called an application, but it is a grant. So when we apply, we basically just outline the way-- the federal government sends us the amount of money we're going to get. And we have to then show how we're going to spend all that money. Most of the money goes straight through to school systems and it really just flows through. So we at the Department of Education do not actually have any decision-making power over about 87 percent of the IDEA budget. But then there is this other portion that is held at the state department to do these statewide programs. And so--.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because for me living here at magnolia we try to do things for the grant. And for me, I never understand what the grant, how that works. It's kind of knocking me for a loop.

SARAH FLETCHER: Yeah. Federal grants are very complicated. And this one is just something that states apply for and then states are awarded. But I know there are lots of other, likely lots of other grants out there available.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Roslyn and thank you, Sarah. Are there any other questions of Sarah regarding her report? Hearing none. Thank you very much, Sarah. Your report will be filed. And so next on our list we have the Office of Public Health. Patti, are you ready to give your report?

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Thank you, Randall. So the report submitted, you can review to see about the

newborn screening programs, our hearing speech and vision program updates, and children and youth with special healthcare needs, programs and clinical services. They are still providing services through the public health unit. Some are virtual, some are in person. And the eligibility criteria and such can be found at the Bureau of Family Health, children special health services information pages. There's also information there on the adolescent school health program. Our family resource center, which I really like to encourage you guys to disseminate that resource out to families and community partners. We have a very low volume of calls and we often believe that it's because many people don't know of the resource. It previously served only residents in region one. It was on the campus of children's hospital. And during covid we felt like the resource would be more beneficial to families as we are working to expand that to a statewide resource. So any family in any area of the state can either email or phone for services related to system navigation resource support, resource linkage. And they will make and provide community referrals whether it be linkage to early intervention services, waiver programs and such. There is a nurse coordinator. There's a social service worker. There's a family consultant. All of which support the resource centers. So I encourage you all to share that resource out so that we can ensure that all families in our state have access to those services.

There's also a transportation assistance program for eligible children and youth with special healthcare needs. They have to meet certain criteria, but this stipend program is available to families when Medicaid transportation is not adequate or not doesn't suit that particular need. These are special circumstances where maybe the family has to travel with more than one child, or an extended period, of time or needs isolation. So that under these special circumstances children special health services do provide a stipend program. And if any family wants information, they can

contact the family resource center and/or their Families Helping Families organization in their region. We also are continuing work with our lead prevention program. Not only do they do information and support providers with care coordination for children with elevated blood levels, they also support abatement services for families with a child with an elevated blood lead level.

So BFH and title five in one of our big initiatives over the last several years has been working around improving developmental screening rates in our state to identify children as early as possible who are at risk for any type of developmental delay. And we are currently partnering with Louisiana Medicaid and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics on a webinar series that will start May 4th. It is highlighting the new Louisiana developmental screening guidelines that were updated in December. Also highlighting the new Medicaid policy around provider reimbursement for screening services. And so I encourage everyone to share this out if you are working in this space, or your partners are working in this space, please alert them. Nurse, social worker, and physician continuing education credits will be available through those programs.

And lastly our Families Helping Families partners will also be offering resource information workshops for providers during the month of May and June. You can check your regional Families Helping Families website for information on those events. But the goal of these trainings are to build provider capacity within the community to care for children and youth with special healthcare needs. So if there are any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

RANDALL BROWN: Does anyone have any questions for Dr. Barovechio regarding her report?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can you go back to where the programs and that.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Is there a specific program, Roslyn, you would like information on? I can send it

to you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You can. But it's on there it was saying something about the program cause you just passed it up. What kind of programs, keep going up, like a GD.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: There's a guide by your side program with the hearing, speech and vision program.

