

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Full Council Meeting

July 22nd, 2021

AMY DEAVILLE: It's now 8:32. If all council members could turn their videos on so I can get a quorum.

RANDALL BROWN: Do we have a quorum present?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, sir. We do.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. Great. Thank you. Good morning everyone. Welcome to the summer quarterly meeting of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. I'm the chairperson of the council, Randall Brown. And we will now begin our introductions of everyone. So as I call on your region, please, members let us know who you are from that region. So for region one and ten.

JILL EGGLE: This is Jill Egle. I represent region one and ten and I'm an advocate for all people with intellectual developmental disabilities in the State of Louisiana.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. Anyone else from region one and ten?

STEVEN NGUYEN: Hi. This is Steven Nguyen, self-advocate.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, sir. Anyone else?

JILL HANO: This is Jill Hano, self-advocate.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. Good morning.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Good morning. My name is Roslyn Hymel and I'm from region one and self. Self-advocacy.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Anyone else from regions one and ten?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Hyacinth McKee, vice chairperson, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, madam vice chair. Good morning.

TORY ROCCA: Randall, it's Tory Rocca from Disability Rights Louisiana. Technically I'm in region one, but we're statewide so I'm not sure if I should be

speaking up now or later.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, sir. Thank you for being here. Anyone else from region one and ten this morning? Okay. Region two. Our members from region two.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Good morning. My name is Michael Billings, a parent of multiple children with a developmental disabilities. Also a member of the executive committee and chair of self-determination community inclusion committee.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. Good morning. Anyone else present from region two this morning? Okay. Region three.

KIM BASILE: Good morning. I'm Kim Basile. I'm the mother of a child with disabilities from region three.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Kim. Anyone else from region three present? Region four.

CARMEN CETNAR: I'm Carmen Cetnar. I'm a parent from region four.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Carmen. Anyone else from region four.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So hi everyone. My name is Lillian DeJean, and I am a self-advocate from region four.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Morning. Region five. Any members from region five? And are there any others from region four? Okay. Region six.

MARY TARVER: This is Mary Tarver. I'm a parent in region six and I'm the chairperson for the employment and education committee.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Mary. Good morning. Anyone else present today from region six? Region seven.

RASHAD BRISTO: Morning. This Rashad Bristo. A parent of a child with disability and self-advocate.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, sir. I also am representative of region seven as well. Are there any other members of region seven present? Any other members from region seven present? Okay. Region

eight. Any members present from region eight this morning? Okay. And region nine.

BRENDA COSSE: Good morning. Brenda Cosse. Parent, council member, Louisiana Developmental Disability Council. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning Brenda. Any other members from region nine present today? Okay. Now at this point I'll call on the department representatives who sit on our council. I'll open the floor for you all to give your introductions if you would like.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Good morning. This Julie Foster Hagan. I am with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and council member.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Julie. Thank you.

JEN KATZMAN: Good morning. This is Jen Katzman with Medicaid. How are you?

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Jen.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Good morning. This is Melissa Bayham. I'm the director of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Melissa.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Good morning. I'm Bambi Polotzola. I'm the director for the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Bambi.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Good morning. I'm Patti Barovechio. I'm a nurse consultant with the Bureau of Family Health title five children and youth with special healthcare needs program.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, doctor. Are there any other department or agency representatives present who have not introduced themselves?

PHIL WILSON: Good morning. I'm Phil Wilson. I'm the director of the Human Development Center, Louisiana's USAID and DD network partner.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, doctor. Are there any other department representatives present who have not.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Good morning. This is Meredith Jordan. I am the director of special education at the

Louisiana Department of Education listening in this morning for a bit. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning and welcome. Are there any other department representatives present who have not introduced themselves yet?

JILL HANO: Ms. Nicole Banks, did you get to introduce yourself?

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Jill. I'm sorry. I was late for the meeting, so I think I missed my region. I'm Nicole Banks, region three. I am a parent of a child with disabilities, and I sit up on the Louisiana council. And I sit on the education and inclusion, and I sit on the act 378.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Nicole. Welcome.

NICOLE BANKS: Good morning.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other department representatives present who have not had a chance to introduce themselves? No other department representatives? Is there anyone who joined the meeting late? I've been calling by regions. Is there anyone who has joined the meeting in the last few minutes or so that has not had a chance to introduce themselves? Any other members? Okay. Hearing none, I think that concludes our council introductions. I will open the floor for the public to make introductions if they would like. Just raise your hands if you would like to be acknowledged and we'll try to call upon you as we have.

AMY DEAVILLE: Liz Gary has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Good morning. My name is Nicole Learson. I'm a professional registered parliamentarian.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Nicole.

LIZ GARY: Good morning, Randall. This is Liz Gary from region nine. I'm a parent in this area.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Liz.

AMY DEAVILLE: Susan Riehm has her hand raised.

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

SUSAN RIEHM: Good morning. Susan Riehm, Families

Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana. I'm the parent of a young man, I guess he's still considered young, he's 34. And I'm the director of Families Helping Families. Thanks for allowing us to be here.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Susan. Thank you very much for being here. And thank you for the work you do. Is there anyone else?

AMY DEAVILLE: Kathleen Cannino.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Kathleen. You have the floor. Good morning.

KATHLEEN CANNINO: Good morning. Kathleen Cannino, region nine and I'm a parent of a child with a disability.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other of our guests who would like to introduce themselves.

AMY DEAVILLE: In the chat Melinda Elliot said, I am Melinda Elliot. I am a parent, and I am the secretary of the SAC. I apologize my internet is poor.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Melinda. Thank you for the work you do as well.

AMY DEAVILLE: Also in the chat, I'm Nicole Florez, executive director Families Helping Families of Acandiana in region four and parent of a child with a disability. I apologize for my audio issues.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Nicole. Thank you for being here and thank you for the work you do for the community as well. Are there any other members of the public who would like to introduce themselves?

AMY DEAVILLE: Good morning. This is Yakima Black, president of LATAN, family member. Having tech difficulties and can't speak.

RANDALL BROWN: Good morning, Ms. Black. And welcome. Thank you for the work you do. Are there any other members who would like to introduce themselves of the public? Okay. One final time I'll ask if any members of the council who may have joined us late, if you have not introduced yourself this morning and you are present, please speak now. Let us know you're here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Brenda Cosse has her hand

raised.

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

BRENDA COSSE: Good morning, chair. I just wanted to ask, I heard two acronyms this morning. And I was wondering if we could clarify SAC, LATAN for the public. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: LATAN is Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Brenton, for that. And SAC is the State Advisory Committee, correct, according to what Melinda just placed in our chat box.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Chair, in the chat box. Hi, my name is Christina Martin. I am the LaCAN leader from regions one and ten. Good morning.

RANDALL BROWN: Hi, Christina, and welcome. Are there any other introductions?

AMY DEAVILLE: I'm not seeing any.

RANDALL BROWN: I believe that concludes our introductions for this morning. So now we move to-- give me a moment, our mission statement and virtual protocols for today's meeting. And so could we place the mission statement up on the screen staff, please. And before I read that I think there's someone in the chat who has introduced themselves. Am I correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: I'm Bobby Abney. I'm the outreach coordinator for Louisiana Relay. If anyone has trouble communicating on the phone, please let me know and I can point you to some resources.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much for that offer of assistance and welcome.

ROSLYN HYMEL: And I'll be more than glad to help out too if you need me.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Roslyn. Okay. So our mission statement for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council is as follows. You see it listed there on our screens. It says to increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy,

capacity building and systems change.

And next should be our virtual protocols and ground rules. So, all right. So, ground rules now and then the next thing will be our virtual protocols for today's meeting. So the ground rules are as follows. Members must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Be respectful of each other's opinions. We will break for ten minutes every hour and a half. Discuss council business in a responsible manner. Except for necessary restrict the use of electronic communication during council and committee meetings. Please silence or turn off your cell phones. In this case I think if you just leave your microphones off until you're called upon, I think that's an acceptable option. Mission statement is posted at every meeting. Be on time for meetings. No alphabets as Ms. Cosse pointed out. Let's try to state what exactly we're talking about when we talk about various entities or offices. We tend to use a lot of acronyms. And so let's all be mindful of not everyone knows what those are. And so let's try to just say exactly what it is we are referring to when we can. All right. And side conversations are to be kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand. And that would include the use of our chat box. Let's please try to keep the chat box for the use of the council business today as we move forward. Okay.

The virtual rules for today's meetings are listed as follows. The teleconference meeting protocols are the council meetings 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 with their first and last name.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Do you mean like your first and last name, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Hold on. I'm trying to do something on my screen real quick. Okay. And so you'll be considered present when you display a live feed video of your face with your first and last name.

Have your microphones muted unless called upon by the chairperson. Electronically raise their hand to request the chair recognize them to speak. Once recognized to speak by the chair your 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 by the chairperson. Public comments submitted during a meeting via any format below shall be considered. During a Zoom meeting guests may electronically raise hair hand to request comment. Upon being recognized to speak by the chair their microphone should be turned on. After speaking the microphone shall be returned to mute. Please post comments relevant to the item under consideration in the chat box. Post comments during the live stream of the meeting on the council's YouTube channel at the hyperlink there below. Public comments of a person's character will not be heard. If the comment continues after being asked to stop by the chairperson council staff may be instructed to end the meeting. 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. And those are the ground rules for today's meeting. ladies and gentlemen. I know that's a lot to take in, but let's all please try and be mindful of that as we move forward today.

And now we have our conflicts of interest must be identified. No member of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council may cast a vote on any matter that would provide direct financial benefit to the member or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest. So that's a reminder for anyone who feels like they may have a direct financial interest in something that we may be discussing. You can participate in debate on matters, but just abstain from a vote on the matter. Should we vote on a matter that

would pertain to you, just feel free to abstain from the vote.

Okay, ladies and gentlemen. So now we move to our next order of business and that is the approval of the April 2021 meeting summary. It was sent to you all in your packets. So you've had some time, hopefully, to review that. I'll give a few moments for review now. And I'll say that I'll give a few moments and then I'll come back on and if I have no objections, it will be approved by unanimous consent. So you now I'll give a few moments for everyone to review the April 2021 meeting summary. Okay. Do I have any objections or are there any changes needed to the April 2021 meeting summary? One last time. Are there any changes needed or are there any objections to the April 2021 meeting summary? Hearing no objection, the report is accepted by unanimous consent. The summary is accepted by unanimous consent of the council. And no changes were noted.

Next, is my report to you. I did not include it in the packet because it is relatively short. Most of my time for this quarter was taken up by the work at your direction of me after our last meeting, which was our meeting for the selection of our new executive director. And welcome Ms. Amy Deaville, our new executive director. All the welcomes I neglected to welcome you. So welcome, madam executive director, to your first quarterly meeting.

AMY DEAVILLE: Thank you, chair.

RANDALL BROWN: But the last time we met as a body was for the selection of Amy to be our executive director. She accepted and I was directed by this council to carry out the hiring process and that took, obviously, some time to complete. Amy is a new state employee so there was quite a few things to get seen to. But we did manage to do all of that. And by May 17th, if you all will recall, we met on April 28th and I immediately began, as per your instructions, to set the process in motion. And Amy began her first day on May 17th. But between that time there was quite a bit

of work that took place to make that happen. So that did occur and that took up a lot of my time to make happen. That's the main thing to report.

I was also closely involved, Courtney Ryland, our interim executive director was involved with the legislative process with our agenda. And I was closely also involved with her. And she, of course, did the public appearances. Due to covid I did not publicly appear. But I was in close contact with Courtney just about daily during the legislative session. So that took up a lot of time as well. But, as we all know, the outcome was successful and I would like to thank every LaCAN member, every member of the council, every LaCAN leader, everyone for all your hard work. It certainly paid off. And I'm grateful to you all for the work. That's basically what I have for you in terms of a chairperson's report. If you have any questions of me, you can feel free to ask them now. The one thing I forgot to mention, we did just have two meetings of our ad hoc committees that we requested. And it's our diversity committee met which was chaired by our vice chair Dr. Hyacinth McKee. They met and there will be a motion to consider from their work here shortly. And also our youth forum ad hoc committee did meet both this month and they also have something for our consideration here shortly. So those were, I was in attendance at both of those meetings as well. Now if there are no questions of me.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Who's that? I'm sorry.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Hi. You was just saying about Courtney in that. Will she be returning back to us or not?

RANDALL BROWN: No. Courtney has accepted a position at a different agency, I believe, in state government. So Courtney just about a couple of weeks ago, I believe, now began her new role and it's not with us. So now Courtney has left our staff.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So who's going to be taking her spot in the meantime?

RANDALL BROWN: That's yet to be determined. That's one of the things that Amy will have to do as our executive director is choose the new staff for both that role and our deputy director role that's been empty since the retirement of Mr. Fleming. That is work that Amy is currently undertaking. But we do wish Courtney well in her new endeavors. So if that answers your questions, are there any others?

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Egle has her hand raised.

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

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thanks I didn't know she got new job. That's why I was asking.

JILL EGLE: I know Ms. Amy Deaville is the new executive director for the DD state council. How long is that term good? Forever and ever.

RANDALL BROWN: Amy will be the executive director for as long as she wishes to remain and the council wishes to employ her, yes.

JILL EGLE: That won't change when we get a new governor in two years?

RANDALL BROWN: No, ma'am. There's no term to Amy's position. She's hired by this council, and she has a contract with us, and it will remain in place as long as she and we see fit.

JILL EGLE: Well, I appreciate Ms. Amy Deaville.

RANDALL BROWN: We hope it's a long and fruitful relationship. And again, Amy, welcome.

JILL EGLE: It seems like Ms. Amy Deaville knows how to handle all people. Especially IDD self-advocates and try to support the state. Because sometimes I need support from the state. If I get lost, I know I can raise my hand.

RANDALL BROWN: We'll do everything, I think I can safely speak for Amy and the entire my staff and myself as well to let you know, Jill, we'll do everything we can to assist you.

JILL EGLE: Thank you, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Melissa Bayham has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Melissa.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Good morning. Since it came up, I just wanted to let everyone know that Courtney did accept a position with LRS. She is one of our new bureau administrators. For those of you who have been around for a while and know of my administration Theresa Milliner who has been with us for a long time has announced her retirement in January. So we have decided to double encumber her position, so Courtney is taking Theresa Milliner's position here at LRS.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that clarification, Melissa. And, of course, we wish Courtney well in her new role.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you. She's doing a great job.

RANDALL BROWN: Any other questions of me regarding my report to you?

AMY DEAVILLE: There are no other comments.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you. And so next we move into the executive committee recommendations. And do we have those ready to put up on the screen, Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: And so we have the two motions I mentioned earlier during my report. One is from the diversity committee, and they gave us a mission statement, if you will, of what they would like to achieve because, of course, the ad hoc committee we formed was very broad. So when they met, they saw fit to give us, and the executive committee reviewed it, to give us the mission statement of what they wish to do in their work. And here you see it on the screen. It passed unanimously out of your executive committee yesterday. And your approval is needed today. Council approval is needed for this today. It's the motion, again, from the committee is for the diversity committee to recommend for the council to expand the purpose of the committee to the following. Make recommendations to the executive committee for consideration regarding addressing all emerging issues

with regard to diversity, equity and inclusion meeting on an as-needed basis. And I believe they asked to meet quarterly for the next few quarters so they could begin to address some emerging issues related to these topics. And so that will take place once we approve this motion as long as they and the chair of the council see fit. And so addressing all emerging issues with regard to diversity, equity, inclusion meeting on as needed base. Supporting advocacy efforts for diversity, equity and inclusion to enhance cultural competence and create an overall inclusive culture for people of color, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual identity and orientation, religion and diverse language speakers. Establishing, implementing and revising as well as revisiting policies that promote diversity, equity and inclusion that are aligned with the developmental disabilities act. Adapting to diversity and embedding an institutionalized knowledge of diversity, equitable practices inclusive of cultural competence and cultural humility in council policies, procedures and practices. And dedicating resources to policies, structures, practices and procedures to support the committee in the mission and work of the council. And again, this motion unanimously passed through your executive committee at yesterday's meeting and it's now, we don't need a second, it's coming from your committee. And so it's now on the floor for your consideration for passage. And do we have any discussion? Any comment?

AMY DEAVILLE: There's nothing in the chat and no hands are raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Thanks. Hearing no discussion I will call for a vote. Is there anyone who abstains? Okay. Is there any objection? Does anyone object to the passage of this motion? Hearing no objection, motion carries. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Passes unanimously.

The next item for your consideration from the executive committee is a motion was made by your youth leadership forum ad hoc committee. It also passed

unanimously yesterday. Now is this motion given to you by the youth leadership forum. And that is to create a youth leadership forum that will teach and empower young people with developmental disabilities personal and systems advocacy skills and promote networking with other self-advocates so that they may become feature leaders. And that is the mission statement that your youth leadership forum came up with. And, of course, they also asked if they could meet on a regular basis. Again, until such time they feel their work is complete. Having just begun, of course, they would like to create a forum that meets this mission statement. So with your acceptance of this motion they will continue that important work. And again, this passed unanimously out of your executive committee and it's for your consideration now. No second is needed because it comes from your executive committee. And so I will ask is there any discussion of this motion from your youth leadership forum ad hoc committee. Any discussion?

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. How many times we should meet up with our leaders of every region even like for me from region one and ten. So does that mean we meet up with our leaders once a week or twice weekly or how does that work?

RANDALL BROWN: This motion pertains to the youth leadership ad hoc committee that the council formed. And they will be meeting, I believe, they asked to meet quarterly for the foreseeable future while they would begin to build a forum that meets this mission statement. So that's what we're talking about.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. That's what I mean. What I want to know. For how are we going to do that with the phone that we need. Do we need to fill that out on a daily basis or is that weekly basis?

RANDALL BROWN: You mean the youth leadership forum?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah.

RANDALL BROWN: They will meet quarterly, I believe, or they feel is needed they will let chairperson know and we will schedule the meeting for them. If they can obtain a quorum of members, they will meet to conduct the business of putting together a youth leadership forum again for your community. And we've had, just for background for those who may not know, in the past we've had a youth leadership forum. But I believe since Katrina or after Katrina, and as we all know that's been a long time ago now, that was stopped due to Katrina. And we are looking to restart it and our council member Ms. Lillian DeJean has taken on that role. She and the committee will carry out that work with the passage of this motion as they see fit. And so do I have any more discussion on the motion on the floor for the youth leadership forum? Any more discussion?

AMY DEAVILLE: There's nothing in chat.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Any comments? Hearing none, I will call for a vote. Again, we don't need a second because this comes out of your executive committee. And so does anyone abstain from the passage of this motion or the vote on this motion?

RANDALL BROWN: Excuse me for a second, Randall. For me I'm going to be switching from the group home to campus so I'm going to lose connection.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you for letting us know, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. And so I'll ask again, does anyone abstain from the vote on this motion? Hearing none. Are there any objections to this motion? Are there any objections? Does anyone object to this motion? Hearing no objection, motion passes unanimously. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

Okay. I believe those were the only motions to come out of executive committee this past meeting. So I think we can now move into our next phase, which is the adoption of the council's budget. I'm sorry. Not budget. The adoption of the council's federal fiscal

year 2022 annual plan. So we have the five-year plan is what we need to ratify is what I should say. And so the five-year plan has been out for consideration for the required number of days. And I received public comment.

AMY DEAVILLE: Excuse me, chair. The five-year plan was ratified in January. The one-year action plan is what needs to be ratified now.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. That's what I thought. I just saw the five-year plan on the screen. Thank you for that clarification. So the one-year plan needs now to be ratified. And that, again, has been out for consideration for the required number of days. The feedback was taken in. And so now we have it before us to consider its passage. And again, it's something we've had, we worked on extensively by the planning committee and has been out for the required number of days for consideration and comment. And now we need to vote on its passage. So now would be time for discussion. Do I have any discussion with regard to the federal fiscal year 2022 action plan?

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

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

JILL HANO: I think in my packet for FFY21. Cause it says ratify September 5th, 2020. But I should have that, correct? That's on the screen.

RANDALL BROWN: Correct. We're talking about what's on the screen. Now we began the work on the plan in 2020. So maybe you have some paperwork from that planning committee perhaps. But the plan is as you see it now on the screen.

JILL HANO: Let me get on the website. Sorry.

RANDALL BROWN: That's okay.

JILL HANO: Okay. I'll fix it.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. Do I have any questions with regard to the 2022 action plan?

AMY DEAVILLE: There's nothing in the chat and no one has their hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. And madam parliamentarian,

am I correct I don't need a second for this, right?

NICOLE LEARSON: Does this come out of committee as well?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

NICOLE LEARSON: Then you're correct.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. And so now I'll call for a vote on the passage of the federal fiscal year 2022 action plan. Does anyone abstain from the vote? Do I have anyone abstaining? Is there any objection? Is there any objection to the passage of the federal fiscal year 2022 action plan? Hearing no objection, the plan is unanimously approved. Thank you. Okay. Our next item for your consideration is the nomination of new executive committee officers. As you may be aware the terms of your executive committee are two-year terms. Well, it's that time again that we have to elect today a new slate of officers for the next two years. Which would begin, the term will begin October the first. But today is normally the time that we would discuss a slate of new officers for the executive committee. I did make every attempt to appoint and seat our nominating committee which is our general practice. But we made several attempts to make that happen and even had a meeting scheduling for one, but no quorum could be obtained. Multiple times we attempted through Doodle Poles as our practice to get dates that would work for several people that I asked. And it never quite, like I said, we got to one part where the meeting was scheduled, but we could not obtain a quorum for it even after scheduling. So ultimately, due to everything we had going on, legislative session and the on-boarding of our new executive director and departure of our interim we did not have a nominations committee meet. So now the protocol would be for us to determine here today as a council nominations for your executive committee officers. And again, that would be your chairperson for the next two years beginning October 1st of 2021. And it would be your vice chairperson and the head of your self-determination and community inclusion committee.

