

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Executive Committee

October 20th, 2021

RASHAD BRISTO: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm showing it to be 3:00. Amy, do we have a quorum yet?

AMY DEAVILLE: If all Executive Committee members could please turn on their cameras so I could verify quorum. One committee member just dropped off. But you do have a quorum with three.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. All right. Who was the committee member that just dropped off?

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. She's probably still having technical difficulties.

AMY DEAVILLE: Probably so.

JILL HANO: I saw Dr. McKee here as well, but now I only see the three of us.

RASHAD BRISTO: I didn't see Dr. McKee. So we have enough to proceed?

AMY DEAVILLE: You do. You can call to order, and we can do virtual meeting protocols.

RASHAD BRISTO: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you so much for taking time out of your afternoon schedule to be a part of the Executive Committee meeting. Want to recognize some of our protocols. Can you place them for me, Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Just make sure that council meeting shall be accessible via Zoom. All council members are to participate Zoom. Let me just kind of summarize. Protocols, make sure to keep your camera on. Make sure you raise your hand. To request to comment upon being recognized to speak by the chair. Microphone should be turned on. After speaking to the microphone should be returned to mute. Post all comments relevant to the conversation in the chat box. Make sure that you all aware this video is being live streamed via YouTube. And please be recognized by the

chair before you comment. Let's be respectful of each other. Now at this time we will have a roll call vote. I mean roll call. I apologize.

AMY DEAVILLE: Rashad Bristo.

RASHAD BRISTO: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. Hyacinth McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Present.

AMY DEAVILLE: Kim Basile.

KIM BASILE: Present.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. We do have a quorum. At this point we'll have our mission statement. Amy, if you will, will you read the mission statement and the ground rules please.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure. Sorry. I forgot to pull it up.

RASHAD BRISTO: No problem.

AMY DEAVILLE: The council's mission is to increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Amy. Next item up for business is approval of the minutes from July 21st. Executive Committee meeting which was distributed. It will not be read unless requested by a member. Are there any corrections to the July 21st meeting minutes?

HYACINTH MCKEE: I move to accept the minutes.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you. Moved by Dr. McKee. Do I have a second?

NICOLE BANKS: I second.

RASHAD BRISTO: Moved by Dr. McKee and seconded by Vice Chair Nicole Banks. Thank you so much. All in favor say aye.

{Collective aye}

Any opposed? All right. Motion passes. Minutes

have been accepted. Now on our agenda we're looking at the proposed legislative agenda. That's the next item up for business. You should be able to access the document through the link on the posted agenda just like what we have on our screen. There were two documents, LaCAN 2022. There we go.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. So the first document is the 2022 legislative kick off recommendations. This document shows, and in case anybody doesn't recall, our legislative agenda is compiled by our LaCAN leaders who do public meetings and get ideas from the public about what we should be advocating on. They compile a very large list. We had about, I believe, it was 93 possible agenda items that were compiled. And then they ranked the items on the list to try to make sure that it seems like it's a legislative, that it's appropriate for legislative advocacy. And that it coincides with our mission and what we're currently working on as a council. And after discussing and ranking they came up with two items that they recommend for legislative advocacy this year for our agenda. I would like to just point out that the LaCAN leaders and the FHF directors all agreed that the council should consider including no more than two to three items on the legislative advocacy agenda. The reason being that anything more than that becomes really difficult for them to basically be attentive to all of the items. And really represent how they would like to.

So the two items that were ranked the highest and that are recommended to be on the agenda is the funding for implementation of cameras in special education classrooms. If you'll recall in last year's legislative advocacy agenda we had a classroom, a cameras in classrooms bill. The bill passed, but the fiscal note was taken out of that bill. So the bill passed without any funding. So the recommendation is that we go back and try to ask for funding for this classroom, this cameras in classroom bill. I have spoken to Senator Foil who sponsored the bill last year. He does intend to go back to the legislators

this year and work on clarifying language with the bill. When it came to funding, he was a little less certain, but did say that it was possible that we could get a onetime appropriation for funding. Which would probably allow school districts to purchase equipment.

The second bill that was recommended, or the second item that was recommended, was continuation of appendix K exceptions. Specifically parent or relative as paid caregiver. This was the second bullet that was recommended. There does seem to be some work on this issue within OCDD. And they do seem to be working on making changes to their waivers to have in place prior to the end of the public health emergency. Which is when these appendix K exceptions are currently in place, and they would end six months after the end of the public health emergency. So OCDD does seem to be trying to make some changes in their waivers that they hope to have in place prior to that.

The other linked item that was in the agenda is the list of 93 items that was generated by the public. So if you are interested, you can take a look at that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Does anybody have anything they want to discuss about this? Jill, you're recognized.

JILL HANO: I'm assuming the 93 items from the LaCAN members were generated before kickoff, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Correct.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Bambi Polotzola, you're recognized.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi. Can you hear me?

AMY DEAVILLE: We can hear you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. I have some concerns about the parents, or, I guess, the legally responsible representative as a direct support worker. And for several reasons. But a few of those reasons are just historically been around for a while. I know that the political pendulum swings and I'm concerned about political pushback and some of the things that could happen if legislators or the message gets out that, you know, moms are getting paid 30,000-dollars to stay home

with their children and how does that play out politically. Also, you know, I feel like if we're abandoning the idea that our waivers are working to support our person as the way they should, then maybe what we should be asking is a family financial stipend or some type of supplemental income. Cause basically that's what it is. We're saying that our provider system is not working for us and that families have to depend on themselves, and we are asking for financial assistance. Cause that's essentially what's going to be happening. So I think we have to think about it in that way. And also, I think it kind of goes against, abandoning our capacity building. Because our system should work. Families should be able to find qualified workers because our children are going to become adults and we'll no longer be here, and we need a system that will continue to be able to support our people with developmental disabilities once their family or their parents age or are no longer with us.

And the other thing is is that we need to look at ways in which we are promoting independence. I think we just need to critically think about how we're promoting independence. And lastly, I think that while I don't know of any family that would intentionally make a decision against their persons' best interest, their child or whoever they're legally responsible for. Once a family begins to have this income of potentially a thousand, 2,000-dollars a month, sometimes that line of what's best for that person and the families financial situation, that line will get blurry. And so I just want to throw that out there. I know that's probably not popular, and I know we have some real issues. I face them myself in regards to having caregivers and support staff for my son. And so some of the issues are real and I'm open to hearing those things. But I just wanted to throw those issues out there because I want us to really make recommendations that stick to our values. And support our people with developmental disabilities to be able to be more independent and long-term solutions. That's it. Thank you, guys, for

your time.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Bambi. Do we have anyone else that has anything they would like to say or concerns?