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. It's right here. What kind of programs are those. Because it's saying in parentheses it's saying SCD. What kind of program is that right there.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: The sickle cell disease program, it provides information and resources and services for individuals with sickle cell disease.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I never heard of it. But I would like to really read up on report about that one in that. Because I never heard of it and all.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Roslyn, I will send you a link. I'll send Courtney a link to the information that the Louisiana Department of Health has all about that program. And again, for our programs if you go to the Louisiana Department of Health website and search for the Bureau of Family Health you can find lots of detailed information. But I'm happy to share any information or answer any questions about those programs.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because you caught my interest and even with the BFH what is that too.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: I'm so sorry, I apologize for my acronyms. BFH is who I work with, the Bureau of Family Health. The Bureau of Family Health is part of our Office of Public Health. All those programs that are outlined in the report all sit under the program Bureau of Family Health. So I'll have to remember. It just rolls right off my tongue cause I'm so used to saying it.

>> >>: Are there any other questions for Dr. Barovechio regarding her report? Hearing none. Thank you very much. Your report will be entered into record.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for all the work you do. And so our next report is from the Human Development Center and, Dr. Wilson, I believe is with us, so Dr. Phil Wilson are you ready to give your report, sir?

PHIL WILSON: Sure. So I'll just give a very brief statement and I think Courtney has a little video she is going to share with you. Our report should be in your packet as a link or however you get it. I will simply say during the fiscal year to the end of March from the beginning of the year generally address just the last quarter. We served about 5500 individuals with disabilities, and families, and persons who serve them under a very of different formats, training, technical assistance primarily. But about 7 or 800 of them have received direct services from us. So with that said, unless somebody really wants me to go through and read the report to you, that I hope you can read on your own, I'll just leave it at that and ask Courtney, I don't see Courtney's face, but I know you're in there Courtney. There you are. It's like Hollywood squares. So Courtney, just let me set this up. Prior to covid we worked with a young man who is from a bilingual family. His mother speaks only Spanish, the father speaks some English. Primarily the whole family is pretty much Spanish speaking as their primary language. This young man about the time was about 18 years old and had been in special education in a school district I will just not mention, for his entire school year, basically. At 18 when we started working with him, he is Deaf, and what we found out was he had no language to communicate with. He didn't speak English, he didn't speak Spanish, and he didn't ever receive ASL or any sort of alternate language instruction. So we were able just by circumstance and being part of the network to be able to get him into a crash course, like a 30-day crash course at Gallaudet University. Which is a university, for those who don't know, that its history it was established and run for people who are Deaf, and all their instruction is in

American Sign Language. So anyhow, just kind of a nice story to share with you to see that all the programs and services that you all are hooked up with here there or you provide it yourself sometimes we get to do something really life altering. And this is kind of a nice follow up to a story that we, I think, shared a brief video of his initial trip to Gallaudet. Courtney, if you have the video, I think that's probably more than enough introduction and you can roll it whenever you are able.

SPEAKER: Hello. Jolie here for the Human Development Center to share an update on paycheck participate Victor Castille. So let's go. Meet Victor. He was born Deaf into a Spanish speaking household. Victor knew little English and had hardly any ASL education. At this time Victor communicated mostly through homemade signs and texting. This was the start of Victor's paycheck journey where he enrolled in Delgado classes for college and career skills with some ASL courses. However, Victor needed a full ASL education to better communicate through signing. So Victor's paycheck team worked with LRS to organize a fully immersive summer intensive at Gallaudet University in Washington DC. This month-long experience allowed Victor to truly live independently. He was fully emersed in Deaf culture. Victor was completely self-sufficient. In fact, this final photo is Victor ordering his own food for the first time in his life. Before Gallaudet Victor was nervous to interact with people because he had very few ways to communicate. Now he can accurately use American Sign Language. Today Victor is back home and working in his first paid internship. He has taking several auto body courses at Delgado and works at Mocko body shop in Kenner. He has made new Deaf friends at Delgado and feels comfortable enough to shop for himself. There are currently 35 students in our paycheck program from the Jefferson Parish School System. And we have a new significant focus on two paid internships for each student. Follow the Human Development Center on social

media for more success stories. You can find us on Facebook by searching Human Development Center at LSU Health Sciences Center and we are now on LinkedIn with the same name. Thanks for watching.