As well as the education and employment committee. And ultimately member at large. And I do have to say that Steven Nguyen who accepted my appointment as your member at large after I became chair upon April's untimely death, as you all may or may not know, I was originally elected your vice chair two years ago and assumed the role of chair upon April's death. And so once I became the chair it was necessary to appoint a vice chair and Dr. McKee has accepted and served in that role. And I thank her for that. And also Steven stepped into the role of member at large for most of the past two years as your member at large. But he asked to step down a few weeks ago and Ms. Jill Hano accepted my appointment, my offer of appointment to be your new member at large for this term until it's completed on October the 1st. And so that is your current slate that we would have to be deciding on today for the next two years those are the positions. And so I would call for nominations from the floor because that's procedure at this point for the meeting. Do I have any comments?

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi Polotzola has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I apologize. I raised my hand before I put the comment. Thanks. Kim, responded with the term dates for our members.

RANDALL BROWN: I apologize. My audio was low on that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: It may be me. I just had requested what the term dates for all of our members so we kind of know who's rolling off.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. The term date would start, the new term will start--.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: No. That's not what I'm asking. The term dates of each member. So Kim posted in the chat like when do people term, their terms end on the council. So we know, you know, who's rolling off and potentially who has the time to serve.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. We can see if we can put that information up on the screen. So staff if we have

that list for terms, can we put that up on the screen, please. Here we are.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And Randall, while I'm still, hopefully, acknowledged. Typically our executive committee, and I don't know if this is in our bylaws, but in practice has been our self-advocates and family members and not state agency people.

RANDALL BROWN: You are correct.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So just so anybody would know that we have a limited pool. It's not all of our members who are eligible. Well, is it just practice or is it our bylaws?

RANDALL BROWN: It's been our standard practice for as long as anyone can remember that the positions of the executive committee are held by your self-advocate and parent membership. So let's keep that in mind with our consideration. So this is the list of members before you. And my term actually ended in January. My official term. And I have been on an officer extension. And that's what happens when you're an officer if your four-year term ends while you're an officer of the council. Then you remain an officer, you remain in office as an officer of the council until the end of the term you are serving. So I would remain in office. For instance, until the end of this term which would be October the 1st of 2021. And if anyone is in that situation then, of course, if they are reelected then they would serve until the end of the next term. Which would be a two-year term in that situation. Which I believe I'm the only current executive committee member that would apply to. I think everyone's still within their four-year term at this point.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Brenda Cosse has her hand raised.

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

BRENDA COSSE: Thank you, chair. Two things. One, can we let the public know where this document is. And two, the screen is very small.

RANDALL BROWN: We'll see if we can blow that up.

This is an internal document that the staff uses to keep track of the members of the council.

AMY DEAVILLE: Excuse me, chair. This particular version is on the boards and commissions website and the link was put in the chat box.

RANDALL BROWN: Awesome. Thank you for that clarification, Amy. So this is from the website that maintains for boards and commissions, the public record. This is public record of our appointment.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Mr. Chairman, may I be recognized?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Bambi has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So at this point we're making the nominations, correct?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So just to open the discussion and just kind of lay everything out that I think everybody who's been involved know. First of all, thanks to the executive committee because this has been a really tough term for everyone. And I feel like we've been in a position we've never been in before. People are just really exhausted. And so our people who have been here for a while, at least this past two-year term or even before then, I think I can say this with confidence that people are just really exhausted from everything we've had to go through with the pandemic and the change in staff. And I also know that we have newer members as well who, you know, maybe they don't feel like they have the experience to be in that leadership role. So I feel like we're at a point where we just need to find out like who is interested in doing these roles and who is not and go from there. That's my recommendation.

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

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

NICOLE BANKS: I'm sorry. I think I was muted up on my headset. I'm sorry. So my question was, do they have a description of each position that's available

and what the responsibilities are for each position?

RANDALL BROWN: Well, the responsibilities are like I'm your chair. And so my job is to make sure that I speak for the council on any matter related to council business between council meetings like we meet quarterly. So between those quarterly meetings I speak for the council publicly on any matter that needs public comment or public input. That's the typical role of your chair. And then also leading your executive committee. I set the agenda for what that executive committee hears and the business it conducts. The vice chair assists me, as necessary, in those duties. Will attend meetings on my behalf if I cannot. That sort of thing. And also the membership committee which meets when we need to determine new members is chaired by the vice chair. And that meets as it is needed. So that is the role of your vice chair. And then each of the standing committees have chair people who run those meetings and set those agendas as well. So those right now are occupied by Mike on self-determination and Mary on education. And that's the role that they have, and they sit on executive committee in those roles. And we your executive committee make decisions for the council, between these council meetings. There's a lot of business that goes on between, as you can imagine, between the three months when we meet for one day. So these are the positions you entrust to us to conduct.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So while I have the floor, I have one more question. Like my term supposedly ended or whatever.

RANDALL BROWN: It will soon end and so you have accepted to be renominated. And so when that membership committee I just spoke about will soon form one. Our term for this executive committee has not yet ended and will not end until October the 1st when the new committee takes its seat. So we will begin the discussions for who, the empty, or the members who will be terming out, rolling off the council. And there are quite a few in the coming months. And so we will be

considering, a membership committee will be formed very shortly after this meeting, in fact. And time set for them to begin that work of looking at applications which we've called for and making recommendations for appointment to those seats. And you have accepted the offer to be renominated for your position, Ms. Banks, and thank you for that. And so when that membership committee meets again soon, your name will be put forth for consideration to remain in your role there for your region.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So with all that being said, if I were to be interested in one of these positions would I still be able to nominate?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

NICOLE BANKS: That was my next question. Okay. So I think that is all that I had. Cause I see they posted the information, the bylaws so that we can see it. So we have that and I'm looking through it now. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Jill Egle has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Jill.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Jill, you're muted.

JILL EGLE: I know that we've all been through a lot with covid and currently what's going on right now with the Delta. See here's the thing, I don't work, and I know that I have until November of next year. And I got an email saying another vacant or something about doing it again. If I wait a year later, are they going to guarantee me that I'll be able to get back on whomever the new governor is. Because I really want to make a difference. April Dunn was a close friend and I'll never forget her legacy. But I really want to make a difference in the State of Louisiana so all people with developmental disabilities lives are equal no matter what, you know. I really want to make a difference no matter what I do.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. I understand and appreciate your passion very much. Your term will not conclude until more than a year from now. So I think

you will be a valued member up until, if not beyond, a little bit beyond November of next year. And so I think you have longtime to be a valued voice and member for our council. And upon the expiration of your current term, I can't speak to if you would re-appointed. That would be up to, ultimately, up to the governor. And so, you know, that would be something we would look at closer to time of your appointment expiring and that's more than a year away. And so I think at this point your continued service as a valued member is very much appreciated.

JILL EGLE: I appreciate you, Randall. And the last final, next month if things die down what's currently going on right now, are we going to be able to meet in person at the hotel in Baton Rouge or you won't know until it gets closer.

RANDALL BROWN: We won't know until we get closer to that timeframe because we're still under the public health emergency issued by the governor and that allows us to meet virtually. And due to the fact that covid is still a major--.

JILL EGLE: Yeah.

RANDALL BROWN: Emerging threat we have to take that into consideration. And so, seriously. And so, we won't know for sure about the October meeting for a little while longer. But I can say if the trends that we are currently seeing continue I would think that we would probably meet virtually in October as well. Because as everyone I'm sure knows if you've watched any news, our vaccination rates are extremely low. And that's a concern. So our hospitalizations of people who are ill with covid seem to be rising.

JILL EGLE: I get to be honest I don't dwell on the news.

RANDALL BROWN: To not get too deep into all of that, as long as we have the public health emergency that the governor has put in affect we will meet virtually. And so as long as that is ongoing then we are in the virtual environment. And as soon as that ends then we will begin, and we've already instructed

the staff at the last quarterly meeting to begin the process which takes time to get those contracts reinstated or form new contracts for us to be able to meet publicly. So that work will happen. We just don't know exactly when. But I can assure you as soon as we are able, we will comply with the law, and we will meet publicly.

JILL EGLE: You guys will notify us? You and the DD Council staff will let everybody know when it gets closer.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. I didn't quite catch that last statement, Jill.

JILL EGLE: You guys will notify us.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You'll be notified. As soon as we know, you'll know.

JILL EGLE: Okay. Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Brenda Cosse has her hand raised. Ms. Brenda, are you able to turn your video on so we can see you?

BRENDA COSSE: My video is on.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

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

BRENDA COSSE: Good morning. The document has changed on the screen from what I can see. It's now like a black background and some names and areas are highlighted.

RANDALL BROWN: Right. I believe the staff has taken the liberty to highlight the members, correct me if I'm wrong staff, the members who are self-advocate and parent advocates. Which these would be the people who would be eligible do to our longstanding practice of nominating people to serve who are from our self-advocate and parent population of our membership. So I believe the staff has taken the liberty to highlight who those members are and their terms as they're listed on the website.

AMY DEAVILLE: The highlighted people are the members who expire this year.

RANDALL BROWN: Oh, I'm sorry. So these would be

the members who expire. I was confused simply because most of these that I'm seeing on the screen are parent or self-advocates. So my apologies.

BRENDA COSSE: So Ms. Bank's term is expiring, but she's been offered another opportunity and that's why she's not highlighted?

RANDALL BROWN: My apologies, I'm not sure why. But Ms. Banks has been offered the opportunity to reapply for appointment and she has accepted that. And so everyone is aware, she filled April's unexpired term and that is April's term that she is finishing there. And April's term would be ending or would have ended in May. Except she would be in the position I'm now in where you would remain until the end of the executive committee term which would be October the 1st. But in Nicole's case she's filling April's four year term with a remainder. And she has expressed interest in remaining in that role. And so she would be put forth when the membership committee meets for consideration.

BRENDA COSSE: Chair, I understand that. My question is the council members whose terms have expired have been highlighted. Ms. Bank's term has expired, but her name is not highlighted. Is that because she has been offered the opportunity to continue serving?

RANDALL BROWN: We have to ask the staff that question. They did the highlighting.

BRENDA COSSE: And who made the offer?

RANDALL BROWN: I'm sorry. I didn't catch that last question. Brenda, I didn't catch your last question. I'm sorry.

AMY DEAVILLE: Chair, she asked who made the offer.

RANDALL BROWN: It is practice that we make the offer for anyone who's filling an unexpired term of, I believe, two years or perhaps three years or less. In this case she served for nine months. And so I made the offer to her if she would like. As your chair I made the offer if she would like to be considered that when we form a membership committee, which will be soon, she could put her name for consideration. And

she said she would like to do so. Her name will be put forth for the membership committee to consider.

HANNAH JENKINS: Randall, this is Hannah. If I may, I believe that if someone is taking over another person's position if it's under a year then they're automatically up for reappointment.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that. I didn't realize that. Thank you. So as you can see, she's under a year. She has nine months. So we automatically offer. But I did reach out. Courtney had asked me. I apologize for the confusion. Courtney had asked me to reach out and ask her and she did indicate she's interested in consideration for reappointment. So I apologize for that confusion. But thank you for that clarification.

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven Nguyen has his hand raised.

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

STEVEN NGUYEN: Just for clarification, are we filling in all the officer roles today or just a few of them?

RANDALL BROWN: We would have the entire slate of the executive committee serves together a two-year term. So even though I've made a recent appointment to your old seat, she's just filling the remainder of the two-year term which will end October the 1st. And so the goal today is to fill all of your seats of your executive committee from your chair to your member at large seats. All the seats are up for consideration.

STEVEN NGUYEN: In that case, can I make some nominations?

RANDALL BROWN: I mean, yes. Nominations can be made.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I would like to nominate Jill Hano for member at large.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

STEVEN NGUYEN: I would like to nominate Mitch Iddins for self-determination and inclusion chair. And I would like to nominate Ms. Banks as education and employment chair.

RANDALL BROWN: Who was education's nominee?

STEVEN NGUYEN: Ms. Banks.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So we already have some nominations. Do we have any further nominations?

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Hi. I have at least two questions cause I'm looking at like with my name in that on the roster. Somebody had spelled my name wrong. I have one, no A in my name. And two, I would like to really nominate too is Mitch. I would like to do Mitch.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So you would second Steven's nomination of Mitch. That's great. Thank you, Roslyn. And we'll make sure they're notified of your spelling error there they've made and correct it for you. And there are technically no seconds needed for nominations. I'm just saying you agreed with Steven's nomination.

ROSLYN HYMEL: But also too, how can I, could I also reply again before my term is up?

RANDALL BROWN: That will happen when your term has expired it will have to be looked at. If you served a full four-year term, then it wouldn't be possible to be reappointed. We serve four years total at a time. And then once that four years is completed you would roll off and then could reapply later. But I think you have some time before that happens. So please continue to be a valued member while you're a part of the council and we appreciate it. Thank you, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi. So I nominate Rashad Bristo for vice chair. And if I can also, I don't know who wants to take on the enormous responsibility of being chair. So I don't know how we're going to get to that point, but we might need a process to figure out who is actually willing to take on that role.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So let's start with the chairperson. Cause that's the most important. And as Bambi has made a nomination for our chairperson.

Repeat that nomination, Bambi. Who did you nominate, Rashad?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Rashad Bristo.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Chair, if I could just ask those of you who have raised your hand and had your question answered could you please lower your hand. There is one comment in the chat from Mitchell Iddins who says with all due respect I appreciate nominations for me to serve as a self-determination committee chair, but I am unable to fulfill those duties at this time.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. And so Mitch withdraws his name from consideration. Thank you, Mitch. We appreciate your service to the council.

AMY DEAVILLE: Michael Billings has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm sorry. Say that again.

AMY DEAVILLE: Michael Billings.

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

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you. I would like to nominate Dr. Hyacinth McKee as chairperson. And Rashad Bristo as vice chair. And Jill Hano as member at large.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. We have those nominations for Dr. McKee for chair. Rashad Bristo for vice chair. And Jill for member at large.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

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

JILL HANO: Okay. So technically you are finishing April's term and Dr. McKee is finishing your term. So couldn't you have your own term as chair and Dr. McKee have her own term as vice chair? But with that being said, no offense to anyone, but that would not inspire change. But technically, couldn't y'all run for y'all's or have y'all's own terms. Cause you're serving April's term. Dr. McKee is serving your term.

RANDALL BROWN: You're correct. We're filling an unexpired term. And so we could be considered today. And before I move forward on my response to that if I may I'm going to let Dr. McKee who's asked me to speak.

I'm going to let Dr. McKee have her say. So Dr. McKee, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Greetings council members. I just want to say thank you all and thank you for the nomination for chairperson. Each and every one on this call I feel like I think is qualified to represent the DD Council in a leadership role. I want to empower new people to don't be afraid to take on such a large role and responsibility. There is so much to do and so much work to do and what you contribute in your voice really matters. And, of course, it can be somewhat frightening and challenging in the beginning. And not everyone is going to always like agree with everything that you say, but you have to know that your voice matters. And so I want to empower some of our new people to come on and step up and join this leadership role. I am so appreciative of the nomination because it says that you guys really believe in my capabilities to lead you all. But I am not able to fulfill such a huge task as the chair of the LADDC at this time. However, I will consider another executive committee appointment. Something that's more aligned with my expertise that I believe that I can contribute wholeheartedly. And I have not made that consideration known because I'm unaware if self-nominations are allowed at this time. But I will say that I will not be able to fulfill the responsibility as chair for perhaps another executive committee consideration.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, madam vice chair. And to the point of the chairperson is the most important role to be filled. So I'll take a point now of personal privilege as we talk about this and say that I am filling the unexpired term of April who, of course, died during this term which is unprecedented. I had never, to my knowledge, happened in our history and so I stepped in. And so for the past 16 months and for the next little over two months I'll still be filling that role as your chair of this council. I was vice chair elected by you two years ago. By the time I'm done it will be 18 months of service as your chair. It

has been a long and arduous task that I was tasked with. And while I greatly appreciate Jill Hano, your desire to ask me if I'm willing to serve again, in all honesty I really would like to be able to finish the term as is necessary and conduct a smooth transition to a new fresh leadership for you all. I think you are in a place where although this is uncharted territory, you know, we have a new executive director and there are lots of work still to be done and I'll be active until the very last day of this term which is October the first. But I really would not like to remain chair for another two years. The last year and a half has been a lot of work and I do have some personal health issues as well as I do work full time. So I think it appropriate and necessary for a new, fresh prospective to step into the role. And I greatly appreciate Jill you saying that we could continue. But I would really ask to not be considered to remain for the next term.

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Learson has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Nicole.

NICOLE LEARSON: Good morning. I do apologize for the interjection, but just to help the process along. One, self-nominations are allowed while there are nominations coming from the floor. Two, nominations should start with one position at a time listed according to the bylaws which would mean that at this time you should ask for nominations for the chair only. And then when all of the nominations from that position are in, you can then move onto the next position which is vice chair. And then the chairpersons for self-determination community inclusion, housing, and health and education and employment committees. And then finally the member at large, one at a time, which will then help the staff who's recording these nominations to make sure that they get all of the nominations that come in accurately. And then that you're able to repeat each of those nominations for each of those positions and then vote on those positions one at a time accordingly. And finally, with the nominations coming in again, once the person is nominated you can

then give an allowance for that individual at the time that they are nominated for that one position to then accept the nomination or decline it.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you very much for that clarification madam parliamentarian. We needed it. Okay. So let's begin with the chair position. And so do we have any formal nominations for the position of chair of the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Egle has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Jill.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Jill, you're muted.

JILL EGLE: Okay. Randall. What's the topic, what are we all talking about.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm sorry, Jill. I didn't catch what you said.

JILL EGLE: You were talking about different, I guess, committees.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. What we're doing now is we'll be going through one-by-one nominations for each of the seats of the executive committee. And the first seat is chair of the council. So I'm asking for nominations for who will be the next chair of the council starting October 1st.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi Polotzola has her hand raised.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I nominate Rashad Bristo for chair of the council.

RANDALL BROWN: Rashad, you have been nominated, sir, for chair of the council.

RASHAD BRISTO: I accept.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. And Mitch, I believe you wish to be recognized, sir. Mitch Iddins, you have the floor.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just wondering how do I raise my hand. Do I do that in the chat.

JILL HANO: Under panelist, Mr. Mitchell. Under participant it will have all our names.

MITCH IDDINS: I see. Thank you, Jill.

ROSLYN HYMEL: In between share screen.

RANDALL BROWN: I think he sees it. Thank you.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, guys. I see it.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Well, I would really like to have on chair on that is Bambi.

RANDALL BROWN: Bambi can't be nominated. She is part of state government.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, I'm sorry. Wrong name. My mistake on that. I don't know what I was thinking.

RANDALL BROWN: It's okay.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What about Mitch?

RANDALL BROWN: So we have, Mitch has already declined nomination.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can you send me the rundown on the names again.

RANDALL BROWN: We're asking for names. Let's let them put them forward, okay. So right now we have Rashad Bristo has accepted Bambi's nomination to be chair of the council starting October the 1st of 2021.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mitch Iddins has his hand raised.

MITCH IDDINS: Yes, Mitch. You have the floor. sir.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to nominate Matt Rovira as chairperson.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. Are there any other nominations for chair of the council?

MITCH IDDINS: Mr. Randall, I'm sorry. Could we hear from Matt whether or not he accepts the nomination.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Is he here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Matt is not here this go round.

MITCH IDDINS: Oh, I didn't realize that.

BRENDA COSSE: Yeah. He's out of town for this quarterly meeting.

MITCH IDDINS: Should we keep his name up or take it down at this time?

RANDALL BROWN: Doesn't Matt represent an agency?

JILL HANO: He's an agency rep.

RANDALL BROWN: He would not be able to be

nominated anyway. We are looking at, thank you, Mitch for that, but we would be looking at self-advocate and parent.

MITCH IDDINS: Okay. Thank you, Randall. Thank you for that clarification. We can take his name off.

RANDALL BROWN: So we can take Matt's name off.

AMY DEAVILLE: I will do that. Roslyn has her hand raised.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Hey. I looked at the listing. What about my friend Brenda. Could we do her?

RANDALL BROWN: Brenda Cosse?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: So you nominate Brenda Cosse for chair of the council.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: So Brenda would you accept the nomination?

AMY DEAVILLE: Brenda has her hand raised.

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

BRENDA COSSE: Good morning. Brenda Cosse. Chair Brown, I have served as the vice chairperson in my previous term and that was also the chairperson of the membership committee. And my posture was, when at all possible, to have a self-advocate to serve. So I respectfully decline the chairperson position.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you.

BRENDA COSSE: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: So she has declined. So we will remove her name from consideration as chair. Thank you, Ms. Cosse.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mitchell Iddins still has his hand raised.

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

MITCH IDDINS: My apologies. That was unintentional.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other nominations for chair of the council? Do we have any other nominations for chair?

AMY DEAVILLE: In the chat group there was

discussion about whether Matt Rovira is not eligible due to agency affiliation. Hannah said he represents a nonprofit. Bambi said that's incorrect. Jill Hano asked her to clarify, and Bambi says Matt represents a nonprofit and that she was an officer when she was a nonprofit rep on the council as well as others who are in the nonprofit role.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm sorry, Amy. I didn't catch that last part of what you said.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi said Matt represents a nonprofit. And that she was an officer when she was the nonprofit represent on the council as well as others who are in the nonprofit role.

RANDALL BROWN: So Matthew is eligible then to be nominated.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mitch Iddins has his hand raised.

MITCH IDDINS: Can we move forward with this nomination if he's not present to accept or decline.

RANDALL BROWN: My apologies, sir. My audio is terrible. Could you repeat that.

MITCH IDDINS: I said can we move forward with Matt's nomination if he's not present to accept or decline?

RANDALL BROWN: He's not present, but I believe he can still be nominated. Correct, Ms. Learson?

NICOLE LEARSON: He can be nominated and if there's a reasonable way to contact him to find out if he accepts so that when you vote at a later time he can move into that role if he's voted in you need to do so or you should do so.

MITCH IDDINS: Does anyone know how to contact Matt at this time, make a call to him or something?

RANDALL BROWN: So I'll ask the staff do they have a way to contact Mr. Rovira.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Randall. Thank you, sir.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. We have a phone number we can contact Matt.