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Chair, four attendees have their hands raised. Kathy Dwyer.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Kathy, you're recognized.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, executive committee. I was going to ask a question initially about the comprehensive dental for adults in terms of needing to be a priority. But I don't want to take the executive committee off topic after Bambi's discussion. And I would just like to add some information. Bambi and I kind of had a discussion about this yesterday. And I certainly understand Bambi's concerns. But I'm trying to wrack my memory now. My daughter was one of the first 100 on the waiver system. And if I'm not mistaken, part of the reason the waiver or families started requesting the need for the waiver is because it was difficult to find the appropriate care and support for our loved ones. And yes, it did include making sure that the individuals get services that they need to support them to become as independent and productive as possible. Certainly an important priority. But I don't think we should abandon the LaCAN item all together. Being chair of the state advisory committee for OCDD and having participated on some of the stakeholder meetings and so forth it's my understanding that there are quite a few or will be quite a few restrictions in place. Be it from CMS at the federal level, down to the state. I think, and OCDD as everybody probably knows, or most everyone is getting ready to conduct some focus groups to get a little more information about how this should work and so on and so forth. I think it's too early to abandon something like that until we see what it's really going to play out to be. And I think this would be the perfect opportunity to address Bambi's concerns in that program as they develop it.

I myself have had problems since the inception of

getting good, qualified workers. The waiver was extremely important. It was a lifesaver because I had reached a point where my daughter was too old for typical childcare and so forth. And I was facing a choice of having to quit work unless I could figure something else out. And thank the lord the waiver passed, and we were able to be selected as one of the first 100. Now that she's an adult, and especially through covid, I've had the opportunity to kind of reflect back on the services. There were a lot of challenges prior to covid with maintaining staff. And even some behavioral challenges with my daughter that flared up as a result, possibly as a result of so many different staff coming on board. Since covid, while I'll be the first to admit I do not need, there's no way I could simply take care of my daughter 24/7 for the rest of my life. I'm aging and there's going to be a limit to that. And even now during covid since I have her the majority of the time with the exception of when she visits her father every other weekend, I have seen my daughter blossom being with me. Because I'm able to give her more the one-on-one attention she needs. And if it wasn't for covid I would be taking her out a little bit more in terms of working on her community skills, but she's in the high-risk category so I can't take her out as much solely because of that. I would just ask the council to please consider supporting this, at least the development of it and let's see where it's going to go. Let's make sure we have the appropriate guidelines and so forth in place to make sure we address everyone's need. And that's the individuals first so that they reach their maximum potential. But the families as well. Because the families do need supports sometimes more than they're getting. Granted, you know, we're working on trying to improve the quality of direct support workers. Noted particularly recently with some of the pay increase and we need to continue working on that because it's still not a competitive wage. And we definitely need to work on competency-based training for direct support

workers. Because that's one thing I've found a lot of them lack the appropriate training, even in typical parenting skills. Which would apply to some of the caregiver roles that they take. But I would support to keep moving forward with continuing the exception, the appendix K exceptions at this point until we see what that's going to look like. Whether or not for the next session or not. And when everybody's finished discussing this part, then I'd like to raise my hand again and discuss the dental legislation. I just don't want to take people off track of the discussion. Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for your comments, Ms. Dwyer. Dr. McKee, you're recognized.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for being recognized. This is almost like six in one hand and a dozen in the other. From what I remember not just so long ago the DD Council strongly advocated for a rate increase and for all of the dollars to go to our direct service professionals. We were greeted with so much political pushback just to get those dollars to go directly to our direct support professionals to ensure that they're being paid adequately to service our families. Now the DD Council is being asked to stand strongly to advocate for this measure by LaCAN. I support what Ms. Kathy Dwyer is saying. We are in a time right now where our families just really do not have the people. They cannot find the people. Let alone the amount of money to pay the people to provide this service. And this idea that mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers are getting rich or potentially getting rich off of providing direct service to their family members, I don't want that message to be sent. That's not what the intent is. So I fully support us moving ahead as a council to support this. Especially in light of covid 19. We just, people just cannot find consistent workers to go into these homes and support these families. So I pray that our executive council as well moves forward with the

full council's support for LaCAN's initiative.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Dr. McKee, for your comments. Who do we have next, Amy, with public comment? I see Ms. Jill Hano.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Jill, you're recognized by the chair.

RASHAD BRISTO: You're muted, Jill.

JILL HANO: Sorry. Dr. McKee, that was amazing. But y'all both had such good points. And as Bambi was talking, and maybe I need to go to Julie with this, but I was curious to know are the appendix K exceptions an all or nothing type thing? Like if we did more research and had more feedback and it turned out that the legislation was against parents as caregivers could they like take that off and still advocate for what is it, the 16-hour work rate, the 16-hour rule and the other one? Or is it an all or nothing thing?

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't believe that it's all or nothing. Cause there seemed to be those separate parts to the appendix K exceptions. I don't think it's necessarily all or nothing. I believe that LaCAN's focus was the parents or the legal guardians as paid caregivers. But there are other parts of appendix K like you mentioned the 16-hour rule and the virtual services that are part of it too.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for those comments, Jill. And they're noted. Do we have any other comments, Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: We do. Charlie Michel has his hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: I'm sorry. I missed the name.

AMY DEAVILLE: Charles Michel

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Mr. Michel, you're recognized by the chair.

CHARLIE MICHEL: (Inaudible)

HYACINTH MCKEE: We can't hear. I can't hear what Dr. Michel is saying. Is it my audio, perhaps?

RASHAD BRISTO: No.

JILL HANO: I can't hear.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Can you hear me now?

HYACINTH MCKEE: That's better. Yes.

CHARLIE MICHEL: What I was saying is I agree what Hyacinth was saying about the DD Council's stand on the (inaudible) and the parents and all that. But one thing I just realized a couple weeks ago is that the agency that my son uses, they got to keep all the money cause nobody got raises cause they were making 9-dollars an hour. I didn't realize that was the wording of the law. But so what that does it keeps it more difficult to get workers because the problem has not been addressed at all. So I wanted to say that because that was new information to me. Maybe I wasn't paying attention enough. But that was new information for me. That's the first mistake.

The second thing is I would like for y'all to consider recommending to the full council adding one more thing to the legislative list. And that would be continuation of the funding that the Families Helping Families centers got. We purposely did not discuss that during LaCAN because we honored the concerns that the council shared with us last year that it wasn't coming from the families. And I get that. So I know in Bayou Land, and I think many other centers did the same thing, we did not include that as a discussion item on our roundtable, or with our parents or the people that were doing the testimonies. The reason we did was because this is a sort of a behind the scenes thing and the parents don't really know what it cost to provide these services. As you all know the costs have gone up significantly over the past years since the original allocation was made. But the allocation remained constant until last year. Those costs are not going to go down if we don't get those funds. What I would ask that you do is look at the satisfaction surveys and see. The parents don't know what it cost or how the funding is done, but they do know if they're getting what they need from the Families Helping Families centers. I know this is off the beaten path, but I'm going to ask that you please consider adding

that as a third item and doing like the DD Council did so many years ago and actually trying to get it to be a permanent funding increase. The very least for this next year, but permanent if possible. That's all I've got to say. I appreciate any consideration y'all can give us.