PHIL WILSON: I just thought that might break up a long day. Let you see a success story that as you heard from the narrator, involved a number of different agencies and organizations. LRS, both of the schools, Delgado, the Human Development Center and other community organizations as well. Together we can get a lot of really great stuff done for people. And I'm happy to say Victor is not only finished his internship, he was actually offered a job and has been working at Mayco, Macko, however you say it. The place you get your car painted. And he loves it. I will take any questions, or suggestions, comments. Other than that, that's it.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for your presentation today, sir. Any questions of Dr. Wilson regarding his report today?

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. McKee has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I just wanted to say thank you for all the hard work and everything that you all are doing. This is the kind of information that we need that we have to get-- make sure our families, our self-advocates know what's going on in the community and what DD Council members are here for and supporting. Dr. Wilson, I'm wondering if you could share any recommendations, and it doesn't have to be online right now. But I know that the council is trying to put together videos with O'Neal Productions. And I am just so impressed with the way you all were able to put that video together. It appeared very inclusive of the individual's culture. Can you support our staff or add any contributions to that to ensure that our videos are an accurate representation of the work that we are doing out here. Thank you, Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Thank you. Those are very nice comments, and I will pass those onto the people who do

all the real work. But yeah. I think we have a number of people here who would be thrilled to participate and not take over the show, but if there's a way we can add to what the council is trying to get done we will definitely do that. Like you said, we can do that offline if whoever it is is spear heading that effort for the council wants to contact me, I can hook that person or people up with Jolie who is the voice of the narrative and the brains behind a lot of our marketing and outreach efforts. Of course, Sue Killam and some of her staff who are actively engaged with post-secondary ed, and employment, and career focused transition.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much, Dr. Wilson. We appreciate the work you and your team are doing. We look forward to collaborating on this and many other things in the future. Are there any other questions of Dr. Wilson regarding his report? So do we have anyone available, Chris, or any of his time from Disability Rights Louisiana today? Anyone from Disability Rights of Louisiana present?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I didn't see Chris at all. I don't think he's even on.

RANDALL BROWN: I wanted to make sure someone from his office wasn't present before we move forward. Do we have a report from him at all, Courtney, was one issued? I see it wasn't linked on the agenda on the website. Did someone from the agency turn in a report for us to file?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If it's not linked on our website, then we do not have one.

RANDALL BROWN: That's normally the case, but sometimes we get them in late. I was just curious if we had the report available. So we don't. So we'll just move along. So the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. Bambi, if you are ready, you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi everyone. Our report is on the website. I won't go through everything. Just a couple things. Really, we're focused on right now is

the legislative session. It feels like it's Sunday instead of Thursday because it's been so intense over the past three and half days in the legislative session. But if you notice in the first article of my report, I listed just some bills that the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs had voted to support. Not necessarily bills, but just legislative proposals. Not all of these proposals actually made it to legislation, unfortunately. They were all really great bills. I mean proposals. But just to make sure that you are aware, one of the bills is the Office of State ADA coordinator. That is HB 446. It is in the governor's package. Which means basically the governor has about 20 bills in his package that he wants to make sure that are like his key legislative initiatives he wants to see happen. And that bill is in that package. It will be heard next Thursday morning in house and governmental affairs committee and Representative Butler is the author of that bill. I sent Courtney an email and asked she would forward it to you so you would have some more information about that legislation. And if you felt the desire to email those legislators in that committee, we would appreciate it. Also we are-- actually Lillian DeJean has created a Google spreadsheet where we're tracking all disability related legislative instruments for our office. If you click on that link, you will be able to see it updated kind of in real-time. We're tracking across all disabilities. Anything that we see that would affect people with disabilities we're adding to it, adding who's supporting it, who's opposing it. And any other type of notes when it's being heard. Just to kind of be able to pull everybody together and really get our disability community to work together, hopefully, to have some positive outcomes for our disability community.

One other thing, the state, the Statewide Independent Living Council is, as you know, is located within the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. But they are working to, actually should be out of our

office by the end of this year. They will be an independent body. Which is really great. We're really proud of that accomplishment that they will be able to operate independently. And so we just want to let you guys know that we will continue to support them in any way we can whenever they're outside of our office as well. And I think that's about it. Does anyone else have any questions?

ROSLYN HYMEL: It feels like it's two for two for me. I can't even think of one.

EBONY HAVEN: You do have a hand raised in the public, Randall. Ms. Kathy Dwyer.