RANDALL BROWN: Could we attempt to do so.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. We can.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can we, maybe a way to approach this is to see if we get seconds for those nominations. If there's no second for Mr. Rovira's nomination, then it's a moot point.

RANDALL BROWN: I don't think nominations traditionally need seconds. Am I right, madam parliamentarian?

NICOLE LEARSON: That is correct. There are no seconds required for nominations.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you.

PHIL WILSON: This is Phil.

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

PHIL WILSON: I'm just kind of not sure, I feel a level of discomfort with Matt's nomination. Matt has a role with Louisiana Nursing Home Association which as the council should be well aware there's sort of a tension and a potential conflict of interest between the beliefs and incentives for that organization. And the beliefs, the values, the vision for people with disabilities who wish to live and fully participate in all aspects of life in the community as we're directed to support as by the DD Act. So I wish Matt were here to have this discussion.

RANDALL BROWN: Please continue.

PHIL WILSON: That's all. I don't know what we can do about that. I really, I'm not trying to railroad a nomination or something, but I feel like if we don't have this open conversation, I don't know if there is a way to delay this conversation until Matt can be a part of this conversation. It's uncomfortable, but I think it's important to get it out there.

RANDALL BROWN: You're correct. It's an important conversation to have. And thank you for putting the prospective out there, sir.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I agree with Phil. I'm glad that Matt is on our council. I think he's great person,

represents outer community well. But just like there's an inherent conflict for us who are state agency people because we have obligations from our employment, I think that while Matt's position as a nonprofit, the position of nonprofit can be, representative can be an officer because of other affiliations that wouldn't necessarily be an appropriate nomination or the best nomination for the council.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Bambi. Are there any other nominations for chair of the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: This is what I want to know. If you are not, you know, a functional with what is that nonprofit, how can you really do anything to nonprofit. How can you do anything, have a chairperson with a nonprofit. But even what about Nicole. Can she run for chairman?

RANDALL BROWN: Nicole Banks.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: We can certainly nominate Nicole. Ms. Nicole Banks is nominated by Roslyn. Nicole, do you accept the nomination?

NICOLE BANKS: Can I have two minutes to think about it cause they nominated me for the education one and I'm already sitting up on there.

RANDALL BROWN: Nominations are happening now. Nominations really began with this process when the parliamentarian intervened and we're doing one by one. I do want to say we do have all the other positions on the council to fill so it's not just that we need a chairperson. We need a vice chairperson. We're going to need heads of both your standing committees, your self-determination and education committees. You're going to need a member at large. And so those nominations are to come after we conclude the nominations for chair. And so Nicole, if you do not wish to be considered for chair you can simply decline Roslyn's nomination and accept a nomination later if you so choose.

NICOLE BANKS: I would accept it.

RANDALL BROWN: When we come up for nominations for the other positions.

NICOLE BANKS: I'll accept it.

RANDALL BROWN: So you accept the nomination for chair. And so Nicole Banks has accepted.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi has her hand raised.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think it was a mistake.

RANDALL BROWN: Amy, are we attempting to contact Matt.

AMY DEAVILLE: An attempt is being made. I believe he is on vacation though, so we may not be able to.

RANDALL BROWN: Oh, okay. So that may not occur. Okay.

MITCH IDDINS: I withdraw my nomination, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: You withdraw your nomination, is that correct, Mitch?

MITCH IDDINS: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: So Mitch has withdrawn his nomination for chair. So at present we have the nominations of Mr. Rashad Bristo, and Ms. Nicole Banks as Brenda has declined nomination. So at present you have the consideration of Mr. Rashad Bristo and Ms. Nicole Banks for chair of the council. Are there any other nominations for chair of the council? Do we have agreement to move to close nominations for chair of the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Mary Tarver has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor.

MARY TARVER: I make a motion to close nominations for the chair.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you, Mary. Actually, I think Hannah just told us that Matt has accepted the nomination. Is that correct?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes. That is correct.

RANDALL BROWN: So Mitch, you had withdrawn your previous nomination. Do you wish to, before we close,

do you wish to renominate Mr. Rovira?

MITCH IDDINS: No. I do not, Randall. I think it's ready to move forward. I think we're ready to move forward and vote. I'm going to stick with my vote to withdraw his nomination at this time.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mary Tarver still has her hand raised. That was a mistake. Liz Gary has her hand raised.

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

LIZ GARY: Good morning. Thank you, Randall. I just wanted to, and obviously I'm from the public, but I don't personally know Nicole, but I do personally know Rashad. He did go through some programs I'm familiar with. I won't say too much because I don't want to violate any privacy. But I do know the kind of person he is. He is a strong determined individual. He has great leadership skills and I've had the pleasure of working with him for quite some time on some of that. And so I just wanted to let the public know and the members know that he is a very powerful person in leadership roles. I just wanted to share that. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you, Liz, for that. So the nominations we currently have then are for Mr. Rashad Bristo and Ms. Nicole Banks. Do we have agreement to close nominations for chair of the council? If there's no objection, we will close by unanimous consent.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is not an objection. This is just a way to make sure that people, as much as I appreciate Liz Gary's comment and, of course, her advocacy and the work that she has done greatly around the state. And I recognize that she was giving a good comment as it relates to Mr. Bristo's abilities and what he has done. But I think in doing so I do not want to give the appearance that we are offering additional credence or information to one person's capabilities or abilities over the other. I

think comments like that we should hold until after the election process is made. And so, again, I appreciate the public for that comment on one of our council members. But I'm sure if Ms. Banks was given the opportunity there would be individuals from the public that can speak to her areas of expertise and knowledge as well in disability rights and advocacy. So again, Mr. Chair, I just want us to caution ourselves to not entertain comments that could appear to sway the vote for one or other candidates. Thank you so much for your time.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that point of clarity. We certainly do believe that both candidates put forth do hold the values, they're certainly valued members of this council. I thank them both for putting their names forward. And let me be clear, that I will work with whoever this council elects to ensure a smooth transition between my term as the chair and their term when it begins on October the first so that they feel as though anything that I can do to assist them with the change into the role. It's a big job and I appreciate both of them for being willing to undertake it. And I'll be certain to make sure that whoever is chosen has my full support in making sure they are ready to assume the position as much as I can prepare them. Now hearing no objection, do we have, we have closed nominations for chair of the council. So are there any objections to closing nominations?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Randall, what was that again? I had stepped away.

RANDALL BROWN: I was just saying are there any objections to closing nominations for chair of the council so that these would be the two nominees for chair of the council. Mr. Rashad Bristo and Ms. Nicole Banks. Are there any objections to the close of nominations for chair of the council?

ROSLYN HYMEL: It looks nobody is saying nothing Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So we have closed nominations for chair of the council. So this would be

your choice now between these two candidates as to who will be the chair of the council. So you have a choice between Mr. Rashad Bristo, and this is to the membership of the council only. These are members of the council appointed by the governor. If you haven't been appointed by the governor, you can't vote. You can speak to it, but you can't vote. Members who are appointed by the governor can vote. So for those who are appointed members this is your choice. Mr. Rashad Bristo or Ms. Nicole Banks for chair of the council. And so I'll call for a voice vote. So Amy, could you or a member of the staff read the roll.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: And so when your name is called, please indicate which candidate you would prefer for council chair.

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Nicole banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Kim Basile.

KIM BASILE: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Melissa Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mike Billings. Mike Billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Sorry. Technical difficulties.

Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Rashad Bristo.

RASHAD BRISTO: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Carmen Cetnar.

CARMEN CETNAR: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Brenda Cosse

BRENDA COSSE: Chairperson Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Cheri Crain. Ms. Cheri Crain.

Lillian DeJean.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Egle. Jill Egle.

JILL EGLE: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Julie Foster Hagan. I believe she had to step away from the meeting. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Nicole.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mitch Iddins.

MITCH IDDINS: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jennifer Katzman. Jennifer Katzman.

Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven Nguyen.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Mr. Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mary Tarver.

MARY TARVER: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Temisha Victorian.

TEMISHA VICTORIAN: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Crystal White. Crystal White. Dr.

Phil Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Rashad Bristo.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Chair, Mr. Rashad Bristo had the most votes.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Congratulations, Mr. Bristo. You are now chair elect of the council. Your term will begin on October the 1st. And as I stated earlier before the vote, I will be in contact with you as much as you would like to prepare you for the role between now and October the 1st, sir. Congratulations. And Nicole, thank you very much for being considered. And please remember you can be considered for all other positions we've yet to vote on as well.

AMY DEAVILLE: And Mr. Rashad Bristo has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Mr. Chair elect. You have the floor, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: I just wanted to say thank you for your vote of confidence. And I look forward to working with each and every one of you to continue to take the DD Council to the next level.

AMY DEAVILLE: Brenda Cosse has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. You have the floor.

BRENDA COSSE: Thank you, chair. Could we please have the official count for the transcript.

AMY DEAVILLE: I'm sorry the count was in the chat box. It's 15 for Rashad Bristo and four for Nicole Banks.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. So now we have nominations for vice chair of the council. Again, just as we did before. In the chair's position I'm now calling for nominations for the position of vice chair of the council.

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven Nguyen has his hand raised.

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

STEVEN NGUYEN: I would like to nominate Ms. Mary Tarver for vice chair.

RANDALL BROWN: Mary Tarver, you have been nominated by Steven Nguyen for vice chair of the council. Do you accept?

MARY TARVER: Steven, I appreciate it, but no, I'm going to decline.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Mary. Mary has declined Steven's nomination. Do we have any other nominations for vice chair of the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Michael Billings has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Mr. Billings, you have the floor, sir.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Good morning. I would like to nominate Crystal White for vice chair. I understand she's available by phone. She's out today with a sick child.

RANDALL BROWN: She has accepted your nomination?

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: So Mr. Billings has nominated Crystal White for vice chair of the council, and she has accepted the nomination by phone as she is not present today due to a sick child.

AMY DEAVILLE: Temisha Victorian has her hand raised.

TEMISHA VICTORIAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

would like to nominate Ms. Nicole Banks for vice chair.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Nicole Banks, do you accept Ms. Victorian's nomination for vice chair of the council?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: So Ms. Banks has accepted nomination for vice chair.

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven Nguyen has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: You have the floor, sir.

AMY DEAVILLE: Oh, that was a mistake.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other nominations for vice chair of the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Is there another Nicole with us?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, but she's our parliamentarian. She would not be eligible.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I wasn't sure. That's why I was asking.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What about Steven.

RANDALL BROWN: Steven?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Steven Nguyen. Steven, do you accept Roslyn's nomination for vice chair of the council?

STEVEN NGUYEN: Roslyn, I appreciate you nominating me, but I will respectfully decline. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I have a question for Steven. Why are you don't want to do it?

STEVEN NGUYEN: I am getting ready to roll off, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other nominations for vice chair of the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Lillian DeJean has her hand raised.

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

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I would like to nominate Ms. Temisha.

RANDALL BROWN: Temisha, do you accept Lillian's nomination for vice chair of the council?

TEMISHA VICTORIAN: I appreciate your nominating me Lillian and being considered, but I'll have to decline the nomination.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Victorian.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi Polotzola has her hand raised.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just wanted to move that we close nominations, but I don't want to do that until Dr. McKee may have another nomination.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm, sorry, Bambi. I didn't catch that. My audio is terrible.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I raised my hand to move to close nominations, but I don't want to do that at this time because Dr. McKee has her hand raised and I don't want to if she has a nomination.

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

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Bambi. I do have a nomination. I would like to nomination Lillian DeJean for vice chairperson.

RANDALL BROWN: Ms. Lillian DeJean, do you accept the nomination of Dr. McKee for vice chair of the council?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I appreciate Dr. McKee, you know, I have so much respect for you, but I'm going to have to decline.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What about Carmen. Carmen C.

RANDALL BROWN: Ms. Carmen Cetnar, do you accept Roslyn's nomination for vice chair of the council?

CARMEN CETNAR: Unfortunately, I cannot accept at this time. I'm sorry. Thank you though.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's all right. At least you know I was thinking of you.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other nominations for vice chair.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mitch Iddins has his hand raised.

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

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I second the motion by Bambi that we close nominations at this time.

RANDALL BROWN: Well, as long as we have unanimous consent, we don't need a second. Does anyone object to closing nominations for vice chair of the council with the list you see before you? Does anyone object to the close of nominations for vice chair of the council? So the list you have of people that have accepted the nomination are Ms. Crystal White who accepted Michael Billings' nomination by phone and Ms. Nicole Banks who here present accepted the nomination of Temisha Victorian. And so do you have, is there any objection to this being the list for candidates for vice chair? Hearing no objection, the motions are closed for vice chair, and these are your candidates. That's Ms. Crystal White and Ms. Nicole Banks. So again, Amy I will ask either you or a member of the staff to please read the roll, so we do a voice vote.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, sir. Ms. Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Nicole banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Kim Basile.

KIM BASILE: Crystal White.

AMY DEAVILLE: Melissa Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Michael Billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Crystal White.

AMY DEAVILLE: Rashad Bristo.

RASHAD BRISTO: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Carmen Cetnar.

CARMEN CETNAR: Crystal White.

AMY DEAVILLE: Brenda Cosse.

BRENDA COSSE: Abstain.

AMY DEAVILLE: Cheri Crain. Cheri Crain. Lillian DeJean.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Egle.

JILL EGLE: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Julie Foster Hagan. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Crystal White.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mitchell Iddins

MITCH IDDINS: Crystal White.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jennifer Katzman. Jennifer Katzman.
Dr. Hyacinth McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Abstain.

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven Nguyen.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Abstain.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Matt Rovira who is absent. Mary
Tarver.

MARY TARVER: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Temisha Victorian.

TEMISHA VICTORIAN: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: Crystal White. She is absent. Dr.
Phil Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Nicole Banks.

AMY DEAVILLE: With a vote of ten to five, Nicole
Banks is the new vice chair.

RANDALL BROWN: Congratulations madam vice chair
elect. Your new term will begin on October the 1st.
The same day as chair elect Bristo. Congratulations to
you.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, guys. I appreciate it.
I'll make you guys proud. Get some work done.

RANDALL BROWN: Crystal, even though she's absent I
want to thank her for putting her name forward to for
today's nomination. And so our next round of
nominations will be for chair of the self-determination
and community inclusion committee. So this person
aside from sitting on the council is the chair of the
self-determination and community inclusion committee of
the council. And so at this point I'll call for
nominations from the floor for chair of self-
determination community inclusion.

AMY DEAVILLE: Michael Billings has his hand

raised.

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

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I would like to nominate Kim Basile.

RANDALL BROWN: Ms. Kim Basile, do you accept Michael Billing's nomination for chair of self-determination and community inclusion committee?

KIM BASILE: Yes. I do.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Ms. Basile has accepted. Do I have any other nominations for self-determination and community inclusion committee chair?

JILL HANO: I was going to nominate someone, but Mike stole my thought.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you, Jill. Do I have any other nominations for the position of chair of the self-determination and community inclusion committee?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. Can Amy enlarge the screen so we can see it better.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. There we go. Is that better?

AMY DEAVILLE: Lillian DeJean.

RANDALL BROWN: Lillian, you have the floor.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I would like to nominate Jill Hano for chair of the self-determination committee.

RANDALL BROWN: Ms. Jill Hano, you have been nominated for chair of self-determination and community inclusion by Ms. Lillian DeJean. Do you accept the nomination?

JILL HANO: I appreciate it very much, but I respectfully decline. But one day, possibly.

RANDALL BROWN: I have no doubt about that Jill. Thank you very much. Jill has declined your nomination, Lillian. Are there any other nominations for chair of self-determination community inclusion?

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What about Brenda?

RANDALL BROWN: Ms. Brenda Cosse?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Ms. Brenda, do you accept

Roslyn's nomination for chair of self-determination and community inclusion? Ms. Cosse, do you accept Roslyn Hymel's nomination for chair of self-determination community inclusion? Is Brenda still with us?

AMY DEAVILLE: She is, and she has her hand raised.

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

BRENDA COSSE: Chair Brown, I respectfully decline. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Do I have any other nominations for chair of the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Bambi, you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I move to close nominations.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Bambi. Is there any objection to closing nominations for chair of self-determination and community inclusion? Does anyone object? Hearing no objection, you have one candidate who has accepted the nomination so by acclimation that person will be the next chair of the self-determination and community inclusion committee and that's Ms. Kim Basile. So Kim, you are now the chair elect of self-determination and community inclusion committee. Congratulations.

KIM BASILE: Thank you very much.

RANDALL BROWN: So your next nomination is for our education and employment committee chair.

JILL HANO: Can we pull the committee list for the EE committee because the only people I'm thinking of are agency reps. Can someone share.

RANDALL BROWN: At this time we can only have nominations, Jill. But if we could have the list. I think it's in your packet.

JILL HANO: Okay, cool. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: If you look at your list for the committees, which is in your packet, every member who's currently a member of the education committee should be listed on that list.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Do we have any nominations for

chair of the education and employment committee?

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven Nguyen has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm sorry. Who?

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven Nguyen.

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

STEVEN NGUYEN: Hello again. I would like to nominate Dr. Hyacinth McKee as education employment committee chair. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So Dr. McKee, you have been nominated for chair of education and employment committee. Do you accept Steven's nomination?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Steven. I accept.

RANDALL BROWN: So Dr. McKee has accepted.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi Polotzola has her hand raised.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I move to close nominations.

RANDALL BROWN: Is there any objection to closing nominations for education and employment committee chair? Does anyone object to closing nominations for education and employment committee chair? Hearing no objection, the nominations for education and employment committee chair are now closed. And Dr. Hyacinth McKee is your soul candidate and so she becomes by acclimation the chair elect of the education and employment committee. Congratulations Dr. McKee. So now we have the final seat up for consideration today on the council. And that is nominations for the member at large. And this is the person who represents the council on the executive committee. And so just to give you some background on that role. And so do we have any nominations from the floor for member at large?

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven Nguyen has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Mr. Nguyen.

STEVEN NGUYEN: Hello again. I would like to nominate Ms. Jill Hano for member at large.

RANDALL BROWN: Jill Hano, you've been nominated for member at large by Steven Nguyen. Do you accept the nomination?

JILL HANO: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: Very well then. Jill Hano has accepted Steven Nguyen's nomination. Do we have any other nominations for member at large?

AMY DEAVILLE: Temisha Victorian has her hand raised.

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

TEMISHA VICTORIAN: I nominate Ms. Nicole DeJean for member at large.

RANDALL BROWN: Do you mean Nicole Banks?

TEMISHA VICTORIAN: I'm sorry. Not Nicole. Lillian. I'm thinking of her mother.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Ms. Lillian DeJean, you've been nominated by Temisha Victorian for member at large. Do you accept Ms. Victorian's nomination?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So two things. I respectfully decline. I appreciate the vote of confidence. Second thing is my mom just so happened to be in the kitchen while that happened, and she thinks this is wildly funny.

JILL HANO: I do nominate Ms. Nicole for member at large.

RANDALL BROWN: So Jill, you nominate Nicole Banks?

JILL HANO: No. I was just--.

RANDALL BROWN: Oh, yeah. I was going to say that's been decided. Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi has her hand raised.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I move to close nominations.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Is there any objection to closing nominations for a member at large of the executive committee.

JILL EGGLE: I want to race. Come on.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

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

ROSLYN HYMEL: Brenda C. My friend, my good friend.

RANDALL BROWN: Ms. Brenda Cosse you've been

nominated by Ms. Hymel for member at large. Do you accept the nomination?

AMY DEAVILLE: She has her hand raised.

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

BRENDA COSSE: Chair Brown, I thought earlier we said that the member at large was reserved for a self-advocate.

RANDALL BROWN: So you decline? Am I correct that you decline?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Are you accepting my offer or not accepting my offer?

RANDALL BROWN: I think Brenda feels that this should be held by a self-advocate and she's a parent. So I would assume Brenda declines. Do we have that right Brenda?

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's okay. No hard feelings.

BRENDA COSSE: That is correct cause I heard earlier this was reserved. I thought I heard it.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. So you just decline. So you have declined the nomination, correct?

BRENDA COSSE: Brenda Cosse, decline.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just a point of order I had made a motion to close nominations so I think like we may have not been following procedurally, but I'll go ahead and make that motion again.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So Bambi has made a motion. Do we have any objection to closing nominations for member at large? Does anybody object to closing nominations for member at large? Hearing no objection, the nominations for member at large are now closed. Ms. Jill Hano by acclimation, you are now the member elect. And since you currently hold the post, you will succeed yourself in the role. Congratulations Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Thank you. Look forward. I think this is a great executive committee that is following equally great executive committee and I look forward to

starting this new journey. Thank y'all.

RANDALL BROWN: Congratulations to all the new members elected today. And again, as your outgoing chair who will leave October the 1st this will now be my last meeting as your chair and as a member of the council. But I will be active and continue to work for you until October the 1st. And my door is open to any of these members who wish to have any consultation with me. I've held, in the past over five years now, I've held all but one of these seats on your executive committee during my time here. And so if any of you would like any feedback from me, I'm more than happy to give it. If not, you certainly have the mandate of the council and just know that you have my acceptance and I look forward to seeing what you all achieve in the future.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Egle has her hand raised.

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

JILL EGLE: I want to tell you something. From my heart as far as I've known you, we go way back. I appreciate what lies ahead up north. And let me tell you as long as I've been inspired by you, I always thought that you can run in Capitol Hill in Baton Rouge as an official on whatever side because you are the leader you are today and whatever lies ahead, I will always support you. And good luck to you in your endeavors.

RANDALL BROWN: Why thank you.

JILL EGLE: You're welcome.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So that concludes the business of electing of officers so we can move forward with our agenda now.

AMY DEAVILLE: I'm sorry, chair. Dr. McKee has her hand raised.