AMY DEAVILLE: Chair, if I could just address that really quickly.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes. Please.

AMY DEAVILLE: Charles, just so you know, I'm trying to get that funding continued through our budgetary process right now. So, just so you know I'm working on it internally in our budgetary process to try to get those funds continued. Liz Gary has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Liz, you're recognized by the chair. Thank you.

LIZ GARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can y'all hear me?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes.

LIZ GARY: Perfect. I appreciate Bambi's concerns, but I do want to address the issue back with the appendix K issues and legal representatives. I think it's important to realize that Louisiana's only one of two states that did allow this up until the appendix K issue was addressed. This has been an issue that's been ongoing for many, many years that other states allow it and we've been lagging behind. So I would hate to see that it would not be continued to be considered. As far back as when my son was first born 19 years ago, I can remember a mother who had an adult daughter with down syndrome was telling me be sure you get on that waiver, but also you need to be pushing, pushing legislatively wise because in other states they actually pay parents to take care of their kid because it's so hard to find good provider agencies. And it's also, sometimes it's so hard for the parents to even work. So by getting them paid they don't have to worry about trying to find somebody and they're getting income. But I just wanted to share that. Because I do

think for 19 years I've been hearing this as a concern, and it was even confirmed two years ago at a conference that the issue is one that Louisiana and only one other state do not allow it. So thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chair. I appreciate it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for those comments, Ms. Gary. Do we have any more public comment?

AMY DEAVILLE: We do. Kelly Monroe.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Kelly Monroe, you're recognized by the chair.

KELLY MONROE: Okay. Sorry. I'm sorry. I had trouble unmuting. So I just had a couple comments. Last session, before last session we had surveyed a lot of families and that was the number one thing that they wanted was to be able to serve as the direct support worker. Most of these people were from some of the Families Helping Families centers. They were self-advocates. I really do think that you should continue to keep it on there. I hope you guys have better luck than what we did at The Arc. And coming from parents maybe you will have better luck with that one. The other two, I feel confident that those are going to be taken care of. But I also just wanted to like, I know Jill had asked a question, I think it was Jill had asked a question, you know, is it all or nothing. No. You can pick and choose. Those are just three, those are three of the exceptions that families, self-advocates and providers requested. So but there were so many other on the appendix K. So you can treat that each individually if you choose to. So, and I know they're working on the other two supposedly through rule making. So, but I just know how many people requested that and how many families requested it and I think it would be great if you guys could keep it on.

And then also I just wanted to kind of like respond to Charlie's comment. I understand, you know, I understand being upset when you think that, you know, so much money's going to go to the DSPs. And most providers gave the raise. If they don't, they're going to lose employees even more so. And, you know, just

like you were saying, you know, you're providing the service and Families Helping Families you need the increase to cover those costs. That's what they were saying too. I just think that people really don't realize the amount of work and what type of work the others are doing and how it's important. And maybe at some point, you know, getting together somebody from the council, some family members, and some providers and self-advocates in the same room to kind of talk about these things. Cause I really don't think that the others really know what the other ones are going through. But that's all I got. Thanks.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you for those comments. Do we have any more comments in the chat box?

AMY DEAVILLE: You have two more public participants with their hands raised. And I believe Jill Hano has her hand raised as well.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mary Jacobs.

RASHAD BRISTO: Mary Jacobs, you're recognized by the chair for your comments.

MARY JACOBS: Thank you. I want to piggyback on what everybody's saying about the situation with the DSPs. And I completely understand what Bambi is saying. But I also completely understand what everybody else is saying. I kind of feel the same things that Bambi's saying. But I also know that even before covid one of the hottest topics we would get on and calls we would always take is parents that were so frustrated because they could not find reliable DSWs to help with their children. Whether it was part-time, full-time, whatever they needed. It was just impossible to find people. There was this constant revolving door. And if you lived in an area that was a little bit rural, it was almost nearly impossible. There was nobody they said. Like I'm in the greater New Orleans area and I'm talking to somebody in lower Plaquemines and to get somebody to go out there for four-hours a day wasn't going to happen. So it was a situation where a lot of people weren't even using the

hours that they had allocated to them because they couldn't find people to take care of their loved ones. I think when you add covid to that it just makes it that much more difficult. But I absolutely agree and understand what Bambi's saying because it is a fear that are we going to send the wrong message. But I think it's a risk taking that fear because at the end of the day people have to have their loved ones taken care of. They have to know they have quality care coming into their homes. Those are the most venerable population out there and we can't risk people not being taken care of the right way. And I think that, you know, family member is going to be the one that does it more than we can depend on the most.

My original comment was going to be made about I was kind of sad to see that the dental stuff wasn't on there and I'll tell you why. I've been the chair of the Jefferson Parish RAC previously and I'm still an active member on the RAC. And without a doubt the topic that comes up every single RAC meeting, and has for probably five years now, is the lack of adult dental care. And I've heard horror stories including people being on their deathbed in a hospital because of illness, disease that they've gotten because of lack of dental care. We know that oral health is important. I mean, we've done so much research on this. We know that it's linked to respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, other things like that. It's absolutely relevant and prevalent in individuals with disabilities. Medicaid will only cover minimum preventive services, zero comprehensive care. Once they turn 21, you know, other than a basic cleaning, unless you want your teeth pulled, you're not really going to get much. It's very, very difficult to get more than that. The American Dental Association has been reporting on this for probably now two decades. The link between the overall health of people and bacterial pneumonia and cardiovascular disease that impact people. Specifically people with developmental disabilities. This is something that I think the

dental task force last year did an amazing job getting this moved forward. But is still so far away from getting where it needs to be. And I really believe this really truly deserves some attention by LaCAN. So many people have, you know, when I got into this business my kids were young. And they don't have Medicaid now, thank goodness. But everybody I know that does have Medicaid that has adult children are really screwed, y'all. I mean, they have nowhere to go that when it comes to beyond that basic cleaning. And some places in the state you can't even get a basic cleaning that well. But when it comes to the cost of a lot of these individuals, because they don't like people prodding in their mouth, has to have anesthesia just to have basic cleanings done. It cost the family lots and lots of money. And yes, I know they can go to individual and family support funds and the LGEs. But you know what, they don't have enough money to pay for all that either. I just would really, really like and hope that y'all would reconsider the whole dental bill also. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for those comments, Ms. Jacobs. Jill Hano, you're recognized by the chair. I see your hand up. Jill, you're recognized by the chair. I see your hand up.