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

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Randall. Thank you, Bambi. I have a question. I noticed in the spreadsheet, the tracking sheet on the legislative bills that the Mental Health Coalition was in support of HB 172. Would you email me the contact for that coalition. I would like to see if they would like to sign on our position statement for that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: What is your bill again?

KATHY DWYER: 172, the dental for adults.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. I'll get that to you.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you so much.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you Ms. Kathy. Thank you, Bambi. Are there any other questions for Bambi regarding her report today?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, Randall. You have two more hands. Ms. Jill Hano and Mr. Matthew Rovira.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay, Jill. You have the floor first and then Matthew, you will be next. Jill, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: Okay. I've got questions. When you first came on what specific bill did you say that the governor was supporting?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: It is HB 446. It is by Representative Rhonda Butler. And it creates a state office of ADA coordinator. So basically right now if

you know in regards to the ADA state agencies or any government entity that has over 50 employees has to have an ADA coordinator. Our state agencies have that, but it's not coordinated. It's usually people who have other job responsibilities that's tagged on. This person would be the state ADA coordinator, or this office. Because we expect it may be a more than one person job. But we just want to create this office at this time. But would be able to help and do some things that are proactive in helping our state entities, or even our local government entities, or businesses. They can tap into trainings they may do that this office made coordinate. Maybe some online resources to be able to make sure that we're just prepared and we're doing what's right in all of our public places in regards to the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Really just a proactive measure for us to address the ADA.

JILL HANO: And Ms. Kathy, what did you say the dental task force house bill number was?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: It's HB 172 that Kathy referred to.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Bambi. Yeah, Jill, if you want to call me or text me later, I can talk to you more about it.

JILL HANO: Okay.

KATHY DWYER: Good seeing you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And both are those bills are by Representative Rhonda Butler who is a parent of someone with a developmental disability.

RANDALL BROWN: Matthew, you have the floor for your question.

MATTHEW ROVIRA: Good afternoon, Bambi. Again, I mentioned it this morning in Courtney's executive director report, but I wanted to, again, bring to your attention, I didn't see it on your list, but you didn't scroll down the whole way. House bill 628 by Representative Stefanski. This is a major issue regarding the online gaming, and the revenues generated, and the taxes generated from it. And its

current posture which it was voted out of committee yesterday and was heavily amended, but still remains that a large portion of those funds go to a developmental disability, I don't know the exact language, service fund which the DD Council would advise on how to utilize those revenues. I'm not asking for your position on it. But I just wanted to bring it to your attention for your review if it's not already on your radar. Obviously, from a provider prospective and the Community Provider Association we're really struggling in the current pandemic to find direct support staff. It's sort of an anomaly where our unemployment rate is 7.8 percent, yet we're having a very, very difficult time, I would even call it a crisis, in finding direct support workers in this environment. It sort of doesn't make sense, but people just aren't returning to work or still afraid of covid. I just wanted to hopefully we can get your support for that. But definitely to put on your radar to take a look. This could be a huge opportunity for people with developmental disabilities in the State of Louisiana. So thank you so much for all you do.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Matthew. And I did look at that bill whenever you talked about it earlier. And so it's not on our list, but I will get Lillian to add it. Just so you know that list is basically any bill that affects people with disabilities. Not necessarily position. If there are positions that were taken, then we list that. So if the Community Provider Association takes a position we can put in support. Or if the DD Council is in support of something or the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. Basically it's just a place to put all these items together so people can know what's out there that could affect the disability community.

MATTHEW ROVIRA: We sure would like the governor's support. I know a tall glass of tea. Anyway. If you don't ask, you won't receive. Please consider that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Just to chime in. Sorry, this is

Brenton. It looks like 628, which Matt is talking about, it passed by substitute. So I think the new bill number is going to be 697. And it still contains that same language apparently where it creates that developmental disabilities services sub fund. Which is a sub fund of the NOW trust fund. But it doesn't necessarily say what the funding should be used for. It just ask the Department of Health to partner with the council as it does with the new opportunities trust fund to determine how that funding is spent.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that clarification, Brenton. Are there any other questions for Bambi about her report?