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

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll be very brief. I just want to echo Jill. I thought I had something really crafted or something really, you know, something set up to talk about. But Jill just phrased it perfectly. Just perfectly. I want to say as

serving as your vice chair and outgoing as a vice chair I could not have asked for a better leader to lead us in this time of the pandemic. Randall and I often times joke with each other and call each other batman and robin. And certainly he's the batman. You all you just don't know the level of work and time and commitment and dedication and advocacy that Randall Brown has put forth for this entire council. And so I do not want us to be remised in thanking him for everything. And then moving forward he is committed. He will be there. He is going to support the new leaders that's involved and some of our old hats too that's still sticking around. He will be there to support us. Again, thank you Jill Egle. Thank you for your representation of region ten and what you said about Randall. And again, Randall, we wish you all the best and we're thankful for you. Thank you again.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. I appreciate your kind words. It really means a lot. I did the best I could do with the situation I was given with this previous term, and I've been very fortunate to have the council's support for the entire time that I have been a member of this council. To be a member of your executive committee. And that's a rare and important thing. And I really, I took it seriously from day one. I started as your member at large. I've been a member of the council for about a month, and I was appointed to the member at large position which became vacant by a previous chair. And then I worked, I was elected twice to other positions. Self-determination I was there for two years as your chair. And then vice chair for about six months and your chairman during this horrible time. But please know that I do care very deeply for our community, and I've tried my best to do the best I could with the situation we're in. And I did not do everything right by any means. But please know that even though I'll be leaving the council effective October the 1st officially, I will always care what happens to us and how I can best serve you and be a voice with you and for you on our issues. I'm

not going away so much as I am taking a break. But please know that I love you all. I really do. I did this strictly because I care, not because I didn't. This is a voluntary role. All of these. And they're all important and they all take a lot of work when you mean to do them right. And I know these people do. And I thank you very much for putting your names out there and agreeing to serve. It's a big commitment, all of them. And I sincerely mean that in any way that I can assist you both during the transition and after, just reach out to me. I'll be happy to assist you if that's something you feel you need. If not, then I'm certainly going to stand back and be your cheering section. Because I believe in this council, and I believe in the work it does for this community and I love this community. And that will never go away or expire. Thank you all.

Now, our next order of business is the executive director's report. So Amy, if you have that prepared, we'll let you begin that report for us.

AMY DEAVILLE: I do. And I will also make it brief. We have attended a number of meetings this quarter. The NACCD the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities hosted a two-day orientation for all new state council executive directors which I was able to attend. That focused on the DD Act and federal rewards and reporting. Brenton attended a number of meetings. April 8th, the OCDD listening session regarding covid 19 waiver exceptions. On April 15th the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs legislative committee. And then on June 10th the stakeholder feedback on HCBS rule making and audit for rate increases. And descriptions are there and available so I'm just kind of going to go through to move us along. Ebony Haven attended on May 25th the NACDD diversity inclusion and cultural and linguistic competence workgroup. And then on June 16th the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs legislative committee. And then, obviously, while Courtney was here as interim executive director, she

attended a number of meetings but was mainly busy with the legislative session as were all staff as it was quite intensive. Let's see. We have two hands that are raised. One is Jill Egle, but I believe she just didn't lower her hand. So Dr. McKee her hand is raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Has the floor been opened for any questions about the executive director's report. I don't want to stop--.

RANDALL BROWN: As soon as she finishes, I'm going to open the floor for comment.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. Once she finishes. Thank you, Amy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

AMY DEAVILLE: I'm finished.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So now that she's concluded her report, we have the floor open for questions.

HYACINTH MCKEE: First smile of the day for me. I typically have a resting face. But please blame that on my grandmother, not me. Moving down to the diversity. And I promise I'll be brief council cause I know we need a break. The report from Ebony Haven on the NACDD diversity and inclusion and cultural linguistic competence. We all know that the DEI committee convened after this took place and there was nothing on our agenda citing that this meeting even took place at the national level and the outcome of the meeting. And so I as the DEI chair I'm going to need to get something in writing regarding what took place at this meeting. Because certainly if there are ways to assist the DEI committee in developing a strategic plan that was offered by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities as that is one of our purpose as and we asked for that expansion on our mission to include to make sure it's aligned with DD Act. I'm not aware that this meeting took place, and I am looking for a written report from Ms. Haven to show what was discussed. Or if the executive director has any knowledge she wants to offer. But again, the DEI committee is going to need something in writing about what took place at this workgroup, particularly

discussing ways to write a DEI strategic plan. Thank you for your time, Mr. Chair.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay. I'll work with Ebony. We'll gather something together and send it to Dr. McKee. If there are no other questions about the ED report, I can move onto the budget report. Mr. Chair, you're muted.

RANDALL BROWN: Sorry about that. Are there any other questions of Amy of her executive director's report? Any questions with regard to her report? Hearing no questions, I believe it's safe, Amy, for you to move to the budget report.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Excuse me, Randall.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: My tablets about to die and I'm outside.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thanks for letting us know. As soon as you can rejoin us, you're free to attempt to. Thank you for being here today. Okay. So you see before you the budget report. So Amy, let me let you have the floor.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay. So this is the budget report for the fiscal year ending June 2021. So this is the state fiscal year 2021. And I'm not sure if people have specific questions about the budget. I can say we're in good shape with the budget. And these are, this list out in different categories the expenditures and where our budget balance is. And then if people have, not exactly sure what people may have specific questions about regarding the budget. But if I can answer them, I will.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So we have the budget before us. Are there any questions with regard to the budget you have before you?

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

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

NICOLE BANKS: Just looking at the budget report and it has our year to date spending up, operational expenses. And we are in the red by 12,333-dollars. Do we have an estimation of why we are in the red. That's

a significant amount. I just need to know what happened.

AMY DEAVILLE: So let me try explain. This budget report is pulling information from a lot of different categories within the budget and then grouping them together. So this budget report, I believe, was probably made kind of factoring in what was believed that the council would want to see. But this budget is not really how our actual budget is laid out. So areas where we are in the red we actually, in this report we aren't actually below budget in those areas. And I know that's very confusing. But it has to do with how this report is made. I decided to go forward and use this report because it's the format that everyone is familiar with and has been using for the last, I'm not even sure how long. But it kind of gives you a false impression of us having negative accounts where we don't. So operating expenses is an extremely broad term for a whole lot of expenses that are taking place. And so that's really why it's looking like it's in the negative. But our budget is actually quite healthy.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. For just future references, I guess when we get on the council and we actually get into the executive part, are they going to have a breakdown so we can understand how these reports are run and what information is gathered and how, you know, how is it formulating up on here. Because if you're just a regular person looking in oh, well. Wait, that's a whole bunch of money that we're negative. So just more of a thought-out process of how y'all do the reports and where the information is coming from in regards to this report. And just how it's being formulated. Just so we can understand how to read the report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Right. I'm not sure if that was done in the past, but yes. I do plan on taking a look at this report and trying to see if we can get a format that maybe more accurately reflects what our budget looks like. And then I would be happy to meet with new members of the executive committee to explain it once I

get that together.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you. I just wanted to, you know, see where we were on the same page.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure. Great. I believe Mitch Iddins has his hand raised.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Ms. Deaville. Ms. Deaville, can you tell us what the actual balance is in the operating budget. Do you have that number with you?

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't have that number with me. I'm sorry.

MITCH IDDINS: You can get that to us later. Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure.

RANDALL BROWN: And just to be clear for everyone, the budget is an issue that the executive director and the chair will work closely on routinely. So these clarifications will be made to me, but they'll be shared also with Mr. Bristo. And so we are aware of expenditures and how they happen at all times. This is just after effort to be transparent so everyone knows to the best of our ability where our money is going. So but to be clear, your executive committee, especially myself as your chair and your incoming chair it will be the same. They will have intimate knowledge of how these expenses carry out along with Ms. Deaville. So please don't worry about any discrepancies or anything you need to learn. There will be opportunities for that as you continue to serve. Anyway. Any other questions of Amy with regard to the budget report?

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Jill.

JILL HANO: Ms. Amy, I do appreciate your offer to sit down with me and coming to executive committee to look at the new budget or look at the council's budget because as Ms. Banks stated, it is very, part of it is very complicated.

RANDALL BROWN: It is. And the staff will help tremendously with your ability to understand that and

grasp that. Please don't get overwhelmed by that today. We're in good shape and everything is going well. And so the need for the information for you all to get the training will be there as you have questions the staff and the chair as necessary can and will do our best to answer them.

AMY DEAVILLE: There is a question in the chat from Corhonda Corley that ask can someone explain the extremely large increase in the operating expenses. I'm not sure that I can 100 percent explain an increase since I don't have a bunch of historical knowledge on the budget yet. I will say that it probably has a lot to do with the way things have been coded in this last year as opposed to the way they were coded in previous years. Which I know is not a great explanation, but there's been changes in the way that things are coding. So I think it's hitting different lines and increasing that operating expenses line.

RANDALL BROWN: I think you're exactly correct, madam executive director. We've been laboring to make the budget more transparent or at least more readable. And in doing so I think that has contributed to how things are coded a little differently.

AMY DEAVILLE: And Marilee from my staff says that she also believes the increase was in purchasing furniture and some moving costs.

RANDALL BROWN: And that's in regards to our recent move to new offices that was required because our former offices had to be vacated. So some of those may in fact be leftover moving expenses which are onetime expenses, of course. Thank you, Marilee, for that clarification. No other budget questions, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: I am not seeing any.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. That being said, we have reached a point where we can have a break. So I believe that will be a 15-minute break, correct, according to the rules?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, sir.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. And so it is currently 11:23. So let's just say at 11:30. I'll give a little

extra. Let's just say at 11:30 we will reconvene and resume our business. So we're taking a break until 11:30. Thank you everyone.

Okay. It's a few minutes passed 11:30. Do we have a quorum?

AMY DEAVILLE: Can all council members please turn on their video. Not quite.

RANDALL BROWN: Could all council members please turn on their videos. Again, could everyone please turn on their videos. Council members, please.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay. You have a quorum.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. And so welcome back everyone. And now we will begin with our standing committee reports. And that begins with the act 378 subcommittee. So Bambi, you're chair of that committee, so you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi everyone. Can you hear me?

RANDALL BROWN: Yes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: The act 378 subcommittee met Tuesday and we do not have any recommendations for the council to consider. We did spend time reviewing fiscal year 21 4th quarter data for programs within Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Behavioral Health and Aging and Adult Services through Arc of Louisiana. These reports can be found on the council's website under the council meeting section if you would like to review. And for the most part, the departments did not have concerns with the local governing entities or LGEs expending their funds by the end of the fiscal year despite having some low expenditure rates in their fourth quarter report. We were told most of the June invoices were not reflected in the report we reviewed. But representatives of OCDD and OBH were confident that the funds would be spent and services such as individual and family supports and consumer care resources programs. We will review their end of the year reports at our October meeting.

We had another discussion about fiscal year 20 IFS requests and expenditure by service report. Which we have talked about over the last few meetings.

Clarification was provided on encumbered funds and what happens to dollars that are unspent at the end of the year. It was again mentioned that discrepancies in spending of IFS funds across regions based on different service categories. And Ms. Tanya Murphy with OCDD stated this report would be analyzed further with the LGEs at their meeting later this month to determine if a cause of these discrepancies can be found. She will report any findings at the next quarterly meeting. Ms. Murphy also planned to analyze data to determine what impacts, if any, the passage of act 73 of 2017 has had on the delivery of IFS and flexible family fund services and would share her findings at the next quarterly meeting. For those that may not be familiar with act 73 of 2017 it requires our human service districts and authorities or LGEs, as they are called by both names, to allocate a minimum amount equal to nine percent of its state funding to individual and family support and flexible family fund programs for people with developmental disabilities. This legislation was important because prior to act 73 LGEs determined how much to allocate to various programs they administer. The percentage of funding these entities dedicated to services for individuals with developmental disabilities varied greatly with limited access, which limited access to state funded services based on where a person lived. So our committee has been monitoring compliance of this bill since its passage, this law since its passage. And that ends my report.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Bambi. Do we have any questions for Bambi with regard to her report?

AMY DEAVILLE: The link has been posted in the chat for act 378 reports if anyone's interested.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that, Amy. Thank you, staff. Are there any questions of Bambi with regard to her report for the act 378 subcommittee? Any questions? Okay. Thank you, Bambi. Hearing no questions, your report will be entered into the record. Thank you very much. And so next on our agenda for us

to hear from would be our report from our education and employment committee chair, Ms. Mary Tarver. So Mary, you have the floor.

MARY TARVER: Good morning. Thank you. We met this week on Tuesday, I think. We had updates given to us from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. We've been following the rehabilitation employment development specialist, the REDSs. And there's still two regions that have positions open. And that's in the Houma area and Alexandria. And those positions are posted on the state's civil service website. So if anyone knows someone that might be interested in that position and in those areas to look at the civil service website.

We also had from the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, had an update about the challenges of vocational providers and opening back up after the shutdown as they're still having staffing issues. It's hard to get people to work during covid. They have clients who are not ready to leave their home environment or their environment to become, you know. And then also the families, the clients can choose their family as their workers so they're staying home with their own family as their worker. So we have had some challenges with covid still, it's ongoing. As an update by March the 17th of 2022 there should be no sheltered employment and the majority of those individuals are served during the day programs have not returned to the day programs and that was some of the things that I mentioned earlier, some of the reasons why.

And we had a discussion about people finding it hard to get information about what services are available. And they have, the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities has an email that's set up for questions and it can be used and just say hey, call me, I've got questions. And the website is OCDD-HCBS@la.gov. And we already have our summary posted on the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council website and these links are in there. So I just wanted to mention that.

We also got an update from Louisiana Department of Education. We have a new representative on the education and employment committee from Louisiana Department of Education. And that's going to be Meredith Jordan. So she joined on the call, but Dr. Peterson gave the update for their area. They did have the IDEA budget that has been online for stakeholder input and public comment. And so that period is over, the budget was approved, and the total amount awarded was 248 million-dollars. They also had 41 million-dollars through the American Recovery Plan and that's going to go directly to each parish or local, the LEA, the local, my brain went blank. But for each parish school board, I guess.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Randall, I made it back.

MARY TARVER: There are some specific required activities and allowable expenses which these funds have to be used for. And Louisiana Department of Education also has posted that on their website. Yes, thank you. Local education agency. Thank you. We have it on our website as well so you can look at the Department of Education's link to find out what their funding looks like. They also mentioned that they have a special education advisory panel vacancy and gave an email for Ashley Augustine if there's anybody that's interested in filling any of the positions on the SEAP board.

We also got updates on some of the activities that are on our fiscal year 21 action plan. And we had just some really good discussion and some presentations. One is our seminars on hiring individuals with developmental disabilities and we had an employment webinars throughout the state. So there was some specific updates. And they kind of went through the program yesterday and they've had good participation. We recognize there was more to do with the seminars and also trying to get more people involved. We hope to continue that activity and include some funding to continue to help with that endeavor. There's still one more seminar planned and it's in Jefferson Parish, I

think. That will be on this coming Tuesday. So their vendors, not vendors, employers who are going to get, the presentation is about how important it is and all the great things that can happen for your business if you will hire people with developmental and physical disabilities.

The other great presentation we had was from the Louisiana Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance. And Dr. Beckers had a video that she showed that is of college kids with disabilities that are enjoying the college plans, you know, college experience on campuses across the state. And they've been working to get even more kids enrolled and getting more colleges signed up. Louisiana State University in Alexandria is going to start a program next year. So it has been one of the biggest joys to see as I've been on the council and in the employment and education committee. When we first had these discussions about two years ago and now seeing it come to fruition is just remarkable. So Dr. Beckers and the team that they have had for the work that they've done on that is just incredible. And so if you get chance to watch the video, and I know we're going to have it linked on our website, but it's about three minutes and it's awesome. It's just fun to watch and see the joy of them and the learning that they're doing. So it's great stuff. They do need our help to push for permanent legislation for the program to continue for the Louisiana Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance. The colleges are having to fund their own, you know, startup and then as the students enroll that is the funding that keeps the services going. But it is dependent on that university's leadership to continue with that program. And so we want to, hopefully, see that on the council's legislative agenda so that we can have some legislation that would be required, and they wouldn't stop the program midstream or, you know, in the future. So we're very excited to have that going on.

And then we talked about customized employment training and had some updates on that. And that also

is part of our summary that's online. So there was a lot that we talked about yesterday and it was just great. Great news all around and I was very excited about our meeting yesterday. Does anybody have any questions? All right. Y'all go watch the video.

AMY DEAVILLE: I'll go back real quick and over what's in the chat. Most of it has been answered by staff. Kim asked if we could post a listing of acronyms that we frequently use on our website and social media. That is on our website and a link was posted. A link was also posted to the video that Ms. Tarver mentioned from LAPIE. And the OCDD web email address that Ms. Tarver mentioned is also posted in the chat. Question from Corhonda Corley. Can the education committee under the DDC send a letter encouraging Louisiana Special Education Advisory Panel to convene prior to Louisiana's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education August meeting regarding covid 19 protocols and minimum requirements for children with disabilities returning in the brick-and-mortar buildings considering the case numbers have increased drastically. Can the education committee require the individuals from the agencies to attend the entire meeting to ensure all questions are addressed regarding them. Also require they always send a representative in their place.

MARY TARVER: I'm not sure about the Special Education Committee Advisory Panel meeting before BESE. I think in our meeting it seemed like that the impression was, you know, that there were two separate entities and if we had any questions about BESE that we needed to follow up with them. We'll have to get with the staff and see if Amy can help us if we feel like we need to write a letter we can try. I don't know how successful that we can be.

RANDALL BROWN: Mary, I will say if you all decide to write a letter, I will sign it.

MARY TARVER: Okay. And then I guess on the education committee requiring agencies to attend the entire meeting. I know yesterday or this week when we

had our meeting, we did have a lot of people that were I can come at this time, and I can present, and they had a lot going on. So we'll continue to work with everybody on being able to come to the meeting and being involved so we'll continue to stress that. We've had problems even getting our own council members to come and have the quorum that we've needed over time. So I know that we all try and work on that and will continue to do that.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. Hyacinth McKee has her hand raised.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Cosigning what Mary is saying, absolutely. But I think the concern is we've been hearing at least for the past two yours from the public is that we need representation from agencies at these meetings because our public has questions, serious concerns about things that we just do not have the answer for them. And I hate that it has to, already our families have to wait three months and often times the DD Council is their way to express and voice their concerns. And when we don't have agency representation that is not allowing our parents the opportunity to be heard. I am concerned about this. This is something that has been ongoing specifically at least for the past year. I do see that and, you know, that there have been a lot of attempts by agencies to be present. But I am concerned about this question about education, particularly, and making sure that there is an agency representative at the education and employment committee from education as well as the full council. And if they're unable to be present I think it's best that our executive director be notified as well as having written reports. I'm noticing that written reports are not available, and they're not attached to links. And again, that kind of information we need to make the public aware of. And so again, if there is something that we can do moving forward, and I know Mary's been working hard on trying to ensure that that happens, but I think that we're at a point now where we need this information for our families.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Dr. McKee. So noted. Are there any questions of Mary's report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What she read in that I don't know, to me it feels like something could we ever come to agreement to she was really saying to it or what we going to do about it.

RANDALL BROWN: I believe that the education committee, the chair Mary currently and Dr. McKee who will succeed her, I believe the chair will work with myself and the executive director to try and make sure we have good communication with the department and get the issues resolved as soon as we can. I'm sure they are willing to partner with us and do all we can to make sure our families are heard, and our positions are clear, and the agencies are well represented as best we can try to ensure.

ROSLYN HYMEL: And two, I want to know too, is it going to come together even with the families as well from the State of Louisiana as well.

RANDALL BROWN: The families are always welcome at our meetings and any other public meetings with regard to education issues. And so yes, anyone can attend and get information as it's made available.

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

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other questions with regard to Mary's report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm not sure if this is a question or a necessary statement. But is there some way that we can comprise a list of all the agencies that we work with when they have these kind of meetings that's open to the public so that we can have just one list where everybody can look like okay, this day in August we're having such and such meetings from, you know, the education or from whenever. Cause we do know when they have the meeting cause they do sit on the board with these people and they also, you know, give us this

information. So if we can, that will be a good way to get it out to the public if we can get a comprised list of the governing agencies that we work with that have public meetings I think that will kind of help everybody along the way. Because it's not just one place where we can go and be like okay, that meeting's going on today. Okay, I can probably make it there next week. We can we don't have it going on. So if we can have that I think this will clear things up a little bit and it will get it out to the public. Whether they can make it to the meeting or not at least they know it's there and it's all there from all agencies. Just a suggestion.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for the suggestion. Any other questions with regard to Mary's report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Charlie Michel has his hand raised.

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

CHARLIE MICHEL: Piggyback on what Hyacinth said just a little bit ago. I heard her say something about this has been a concern for the last year, especially. Just to put a little prospective on it, it was a concern for many years before that. We may be getting more concerns expressed because it's a new administration at the Department of Education and there's a lot of things going on in there, I think are hopeful. But I believe that they're very shorthanded, and I'm not supporting that in any way or using that as an excuse, but I think it would be helpful if we had a plan of when they would be filling those positions and how they will fill the void in this committee in the meantime. Because I will tell you it's not only parents that have had concerns over the past several years, it was special ed directors, school boards around the State of Louisiana. And it needs to be, it's an institutional culture that has evolved over the past ten years that I think they're trying to work on, but I don't see any big movement yet. But that's a very slow wheel to move. It's not just a new problem. I think it's just getting more pronounced

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much for that prospective, Charlie. And we will dedicate ourselves to doing everything we can to working with the administration at Department of Education to try and get the information our public desperately needs. That will be an ongoing thing that myself and the staff are committed to doing on behalf of our council for as long as it takes as is necessary. Thank you, sir, for that prospective.

AMY DEAVILLE: Corhonda Corley has her hand raised.

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

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I would like to thank vice chair Dr. McKee and new madam vice chair Ms. Banks as well as Dr. Charlie Michel for their comments because it was right on time, and it was very accurate. Also thank you to Ms. Roslyn for her comments as well. And I would like to elaborate. During education committee we did inquire about the report from the focus groups that we have not received. It was 100 parents throughout the State of Louisiana that actually participated in these focus groups and gave recommendations to LDOE. However, we have not received that report. That report should actually come to the DD Council because the DD Council actually advertised for those parents to actually be a part of that focus groupism.