JILL HANO: Sorry. It went away. Every time someone says something I have a new question. But back to Dr. Michel. Sorry, I pronounce that wrong. But back to Families Helping Families. Like when I was going through all this and working on our legislation like council minutes or council like recaps from 20 or the 21 legislative session, I didn't realize like so they're only going to get the 500,000-dollars. Like there's a time limit. Y'all, I can't talk. There's like it's only a certain amount of time that you'll get these funds for a certain amount of time. Then I thought they would last for, like I thought well, it can't. But how can we get that to where it is a more permanent thing? Or would this have to be on planning every year, no? I'm not talking sense.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill, when an amount of money is put in by the legislators it goes in only for one year. And then for any items like that, if they are to be continued, I met with the commissioner of administration, he told me that for it to be continued it needed to be approved as a part of the DD Council's budgetary process. Because those funds appear in the DD Council's budget.

JILL HANO: Well, I definitely think that is something that should be ongoing. Because it's not fair to have this money one year then the next year like oh, back to our 2020 budget. So I definitely want to make sure and talk to the full council tomorrow. Make sure that's ongoing for 22. And also, can I ask another question?

RASHAD BRISTO: Go ahead, Jill. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Thank you. This dental, also we've heard already lots of public comments about the dental services and this is an ongoing issue. And this issue definitely needs to be addressed. I think we need to get our dental services back on our 2022 agenda.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Your comments are noted, Jill, about dental services reviewing that for the 2022 agenda.

AMY DEAVILLE: Kathy Dwyer has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Dwyer, you are recognized by the chair. Ms. Kathy Dwyer, you are recognized by the chair.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I didn't receive the message to unmute. That's why it took a little while. I want to thank Mary Jacobs for speaking on behalf of the dental bill. And Jill Hano. Thank you so much. As chair of the Louisiana Dental Task Force I would greatly appreciate if the DD Council would consider adding the comprehensive dental for adults with IDD as the third item for the LaCAN legislative agenda. While we got Act 450 passed or HB172 passed last year, which is now Act 450, it's not finished. The first year of that bill was solely for

OCDD to do the research of what kind of funding mechanism would be needed in order to provide those services. And they're still working on trying to figure out what mechanism that is. There was no funding attached for services. The fiscal note noted that 5 million-dollars would be needed this coming year, July 1st, in order for the services to be implemented. And that's what we need to advocate for. We truly appreciate LaCAN jumping on, kind of after the fact, last year. It wasn't on their agenda, but we truly appreciate that the DD Council and LaCAN jumped on and started including some of our action alerts in their action alerts. But I think if we could get a head start, particularly since 5 million-dollars is involved, we're going to need that money in order for those services to be implemented. Without it we won't have services.

Just like Mary said, oral health is important for overall health. The American Medical Association and the American Dental Association both agree that the IDD population is the most underserved population. Even more so than others that are labeled as underserved. And dental has been a real concern for some time now. We've got all the research. I can send the DD Council and LaCAN all the research the dental task force has done. But we need to make sure that our adults with developmental disabilities get the services they need. We have those, particularly those with severe disabilities including my daughter who cannot go see a regular dentist. And this is where the cost really are incurred. She requires going under general anesthesia every time she needs a dental checkup. The last bill I received for that was 4,000-dollars just for a general cleaning. There's no way any family with a person with a disability in their family can afford that given all the other expenses they have to deal with. Additionally, there's a lot of individuals or adults with intellectual developmental disabilities such as autism that have some behavior challenges. My daughter hasn't been diagnosed with autism, but has an aversion

to any doctor probing in her mouth. That's one reason she requires the anesthesia. Part of what we're working on with that dental bill is to get the dentists trained so that they know how to use behavior modification approaches to better serve those with behavior challenges. And when you consider how large the autism community is, you can imagine how many probably aren't getting the appropriate oral health services that they need because they can't tolerate going into a dental office and have the probing and so forth done. So I cannot stress enough how important this bill is. We're halfway there and we just really need the DD Council and LaCAN's help to see it through. So we would really appreciate if you would make the comprehensive dental for adults with IDD a third priority since you have two right now. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for those comments, Ms. Dwyer. Do we have anyone else with public comment or any committee members with any comments?

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Jill, you're recognized by the chair. You're muted, Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. Sorry. Ms. Kathy, I wrote this down a while ago. But when did y'all form the DD, not DD. The dental task force? What year?

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Jill. It was formed, I want to say two years ago. It's been about two years. I will have to get the exact date. My years are meshing through, but two years ago when we first formed. It's sort of a task force that is a result of a motion I had made during one of our state advisory committee meetings after years of people, as Mary Jacobs said, years of people coming to our local RAC. And coming to find out, a lot of families, even on Facebook, and many people know Karen Scallion who helps families on Medicaid and waivers trying to find a dentist to serve their adult with a disability. There's ton of dentists out there to serve children with disabilities, but we were having trouble finding services for adults. So that's when I

proposed the task force at the meeting. And we had been working on that ever since. It's a wonderful task force. We have all players involved. We've got the dentists, we've got the dental association, we've got representatives from OCDD, from Medicaid, from the provider aspect, you know. And we represent or we advocate for services for both those in home and community-based services and those in ICFDD facilities. So we've got our work cut out. Right now we have representatives from the dental school and we're working with the dean of school of dentistry on enhancing their curriculum so that dentists are appropriately trained in serving adults with developmental disabilities. And they have even identified some online training for existing dentists, current dentists in the community to participate in some online training so that they can be prepared once the funding is found, identified and appropriated so that Act 450 can be implemented.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Dwyer. Do we have any more comments or anything in the chat box?

AMY DEAVILLE: In the chat box we have, let's see. One comment. I agree with Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Dwyer. I believe that was Christina Martin who wrote that. And then Nicole Flores, I would also like to ask the committee to recommend adding continued additional funding for FHF centers each year as well as the dental task force/coverage for adults with IDD to the legislative agenda. In addition to that, chair, there's no other public comment. However, the Education and Employment Committee this morning had an item that came up and there was a motion. Dr. McKee, if you wanted to discuss this one before we move on.

RASHAD BRISTO: Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. I was going to say if I'm recognized by the chair. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for being recognized. This morning the Education and Employment Committee met, and we came up with a motion that we would like to propose to the Executive Committee to move onto the full council for review.

The motion was to support the Louisiana Alliance of Post-Secondary Inclusive Education, LAPIE's legislation aimed at funding post-secondary programs that are starting up, enhancement grants to grow existing programs, scholarship for students that are eligible. What LAPIE is trying to do is gain more funding to support our students in their opportunity and choice to attend universities and gain that post-secondary and college experience. So this is the motion that was passed without any objections or abstentions. And we're asking that the Executive Committee looks at this motion so we can move it forward to full council.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Dr. McKee. So does anybody have any questions in regard to what Dr. McKee just presented?