EBONY HAVEN: You have Ms. Jill Egle and Roslyn Hymel.

RANDALL BROWN: Jill, you go first and after you, Roslyn, you have the floor. Jill, you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think you need to unmute.

JILL EGLE: The latest with the chair, Mr. Zarang about the home community-based services and that with DSPs. Did that pass or still don't know yet?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think you're talking about house bill one, which is our state budget, and that usually last throughout the sessions, the discussions on that bill.

JILL EGLE: So they have before the end of the session, June 10th, to pass that?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

JILL EGLE: Cause my concern is like mine are Hilferty and Harrison. I don't know if they stay on that committee. If they don't, will it still pass on both senate and the house. Are we going to be level out. And the state tax situation, has that leveled out with covid?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Well, it's kind of in the process of discussions. So you have the committees, appropriations and finance. House appropriation and senate finance that deal with the budget. And then for the tax side house, ways and means and senate revenue and fiscal. So they decide the tax side. So you're

really going to have to watch and be engaged throughout the process to see how everything works out.

JILL EGLE: How do I track that in the Louisiana legislative website?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just go to the website every day and you can log in and watch those hearings as they're happening.

JILL EGLE: Cause I know Louisiana State Legislature both sides rely on the government funding. But what if the funding is not legal. How is that going to be implemented. It needs to be leveled out. I'm concerned about that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah, well, they will. By the end of the session everything has to balance. That's state law that we have to have a balanced budget.

JILL EGLE: Bambi, I hope you continue your legacy with the governor or whomever the next one is. Cause I'm very proud of your hard work.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you.

JILL EGLE: You're welcome.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. Roslyn, you have the floor now.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I have two. I stepped away for the other half of your report, Bambi. But I only caught the first part of it. And I don't have the paperwork in front of me. But how many total, how can I say of amount if it's is it considered with money for different cities or different. This is when I caught the first one. I didn't catch the second cause I stepped away from my tablet. Isn't there different phones or different like where you was talking about earlier?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm not sure in my report, I don't think I talked about anything with money.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You see I kind of, I didn't catch all of it. So how can I get all your report.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: My report is on the website. I don't know if you have that.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I get for stepping away.

RANDALL BROWN: We can get you Bambi's report, a

copy of it.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you, Randall. Thank you. Appreciate it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Or you can call me, Roslyn, if you have questions.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. Thanks.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Bambi. Thank you for all the work you and your team do every day. Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: Sorry, Randall. Ms. Liz Gary has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Ebony. Liz, you have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Thank you, Randall. This kind of goes a little bit to the question just now to the one earlier Matt had talked about this by Representative Stefanski, I can't say his name, anyway. The one to do with the sports betting and that kind of stuff. I just, I'm trying to look at the bill right now and read it. So I just want to make sure I understood what he was saying or Bambi where this is the money, the money from this will go into what used to be the NOW trust fund. Is that correct what I'm hearing Matt?

MATTHEW ROVIRA: Gosh, Liz. I don't have the bill in front of me, but I didn't pull it up. 697. But I would be happy to get that to you. The way I briefly understand it would create a new fund within the NOW trust fund and the DD Council would work with the Department of Health how to utilize those funds. That's what my understanding is. Sort of sub fund within the NOW trust fund.

LIZ GARY: Okay. Because when you've added the extra part where the DD Council would work with LDH on it that's what the NOW fund or previous NOW fund stated. So I guess I would have to understand that concept. But I guess it's the same thing as all the money going into that fund to be used according to what benefits home and community-based services was my understanding. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Liz. Are there any questions for Bambi regarding her report?

EBONY HAVEN: Kelly Monroe has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor.

KELLY MONROE: I just wanted to kind of piggyback on what Liz was saying. That NOW fund has been changed to, the name of it now is the disabilities services fund. So that it included all of the disability services and not just the DD services. I think that was a couple years ago. So Matt, I'm not sure how they're going to do like a-- it is called that right now. So I just wanted to make that you're aware of it so you could still move forward with what you were doing. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Kelly. Are there any other questions for Bambi regarding her report? Thank you very much, Bambi. Your report will be filed. Thank you for the work you and your team do. And last, but certainly not least on our agenda for standing council member reports, we have the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. Ms. Michelle Guillory, are you ready to give us your report this afternoon?