Secondly, I think that our education committee has been very leery or not really understanding what our role is. SEAP Special Education Advisory Panel advises the board of elementary and secondary education as it relates to any and everything that deals with children with disabilities, particularly IDEA. Which is Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. We have to ensure that those things are met, and that IDEA is implemented to the extreme without having a free, appropriate public education violated for our children with disabilities. That is what's constantly happening around this entire state. We have over 200,000 children that have individual education plans. And yet

they are not receiving free, appropriate public education. As we know right now the schools, BESE is stating that the school systems can each individually make their own minimum requirements for children as it relates to minimum requirements to address covid for those returning into the brick-and-mortar building. We're leaving our children in the ID and DD community exposed and extremely vulnerable.

And it pains me that also as Ms. Banks stated due to us not having that list sometimes our education committee meets on the same days as BESE meet. Which makes it hard for me as a parent and as an advocate of people with disabilities to be in two places at one time. So I normally choose to be at BESE so that our disabilities community can be represented and actually be on record. As we know when they did make the minimum requirements nothing, they had one slide that pertained to children with disabilities out of over 40. So this is a problem where our children with disabilities, as Dr. Charlie has mentioned, they do not get addressed. We're never addressed. And it leave our children rights constantly being violated. And we can look at special school district too as another means of that and that is now currently being addressed due to a new law that has passed. But I strongly encourage that we do write the letter saying for SEAP to meet prior to BESE even if it's just on covid minimum requirements for the kids that will be returning into the brick-and-mortar building in traditional public schools as well as charters. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Corley. You have my commitment as the chair, I'll be the chair until October the 1st, and I will personally look into that issue and speak with Mary on that question of what we can do in regards to that issue. At the minimum. And of course, we will continue to work as best we can to improve relations with the Department of Education at every available opportunity and, of course, express all of the things that have been expressed here anywhere

and everywhere we can for our community. I'm committed to that as your chair. So thank you for those comments. Is there any other comments with regard to Mary's report to be made. Hearing none, thank you, Mary. Your report will be entered into the record. And the next report, and the last one before we will break for lunch, is going to be from our standing committee of self-determination and community inclusion. And that's Mr. Mike Billings. So Mike, you have the floor, sir.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Good afternoon. The last report before lunch and my last report as self-determination and community inclusion chair. So the self-determination and community inclusion committee met yesterday, and we had one recommendation to present to the council. At the April 2021 council meeting the council approved a motion to request new contract proposals for activity 2.7.4 which is activity 2.2.2 in the FY 22 plan. With strong consideration to be given to in state organizations. The purpose of this activity is to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities. The deadline to submit proposals was July the 9th at 4:30 p.m. Only one proposal was received and that was from Niagara University. They are also the contractor that is currently working on the initiative. For this year they have been researching specifics about Louisiana's needs and hosting really successfully virtual webinars discussing topics such as disability awareness specific to emergency management, access and functional needs, proper response to individuals with disabilities and how to involve them in planning. The American Disabilities Act relative to emergency management and response and community resources and other materials that assist emergency management and proper response are specific to our state. For the second year they plan to host two two-day training events for those responsibilities and for those with responsibilities in emergency preparedness for people with disabilities and

the general public to develop and disseminate an inclusive planning and active participation manual. This will provide all the information needed pertaining to our state to ensure proper emergency management preparedness. They will also help establish core advisory groups who will be charged with bringing this information back to their local and regional planning agencies. The contractor will also conduct follow-ups with these advisory groups to hold them accountable for changes being made in their local areas. With that being said, the self-determination and community inclusion committee recommends that Niagara University be selected to complete activity 2.2.2 in the council's federal fiscal year 22 action plan which begins October the 1st 2021. And we offer this recommendation to the council for consideration.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you, sir, very much. So you have a motion from the committee. It's now on the floor and if doesn't need a second because it comes from the committee. We have a motion that says the self-determination and community inclusion committee recommend Niagara University be selected to complete activity 2.2.2 in the council's federal fiscal year 2022 action plan beginning October 1st, 2021 and offers this recommendation for the council's consideration. And so now this is up for discussion. So council members, do we have any discussion of the motion?

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Ms. Banks, you have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: I guess I must have got something different cause I was looking at the action plan that I printed about a month ago and this action plan that I actually have right here that's pulled up on the link from the meeting is a little different then what we had in this report. But I'm seeing it now and I apologize because I was looking at it under my notes and I think I have the old version of the action plan. The one that was about the email before. I'm sorry you guys.

RANDALL BROWN: That's okay. Thank you. Thank you

for your thoroughness. We appreciate it.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. I was just looking I was like I don't see activity 2.2.2. But I read it and I'm good with it.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you very much.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I can probably clarify that. Hey, this is Brenton. I can probably clarify it just for everybody in case anyone else is confused. So in our current action plan which ends on September 30th of this year the activity is 2.7.4. But in the next action plan which is going to begin October 1 for fiscal year 22 it moves to activity 2.2.2. So that's why you see 2.2.2 in the motion cause they wouldn't start working on that activity until the next plan which starts in October. But it's written the same, the initiative reads exactly the same in both plans. Just the activity number changes.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir, for the clarification. Are there any other questions with regard to this motion.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Let's let Jill Hano speak. And then Roslyn after her. Jill Hano, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: What is the current activity now Mr. Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: The current activity is 2.7.4. And it says it will provide financial support to establish a training program on emergency preparedness and response relative to people with disabilities or developmental disabilities. And so in October it's going to read the same, it's just going to change to activity 2.2.4.

JILL HANO: Okay. 2.2.2.

BRENDA COSSE: Four. Oh, yeah. I'm sorry, 2.2.2. That's right.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Now, Roslyn, you had a question.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. How can anything be completed in the act of 2.2 and that is it going to go to something new? Are we just going to make sure that

this one is fully completed as an act on two?

RANDALL BROWN: This group is already doing this work. This activity is already taking place. And this would just, passage of this motion would allow that work to continue in our new action plan which would begin October the 1st. So it would just be a continuation of an activity that is already underway.

ROSLYN HYMEL: In place right now?

RANDALL BROWN: It's work that's already being done. It would be continued on for another year.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Okay. So that's still in place if I'm understanding you right, Randall?

RANDALL BROWN: I think I heard you correctly. The activity that's currently in place, the activity would continue, continue to go on, continue the work.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I wanted to find out before, you know, we go to the next step.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. If this motion passes, then the activity will just continue. It will just change numbers in the new action plan, but it's the same work.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, okay.

RANDALL BROWN: It's just continuing on.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I wanted to know.

RANDALL BROWN: For another year. Are there any questions with regard to this motion? Okay. Hearing no other questions, are there any comments? No comments. All right. So I will call for a vote. Do I have anyone who abstains from this motion? Does anyone abstain? Do we have any objections of the motion before you? Are there any objections to the motion before you on the screen? Okay. Hearing no objection, motion carries unanimously. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Thank you, Randall. That concludes my report. But I would like to take just a moment and thank staff who have helped considerably over the past couple years as I chaired this committee. I do appreciate it and I appreciate all the committee members. And y'all did great work and I appreciate it. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir, for your service as the chair. You've done really well, and I appreciate you and your service. It's been an honor to serve with you, sir. And I echo your thanks of the staff and their hard work on this committee and every other that we do. They've done great work in the face of a lot of challenges this term and I want to thank each and every one of them for their work. Thank you, sir. Are there any questions of Mike about his report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Chair, there's a comment, but it goes back to the education report.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. We'll read that in just a moment. Are there any questions with regard to Mike's report? And then we'll go back to the comment on education. Are there any questions with regard to the self-determination community inclusion report Mike just gave us? Any questions of Mike's report? Any comments with regard to the report? Okay. Thank you, sir. Your report will be entered into the record. And now, Amy, we can read the question with regard to education.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee asks is someone able today to address the questions of our public? If not, will someone be available today to deliver their report and answer questions and concerns later today?

RANDALL BROWN: They are scheduled to give their report after lunch today. Do we have a representative from the department who is on the call who is here today or plans to be here for that report? Cause they are scheduled to give their report this afternoon.

AMY DEAVILLE: Earlier on the call Meredith Jordon was on. She's from the Department of Education. I'm not sure if she's still on currently.

JILL HANO: I think I see Dr. Peterson on now.

RANDALL BROWN: I think Meredith indicated in the beginning that she was on and would be listening this morning. So I think she is listening to us and it's my expectation because they have a standing report to give, not a standing committee report, but they give a report, agency report for their work every quarter. And they are scheduled after lunch to give the report.

So I'm expecting that Dr. Peterson or Meredith in her role now on the council, someone from the department should be available this afternoon to give that report, I'm hoping. And if we don't have that confirmed staff if we could try to confirm that, that would be great. Okay, Marilee is saying to me she's not even been appointed yet. But again, I echo whomever is in the role or filling in that role if we could reach out and try to figure out for sure who from the department would be available this afternoon to give a report that would be helpful. I would hope someone from the department can give us the report from the Department of Education today. So if that's possible. I mean, they're on the schedule. So let's, if we can, if the staff could please reach out and try find out. They indicated they are attempting to do so. We will reach out and talk to the department and try to have, make sure someone's available for their scheduled time this afternoon after lunch. Okay. Are there any other questions with regard to....

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Brenda has her hand raised.

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

BRENDA COSSE: I lower my hand and reserve my questions after the department speaks. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. Are there any other questions? Okay. It is now 12:19. So at 1:20 we will come back from lunch. So again, we'll be adjourning, taking a break, lunch break, not adjourning. We're taking a lunch break for approximately one hour for lunch. And so at 1:20 can everyone please be back in your seats, have your cameras on and ready to resume the afternoon's business. Hearing no objection, we hereby take our lunch break, and we will return again at 1:20 p.m. Hearing no objections we are now break for lunch. Thank you all.

Okay. By my clock it is currently 1:20. Amy, do we have a quorum?

AMY DEAVILLE: Not yet.

RANDALL BROWN: Members, if you could please turn

your cameras on. Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: You have a quorum now.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. All right, everyone. Welcome back. We will now start the afternoon session of today's meeting and that will be largely the reports from our various agency members. And so the very first report that I would like to acknowledge and give opportunity to speak with us today is a little out of order from what you see before you, but Dr. Phil Wilson has to leave us a little early. So he has asked if he could speak first. And so I'm granting that request. And Dr. Wilson, sir, you have the floor. Dr. Wilson, the floor is yours, sir.

AMY DEAVILLE: It looks like he isn't joined the call yet.

RANDALL BROWN: He has not joined us yet?

AMY DEAVILLE: I'm not seeing him.

RANDALL BROWN: Do we know if he's in the process of joining us? Cause I know he asked to go first.

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't know. Let me try to check with him.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you. Everyone just bear with us for a moment. If he's not yet ready, then we can move forward first with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services if Melissa is available.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. I'm ready.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. Thank you, Melissa. The floor is yours.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. Happy to give you this report and take any questions that you may have. I won't go over all the numbers in my report, but you will see for the quarter the statistics for vocational rehabilitation for members served. As well as the council has requested in my report that we give numbers on the individuals with developmental disabilities, the number of individuals that we're serving in each region. So you have a chart of that as well. As well as how many cases were closed rehabilitated for the quarter. There's also a report on something Ms. Tarver had

mentioned earlier which is the rehabilitation employment development specialists. Those are the internal job developers, if you will, for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. We have a lot of new what we call REDS in some of the regions. And as she stated we are still seeking a REDS for the Alexandria region and the Houma region. They're not currently posted on the civil service website. But they've been posted several times. But just a little clarification, we are working on getting them reposted again. We've been having a lot of difficulty getting applicants for the positions. So hopefully if you have any recommendations, please let us know cause we would really like to have this position filled in each of our regions.

I would also like to note that our advisory council which is the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council will be meeting next Thursday July the 29th. I know a lot of you probably won't be able to make it to that cause I think it's during the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs conference, but it is next week unless they decide to change it because of the conference.

I just wanted to, again, reiterate as I've done over the last several quarters that we continue our efforts in becoming more electronic and just serving our consumers virtually better. So we are still working on that. We have a vendor portal that we are about to launch to help us to get invoices and documentation from vendors electronically. And just looking at different ways in order to serve people better when they feel safer doing that virtually. And in some situations, it's just easier for a consumer.

But the main thing I wanted to focus on and to announce today is that the Louisiana Workforce Commission is launching a back to work Louisiana campaign. The additional unemployment insurance benefits will be ending at the end of the month. So after the end of this month it's just the customary state unemployment insurance benefits so it won't be the extra money that individuals have been getting. So

we actually have a website which I will put in the chat dedicated to this campaign. But it's laworks.net/backtoworkla. And we will be having job fairs in every region of the state on August the 4th. And if you go to the website that I'll put in the chat you can see when and where those job fairs will be in your location. Some of them are from 9 to 12 and some of them are a little bit later to 1 or 2:00. But you can see where it's located in your area. If you don't feel comfortable, obviously, going in person to some of these job fairs you can also go on the laworks website where we have all of our job postings available. Right now there's over fifty thousand job postings. So there's at least fifty thousand jobs available in Louisiana. You will also notice on the website there's some videos that you may have seen on Facebook or other social media platforms. One that actually has Secretary Kate of the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the governor talking about this campaign to get people in Louisiana back to work. So with that I will take any questions or anything else that you would like for me to talk about.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. So any questions for Melissa with regard to her report?

AMY DEAVILLE: Lillian DeJean has her hand raised.

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

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Just a brief question. In your report in the open VR cases and closed you have different categorizations of disability like autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability and specific learning disability. And I was curious to know how do you characterize the individuals who may not fit under any of these categories.

MELISSA BAYHAM: That's kind of why we have a lot of categories. And that specific learning disability category seems to kind of be a category that counselors kind of gravitate to in those types of situations. So we have different categories in our case management system. So these are the different categories that we felt would most accurately depict the developmental

disability population. Does that make sense?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you, Lillian. Are there any other questions for Melissa with regard to her report?

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee has her hand raised.

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

HYACINTH MCKEE: Hi Melissa. Thank you so much for your report and thank you so much for your team and all the work that you all are doing with LRS. I see you guys being very active across the state and I see attempts of trying to make sure that our folks are getting meaningful jobs and meaningful employment. I just have one question and then, well, maybe two questions. The first question is I was wondering where does region nine fit in for the DD open cases? Would that be under the New Orleans area? Where are those cases counted?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Can you remind me because we don't use those regions.

HYACINTH MCKEE: That would be St. Tammany. Where are those numbers falling?

MELISSA BAYHAM: So some of those will be in region one and some will be in region two.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. And so and that's just something you guys have standard across the board. And I'm just wondering just for the benefit of the public and understanding because we have ten regions is it something to consider to perhaps maybe allow that region to have its own category. Or maybe that's something you all do based on, you know, what you've traditionally done.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. And I don't know the exact political answer to this, but I can tell you the workforce regions are different than the Department of Health regions. Not exactly sure why that is. But our regional offices we have eight and that's how they're depicted as based on the workforce regions. Which if you go to our website under our section where it list

all of our regions it tells you which parishes are covered in each region.

HYACINTH MCKEE: And then the last question I think speaks to a little bit of what we discussed prior, and I know there's so many things going on with covid. But I think we said a couple meetings ago trying to connect you all with the Department of Education as it relates to being with the transitional planning more. Because you guys do a lot of great work and I'm just wondering if there's some kind of way we can support LRS and Workforce Solutions and Tricare. All those entities with being connected with our scholars that are approaching graduation and transitioning into post-secondary opportunities. Like how, you know, there's got to be a way for us to support you in getting this information out and making sure this is happening.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. Thank you so much for that. We've had a little bit of a challenge connecting because we keep getting different people with the Department of Education. And our last contact, and I can't remember her name right now, I believe she was at the last council meeting, from what I understand is not there anymore. So that's kind of the issue that we've been having is establishing a consistent contact with the Department of Education, if that makes sense. But we appreciate any effort to assist us with that. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any questions for Amy with regard to her report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

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

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. From this page right here that you have in that with all of these numbers I'm trying to really understand DD opening with a VR case as of July 30th of 2021.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. So that's a snapshot. If we looked at all of our open cases on June the 30th that's the number of individuals who have that disability who have open cases. Does that make sense?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. But how many cases are there

to make up for the total 292?

MELISSA BAYHAM: So are you asking how many total, like the total is 2,929 as far as the number of individuals with developmental disabilities?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Are you asking the total of all VR cases?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. I'm not sure.

ROSLYN HYMEL: An amount to come up.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. I'm not sure on this particular day that this was run. But we've been running about, probably at this point we were running about 82 to 8300. Right now we have about 8900. But that wasn't with this particular report. Since we have more consumers now that number is probably higher as of today. But yes.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So how can I find out more about it besides this way?

MELISSA BAYHAM: So what other information would you like? I mean the numbers change every day cause we open and close cases every day?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Do they add more cases individual?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. Every day we open new cases and every day we close cases. So the number changes daily.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Because the one down here underneath it DD closes and it's less than that 82.

MELISSA BAYHAM: That's how many were closed in the quarter. It closed rehabilitated. And for us to close a case rehabilitated it means that individual has to be stable in their employment and they had to have been stable for at least 90 days.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That makes sense.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Roslyn. Are there any other questions for Melissa with regard to her report today?

AMY DEAVILLE: Charlie Michel has his hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes. Charlie, you have the floor, sir.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Thank you. Melissa, I just want to make an observation, it's not a question. I'm extremely impressed with the number of students with developmental disabilities on there. Because as you probably know that makes up less than 2 percent of the special ed population in Louisiana. And yet that's probably, what is it, 25 percent of the cases that y'all have. And those are students that need the most support. And I know in the past, years past that wasn't always the case as far as VR's ability to meet those needs. But I have to say it's quite impressive to see how y'all are really going where the needs are. And I want to thank you for that effort on y'all part.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you. I appreciate that, but I will clarify, in all honesty, that's all of our VR cases. So that's not necessarily just students. If that makes sense.

CHARLIE MICHEL: It does. Thank you though.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for your comment, Charlie. Are there any other questions for Melissa with regard to her report today? Okay. Hearing none, Melissa, thank you so much for the work you and your team do. And your report will be entered into the record.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you so much. And I'm going to put that website into the chat. And please know that all of these job fairs there will be an individual from LRS at all these job fairs. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you. Okay. And so now Dr. Phil Wilson, if he's available, we're ready for his report. The Human Development Center, Dr. Wilson. Sir, you have the floor.

PHIL WILSON: Thank you. I'm not going to read the report. Everyone has it. I'll just remind people that you have this report. We submit it every quarter or so. Basically we're doing more of the same. I think we have launched a couple New Years for our interdisciplinary training program. So we have approximately 20 to 25 new long-term trainees that will

be starting in their programs in August. The trainees are typically individuals who are working on a graduate program in an education or health related career field. Also individuals who are self-advocates and family members are also recruited into the program, interdisciplinary training programs. Finally every year we usually end up with one or two individuals who are practicing professionals in one discipline or another. So anyhow, so that program. those two programs have launched for the upcoming year. We're hoping as of before the latest surge we anticipated doing everything live. I think right now we're back to not quite knowing if we will be able to do our classes and seminars live or have to stay with a virtual format.

Okay. So there's that. As you know we also do early childhood programs and training. Our childcare center has been devastated with the impacts of trying to hire people and retain people in childcare. That's common across the state right now. But it is really kind of made it difficult for us to keep serving the same number of families. So again, hoping when the change in the unemployment program and maybe they'll be more people entering the workforce who have been sitting out for a bit. And when that happens hopefully, we'll be able to expand, not only grow our program back, but actually expand it a little bit. There is two programs there.

The other big thing in early childhood is we have an initiative area that IPEC, I can't remember what it stands for, inclusive preschool education training for teachers and directors and family members to help them be more confident and better able to provide best practices in early childhood education. Especially for kiddos who have disabilities. And the school age front, Julie Riley continues to be pretty amazing in terms of trying to work with the new system that the department of ed put in place a year or two ago where everything is basically outsourced to contractors and there's a big vendor guide that each local education

agency or LEA or individual school can select from. And, you know, we were pretty afraid this might make it really difficult to keep our LASARD program and other educational training and continuing ed programs viable. But, in fact, it's turned out to actually work. Although there is a lot of internal strife with figuring out how to run the actual business end of it. Like I think we have over 40 individual contracts with individual schools and school districts where we used to get one contract from the department of ed. So you might imagine that our business office is way overtaxed on trying to figure out how to make this system work. To Julie's credit and the credit of all the folks that work on that project I think we probably have 40, 50 percent more work than we've had in the past. So that's pretty amazing.

And then the third area that we do a lot of work in is our transition employment and careers area. We've been working closely with LRS, Melissa's staff and with individuals in school districts around, mostly in the metropolitan area. And that's partly an artifact of how difficult it is to, you know, have a project in Shreveport and administer it from New Orleans. But we're trying to slowly figure out how to expand the project. Projects we do in transition. And we are amazed and very almost on a cloud that we were approached by a school district on the north shore who has seen some of the work that Sue Killam and her group do in Jefferson Parish and some of the charter schools here in Orleans Parish. And they would like to replicate the model. So we're actively looking at that. And also looking at having an implementation role and a project search program with Ochsner Hospital. Which we also are excited that Ochsner is such a statewide presence that perhaps if we can manage to pull that off and do a good job with it maybe it's something we can try to take to scale overtime replicating not only in metropolitan area here or Baton Rouge, but really all around the state with a model that is very replicable. So those are the big things

that we're doing.

We had sent a short video just to highlight one of the program areas that we are working on now and have been for some time which is the Louisiana Deaf Blind project. Which is a project that looks to provide technical assistance and training and other types of supports to schools and school districts that are serving kids with Deaf Blindness. I don't know who at the DD Council actually has the link, but if we have time, I think the video is about three and half minutes. So I'll leave that up to Randall, to you and the folks.

RANDALL BROWN: I think we have the time, sir. If you have the video ready to go.

PHIL WILSON: I don't. It's sent to you guys to do.

RANDALL BROWN: Staff, do we have his video ready to play?

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't have it ready. If you could give me a minute, I'll see if I can.