AMY DEAVILLE: There is one comment in the chat that is not about that. But I can read that. From Karen Artus, I know there are concerns regarding family members as DSWs. I ask that you keep this as an agenda item as families remain in such great need. Many factors make finding support workers and keeping them difficult with the crisis that exist.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that. Dr. McKee, just for clarification, they're requesting that also be an agenda item for the legislative agenda?

HYACINTH MCKEE: That is correct. The Education Employment Committee is wanting that to be part of the legislative agenda. We feel strongly that there is a need to fund opportunities for our students and families to have access to post-secondary education.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Let me add something as well. LAPIE is going to, and I want to add that, advocate and do all things they can to approach and work with legislators as well towards that motion. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. Okay. So in regards to the 2022 legislative agenda, we have something else presented. I'll entertain a motion.

AMY DEAVILLE: There were a number of items discussed. Do you want for me to kind of just run

through them again?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes. Just for the sake of clarification.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay. From the LaCAN recommendations we have funding for cameras in special ed classrooms. We also have continuation of appendix K exceptions. Specifically the legal guardian or family as paid caregivers. We have had a couple of people mention the continuation of funding for FHF centers. The Families Helping Families centers. And comprehensive dental for adults with IDD was also brought up. And finally, we have supporting LAPIE's legislative agenda item. Which is funding for post-secondary education programs.

RASHAD BRISTO: So was that six or seven?

AMY DEAVILLE: It was five.

RASHAD BRISTO: Five. Okay. How would the committee like to proceed forward with those? Dr. McKee, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Keeping in mind the requests of our advocates in the community I'm asking us to be mindful and to not send a lot of agenda items up this time for consideration. I believe we're going to have to engage in some dialogue. I believe last year, I think it was last year or the year before last, we had numerous agenda items that we posed. And so I'm wondering if we can work to try at best, I don't want to eliminate or minimize anybody's voices. Please know. But I do also have to take in consideration the requests of our advocates to make sure that we are putting forth the ones that we hear ring true often. And for me the special education cameras, that has been a consistent outcry for our community and families. And so I certainly do not want that one to be eliminated off of the agenda. I don't know what that funding is going to really look like when it gets to that place. But I know the special education cameras has been a really, really big one. And I would not want to see that one fall off as well. And then, of course,

the DSP. That's another one that constantly rings true that we hear a lot from the community's concern as well. So I just want to say to the Executive Committee we have to keep in mind what our advocates are also asking us. I'm wondering if they have the capacity to advocate for all five.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Dr. McKee. Anyone else, any comments or concerns?

AMY DEAVILLE: There's a comment in the chat by Mary Jacobs asking is there a dollar amount tied to post-secondary expansion. Ms. Jacobs, I'm sure that there will be. I don't know what that amount is yet. This morning was the first time that I heard anything about the legislation, so I believe they're still in early stages of developing it. And I don't think that they have attached dollar figures yet. Ms. Corhonda Corley also wrote in the chat, Louisiana will be in more than 1 billion-dollar surplus. We can advocate for more. Kathy Dwyer says true, Corhonda. It's time. You have two attendees who have their hand raised that are also Mary Jacobs and Corhonda Corley. So I'm not sure if I just answered their questions, or if they need to speak.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Corley, you're recognized by the chair.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Great afternoon, Mr. Chair and Executive Committee. I would like to point out that Louisiana will be in a more than 1 billion-dollar surplus where we can use that money one time as stated. And that one-time funding will allow us to be able to fund many things for our individuals with disabilities. Including the cameras in the school system, but the cameras in the school system don't necessarily have to be taken from that funding. As you know, the ESR funding, as well as the CARES Act and American Rescue funding has been allocated to our state that is more than a billion dollars as well that can actually fund, educate providing cameras in the classroom that actually record audio as well as video. So when we do put forth these agenda items as far as saying what

we're going to consider for legislation, I do think that we need to consider something that will actually tap into that one billion-dollar surplus for a one-time funding for something. Because for far too many times our people with disabilities are left with scraps. We're left with absolutely nothing. And if we're going to continue to consider curriculums, and I don't think that we should just have curriculums considered for those in dentistry, I think we need to look at every major that a person can in a university. Because people with disabilities are everywhere. They have people with disabilities in the business world. People with disabilities in law enforcement. People with disabilities that are LCSWs, et cetera. so I think we need to look at having all the universities incorporate some type of education class that educate individuals how to work with individuals with disabilities. So I just hope that our executive committee really and truly consider going after that 1 billion-dollar surplus for something and don't just leave it there. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that, Ms. Corley. I remember correctly, Ms. Mary Jacobs, you're recognized by the chair.

MARY JACOBS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to make a note about the post-secondary. I cannot-- that is a huge passion of mine, honestly. And I'm so glad to hear that Dr. McKee brought that to the table. And I just want her to know that if it doesn't make it this time, please call me next year. Because I will be pleading for it for you like I did for the dental this year. Cause I just think that is such an important thing that we have got to be able to expand those programs. If I thought there was a way to expend them and sustain them with the billion-dollar surplus that Ms. Corley's talking about I'd be saying let's do it right now. I just don't know enough about it. That's why I asked about the money. How much, if anybody had any idea what that was looking like. But I agree, I think it's a huge thing that we definitely, if not this year, next year should be a priority item. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Jacobs. So what be the pleasure of the Executive Committee? We have a lot presented. I apologize. I see Ms. Nicole Banks has her hand up. You're recognized by the chair, Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Mr. Bristo. Just like what everybody else was saying about we have to make these decisions. They only want us to bring two to three items to them for the legislative agenda, right. So we can only pick two or three. We have five on our hands right now. We can't really make up a really concise decision if we don't know like okay, well, if we say this, then how much funding is going to go to this. So not saying that we have to know how much, like what the funding is, but in a way, we do need to know what funding can go to what so we know which one that we should prioritize the most. Maybe that's something we all can look at as we put our recommendations for everybody to vote up on and which ones we're going to bring to the legislation.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Banks. So again, Executive Committee, what be your pleasure? We have the legislative agenda before us. We've had two on the document and we've had others present it. Amy, if you will, can you pull those back up on the agenda that way they can have a visual.

AMY DEAVILLE: I can pull up the first two. The rest, I don't have all in one document.

RASHAD BRISTO: No. It's fine. So, we know we have these two. We've had several others that have been presented even when it comes down to the Education Committee's presented. I'm willing to entertain a motion just to see what would be the pleasure of the executive committee so we know what we'll be presenting to the entire council. Okay. Kim Basile, you have your hand up. You're recognized by the chair.