MICHELLE GUILLORY: Yes, sir. I am. Can everyone hear me?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

MICHELLE GUILLORY: Good afternoon everyone. I will be brief because it has been a long day. My report has been filed and is on the link. The main thing I would like to point out today, it's beyond the report, is we have received additional funding from the Administration for Community Living as well as the CDC. We are waiting on spending authority so we can allocate those funds to the area agencies of aging and the aging and disability resource centers. We've already received spending authority for two other grants that we have received along with the CARES Act funds. So in a nutshell, the Councils on Aging and the area agencies on aging will continue to serve meals and provide services within the capacities and the CDC guideline.

We did get word this week, I had to leave the meeting this morning to go to an emergency meeting, the governor has approved the reopening of the meal sites

and senior centers. The agencies, the Councils on Aging will have to provide a plan to us on how they propose to do that, yet still maintain the CDC guidelines with social distancing, with the face masks requirements, so on and so forth. That also means some of the transportation services will be opening up the transport individuals. They are continuing to do transportation services. And they are continuing to do meals, but right now the meals are being provided either grab and go where they go to the center and they go home and consume the meals at home or delivered to their homes. But once they open up the facilities, they will have a choice. The participants will have a choice. The date we have been given for the reopening is May the 3rd. So in two weeks. So that is good news for our seniors because they are ready to get back to some sense of normalcy. They want to see their friends. They want to see the Council on Aging staff and their thoughts were if the bars can open, we can go back to our senior centers. They will be opening May 3rd. In some areas it may take a little longer to open because they don't have the facilities ready to open yet. But it is in the works. So that is great news.

We continue to work with the Emergency Management for the Disabled and Aging Coalition EMDAC for short. We have an upcoming webinar with ULM. Matter of fact, Bambi forgot to mention it, but she is one of the keynote speakers for that. I will be introducing Bambi, actually. And Amy Dawson with GOSEHP will also be a speaker on emergency preparedness for the disabled community. So I have sent the flier and information to Courtney and I'd ask that you would please share that with the members. The flier has just been developed today, I think, or yesterday. So we've been coordinating these efforts to try to get information in Northeast Louisiana. But it's open to anyone in the state. It is via Zoom. It's a great thing that anyone can log in and get great information about emergency preparedness. So does anyone have any questions for me?

RANDALL BROWN: Any questions for Michelle regarding her report?

MICHELLE GUILLORY: I told y'all I would be brief.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much for your report, Michelle.

JILL HANO: I do have a question. I can't work Zoom. Where were y'all getting additional funding grants from?

MICHELLE GUILLORY: We're getting additional funding from our federal partners, the Administration for Community Living. ACL and the CDC.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. Thank you, Michelle. Any other questions for Michelle regarding her report? Okay. Hearing no questions. Are there any hands raised I'm not seeing?

BRENTON ANDRUS: No hands raised, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: So your report will be filed, Michelle. Thank you very much. Thank you for the work you and your team do. And I think we're ready to move now to public comment. So if there's any public comment, comment from the public, now I'm ready to entertain it. To hear it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, you have a hand raised. Ms. Kathy Dwyer.

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

KATHY DWYER: I was just looking up the bill y'all were discussing earlier and it looks to me they're changing proceeds from the gambling fund from going to the NOW waiver fund to public safety and some other things. I'm trying to pull up my website again while I'm looking at Zoom and I can't. I'm still a little bit challenged with Zoom. But that might be something everyone wants to definitely put on their radar if I'm interrupting it correctly.

RANDALL BROWN: We certainly will. And thank you for letting us know that Ms. Kathy. Any other questions or public comment?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Jill has her hand up.

RANDALL BROWN: This is for our public comment.

After that I will get to you. Are there any other questions from the public?

BRENTON ANDRUS: There are no hands raised at the moment.

RANDALL BROWN: And so now, Jill Hano, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: I'm so sorry. Is Ms. Robin Wagner still on?