RANDALL BROWN: In the meantime I'll ask if there are any questions with regard to Dr. Wilson's report he's given so far to us. Are there any questions to Dr. Wilson in regards to his report that he's given to us so far? Everyone bear with us just a moment.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Like Phil kind of said with us in Jefferson Parish in that, I want to know how many work centers or work programs are there to really, you know, for all with a disability people in Jefferson Parish itself? That's what I wanted to know.

PHIL WILSON: So if that question's for me I would just say we don't work with work centers. We work with community employment only. Competitive and integrated employment. So we work with individuals, I think we have a little over 40 kids, young people I should say, between the ages of 18 and early twenties who are in one way or another actively seeking employment and a career path. So we work with schools and community

college, primarily Delgado community college, but some other community colleges as well. And obviously LRS and workforce to kind of craft a curriculum around WIOAA requirements. And then also to take those individuals as they complete their preETS and move them into actual employment. And then typically they are sort of pick a provider from the provider list who can provide their ongoing support if needed.

ROSLYN HYMEL: How many providers could you really get in one particular parish like in Jefferson to New Orleans?

PHIL WILSON: So I think, I'm not going to put Melissa on that spot either, but there is a list of providers by their location who are on the freedom of choice list. And so each, obviously, larger population centers are going to have typically more providers than the very rural and remote areas. But I can't tell you. I know at one point in time there were over 70 supported employment providers. I believe that number has dwindled. But I couldn't say for sure, and I don't know if Melissa knows any of that just off the top of her head and wants to respond.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. I definitely don't know the numbers off the top of my head. They definitely have been reduced in the last year or so. But if you need a list of providers, we can get whichever area you're in and we can get you a list providers in your area.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that Melissa.

PHIL WILSON: So I don't know if Amy or somebody at the council was able to pull up the video. If not, we can always do it another time. I know we're desperately behind schedule today.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. We apologize. Is the video ready to be played Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: I just located it. It actually was sent to Courtney. So we don't have it ready to play right at this minute. We may be able to play it a little later if we want to keep moving forward and then we can play it later if people would like.

PHIL WILSON: And I just have to say that

unfortunately I have another appointment that I'm going to have to leave the meeting around 2:45. I won't be able to answer any questions about that.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir, for your report. Are there any other questions of Phil regarding his report today?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

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

JILL HANO: Dr. Phil, refresh my memory please. What does LASARD stand for.

PHIL WILSON: LASARD stands for the Louisiana Autism and Spectrum Related Disabilities projects. It's been in existence since 2005. It started out with a very specific focus on autism. And really now it really needs to be renamed because we focus on those things at the department of ed and the school districts kind of feel are of the biggest importance to them providing quality educational experiences and services. So, you know, while we still have people with definite expertise and passion in the area of autism, we have a much larger staff with much broader background and experience. We do not, the program is not like something that's just for kiddos who are on the autism spectrum. We really work with kids at pretty much every level including kids that-- we don't work directly with them, but we provide the training and technical assistance to the educators to work with kids. Even kids that are by any other way of thinking about it may not have any sort of identifiable educational disability. But still may have challenges or teachers or educators may still need some support or provide services to them. Obviously, our main focus is going to always be on kids with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sur. There are any other questions for Phil in regards to his report today?

AMY DEAVILLE: We do have the video ready now.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Great. Can we go ahead and play it.

>> >>: {video shown, audio complications}.

RANDALL BROWN: All right. Thank you, sir, for providing us with that information. So now I'll ask if you want to give any additional information with regard to that video we just saw or if you want to take questions on the video.

PHIL WILSON: Yeah. I just, I don't know why the quality didn't work well. I'm not sure what happened there. But we can make that link available to people if anybody wants to hear it. It didn't play very well.

RANDALL BROWN: There's the link.

PHIL WILSON: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: So thank you, sir. Are there any questions with regard to the video for Dr. Wilson? Okay. Does that conclude your report with us today, sir. All right. Thank you very much. Thank you for the work you do. And your team does. Your report will be entered into the record. Up next for us to hear from is the Disability Rights Louisiana. Is the representative from Disability Rights Louisiana still with us today?

TORY ROCCA: Yeah. That is me, Randall.

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

TORY ROCCA: I do apologize. I didn't actually submit a copy of the written report. It's my first time so I didn't actually finish it till yesterday. I apologize for that. I can send it so people can actually have it. I will go over the high points. So those of you who have been on the council for a while may know that our organization has been running a class action litigation against the State of Louisiana and the Department of Corrections for the treatment of prisoners with serious mental illness. Specifically with respect to using solitary confinement of prisoners with serious mental illness. That class action litigation has been going on for a few years now and actually predates my time at the organization. I've been here more than two years now. We're still involved in it. And let's see, we have spent a time

recently actually going to the prison spending time there and completing a lot of depositions. We've gotten some positive results from the judge and some a little outreach recently on possible settlements, but that's all very preliminary. We are basically in kind of the expert testimony phase of that litigation right now. So that is continuing and that is currently set for trial in January so we will know more a lot more January or thereabouts about what is happening with that.

Also dovetails with legislation that we supported during the legislation session which was house bill 68 which was to end solitary confinement for people with serious mental illness. We supported the initial version of that legislation, the introduced version of it by Representative Landry. Initially the Louisiana stop solitary confinement coalition that we work with on this. We're not actually a part of it, but we do work with them. They had indicated to us that the Department of Corrections supported the initial version of that bill which sounded a bit surprising to us given our experience with litigation. And the department definitely wanted some changes in that bill as it went through the legislation process. So that bill didn't even clear committee. A task force has been put together to work with the department to try and hammer out some language with the goal of hopefully trying to or at least severely limit the use of solitary confinement for people with serious mental illness. And that task force will be meeting, I believe, through next year.

We spent a good part of this year early on dealing with covid 19 issues, of course. We are focusing on the 500 private ICFs in the state. Had a census of about 3500 residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We pushed early on to get more stringent guidelines around PPE usage. Trying to make sure care wasn't rationed in a way that discriminated against people with disabilities of any type. And we spent a large part, early part of the

year pushing for increased testing. A little less relevant now. Maybe getting relevant again. We have, actually have been meeting with partners in the DD network to discuss concerns about the opening of day hab programs, when they opened up because we were concerned the day hab programs potentially opened up a little early given the positivity numbers. So we spent the first part of the year working on covid issues like that.

Also we maintained our community living ombudsman program which still operated during the pandemic and shutdowns. Not that the pandemic is actually over. Basically in this program we have trained advocates which are our ombudsman, and they advocate for people with disabilities who live in the privately run group homes that I mentioned across the state. We had to actually adapt a bit during shutdowns because of course we couldn't go into all these homes in person for obvious reasons. So our staff had to find different ways to interact with the folks that we're trying to monitor, make sure they're okay. We remotely monitored the homes. Our staff even performed driveway visits when possible to actually see residents in person. That has, of course, changed. Now we can actually get back into various facilities and homes. But during the pandemic we had to adjust quite a bit and have our staff find different ways to still do their job while not being present in homes and do their jobs directly in person.

We're always continuing to expand investigations with the attorney general's Medicaid fraud unit. The reporting resident complaints, monthly complaint requests and resolutions and we're involved in sending administrators guidance on resident property duties and medical consent for vaccines. Let's see. Also, we wanted to make sure LDH's health standard surveys met with our own model. And so we actually did our own surveys of various facilities on things like vaccination, not vaccination so much, infections, things like that to make sure this was actually being

done. We did find our surveys of some of these facilities turned up more covid cases than were being reported. So that was something we were working on. And we also filed in the early part of the year, this will be confirmed about May or so, 24 formal complaints against group home providers with LDH's health standards. A number of complaints included neglected health, 13 of those. Improper discharge, four of those. Fiscal assault by another resident, three complaints involving that. Improper use of restraints, two complaints of that. Issues regarding resident funds, two complaints of that. I won't go over all of them, but we had a number of complaints we filed with health standards.

We've also taken part in a task force convened by Senator Barrow, it's the task force on human depravation and exploitation of venerable individuals in community based residential settings. This is a task force as a result of legislation that Senator Barrow introduced at least back in 2019, perhaps earlier. I say that because my first year here was 2019. Essentially it was legislation that would regulate who could live in facilities that are misidentified as group homes but are care facilities. And the legislation I think was really in response to complaints from some residents of a specific neighbored in Baton Rouge where a number of care facilities were open. Some are not run as well as can be. (inaudible) But Baton Rouge a number of these have popped up and Senator Barrow wants to address that issue. The initial legislation had some significant issues with it including the fact that the way it was written it probably would have excluded people with many types of disabilities from most rental housing in the state. That legislation unfortunately passed, but senator did convene a task force that we have taken part in to try and actually draft language that would address the issues that she's concerned about, while also not excluding people with disabilities from rental housing. Which again, the language of every version of the bill

I've read would do that. So we're working on that. I believe the extended version of the task force that's coming up. And we will continue to work on that. The senator does want to address this at the upcoming 2022 legislative session with a bill that she hopes will pass and we would like to make sure the language is drafted appropriately and doesn't do anything harmful to people with disabilities.

During the legislative session we also got involved in house bill 255 which one of our attorneys flagged for me. Legislation that would ban the sterilization of individuals who are interdicted. Again, people may be familiar with this, but under current Louisiana law getting somebody to be prohibited from getting an abortion or sterilization it can often be a kind of a rubber stamp process and it probably violates, not probably, it violates the rights of people who are being interdicted. A state rep, she actually fixed this issue, but the language of the bill simply went very much in the opposite direction and banned the sterilization and abortions for people with, sorry, banned judicial approval of sterilization and abortions of people who are interdicted. That's, of course, a complete ban would, of course, also be unconstitutional. So we worked with the bill's sponsor on that and drafted language with the goal of actually creating a process that actually involved the individual who's interdicted. It involves representation for the person who is interdicted. It actually created a process that a court had to follow to go through one of these proceedings because there really aren't proceedings in current Louisiana law on this. The sponsor was actually open to language but didn't want to change everything in such a short timeframe. So we will be working with that bill sponsor likely in the upcoming session to continue and draft something that will be acceptable and actually create a process that will respect the rights and wishes of interdicted individuals of these matters, and we will be continuing that next year.

We also want to flag legislation that a state rep from Northern Louisiana introduced. It was an attempt to address an issue in her district. She was concerned with individuals who knowingly expose others to sexually transmitted diseases. One of the odd things about the legislation it was written in such a way that in the penalty part of the legislation it had standard penalties for anybody who commits this offense, or this would be offense. And then, of course, like legislation often does it had enhanced penalties for more aggravated versions of the offense. And oddly one of the enhanced penalties was if a person had intellectual disability who committed this offense there would be higher penalties for that person. Increased fines and jail time. It actually was introduced in a way that would increase penalties for someone if that person has an intellectual disability. Which upon reading the bill I wondered if maybe the intent was to increase penalties if a person, if the victim had an intellectual disability. But the language of the bill very clearly created enhanced penalty for the perpetrator if the perpetrator had a disability. We did speak with the rep on that, and she was actually willing to be accommodating. We showed up in committee to oppose it because we didn't actually hear back from her before committee. And then when she went to committee, she voluntarily deferred her bill for next year. But we'll be keeping an eye on that because obviously we don't want legislation introduced or passed that would actually increase penalties for somebody because they have a certain disability. So that is something to keep an eye on for next year. That was house bill 238.

What else. There are a number of bills we supported during the session. One of the ones that caught our attention we worked with Senator Hewitt on a little bit was house bill 704. It was one of the voting bills that the governor actually vetoed, but what that bill did it was, one of the things it did, was creating polling place watchers for early voting

places. And it looks like by reference and actually by inclusion of the language it included language in existing Louisiana statutes that actually exclude people with a number of disabilities from serving as polling place watchers. Basically there is sort of what appears to be an artifact in current Louisiana law that says those who are eligible to receive assistance in voting which includes a broad range of people with disabilities are not eligible to serve as polling place watchers. And house bill 704 incorporated that in one section by reference. It also incorporated that simply by adding that language into the bill. We flagged the language that was in the bill, and it went through Senator Hewitt's committee, and she agreed to have it removed before it was passed, and she did. We did not catch the language that incorporate the statute by reference. That bill was actually vetoed anyway and did not, of course, get overridden during the override session. But one of the things we're thinking about doing for the upcoming year legislatively, and this is RS 18427 that has this language in it, is seeing if we can get support or get a sponsor and get support from the secretary of state to remove this language in existing statute. Because it shouldn't be there in the first place because it excludes people with disabilities from doing something very basic like being a polling place watcher. (Inaudible) not the biggest thing in the world, but still shouldn't be in statute. But also it appears like something that people sort of just threw, you know, custom and practice incorporate into new legislation when they draft it because they see the existing law, they either copy this language into it or incorporate it by reference to the statute and we should probably stop that. That's something we're looking at doing for the upcoming legislative session and working because that language should not be in existing statute, and we don't want people to keep using it to draft new legislation. And that's basically a summary of what we've been working on.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay, sir. Thank you. Are there

any questions for Tory with regard to his report today? Yes, Jill Hano, I see your hand is raised. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Okay. All these bills you mentioned do we have the name of all these bills on record in the transcript?

TORY ROCCA: I can actually send-- I apologize for not having present my report. I can send that over to everybody and then they'll be in there.

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

RANDALL BROWN: You may. Yes.

JILL HANO: So I was having a hard time following the current bill says that people with developmental disabilities cannot work for the polling places.

TORY ROCCA: So what it is the current statute is RS 18427.

JILL HANO: Wait. You talk very fast.

TORY ROCCA: I apologize. I do. You're right.

TORY ROCCA: So basically what it says--.

JILL HANO: Wait. Sorry, Randall. RS.

TORY ROCCA: 18:427.

JILL HANO: Okay. Go on. What it says is that a qualified voter of the State of Louisiana who is not entitled to assistance in voting and is not a candidate in the election may serve as a watcher. So if you are entitled to assistance in voting in Louisiana you cannot serve as a polling place watcher under this statute that currently exist. And a broad range of folks with disabilities are actually eligible for assistance in voting in Louisiana. So the way this is written that actually excludes quite a few people. Not that everybody wants to serve as a polling place watcher, but people should be allowed to if they care to.

JILL HANO: So what is a polling place watcher? Is that just like the people that take your ID? Like I just call them volunteers.

TORY ROCCA: These are more like private citizens who stand at a polling place to try and keep an eye on

things to make sure nothing inappropriate is being done.

JILL HANO: So it's not the people.

TORY ROCCA: No.

JILL EGLE: Okay. Cool.

TORY ROCCA: Yep.

JILL HANO: Cause that's how I'm going to get my start into politics.

TORY ROCCA: As far as I know there's no prohibition currently in Louisiana law on being a volunteer at a polling place. As far as I know. But this statute refers to the folks who are private citizens who just go into polling places who try to monitor them, hopefully, ideally to make sure everything is done fairly.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. Thank you, Tory. Are there any other questions for Tory with regards to his report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

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

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you guys for letting me speak. So Tory you guys are working on legislation and you're just going to like, you're looking at different bills that has language that has language that is discriminating against people with disabilities. And sorry little tongue tied, developmental disabilities, right. You guys are looking at all of those kind of legislations that have that kind of language in it, right.

TORY ROCCA: Yes. Not just developmental disabilities. Our organization does have a mandate to advocate for people with all types of disabilities.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So and then you guys are also like you were saying earlier they try to reference it, try to backhand you guys and put it in there, include it anyway. You guys are back doing all of those one too, right?

TORY ROCCA: We do try and look for that. It, of course, does get harder to find language in legislation when the language is incorporated by reference to an

existing statute because you can't find the language in the legislation by simply searching for it. You have to actually read through it and either check every statute that's referenced in it or have some background knowledge in law so you can spot them. So it becomes challenging, more challenging to spot bad language in the bill when it's incorporated by reference to existing statutes.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. I was kind of figuring that cause I was writing down all the bills and the statutes and I was unaware of that. You guys are doing awesome work cause I know what the references is and looking at stuff and cross-referencing other statutes to make sure that, you know, everybody with people with disabilities are not being excluded because of whatever reason. I'm glad you guys are doing that kind of things. I didn't even know they had those things that was in there targeted strictly to individuals.

TORY ROCCA: Thank you. I just learned about that one this year. Within the last few months or so.

NICOLE BANKS: I had no idea that even existed like that. I'm so glad you guys are doing that work and getting that into legislation to change that because just because someone is different doesn't mean we cannot work with them. We can work with everyone.

TORY ROCCA: Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn. You have the floor. Thank you, Nicole, for the question. Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. What I want to find out why can like the ones with a disability cannot really vote or anything like that. How is that really work and why at that one particular timeframe? That's just one. I have another after you answer that one. That's what I want to know because you kind of mentioned it and I was confused up on that.

TORY ROCCA: So the first, so I think if you're talking about the statute about watchers, polling place watchers.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. That's the one.

TORY ROCCA: That doesn't prevent people from voting, but that prevents them from serving as watchers in polling places. Basically prevents them from serving, people with certain types of disabilities, as watchers who basically watch other people vote and watch how polling places are operated. Again, ideally hopefully to make sure they're running fairly.

ROSLYN HYMEL: For the voting for that one how does that one really work and how can anybody, could anybody watch that? Is it on the news, how can we find more information up on the statute?

TORY ROCCA: In terms of watching, watching is generally done in person in the polling place. So not remotely on the news.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because, you know, they show they're on the news a couple of times and I really, it seem like it was really sad that they do that. But how and why do they vote up on that to take down a statute.

TORY ROCCA: How do you mean why would they vote in favor of a statute that has that language in it?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

TORY ROCCA: I suspect that the issue is somebody who drafted a bill, a staff bill drafter, probably included that language that was already in existing statute, again, just out of custom and practice. The way people draft bills. I can't speak to the motivation of the state representative who brought this bill overall for bringing it. But I suspect that she probably didn't even realize this language was in the bill or really understand it. A lot of times when legislators introduce legislation, pretty much all the time, it's very standard they have staff attorneys in the legislature who are drafting these bills for them and who are supposed to be knowledgeable about certain areas of law and legislators, many of them are not attorneys. And many of them even, if they are attorneys, don't have experience drafting bills. So this why they have professional staff do it. And some legislators don't necessarily read through everything thoroughly even when it's their own bill. And some

don't necessarily understand everything or really get everything. Legislators when they request bills often have a goal in mind of a fairly simple objective in mind. They ask somebody else on staff to draft the bill for them and they sort of rely on the word of the person who drafted the bill that it does what they told them to make it do. So it may not even, so that specific language likely wasn't even intentional from the bill's sponsor and she may not have been aware at all that it was even in there. I didn't learn about it until about 10 p.m. late before the committee met to vote on it. So I had to rush off to Baton Rouge to actually testify and talk to them about it. So the sponsor may not really have gotten that. You would be surprised how often legislators really are not that sophisticated about drafting laws, reading statutes, things like that because a lot of them just don't have that background. Some are attorneys, but some do other things like own small businesses, or they have other jobs.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, sir. And thank you, Roslyn. Are there any other questions for Tory with regard to his report today.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Egle has her hand raised.

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

JILL EGLE: Mr. Tony, I don't know if I met you, but I'm very active in Louisiana with the DD Council and I went through partners. But I'm a little lost and confused in what you're talking about voting statute. Can you clarify so I can understand the language.

TORY ROCCA: Sure. So one of the state reps this year introduced legislation, house bill 704 if I recall correctly off the top of my head, that would create a system of people who can monitor or watch voting at polling places in early voting locations extensively with the goal of having these elections at the early voting polling places conducted fairly. And in that bill, it included language that is already in other, and other Louisiana statute that says that people who are eligible to receive assistance while voting were

not eligible to serve as the polling place watchers. And in Louisiana people who are eligible to receive assistance in voting at polling place include a fairly broad range of people with disabilities. So if you have certain types of developmental disabilities or adult-onset disabilities, intellectual disabilities you can receive assistance in voting from somebody when you go to vote in person. And this existing statute that's already in law about polling place watchers says that people who are not, people who are eligible to receive assistance in voting cannot serve as a polling place watcher. Now not a lot of people may want to serve as polling place watchers. Probably doesn't impact directly a lot of people, but in principle you shouldn't be excluding people from this.

JILL EGLE: I'm IDD and every year I vote like because I know in two years, not this November, but two years is the governor's reelection. I vote because I do my research and I do what I do. I don't go in there saying I can't influence anybody like that because I represent the DD Council. So for someone to say just because you're different well you can't vote. It's like a freedom of right.

TORY ROCCA: To be clear that's not what it said though. To be clear it didn't say you couldn't vote. So just to be very clear. It does not say you can't vote. It says you can't serve as a polling place watcher. So which again, not everybody wants to serve as that, but it still shouldn't be in law in the first place. But also because it is in law right now when people are drafting legislation regarding voting, they seem to be including this language in new legislation which is not a good thing. So the solution is to just try and get this out of existing law so that one, it's just gone. And two, nobody, hopefully, will keep putting this into new legislation. But it does not say you can't vote. It says you can't serve as a polling place watcher.

JILL EGLE: If that's a need you couldn't go at a polling place to see the results. They would just tell

you you need to leave.

TORY ROCCA: They wouldn't tell you you need to leave. It specifically is serving somebody who goes into the polling place to monitor the activity there. To monitor how the pole workers are working, how voting is being conducted so it's not that they would tell you to leave. It's who can serve as somebody who watches and monitors voting at polling places.

JILL EGLE: On election day because maybe someone with an ability might now know, I'm not trying to judge cause everybody is different in their own way but might not know the circumstance. And then might be going around and saying vote for this, vote for this. That's not allowed for the State of Louisiana. Especially if you represent the DD Council.

TORY ROCCA: It's not. And this is sort of related, but not exactly that. But again, language in current statue that says people with disabilities or certain types of disabilities are not eligible to do something they should be able to do. So I would like to, hopefully, next year work on eliminating that from state law.

JILL EGLE: Thank you, Mr. Tony. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm thrilled that we've had such robust discussion on such an important issue or range of issues related to one another, but in the interest of time we need to close up discussion on this report. So thank you, Tory, so much for the work you all are doing. It's extremely important and we're glad to have you with us as a valuable member of the team. So thank you so much. Your report will be entered into the record, sir. And thank you all for your questions.