KIM BASILE: Thank you. I would like to make a motion that we accept the top two recommendations from the Legislative Kickoff Committee, along with the recommendation from the Education Committee. And the

fourth one being the dental. I don't know how to word it. I'll need help with that. But that's the meat of the motion.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. There's a motion on the floor to accept the top two off the agenda as well as long with the education recommendation and dental. Do we have a second? Do we have any questions? Without a second the motion is lost. I'll entertain another motion. I see Dr. McKee has her hand raised. Dr. McKee, you're recognized.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for being recognized. And I believe the comment in the chat box is reading my mind. I don't know who that is, but I see the wording. I believe that individual is reading my mind. The top issue and the third issue. Funding for the implementation of cameras in special education classrooms. And there's a second one data and accountability of cameras in special education classrooms. Is that something that can be combined or put together? Because it seems like it's similar. Maybe I'm missing something. I'm not well versed in all of the acts, y'all. So is that, can that be combined into one issue?

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I'm only asking that so that it could free up space for, you know, another issue to have the opportunity. That's why I'm asking that. So, Mr. Chair, I don't know if our executive director can give us some feedback on whether one and three can be combined.

RASHAD BRISTO: Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: They likely could be combined. I mean, if that's what you would like to do, we can do that. That does not take any of the five other recommendations off of the table though. It consolidates two, but the data and accountability of cameras in special education classrooms wasn't initially on the table. If that makes sense.

RASHAD BRISTO: Dr. McKee, I see your hand up. You're recognized by the chair. I think you're muted.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I apologize. I think our fellow Executive Committee member was making this motion to try to work to a space where we can be inclusive of the items. And so by combining one and three I will ask if Ms. Basile will be willing to restate her motion once the Executive Committee agrees to allow one and two to be combined. Will that require me to motion to have one and two to be combined, or can we go back with the understanding that they will and ask that Ms. Basile state her motion?

RASHAD BRISTO: We can have the motion combined. It would just be the pleasure of the committee that we can have them combined. Make sure we're in detail in the process. Kim, I recognize your hand is up.

KIM BASILE: Thank you. If I understand this correctly, the LaCAN leaders got together, and they recognized the top two. The grayed in items. Is that correct?

RASHAD BRISTO: Correct.

KIM BASILE: And so the last two were just on there for informational purposes. They were like running a close second.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. They were there as potential alternates.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: So what would be the pleasure of the Executive Committee? Dr. McKee, I see your hand up.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I'm asking if Ms. Basile would be willing to restate her motion with the understanding that we can combine one and thee. And if that is the case, I'm asking if she would consider restating her motion for the executive committee to consider.

AMY DEAVILLE: Just so that everybody knows what I just placed on the screen is I was just moving all of these things into one document so people could see. The original motion by Ms. Basile did not have the data and accountability in there. So I can take it out. But I did put it in just because it was being discussed right now. But these were the four items in the motion

by Ms. Basile. If she would like to revise her original motion to include the data and accountability she can do so.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Basile, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair.

KIM BASILE: Thank you--

AMY DEAVILLE: You're muted.

KIM BASILE: Sorry. I don't mind revising it, but I do not believe anyone seconded my motion so I'm not even sure that my motion is on the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: No. It died. That's why we needed you to look at it. It died.

KIM BASILE: Then, yes. I'm good with this. So I would like to make the motion as presented on the screen.

RASHAD BRISTO: It's been moved by Ms. Kim Basile to move to accept the agenda items of cameras and special education classrooms and data and accountability of cameras in special education classrooms. Also to advocate exception family as paid caregiver, funding for comprehensive dental for adults with IDD, and support LAPIE's legislation to fund post-secondary programs. I read that for those that may not be able to see it. Do we have a second? Jill, your hand's up.

JILL HANO: I don't have a second. I have a question. But Ms. Learson, is that allowed?

NICOLE LEARSON: No. You need to dispose of the motion or if we get a second then you all can have more discussion.

JILL HANO: Well, then I guess I'll second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. It's been moved by Ms. Kim Basile and seconded by Ms. Jill Hano. Now for questions.

SHANTELL STEWART: Ms. Nicole has her hand up.

RASHAD BRISTO: Vice Chair Banks, you have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you. Okay. So the items that were recommended, those top two. I hear what Ms. Kim is saying, but we forgot about all the Families Helping

Families with their funding. They brought this to us earlier today and we didn't even recommend anything for them. And they are doing good work over there too. So, they're not even included up in our recommendation at all. Am I clear about that or did I miss it? Because I didn't hear them at all.

RASHAD BRISTO: They were not a part. Their concerns were not a part of the motion.

SHANTELL STEWART: All right. We also have a comment from Ms. Kelly Monroe. She says what about the other exceptions.

JILL HANO: For appendix K.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Monroe, you're recognized.

KELLY MONROE: Okay. No. I was just wondering like in the beginning they were talking about the three exceptions. And I just saw on the screen there was just the one. Are you taking off the other two because of the rule making possibility, or was it always just keeping the legally responsible adult as the DSP? Just curious.

AMY DEAVILLE: In LaCAN's recommendations they focused on family as paid caregiver.

KELLY MONROE: Okay. Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Uh-huh.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So it's been moved and seconded. And we've had question. Do we have any more questions with regard to the motion? Okay. Are we ready to vote? Ms. Learson, correct me if I'm wrong. I apologize, Jill Hano. I see your hand up. You're recognized.

JILL HANO: Y'all, I'm very behind and I apologize for seconding this. I just saw a comment in the chat. I wanted Ms. Kelly's comment to be heard before we said this. And that's the only reason I seconded it. But I kind of echo Nicole Banks' concern. Like, I mean, like I mean this is hard y'all. Cause I think we definitely, like if we know that we're going to have to advocate for FHF funding every year to continue, then I feel kind of awkward not having it be continued on our

agenda item. Cause, I mean, like oh, well, the DD Council like didn't. Like so I don't know cause they're all so important. Can I, I don't know, like cause I don't want us to go into the full council meeting tomorrow and the FHF funding not be mentioned. But as far as like motions and amendments, that's beyond me. But I just don't feel comfortable for the full council not to have the FHF funding be, extension of FHF funding be presented to the full council tomorrow.

RASHAD BRISTO: I understand your concern, Jill. And it's noted. Kim Basile, I see your hand up. You're recognized.

KIM BASILE: I want to preface this by saying I know I'm on Bayou Land family helping board and I'm not trying to sway anything. I just want to make a comment and get clarification from Amy. Amy, did you not say that additional funding to keep that 500,000 would have to be part of the DD Council budget? And that you are working on that currently.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, ma'am. I did.

KIM BASILE: So that means we would not have to vote, that would not be part of this motion. Is that correct?

JILL HANO: Never mind. Sorry.

AMY DEAVILLE: It does not have to be. You could choose to still try to address it through a legislative advocacy agenda item. Or otherwise, I am trying to address it through our LDH budgetary process.

KIM BASILE: Thank you.