RANDALL BROWN: I don't believe so. Courtney, is Ms. Wagner still on the call?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't see that she's on.

RANDALL BROWN: I believe that's why she asked to give her report early.

JILL HANO: Oh, yeah. Does anybody know she said they had a lot of transition during the midst of covid. Does anyone have around about number of the people they were able to transition?

RANDALL BROWN: I don't know that we have that exact number, but I'll make a note and we'll get word to her and I'm sure she'll put that number in her report she gives us next quarter.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thanks.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Are there any other questions from the public? One more time.

BRENTON ANDRUS: There are no hands raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Hearing no questions and seeing no hands raised, I have to make a brief announcement and that is to remind all council members that we all have to submit our, help me here, Courtney, my mind just went blank. The reports by May 15th.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Full disclosure report.

RANDALL BROWN: For board of ethics. We all have to submit those by May 15th of 2021. That's required for all council members to do. I believe everyone should have gotten an email regarding that already. If you haven't, please let us know because we need to all have our reports completed and back into the state by May 15th. That's a requirement for everyone who serves on a board and commission in the state. And so those must be done by everyone on the council. So I just

want to remind everyone to please look for that. We should already have it from us in your email. If you don't, let Courtney know and they can get it to you as soon as possible. And please fill that out and get that back as soon as possible. Because the deadline for that is May 15th and they don't play around with that. That's very serious. So we certainly want to make sure everyone gets that in in time. Just wanted to make that announcement before we adjourned. Please look for your disclosure reports in your email get those filled out and sent back in before May 15th. The deadline is by May 15th of this year.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, you have Bambi's hand raised and Roslyn's hand is raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just wanted to make a correction, Randall, on something that you said in regards to those reports. We all on the DD Council have to do those reports, but not all council members in the state have to do that. I think it has a threshold of like 10,000-dollars that the council managed. I just didn't want anybody in the public to hear and then get confused if they're on a council that doesn't manage money.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Thank you for that clarification. We have to do it for our council, obviously, because we manage a lot more than 10,000-dollars. This announcement was for our council. This is something we have to do and those that manage funds, as Bambi pointed out, 10,000-dollars or above, I believe. We have to do it. And that's what I'm making certain the members know. That we on this council have to do that. So that's been sent out already so if you haven't gotten it or haven't done it yet, please don't put it off. Please get it done and get it in before May 15th. But the deadline to do so is May 15th and that's not optional. We all have to get those turned into the state. So please be mindful of that. I wanted to get that out there before we adjourned today.

I also need to let you know that council special

session meeting that I'm calling for Wednesday, again, I know I talked about it a lot this morning in my report. Again, before we adjourn, please, please, please everyone who is a council member appointed by the governor, please make every effort to be in attendance. This is the meeting where we will select the next executive director of our council. So it's very important, an all-day session very similar to today. All we will be discussing is the three candidates for selection. We will select one, the final candidate who will be the ED by the end of the business day on Wednesday the 28th. Please everyone mark your calendars and do everything you can to be present. We really, really need you.

And the next thing is our next quarterly council meeting for the summer will be July 21st and 22nd will be our business meetings for the next quarter. And I need volunteers for the nominating committee for the elections that will have this summer for executive committee. And I will also be moving very quickly soon to make sure I have appointees for the two ad hoc committees. The youth forum, which will be chaired by Lillian. And the diversity committee, which will be chaired by Dr. McKee. I will be finalizing those appointments in the coming weeks. If you want to volunteer for any of those let Courtney and myself know. And I will be making selections for all three of those. And we'll send out alerts on that as well. Did want to make that known that those are committees forthcoming with appointments very soon.

COURTNEY RYLAND: And actually we will have to convene a membership committee as well.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. I thought so. But I wanted to get your clarification. So we'll have all of those coming very, very soon. Please if you're willing to volunteer for any of those just let us know.

ROSLYN HYMEL: For the membership, does that require we have to pay?