Now in the interest of time let's move forward. Do we have anyone available from the Department of Education? I know Meredith was here this morning. And let me be clear, Meredith has yet to be appointed by the governor officially to the committee. She has been selected and will be appointed as the representative, but she has yet to be officially appointed at this time. So she should be appointed soon, and she will be

the representative for the department in future. But as of today she was here to listen and to learn. I don't know if she's still here and has a report or not. So Meredith, are you with us at all?

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't believe Meredith is here. She had a conflicting meeting this afternoon.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. And there's no other representative in her place, Kelly or anyone?

AMY DEAVILLE: No, sir. It doesn't look like it.

RANDALL BROWN: Did they send us a report?

AMY DEAVILLE: They sent a report for the education and employment committee meeting. We can go ahead and take that report and post it.

RANDALL BROWN: Please do.

AMY DEAVILLE: For everyone.

RANDALL BROWN: Please do. Let's do that so it will be posted in the record as the information we have from them at this point. And I'll be reaching out to Meredith both to welcome her and to address some of the questions that we, or some of the issues that were brought up earlier with regard to education in our committee. And I'll be speaking with Mary as well. So all right. The next one on the list would be the Office of Public Health. So Dr. Barovechio, are you ready to give you report to us today?

PATTI BAROVECHIO: I am. Thank you. So the Office of Public Health report comes from the Bureau of Family Health because the Bureau of Family Health administers the title five program which is the children and youth with special healthcare needs program for the state. And as you can see, we have a six-page report for you review. The bureau administers many, many programs including the universal newborn hearing screening program, the genetic screening. We also conduct direct service clinics for children and youth with special healthcare needs. These are specialty provider clinics for in areas of the state that don't have provider capacity. They are financial and diagnostic eligibility requirements for those. And the information available for those services are available

on the Louisiana Department of Health website. We also use title five funds to support the family resource center which is now a statewide resource center. Historically before covid it has been housed on the campus of Children's Hospital. And as part of our initiative to reach all families statewide that need resource and referral services, we now have transitioned this service center into a statewide virtual resource hub. So any family in the state that needs supportive services the staff conducts a needs assessment and will help them identify the referrals and resources that are prioritized by that family. So right now we have very low volume because, unfortunately, not many people in the state are aware. We haven't done a major marketing campaign. We are working with a few key providers in the state, and we are working with the public health unit and the Families Helping Families. So please help us disseminate information on this resource. We are there to support providers as well as families with community resources and referrals.

The Bureau of Family Health also administers the Louisiana birth defects monitoring network. They conduct surveillance around Louisiana birth defects and the family resource center will be partnering with them and conducting outreach calls to families who identify through surveillance. So this is a pilot that we're beginning probably sometime during the month of August. And so our plans are to send out postcards to families to let them know that someone from the family resource center may be calling and to alert them that they can opt out of that phone call. But they will then be offered that resource and referral service opportunity.

We also administer the states lead prevention program. We have someone who monitors all lead studies done on young children in the state. They provide case management to those families that have a child with an elevated blood lead level. They also conduct a lead abatement program through the HUD grant. So in addition to that, we also have some school-based health

center activities. We also administer the nurse family partnership and the parents as teachers home visiting support network. So all of that information is available in the report. If there's any specific questions for me, I'm happy to try to answer them.

RANDALL BROWN: Any questions with regard to Ms. Patti's report?

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Jill, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: Ms. Patti, I didn't get your report in my packet. And I do not believe it is linked on the website.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Jill, I'll be happy to send it to you. And I'm sure they'll be posting it to the website.

JILL HANO: Okay. I thought I was going crazy. And can I ask my very important question to DRLA please?

RANDALL BROWN: If Tory is available to answer it yes you may, but that's the only one I can allow.

TORY ROCCA: Sure.

JILL HANO: I was doing some research online and the 18427RS from 2015, is that correct? Is that accurate?

TORY ROCCA: Not sure what the question was.

JILL HANO: When did this resolution come out, what year?

TORY ROCCA: The statute, I honestly don't know the legislative history of 18427. So I don't know exactly what year it was passed, but it's been around for years is my understanding. I can't recall the exact date.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Tory. Thank you, Jill. Okay Dr. Barovechio. Thank you, again, for your report. I believe it's now linked in the chat box for everyone. Are there any questions of Dr. Barovechio regarding her report today?

AMY DEAVILLE: Corhonda Corley has her hand raised.

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

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question for Dr. Barovechio is I've stated on multiple times how many families throughout our State of Louisiana has problems with actually getting pertinent information such as the document that she just stated about the universal screening. Most of the case managers do not know this information. So what are we going to do to disseminate this information to our families in a more conducive so they can actually access it, but not only access it, but actually be able to read and comprehend it. Because you stated that you use Families Helping Families as well as some other entities. Many people throughout this state do not know that these entities exist. And that is a problem. And we can't say that we're going to use the website because again, a lot of people, it has been stated multiple times that people have limited access to the internet. So what is a different method of disseminating information such as that universal screening that you're considering?

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Well, thank you for your question. And I have to say that is something that is a priority right now in the bureau. Our contracts with Families Helping Families to ensure community level resource access is rather new. This is all part of that covid 19 transition. So we changed the way we work with Families Helping Families and are now contracting with them on a more meaningful way to support individuals in the community. And then again, our family resource center was based at Children's Hospital. Through the course of covid we determined it was best suited for the state. And so we're in the middle of expanding that service. And so just this week we met with our communications team around building a communication plan to be able to disseminate this information out about these resources much more widely. So as part of our contracts this year with Families Helping Families, we have included part of that work is to develop a communications plan so that we can have like you say, get the message out to those

individuals in the community that would benefit from utilizing this resource. So I definitely thank you for posing that. And just be assured that we are working on it. We have a communications team at the Bureau of Family Health and they're helping us to build a strategic communication plan on how to get this message out to individuals in the community. And so again, with Families Helping Families we're also working toward that same end to make sure that individuals know that they can reach out to Families Helping Families for these types of resource support needs.

AMY DEAVILLE: In the chat Charlie Michel said working with Dr. Barovechio this past year has been a great experience and our Families Helping Families centers are doing outreach to pediatricians, physicians, hospitals, school districts to facilitate a better dissemination of this information. Our plans call for growing these outreach efforts as well.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Charlie, for that comment. Thank you Dr. Barovechio for your work. Are there any other questions of Dr. Barovechio today regarding her report? Are there any questions for Dr. Barovechio? Are there any comments regarding the report?

AMY DEAVILLE: Corhonda Corley says I strongly encourage this topic to be referred to the DEI committee so they can aid.

RANDALL BROWN: So noted. Thank you, Ms. Corley. Okay. Are there any other questions for Dr. Barovechio with regard to her report today? Hearing none, thank you doctor, and your report will be entered into the record.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for your work. Okay. And now we move onto the report for the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. Which I believe is our brand-new member Ms. Crain Is that correct? Am I right about that?

AMY DEAVILLE: That is correct.

RANDALL BROWN: So is Ms. Crain available to give

her report? Ms. Crain, are you with us today?

AMY DEAVILLE: I do not see her.

RANDALL BROWN: She was with us earlier, but I don't think she joined us after lunch. Did she give us a report?

AMY DEAVILLE: She did, and it is linked.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Then let's make sure we enter it into the record so folks have a chance to review it they would like. Okay. And so the next report to be given from the Office of Aging and Adult Services.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Hi Randall. This is Julie. Dr. Lopez had to hop off for another meeting, but he asked if I would present his report for the record and take back any questions folks had for the Office of Aging and Adult Services. If that's okay, you can pull up his report and I'll hit some of the high points.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Julie, for giving us that report.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So there we go. The Office of Aging and Adult Services report is pulled up. Their report includes the total number of people in the Office of Aging and Adult Services waiver and state plan services. And that's the total current recipients that they have. They do still have a waiting list or a registry for OAAS. So their report also provides you with the information of the number of people on the waiting list for the community choices waiver. And then provides some additional data on the other programs within OAAS. And then the adult protective services are under the Office of Aging and Adult Services. So on the second page of their report they provide you with information and breakdown related to allegations that have been called into adult protective services last fiscal year and then up to the third quarter of this fiscal year. So I don't know that I can answer them, but if anybody has questions, I can do my best or I can take them back to Dr. Lopez and his team at OAAS and make sure we get answers to you guy.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you for that, Julie. Are

there any questions in regards to the data in the report for Julie to take back to the team at the department?

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: For what I am seeing in that you had like FY Q1 and Q3 and FY again for 2020 and 2021. What is the difference between 2020 and 2021 with the numbers in that.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So FY stands for fiscal year. And I can ask them to spell that all out on the report. I know we try not to use acronyms. I'll give them that feedback and ask them if they can do that. FY stands for fiscal year 2020. And so here in Louisiana fiscal year 2020 ran from July 1 of 2019 to June 30th of 2020. So that is a full year's report for 2020. And then fiscal year 21 ran from June the 1st. I'm sorry, July the 1st of 2020 through June 30th of 2021. And then the Q1 through Q3 means that's a report for quarter one which would be July, August, September. Quarter two October, November, December. And then quarter three January, February, March. So in the next report that they give you it will have all of them through the whole year. So the second table is only nine months, where the table above it is for a whole 12 months. A whole year timeframe. Does that answer your question, Roslyn?

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. With the ages you have to be like what from previous to age 18 to 59 so how can they be served from that age bracket from 18 to 59?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So we have three different what we call protection agencies or places where you can report abuse and neglect that happens. And the adult protective services, if you suspect that abuse or neglect is happening for someone who is aged 18 to 59 then you report it to adult protective services. And that agency is under our Office of Aging and Adult Services. If you suspect that abuse or neglect may be happening to someone over the age of 59 that's reported to what we call elderly protective services and that's

under the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. If you suspect that abuse or neglect is happening to someone under the age of 18 that's reported to child protective services and child protective services is under our Department of Children and Family Services.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay, Roslyn. Thank you for your questions. Thank you, Julie, for your answers. Are there any other questions for Julie about the report? Hearing none, thank you, Julie, for that. And the report will be entered into the record. Thank you. And so our next report to be given will be from the Bureau of Health Services Financing which is Medicaid. So Jen Katzman, are you available and ready to give your report to us this afternoon.

JEN KATZMAN: Yes, sir. Hi, Randall. I'm here. Hi everybody. Good to talk to you. My report should be there. Thanks. Perfect. So I did want to supply just a little update on some initiatives that we've been undertaking in partnership with our program office, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Aging and Adult Services and our Office of Behavioral Health. There was passage of the American Rescue Plan Act this year. And within the provision of that federal legislation there's an opportunity for states to obtain some additional federal funding for home and community-based services. And so what it allows us to do is present to our federal partners the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, we call that CMS, and it allows us to tell CMS the level of our current home and community-based expenditures for this year from April 1st, 2021, through March 31st of 2022. And based on that level of expenditure that we have we get to drawdown or get additional federal funding of 10 percent. So we project that that level of funding that we are estimating to spend this upcoming year will allow us to drawdown a good amount of federal funding that we can use to enhance and grow our home come community-based services. But there are requirements around it, as always. There's stipulations. It can't be used to

replace or supplant any existing services. It also, you know, CMS is really looking closely at what we're going to be using it for to ensure that we have a sustainability plan. So they're looking at whether it's a onetime expenditure or if it's recurring. And what we were required to do is submit an initial spending plan to CMS on July 12th. And that plan detailed what we thought we could use that federal funding to pay for and reinvest in our home and community-based services in a way that would further the program. And we're allowed to spend those funds for two more years. So through 2024. And that's in my report there if you need to find those dates. But you only get the funding once. So it's not that you get recurring funding each year. Once you drawdown the funds you get to spend it for up to two to three years through 2024.

And so what we've been careful to do is since our initial spending plan was due to CMS so quickly, we wanted to make sure that we built in time to discuss further with our stakeholders and our legislators because we have some hesitancy around obligating our legislature in the future around recurring expenditures if they're not going to be able to fund those. We hate to start something and stop it and take it away if it can't be funded ongoing. And so we focused our initial spending plan on onetime expenditures that could really help bolster the program. And also on some options that we listed out in our cover letter some options that we would like to revisit and discuss with our stakeholders and legislature for recurring expenditures. So that's the latest update on big initiatives that could be coming out of the department around home come community-based spending.

In addition I wanted to provide an update on our act 421 children's Medicaid option, which is our TEFRA like program. So as you know, our application has been pending with CMS for almost a year now. We had a call with them on Tuesday. We have regular calls with them, but our latest call was on Tuesday. And I had hoped

that I would have better news that we would be more optimistic for a close approval so that we could launch in October at the start of the next quarter. But it would appear that CMS still is working through some policy questions with their leadership. And they did tell us that they did not foresee they could meet any deadline for us to launch by October and still have our registration period and appropriate communication and public notice. So I don't think that October is going to happen at this point, but if that changes, I'll be sure to let all of our stakeholder groups and the DD Council know. You know, we are looking at alternative options given the continued delays. And that includes pursuing it through our state plan as an actual TEFRA state plan amendment. However, that is contingent on having funding available through the American Rescue Plan which is what I was just speaking to on those initiatives that we might be able to get additional federal funding for. So our spending plan has to be approved by CMS in order for us to be able to expand into a state plan option. So we're working closely with CMS about that. We have a meeting with them to discuss it next week and so I'm hoping I'll have more updates to come.

So the rest of the report is about our programs including permanent supportive housing and money follows the person. You know, numerical and updates on self-direction and electronic visit verification. I include these every quarter as updates on where we are, and the progress and the number of people served. So I'm not going to touch on each one of those. The information is there if anyone wants to read it. Also behavioral health and how many participants in CSoC and our behavioral health network adequacy. And then further down for applied behavioral analysis. And our expenditures there. Again, I include those in every quarterly report so if you want to see those numbers it's available. And if you have any questions, I am here to answer them. I hope.

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jen, for the information today. Are there any questions of Jen with regard to her report?

AMY DEAVILLE: Roslyn has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What I want to know is if you could go back in that on September 23 of 2020 in that. I think with the initials with CMS, what I want to know with that with the initials what are they again.

JEN KATZMAN: Sure. So CMS stands for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

ROSLYN HYMEL: There we go. Right here. It's right here.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other questions for Jen with regard to her report?

JEN KATZMAN: It's right there on this screen if you need it, Roslyn. Where it says Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with CMS in parentheses right behind it.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Because with that, you know, with me with the services that I got with social is that considered with social security and SSI? How does that work?

JEN KATZMAN: Sure. So in Medicaid if you qualify for supplemental security income, which is SSI, you automatically qualify for Medicaid. So yes, you get Medicaid coverage if you have SSI.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I have both of them. That's why I'm asking about that because with the numbers would they ever change?

JEN KATZMAN: They could. As far as qualifying for those programs, they could change. It's somewhat income based and also disability based. But when they update those, if they change those thresholds, those income requirements they publish that, and I think they do it every year.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That covers both my questions.

JEN KATZMAN: Okay.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Are there any other questions for Jen with regard to her report today? Are

there questions or comments for Jen with regard to her report? Okay. Thank you, Jen. Thank you for the work y'all do.

JEN KATZMAN: Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Your report will be entered into the record.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Chair.

RANDALL BROWN: So next on our agenda to be heard from today is the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. So Bambi, you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Amy, did you have something you needed to say?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. There was a comment in the chat that I believe goes back to the report from the Office of Aging and Adult Services.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Read that real quick.

AMY DEAVILLE: The question from Ms. Corley is can they provide a table that reflects the cases that present with multiple allegations in comparison to the tables reflected now. Including a breakdown by race, ethnicity, English language learners, nonverbal/assisted technology users, region, etc.

RANDALL BROWN: That question is noted. We can pass it onto the department. I don't believe their representative is here, are they?

AMY DEAVILLE: No, sir.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I'll make sure I bring that back to them.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi. So I'm not going to recap the legislative session is on the report and I know we've had a lot of discussion about that. Just wanted to let you guys know the big thing that's happening next week is our GODA conference. Our annual conference is virtual. It will be Monday through Thursday of next week. We have 19 sessions. Amy, can you click on where the last says click here for the conference schedule. And so I just want people to be able to see the schedule. It's really a robust

schedule. I have to really thank my staff for really helping to lead this. This is a big conference and there's only four of us. And just want to thank Lillian for her leadership in several of these sessions. You can see they're really focused on, if you want to just control down, Amy, as I'm talking, they're really focused a lot on having people with disabilities as the presenters or panelists. We also have professionals, but we really, I find we have more of a focus this year on having those panels with people with disabilities, our youth, as well as adults with disabilities. And also many of the other sessions that, you know, we have maybe that are recurring each year just to give updates. And so you register at the link, which is at the top, that tiny url.com/GODA2021. And once you register you can pick and choose what sessions you want to attend. Also have to thank all of our presenters. We do not, none of our presenters get paid. This conference is really a great conference because the cost is really minimal. Because we have so many partners that are willing to share their knowledge and be a part of the conference. The conference will have ASL interpreters and captioning throughout the conference. So if you have not registered yet, please register. We have over 600 people registered so far. So we're really excited about it and very stressed and nervous about having a conference with 600 people registered. So any questions about, well I guess I'll finish my report and people can ask questions after.

Also in the report some just some important things to note for the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs there's a link if anyone is interested in applying. We have a few seats that are vacant. You know, please apply after our conference in August. We'll get with our executive committee and make selections for recommendations for that council.

The Statewide Independent Living Council will be moving out of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. It is a good thing. It's a partnership. It was a goal that we had, and the independent living

council had was to become independent outside of a government body. And so Jessica Lewis who was their executive director, she actually accepted another job. Jamar Ennis who was our assistant director for GODA, many of you know Jamar. He is assuming the role for executive director for a few months until SILC transitions out. And SILC is now looking for a new executive director. Jamie Duplechine, which many of you know, Jamie Duplechine is the chairperson, and you can reach out to Jamie if you're interested in applying for that position. I really think that that position is a great opportunity for someone with advocacy, you know, has a heart for advocacy. The independent living movement is what really creating our ADA and so much in regards to advocacy for people with disabilities. So I feel like a good leader could really help that council move forward in the way that really helps our state.

And then lastly, the state as a model employer task force has been working on some videos to promote our annual survey that we do with our state employees. And so as you can see in the report the governor, lieutenant governor, many of our secretaries have recorded videos that will be targeted towards our state employees to take the survey. And then those videos will also be used later just to be able to promote employment for people with disability in state government. And so that's been a great partnership that we've had with XP Synergy Companies which most of you will recognize the name Opportunity Now. But their production company has been doing these videos on a volunteer basis. So look for that and we'll be sharing that with you soon. And I see that Jamie Duplechine has shared her email address in the chat for people who are interested in getting information about that executive director position for the Statewide Independent Living Council. And that's all that I have. Any questions?

RANDALL BROWN: All right. Thank you, Bambi. And thank you for the important work y'all are doing. Good luck with your conference. I hope many of us can

attend. Are there any questions for Bambi with regard to her report today? Okay. Hearing none, are there any comments? Hearing none, thank you, Bambi. Your report will be entered into the record.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: I'm sorry. Jill, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: My bad. But Bambi, did you say something one of y'all's organizations is moving into its own entity?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes. So we have four councils in our office. And they're listed here. The Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs, the Statewide Independent Living Council, the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Steps and the State as a Model Employer Task Force. Those are four councils that are operated in our office. And the Statewide Independent Living Council is transitioning to being outside of the governor's office in the interim. The council will be operating through New Horizon Independent Living Center where they'll be I think the fiscal agent. And the long-term plan, which hopefully will be in a year or so, is that SILC is a 501C3. And it's an independent body. You know, it's still going get the funding that it gets and have all the laws and stuff that govern independent living councils in every state. But it will be operating autonomously outside of any other entity. And just so you know, some of our council members are also on SILC. Rashad Bristo and Steven Nguyen. And I think those are the only two that are DD Council members who are also SILC members.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Thank you. Are there any other questions for Bambi with regard to her report? Hearing none, thank you, Bambi. Your report will be entered into report. Again, thank you for all the work you're doing. All right. Our final report today is from the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. Julie.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: You guys saved the longest report for last, right, Randall. Hello again. I'm not

going to read our eight-page report to everybody. I'm happy to take any questions you guys have about the report. The main thing I want to do in the little time that we have left is just highlight two major things that we have going on that I know have a lot of interest to the council. Some of them we've talked about in the committee meetings, but we actually had some movement on a couple of things and why I had to kind of sign off this morning for a little bit. The two main activities, one is the rate increase for the direct support workers which we kind of referenced a couple of times. But house bill one included utilizing about 16 million-dollars out of the new opportunities waiver fund. So that's the state portion. When you add the federal portion it's a total of about 53 million-dollars. You know, money that's in the NOW fund can only be used for home and community-based waivers that are operated through our Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. So the rate increases will only be for our OCDD waivers. And what we did was we took the amount of money that we had available, the 16 million. We are assuming that we won't be able to start the rate increases until October 1 because we will have to do rule making. And so for the nine months for October 1 through June the 30th we are anticipating that we'll be able to give a 2.50 per hour rate increase for our IDD waivers. We've heard from the DD council and legislators they felt it was important that the majority of that money goes to the direct support workers. But through some conversations we've had there is an understanding that there are some other associated costs that also have to be considered. And so this morning in joint legislative committee on budget they worked to do some interpretive language. And that motion that did pass said that the department would have rule making authority to set a direct care wage floor based on that 2.50 per hour increase. The testimony from a lot of the legislators said that, you know, they're expecting the majority of this money goes to the workers. So we are awaiting, and I don't know

yet what that final amount will be, but what the department will do is say that we are giving 2.50 per hour increase. And with this increase there is an expectation that direct support workers be paid a minimum of a certain wage. And we will put that in rule. And then the rule will also say that that is subject to being audited by the department. So our office will go at some point during the year and conduct an audit where we look at the payroll records of the providers to make sure that they are paying all workers whatever that wage floor is that we get set. And then the rule will also have some penalties so that if workers, I mean if providers aren't paying that, then there will be a penalty that they will incur for not following that direct care floor.