JILL HANO: Then let's go with that since the, I don't know y'all, they're all so good. I say if we can get the funds to FHF is the most, my bottom line. Like if we can get the funding and not without it being an advocacy agenda, legislative agenda item, then I'm okay with that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Two things. Let me remind everybody. One, we still have a motion on the floor. And second, let's make sure we're recognized by the chair before we make comments. Vice Chair Nicole

Banks, I see your hand and you're recognized.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. So to piggyback what Kim just said to Ms. Amy. So the funding for Families Helping Families, we don't have to vote upon that as part of legislation. You can do that through the budgetary process, right? So we don't necessarily have to vote on it, right?

AMY DEAVILLE: Right. I met with Commissioner Dardenne who informed me that continuing that additional funding would need to be a part of our budgetary process. So I have made the request. We're at the very beginning stages of our budgetary process. I can't guarantee that it will happen, but I am making the attempt.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So if it doesn't end up getting approved, I just want to get everything laid out. If it doesn't get approved with the Families Helping Families with the continued funding, then do we have to wait a whole other year for us to bring this back up to the legislative agenda? Because they're only working off of, let's just say we don't vote the Families Helping Families this time and we just do the budgetary thing, and it doesn't work. And would we have to present that again like the next year because we're voting on this stuff as a part of a year funding thing. Or we could bring it up to the council at the next meeting and do it like that?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. Brenton put in the chat box that if funding for the Families Helping Families is important to council members we can consider this as something to advocate for as sort of a contingency should the budget be released, and the funding isn't included.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Okay. So we can kind of play it either or. We can do the budget, or we can do the legislation thing. So we just have to decide which one we actually want to do. I just wanted to make that clear for everybody that's a part of the voting process understands, you know, what we're all voting for and what can be allocated for this time and what might be

saved for another time.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for those comments.

SHANTELL STEWART: I'm sorry. Ms. Mary Jacobs, an attendee, has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Jacobs, you're recognized by the chair.

MARY JACOBS: Thank you. I was just wondering if Amy could explain that process. Is it that you will submit a budget with that money in it and it will remain in it unless the legislature comes back, or somebody comes back and says y'all have to cut your budget?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. So I submit it as a part of our normal budget. And if LDH is looking to make cuts then they cut in a variety of places. So I don't know exactly where they would cut the amount of money that we send, the increased amount of money that we send to the Families Helping Families centers is relatively small change in comparison to the overall LDH budget. But that does not necessarily mean it won't be looked at. So yes, I send it in as a normal part of our budget. And then I beg and plead like I do for all of our money and then we see.

MARY JACOBS: I mean, in a perfect scenario we keep hearing we have this big, huge fund this year. So if we're lucky nothing will be cut, everything will be funded. We know that really probably won't happen. If they were to cut though, it could be a possibility it's not even all cut. It could just be that they come back and say you have to cut 10 percent of your budget out or whatever. And it could be that of that 500,000 there's only maybe 400 left or something. People could still get more. Just trying to get the picture. Make sure everybody understands that. I personally, just to be totally transparent here, we don't get money from the DD Council. But I certainly worry about my sister agencies and making sure they're always financially viable. I feel pretty confident that in this year, now

I won't say most years, but this year that there's a better chance than not it's not going to be cut if it's submitted in there. Just wanted to make sure I did understand that process.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. We're kind of deviating. Still want to remind everybody we have a motion on the floor and we're at a second. If we don't have any more public comment in regards to-- and I understand. This is very difficult because at the end of the day everything is priority. Everything is priority. Make no mistake about it. And no decision that we make is going to be full proof. It's not going to be complete 100 percent satisfaction. But what we have to do is we have to try to make a decision based upon those things that we know we can move forward with that can be presented before the agenda. It was 93 items and unfortunate it's a sifting process because if we overload legislators with too much then we find ourselves not making any progress. So I just want to kind of refresh everybody's memory why we have those agendas of what LaCAN's presented, where we are, and those things have been presented. And that motion that's been seconded. So now time for a vote. Ms. Amy, am I missing anything?

SHANTELL STEWART: Ms. Susan Riehn has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Riehn, you're recognized by the chair.

SUSAN RIEHN: Thank you. I just wanted to make it clear in the past, unless something has drastically changed, if there are cuts to the DD Council budget it's only taken from the Families Helping Families funds because that's their only state dollars. The state dollars that go to us. Thanks.

SHANTELL STEWART: And Ms. Corhonda Corley has her hand raised as well.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Corley, you're recognized by the chair.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and executive committee. I would like for us to strongly

consider that we actually, that when we look at the agenda items that we're going to propose to the full council that we actually consider the funding source that we're going to use. And then that would actually allow us to actually play with what items we want to actually have as legislative items. I agree, Families Helping Families has always been a huge asset for individuals with disabilities throughout our state. And to see them not listed as one of our agenda items give me great pause and great concern. Secondly, I know that appendix K exception, that is going to come from federal funding under Medicaid dealing with the waivers. And this cameras in the special ed classrooms and data and accountability, that would actually come up under IDEA and ESA funding. I just think that maybe we look at what funding sources we would actually have each of these things coming from, then that would actually allow us to see what other legislative items we would like to propose and prioritize them effectively so that our disabilities community is not left out in the cold without anything. That's my biggest concern. And if our Families Helping Families is not funded then we would have a huge, huge loss throughout the state. So I just really strongly encourage us to reconsider adding Families Helping Families. But also if we can actually put by each one if we know what funding source that we do that. Thank you so much.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, for that, Ms. Corley. So at this point I'm ready to move with the vote. We had a first motion and we've had a second. Do we have anyone abstaining from this vote? Or do we have any amendments to the motion? Let me rephrase that. Do we have anyone abstaining from this vote currently on the floor? Due to the passion of this conversation, we're going to call for a roll call vote. Amy, if you will.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure. Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: No.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Kim Basile.