RANDALL BROWN: No. There's no money. We have several members of the council whose terms will be soon

expiring, and the membership will convene to try to help select candidates for those positions soon. That's what they will be doing. We will get word out. I just wanted to make sure everyone was aware that these things will be coming very soon. Just wanted to make everyone aware of it. If you want to volunteer for any of those, please let Courtney or myself know. And I will be making those appointments for all of those committees mentioned very soon.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Randall, you have a few hands raised. I see Roslyn's hand was up. I don't know if that was her question you asked a while ago?

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. It wasn't.

RANDALL BROWN: What was your question.

ROSLYN HYMEL: For what you was talking about, I know we have to meet up for next Wednesday like for today. It also for the other one, how can we all group up. Do we have to vote for Wednesday.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. We'll be voting. For Wednesday I will explain everything you'll need to know, and we'll be sure to get word to you beforehand on how you can participate and how it will be structured so that you feel prepared and ready to participate. We will get with you. Courtney and I will get with you and make sure you have all the information.

ROSLYN HYMEL: But also with that one for the 15th. We do have to do that for the 15th cause my computer I don't get no emails out at all.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

COURTNEY RYLAND: We already mailed that to you, but since you didn't receive your packet, I'm going to hand deliver everything to you this weekend. So I'm going to call you after today's meeting so we can set up a meeting for Sunday.

ROSLYN HYMEL: The house number, cause I don't have a phone.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Do you want to give me a phone number right now?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Let me go write it down.

RANDALL BROWN: There are other questions while we're waiting?

JILL EGLE: Randall, I have a question for Ms. Courtney directly.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, you can ask it Jill.

JILL EGLE: Ms. Courtney, I know the financial disclosure, I don't make 10,000 because I get government services.

RANDALL BROWN: Hold on. It's not about what we make, Jill, as individuals. It's about boards and commissions who manage money. Manage public money. The council does that. As a member of the council we all have to submit the report, the disclosure form. You should have received it in an email. If you have not, I will have Ms. Courtney reach out to you after this meeting and make sure you have it.

JILL EGLE: She said Ms. Hannah or somebody in the office was going to send it. When I tried to open the attachment, it wasn't there. My concern is, I don't mind to have my dad help me, but if he mails it back and addresses it what if there is an issue and I can't be on the DD Council.

RANDALL BROWN: That won't happen. We'll make sure you can get it done in plenty of time. That's why I'm announcing it now. Because I want to make sure everyone is aware that we have to do it. It's required. We will make sure, Courtney and I will make sure you get everything you need to get that done and completed.

JILL EGLE: Randall, what is the state law for self-advocate like me, how many years of being on the DD Council total for full term, eight?

RANDALL BROWN: Full term is four years. But there are some exceptions to that if you serve on the executive committee, you get an extension if you're an officer.

JILL EGLE: Is that possible for me? Cause I don't want to lose the DD Council. I don't work and I want to represent everybody in the State of Louisiana. And I feel honestly that whatever, I'm not trying to have

the negative affect cause I love you all. But I feel like it's not, doesn't change. And I don't deal with change. So I want to be able to be on the committee so I can do my time and not lose my mind. Cause when I lost the SILC, when the SILC ended, I lost my mind cause I was part of Steven Nguyen and Jessica Lewis and it was hard for me to say bye to them.

RANDALL BROWN: I understand. Look, Jill, we will talk to you personally. I'll give you a call and we'll talk about those issues, okay.

JILL EGGLE: Thank you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I have, Courtney, I have the number for you. (504)301-2431. That's my group home number where you can reach me at.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Yes, ma'am.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Until I get my phone was I had to update my phone.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other questions regarding the announcements? Hearing no questions. If there's no objection, I will have a motion for adjournment of our quarterly business meeting by unanimous consent. If anyone objects, we are here by adjourned. Are there any objections to adjourning today's meeting?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Don't you need a motion?

RANDALL BROWN: If everyone agrees we do not need a motion. I'm asking does anyone object? Okay. Hearing no objection, we adjourn by unanimous consent. So thank you everyone for your participation today. And please follow those action alerts that are coming out as legislation moves through. We have the tracking bill up on our website, the banner when you click on our website. Please be checking that regularly and follow your action alerts you're getting. They're very important. And then, of course, we will see you all next Wednesday. Thank you. Have a good evening, good day.