I've also gotten some questions about whether that applies to folks in self direction, and it does. What it will do is that 2.50 increase applies as well to self-direction. And so a portion of that will then be added so that people who utilize self-direction will be able to pay their workers an additional amount of money as well. And it will work the same in self direction on both sides. So there will be additional money available so that you can pay your worker more, but there will also be the expectation for those in self direction that those in self direction pay their workers at least that minimum wage rate that's established by the department as well. So we are, once we have that final decision, we will put all of that into what we call a rule and then we have to publish our rule through the Louisiana Registry for 30 days. And it is then, people are able to make public comment on what the department puts out there as rule. But what you can expect to see is a direct care floor requirement for an audit. And then the penalties for people who do not, in fact, pay the direct care workers that floor. You know, we also have gotten questions this does not apply to home and community-based waiver services that are provided through the Office of Aging and Adult Services. And there's been concern, you

know, because a lot of the workers are the same. And that the legislators have asked the department to look for ways that we might give them a rate increase as well. And I know we'll also be working with the legislators, you know, to help find any additional money that we can do that. It also does not include an increase for our intermediate care facilities or for our support coordination services. And I know that we've heard concern from folks about that. Again, those are all outside of what we would be able to use the new opportunities waiver fund for.

So the other big activity that I just want to share with you guys, and we talked about this in the self-inclusion and determination committee yesterday. And Brenton or DD Council sent out to all council members today I saw a link so that people can know where to go to find, but we have our new opportunities waiver is out for public comment. It posted yesterday. And it will be open for 30 days for public comment. The email that was sent tells you where you can go to send your comments. OCDD-HCBS@la.gov. And we have gotten questions what happens with those comments. So when we submit our waiver application every five-years, we have to start kind from scratch and do our waiver application over again. In between those five years if we want to make changes, we do a waiver amendment. So you will hear us say waiver amendment and waiver application. The new opportunities waiver is up for its five-year renewal in January. So this is kind of a biggy where we have to take a look at and modify everything. And so it is out there, again, for public comment. And we did, you know, had some listening sessions last DD Council meeting we talked about the public health emergency and the fact that our exceptions would be able to be in place until six months after the public health emergency. Which, as you know, the public health emergency was just continued for another 90 days. And the Biden Administration has said that they plan to, we believe that they will likely continue the public health

emergency at least through December of 2021. So what that means for the waiver exceptions is that they will, if the public health emergency is in place until December, we'll be able to have all these exceptions in place until July, until this time next year, July of 2022. But we are planning and trying to include some changes as we go along. Sorry. My watch started talking to me. Trying to include some of those.

And again, I know we're short on time. So I won't spend a lot of time other than to just share a couple of the big major changes that you'll see in our new opportunities waiver application. The previously before covid there was a rule that if you were a family member living in the same home as a person that you could not be a paid caregiver. Well, we no longer have that restriction in place. So family members who are not legally responsible relatives will be able to be paid caregivers up to four hours a week. Because CMS, and if you look at the application you might notice that they require us to say do you allow family members to be paid caregivers, do you allow legally responsible relatives to be paid caregivers, and do you allow legal guardians to be paid caregivers. If we do allow that in our waivers, then there's certain extra steps and things that you have to be able to show. Because as a legally responsible relative there are some things that you do that you're not paid for to help someone. So CMS says you have to show where does ordinary care stop, and extraordinary care begin. And that's really difficult to show. Because of that most states don't allow legally responsible relatives to be paid caregivers. Although covid has us all thinking about that. And all states are hearing from families that it's been very helpful to have family members be paid caregivers. So what we have in the new opportunities waiver application, what you'll see now is a provision to have legally responsible relatives be able to be paid caregivers under the monitored in-home caregiving. That is a per diem. So there's just one amount that you get with the idea that you're helping throughout

the day and there may be some things that are ordinary care, some things that are extraordinary care and we felt like that was an easier bridge than trying to justify when folks are on the clock and off the clock. And then we would have to do even more in the plan of care to justify what was extraordinary. So again, you guys can comment on that. And if you disagree or if you think alternatively. But that was our plan and what we have in the waiver application now. You'll also see changes, just so you know, because the last time we did our new opportunities waiver application was five years ago it still had a lot in the application about a first come first serve. So we had to update all the language to the new system we have about prioritization and adding information about SUN screenings and what not.

And then finally, we did have to do a lot of changes around critical incidents. OCDD was engaged in an audit by the Office of the Inspector General who's trying to go through all 50 states. And their focus of this particular audit was on critical incidents. What they did was they pulled Medicaid claims data for when a person is in the emergency room or the hospital and then they bumped that against reports from our critical incident report system. And they said that if somebody's in the emergency room or the hospital there should be a critical incident. Well, there were a lot of times when we didn't have that. And when we researched it, we found that it may be that a person's not getting 24-hour support. You know, it might have been that they went to the hospital while with the family and what not. So we've made some changes and we're going to be doing some education and upcoming work with family members to help them understand that we're still going to need a report anytime somebody goes to the emergency room or hospital because CMS and the federal regulations are that we need to know about that. And that the team that supports the person needs to know about it and give considerations to why they went into the emergency room or the hospital, what are

some additional supports or actions that they may need. And it needs to be considered in the overall plan of care. And so you'll see some language changes there about critical incidents. And that's just kind of a quick summary of our major changes. Again, you can send comments or, you know, concerns to our OCDD-HCBS@la.gov. And what we are required to do is to take all of the public comment that we receive and when we submit our application, we have to tell CMS what the public comment is that we received, what our response is, what did we consider. And so all of the comments we received will be submitted to CMS with our application.

Sorry. I keep saying one more thing. One more thing. If we get substantial comment back and we decide that we will make changes to our waiver then they call it substantive changes. So if we make substantive changes based on the public comment we receive we will post it again for another 30 days. And I'll make sure that we notify the DD Council staff so if, in fact, we do make changes and repost it they can send another alert out to you guys letting you know that we've now reposted it and folks can have an opportunity to do the same thing in that 30-day period. Submit public comment to the waiver application. So now that really was the last thing and I'll stop and take questions.

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

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Egle has her hand raised.

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

JILL EGLE: On a professional with the Office of CDD (inaudible) going on with everything with this whole thing with the variant. I'm just concerned about things right now. I get a lot of updates, but with the whole big, you know, with the services and the rates. And also during this covid would anybody who gets services from the state get a higher increase with the government with their SSI?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: You were kind of breaking in

and out Jill, but I think I heard you. So the rate increase that I mentioned that 2.50 rate increase is also in place for the day program and vocational providers in addition to the in-home providers. So there is a rate increase on the horizon for them. I can't consider any questions about SSI. I just don't know the answer to that. And then to your comment on the Delta variant, I think we're all very concerned about what's happening now with the number of cases that are going up. You know, please, please help us spread the word about vaccination. If you're watching what's going on increasing our rates of vaccination in Louisiana is really one of the only way's we're going to really be able to tackle this. You can see that folks who are vaccinated, I know a lot of folks who are still concerned. There are people who are vaccinated who are coming back positive with the Delta variant. But they do have evidence that's showing that it's a much less case than those who are not vaccinated. The severity of the symptoms are less. We are closely watching it. As of right now there's not anything that's changed for like our day programs. But we are watching it. We're watching guidance from the CDC and working with our Office of Public Health and the epidemiology section to see are there some things that we might need to do different. Are there things we might need to go back to in our services. But as of right now as I speak today it could change an hour from now. But as I speak today there's no different requirements or regulations that are in place right now.

JILL EGLE: So they still have the day hab and virtual service, correct?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: That's correct. And the virtual service is one that we are putting, we'll have that in place now even after covid. So that's one of the things that we're looking at post covid continuing the virtual visits for people who don't want to go back to a facility where there's lot of people. Even after we're passed the epidemic, we heard people say they may

not want that. So we're trying to give other options that still get you out of the house, but maybe some different options. You're on mute Jill.

JILL EGGLE: I am vaccinated, and I never got contracted with covid or anything. And I wear my mask at all times. I know this state has to follow the wear your mask, when you eat take your mask and put it back on. I get that I have to remind people wear you mask. They don't want a lot of people because they have to catch ahold of this variant. But everybody's like just mentally drained Ms. Julie. It's like what can we do. I'm hoping before we get a new governor all of this is set aside. I mean I'm mentally drained, but all I can do is slowly do stuff and give a break and kind of wait it out. I'm really mentally drained.

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

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi Polotzola has her hand raised.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Julie, whenever you say legally responsible, I know that probable includes like tutorship, guardianship, interdiction, that type of thing. But does that include the person who is the authorized representative?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I'm not sure about authorized representative. I know it's like the parent of a child.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I'm heading out.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay, Roslyn. Thank you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I'll see y'all in October. I hope everybody gets their whatever. Be careful with the virus.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Spouse, the parent of a child, you know, not an adult, but a child and the legal guardian. I don't think about authorized representative. I know our legal counsel team is really doing a lot of exploring because when you look at what CMS says it says the state should have a statute. And that each state should have a statute that defines what legally responsible relative is.

Doing a quick search, none of us have been able to find that. So I'll circle back with them specifically on the authorized rep.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Julie. Thank you, Bambi. Are there any other questions for Julie with regard to her report today?

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Nicole, you have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you for letting me speak. I'm going to try to be as quick as possible because of time restraints and try to stay focused because I had a lot of interruptions on my question. So Ms. Julie, I was hearing you saying you guys are restructuring and re-prioritizing. I know you were talking about the individuals served, correct. Up in your report you were talking about the individuals served when you guys say you have to re-prioritize because they had some voting or some spending.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I'm trying to see where in my report.

NICOLE BANKS: Can you pull it up right quick for me and I'll be able to show you. Cause I just see everybody right now. And y'all had pulled it off the screen before I could write everything down. And I was like oh, no. Okay. Amy, if you can go down a little bit. Some more. Little bit more. I think it's like almost all the way down at the end when she was talking. Some more. I think it was the question where you guys were doing a Medicaid claims and it was like the hospital version, and it wasn't matching. And you guys had to re-prioritize how you guys had looked at stuff. You said because some things were counted as overnight or maybe was just something that was, they went to the hospital for something, and they only stayed for a couple hours, and you guys were getting the information and data on that. Is that correct?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I'm sorry Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: It was closer to the end, and you were telling us about how you guys got audited.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Oh, the Office of Inspector

General. Yes.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So, I'm sorry. Ask me the question.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm going to try to ask it where you can understand it because I had to see it again. Sorry, guys. Okay, in regards to the audit they said that you guys, it wasn't matching up to where the hospital claims that you had, and the data wasn't matching up. That's what you were saying, correct. So you guys had to re-go back over this stuff and new data was formed or you guys just operate off this existing data. Because, you know, when you're being audited, they're going into detail in how these things are being done and how the money and stuff is being spent on these claims and that kind of stuff. I'm guessing that is why they did the audit, correct?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: No. They did the audit, the purpose of the audit was not, this time I know what you're saying, usually an audit is tied to money. This time the audit was tied to how the state handles critical incidents and handles reporting of critical incidents. And the premise behind it is they feel like if somebody ends up having to go to the emergency room or the hospital that that's a significant event in their life that should be discussed by the person's interdisciplinary team in consideration given do we need to make changes to the plan of care, what not. So it wasn't about the money that was paid out, it was about the fact that they saw that there were times when people were in the emergency room or in the hospital and then we on the other, normally when that happens that's supposed to be reported to the support coordinator and waiver who then does a critical incident. And so what they found is that there were times people were in the hospital and it wasn't filed as a critical incident. If it's not filed as a critical incident, it means the support team didn't consider it and they feel that it's important that the support team consider those things and any changes that might be

needed or follow up with different doctors and things like that.

NICOLE BANKS: So we are passed, you guys are passed with that for in reference to the information that they were collecting upon the audit, right? You guys are good with the data they were seeking out to get?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Well, we are done with the audit. We had to develop a corrective action plan. And part of that corrective action plan we included in the new opportunities waiver. So you'll see it in the quality section, which is section, you'll see most of it in section G in the new opportunities waiver. And there's just some language changes that we had to make about how we respond to critical incidents. And that was a result of the audit. And then families of people that are in waiver you may be in the upcoming months you're likely to be hearing from your support coordinators. We're going to have to be doing some discussion with families and what not to let you guys know that it's important and we're being judged on did we fill that out as a critical incident and discuss it as a team. So there may be times when they're not receiving, you know, support hours so we're just going to need the family help us keep us informed of that as we have team meetings and support team meetings.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. And this is for the waiver that you guys are trying to get now, right? You're trying to get this passed for the five years again, correct?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: That's correct.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. I thought so. That was a part of my other question too. So you've answered both of it. I don't have to ask the other one because that was a part of the waiver thing. I just needed clarification. That's it. Thanks.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Nicole. Are there any other questions for Julie with regard to her report today?

AMY DEAVILLE: Three more people have their hand

raised. Jill Hano.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay, Jill Hano, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: What page were you talking about changes to incident reporting Ms. Julie?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I don't think it's in here. I was just summarizing what changed with the new opportunities waiver. That came after we submitted our report.

JILL HANO: okay. Cool. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Jill. Thank you, Julie. Okay. Who is the next hand we have raised?

AMY DEAVILLE: Brenda Cosse.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Brenda, you have the floor. Brenda, you have the floor. She may be having audio difficulties. Brenda, are you there? Okay. Who is the next hand raised Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: Liz Gary.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. Liz, you have the floor.

LIZ GARY: Thank you. I'm sorry. I was waiting for them to unmute me. Thank you, Randall. Julie, I just had a couple quick questions. The first one is I just want to confirm, obviously I know this answer, but I want to confirm it for everybody. When the appendix K extension goes another 90 days and that means it would extend instead of January it would extend into March. That all of the appendix K extension remain the same. Meaning that people who were watching their children in the home can still do it, the 20 extra hours for children's choice is in effect. Is that correct? Just confirming that for others.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes. That is correct.

LIZ GARY: Okay. The other question I have is you kept referring to, I have not been able to read the 200 pages of the now renewal. Trust me, I will. But my question--.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I believe that.

LIZ GARY: My question is that you keep referring to it as the now renewal. So are we no longer calling it the most appropriate, or have we not started with

that, or is it technically going to be the most, the changed name we had talked about for years up until this point?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So we haven't been able to consolidate the four waivers yet. So we still do have the new opportunity. We still have four different applications for the four different waivers. New opportunities supports, children's choice and the residential options waiver. So it still is called the new opportunities waiver. When we talk a lot about, a lot of the data that we show now and a lot of the discussion that we have we use most appropriate waiver. But when we use most appropriate waiver, it's still referring to all four of those with CMS. We still have a long-term goal of consolidating those waivers. We've had a lot thrown, there's a lot of reasons why we haven't been able to make progress in that. So what we're trying to do, for example, one of the things you'll see in the new opportunities waiver is that we now have the supports waiver and the new opportunities waiver used to have different services and different definitions for employment and day program and things like that. Those will now align. Or they're close to it. There's still a few differences and things we have to change in the supports waiver. What we also now have the ability to share across waivers. We continued that. So we're trying to, even though we still have four separate ones, we're trying to make the services as consistent as we can across all of them. So that ultimately when we do get to the consolidated waiver it won't be such a massive change as what we would have been looking at before when we had things so very different in all of the waivers. But when we say most appropriate waiver, it is referring to all four of those. And for now we still have to go with the new opportunities waiver. But again, long-term we're still working on that. And actually that's sort of where our discussions are going now. When is the appropriate time for us to get back on track with that.

LIZ GARY: Okay. With that being said, and like I

said I haven't read it yet, but we had deep conversations in the past about considering changing from units to dollars so that you wouldn't lose it every quarter and you would have the potential possibly to pay overtime or you wouldn't have to worry about the actual unit. For a long time we talked about doing it as a dollar amount instead of a unit amount because people lose their units after a quarter if they didn't use it and also there was the issue of the nighttime and daytime hours having to convert. Is that in this waiver or did that not get put in with hours instead of units for the NOW.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I don't think it got put in, but I'll have to make sure of that.

LIZ GARY: Okay. Because I know that was a big issue concerning people losing their, you know, not having enough in one time and then every time they do an IFD or an IFN they had to call their caseworker to change it or stuff like that. And then if they had people who were sharing supports across two or three people if they had put all their money in their two or three people then they lost that money if they weren't able to use it. I know we talked about how it wasn't the best use of people getting through with what they needed for that.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Okay. And Liz, I may call you offline cause I don't-- let me talk with my folks too. I may call you offline. Because that one, for some reason, that's not ringing a bell in my mind.

LIZ GARY: This has been on and off for about four to six years we talked about this when the next renewal would come, what it would look like. And so that was one of the things.

Okay. And the last thing and then I'll shut it down. I'm just curious and I guess I'm confused as to why the provider rate was 2.50 when the rate that was asked through the DD Council was 2-dollars? And I guess on the fact sheet it always said 2-dollars, 2-dollars and now it's 2.50. So I must have missed that along the way.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Sure. So the reason it went to 2.50 during the course of the legislative session, and actually in JLCB Representative Edmonds testified to this so I'm not as uncomfortable saying it because he and Representative Bacala admitted to it. Somewhere asked them where did the 16-dollars an hour come from and was that tied to a specific rate like the 2-dollar an hour ask. So the DD Council had the 2-dollar an hour ask and there was a fiscal note or impact tied to it. What happened was they got-- the legislators received from someone a report that there was an availability of 16 million-dollars in the new opportunities waiver fund to use. So it wasn't necessarily tied to a specific budget request. It was oh, look. Here's 16 million-dollars that we can use. Originally, they also didn't understand that because it came from the NOW fund it couldn't be used for ICFs or OAAS. So initially house bill one actually said 16-million from the NOW fund for OAAS waivers, OCDD waivers, ICFs and support coordination. And we had to go back and tell them that by statute you can't use it for all those things. Just your DD waiver services. And so they changed it. And so the 2.50 came because we took the amount that they gave us and we looked at what the utilization was last year and we looked at what can we, what number would we back into to be able to use all of the 16-million that they gave us. And that translated to a 2.50 increase based on the total amount that they gave us. Does that make sense?

LIZ GARY: Yes. So does that, so that's for this year. Does that mean it moves forward to next year the same? And the reason I'm asking it's twofold. Because if you move forward and give 1.25 a raise to your providers, and I'm talking even self-direction, if people start paying more then what happens if they don't get as much money in next fiscal year and they already do it. They would have to take the money back from those people?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah. So, yes. But I know that's a difficult thing to be able to do. One of the

things that we also discussed, and again, in a meeting, at this point I don't remember when it was. But within the last few days, the undersecretary of the department made a commitment to include in our budget request the full year's funding next fiscal year. Now, of course, that is all dependent on going through the commissioner and the executive budget process. But she made a commitment from the department that we would put the-- they call it the analyzed cost. So the full year, the full 12 months cost of that 2.50 an hour increase that we would put in our base budget request for next year. So again, we'll have to ask for that additional SGF if it's not coming from the NOW fund. But we will include it in the department's executive budget request for next year. Which we're in the process of preparing now.

LIZ GARY: I appreciate it. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: Are there any other questions for Julie with regard to her report today? Can y'all please be aware we are overtime.

AMY DEAVILLE: Brenda still has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Any questions for Julie?

AMY DEAVILLE: Brenda still has her hand raised.

RANDALL BROWN: Yes, Brenda. Are you there?

Brenda, if you're there you have the floor. Okay. Are there any other questions for Julie? Any comments? Okay. Hearing none, thank you very much, Julie. Thank you for all the work you and your team do, and your report will be entered into the record. We don't need the break cause we're at the end of our meeting today. So I will call at this point for any public comment we may have. Again, this is time for any public comment we may have.

AMY DEAVILLE: Steven has his hand raised.

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

STEVEN NGUYEN: Hello again. Yeah, I just wanted to send my appreciation and gratitude to my fellow council members, council staff and the DD community. As many of you know this will be more than likely be my

last council meeting as a council member. So it's been one heck of a ride. It's been an amazing four years. And I appreciate all of the support that I've gotten over the years and the friendships that I've built in this community. I just wanted to leave you all with a parting message. We are better together. Let's continue to work together and to build a community that we can all be proud of. So with that being said, I sign off. Thank you.

RANDALL BROWN: And Steven I want to thank you. I want to echo your statement there. We are better and stronger together. And I want to thank you for agreeing to serve as member at large when I appointed you for the better part of this term. And I thank you so much for that acceptance and being able to work with you was a pleasure. Thank you so much, sir. Are there any other public comment?

STEVEN NGUYEN: Absolutely.

RANDALL BROWN: No other public comments. Are there any announcements to be made? Staff, do we have any announcements to make?

AMY DEAVILLE: The only announcement that I have is we are expecting that there will be some reallocation of DDC funds due to some money being available from the Puerto Rico Disabilities Council. So we will be informed about what our allotment will be, and it probably will be late August or September before we hear anything.

RANDALL BROWN: Okay. We'll certainly keep our eye out for that. And we'll let everyone know as soon as we know what that number is. Thank you for that. If there are no other announcements, I just want to take a very quick moment to thank you all again. It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve both as a member of this council and to be entrusted with its governance for so much of the time I was with you in various capacities. I was not elected to the chairmanship so as you all know. But I did my best to serve you as best I could under the circumstances. And I sincerely hope that you all band together and work together in every way

possible to keep moving things forward in a positive way for the entire community. And I will be here as your chair working hard for you until October 1st when Mr. Bristo becomes your new chair. Again, congratulations to the new elected team from the executive committee. Thank you so much to my team, the current executive committee who will serve with me until October 1st. And we will continue working hard on our issues until such time as we hand over to the new team. And I look forward seeing what we can achieve together. Okay. Thank you everybody.

Your next quarterly council meeting will be October 20th and 21st of 2021. And that will be where your new team will be in charge. And so this will be my last quarterly meeting as your chair, and it has been a pleasure. Thank you all so much. I've learned a lot. I've grown a lot. And I have so much respect for each of you. Just please take care of yourselves and stay strong. Okay. If there is nothing else, if there's no objection we are hereby adjourned from business at the quarterly meeting.