KIM BASILE: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: You have three yes votes and one no.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Motion carries. The next item of business is the reallocation. Okay. Now we're up to the reallocation. Puerto Rico.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. We're up to reallocation of funds. Okay. We have funds that were reallocated from Puerto Rico in the amount of 31,983-dollars. We also have funds that were not expended from last year's contracts mainly due to people not being able to travel which really affected people's ability to use up all the money in their contracts. So that amount was 65,923.05. So we currently have 97,906.05 that we need to reallocate. Funds need to be reallocated to activities that are already funded within our annual work plan. We have had some of our contractors express an interest in receiving some additional funds. So Interaction Group, who is doing our first responder trainings, has requested an additional 25,920-dollars for the year. And in return they would increase their planned trainings from 12 to 24. So they'd add an additional training every year. Niagara University who is doing emergency response trainings would also welcome additional funds. They didn't give an exact amount. The Arc also said they would welcome additional funds. I don't have an exact amount for them either. But I do believe Kelly's on the call so if she has any ideas or any specific suggestions she could speak up. I don't know the easiest way to do this, so I had Hannah kind of create a spread sheet for me. It will be difficult to see cause there's just so much on it. But basically these are the activities that are currently funded in our work plan. So we have our videos activity that O'Neill Communications is doing. They're currently funded at 51,000. Our supported decision-making trainings that are being done through The Arc. They're funded at 50,000. People

First providing trainings for self-advocacy is 25,000. This particular activity probably does not need any additional funds. Trach Mommas has funds for in time for rapid response during times of natural disasters or states emergency. IAG, we already talked about. And Niagara as well. LAPIE currently receives 40,000-dollars. The alliance is doing work on the post-secondary education and trying to get those programs into additional colleges in the state. The Arc receives 25,000-dollars for customized employment trainings. And then O'Neill Communications has another contract where they're doing employment seminars and they currently receive 32,000.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Dr. McKee, I see your hand is raised. You're recognized by the chair.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do we put out an email or did we inform our contractors that we may possibly have some additional funding that we may possibly could allocate? And did we get a response, was the responses you just showed us prior to this spread sheet the only responses you got after we put out a request if anyone was needing more funding? And I have a second part of that question.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. We did it cause we knew we had, we didn't know how much money we would, we knew we would have at least have that 31,000 from Puerto Rico. Brenton just put in the comments too that Niagara actually did request an additional 20 to 25,000. We did contact our contactors. I'm not 100 percent sure that O'Neill was contacted. Just because of staffing. But yes, we did let them know that we would probably have some money available. We just didn't know how much at the time.

HYACINTH MCKEE: And then I have a second part to the question as well. Do we have, I know that our contractors provide consistent reporting as to how they are spending the existing funds. My question is, have we received reports from all of these contactors on their status and how they're spending the existing money that has been allocated to them thus far?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. We receive monthly reports from our contractors. That information is compiled and put into the status report that is attached to the full council agenda.

HYACINTH MCKEE: So with that being said, I don't want to just take all of this funding and just allocate it to one activity just because that contactor replied to an email timely or put in the amount. I don't want it to be like oh, you can go to DD Council and ask for 50,000. All I did is just ask and they gave it to me. I want to be mindful that if we do have this surplus of money that a minimum that if all the contactors are spending their money as they promised and as it is outlined in the contract appropriately I would like to entertain the idea of equitably distributing the money before just allocating all the money to one activity just because that individual put in their money and put in their request of what they think they need. I really don't want to lean, you know, or seem like one particular contract is deserving from this blessing of surplus that we have and another one missed out. So I'm not sure how we're going to proceed with this, but that would be my recommendation.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. The recommendation is recognized, Dr. McKee. Ms. Basile, your hand is up to be recognized.

KIM BASILE: I agree with Hyacinth. And I think we do it equitably like she suggested. And what we do is can we add up all these contracts and do it on a percent basis. If somebody was 10 percent, they get 10 percent. I don't know if that makes sense.

AMY DEAVILLE: Well, I'm not quite understanding what you mean. But we can add up the people who have contacts and, you know, equitably divide the money based off the number of contracts that we have available for this additional funding. Does that make sense? That probably wasn't a great way to explain it.

KIM BASILE: So if we add up the contracts that are able to receive this additional funding and get a total. And then say one was 5,000. We take 5,000 over

the total and that's a percent. And we apply that percent to the 96,000. And that's how that's their portion of the funds they would get.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand is up to be recognized.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. I was just going off of what Ms. Kim was saying. She explained it how I thought she was talking about adding up all the numbers. Do a percentage and then whoever should get the percentage of what, you know, the 97-dollars like that. So yeah, she explained it. But we were talking about the same thing.

RASHAD BRISTO: Got any more questions from council members before we go to public comment? Dr. McKee, you're recognized. You're muted, Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: This has been happening to everyone all day. We have Zoom fatigue. Y'all we've been doing this since 8:30 this morning so please accept our apologies, public, for our mute and unmute challenges today. I'm moving that we take this surplus of this funding that's been presented to us and distribute it equitably among all of the contractors and to cover all the activities that are listed in front of us.

RASHAD BRISTO: And I'm having muting problems. Okay. We have a motion on the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: I second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: I still need to hear from the public comment first. We heard from the council members. But want to make sure we hear from public comment because they may have an influence on the decisions that are made. Dr. McKee, if you're in agreement with that?

HYACINTH MCKEE: No problem. No problem. I was just motioning. No problem.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. Amy, do we have any public comment in regards to the topic at hand?

SHANTELL STEWART: Mr. Charles Michel has his hand up.

RASHAD BRISTO: You're recognized by the chair.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Thank you, very much. And I don't know, I may have missed something during the conversation, but I was wondering perhaps instead of divvying it up among all of the activities, if there's enough time what about doing some sort of an ancillary or a (inaudible) so that people can say if they need more money and what they would do with it. Certainly, it's going to be probably more deliverables like y'all were talking about with all of those. And then divide the money up among those who have a plan for it and would actually need it. That's just my thought. All I have to say.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that comment.

SHANTELL STEWART: All right. Ms. Corhonda Corley has her hand up.

RASHAD BRISTO: You're recognized.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked a question on whether or not these funds can be dispersed to our Families Helping Families centers. Simply because we know that they have quite a bit of deliverables to actually meet. As well as we know that they're funding gets cut and we do know our executive director just said that she was looking into trying to get them more funding, but that may not become a reality. And considering that we did not include them in our legislative agenda as an item for the agenda, then I think it would be extremely prudent of us to consider actually dispersing the moneys to them so that they can actually, it can help them with actually meeting their deliverables as needed. We do know that legislative round tables will be coming up in January. Maybe LaCAN can actually use that extra funding. But we also know that a lot of our Families Helping Families centers were impacted by Hurricanes Delta, Laura and Ida. So I really and truly have a great pause when it comes to just disseminating money to other entities that have not shown us any actual report for what they have done thus far. And I'm just not really big on just handing them some extra money. I do

think that if we're going to choose anything else other than allowing Families Helping Families and LaCAN whom we know can actually utilize that funding. I do yield to doing what Dr. Michel actually gave the option of. Which is to have them actually submit more documentation of what they plan on utilizing that funding for. But again, my very first option is Families Helping Families and LaCAN. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Corley, for those comments. Dr. McKee, I see your hand up. You're recognized by the chair.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I just want to make sure that I'm understanding that our executive director said that all of the contractors did submit reports and they send the reports to us monthly and timely outlining what they're doing with the funding that has been allocated to them, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, ma'am. That's correct.

HYACINTH MCKEE: So with that being said, I motion to, is it okay for me to motion, or are we still in discussion?

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any more comments from the council? Hold that for just a minute, Dr. McKee. Cause I'm going to have you restate your motion and then we'll move forward from there. I just want to make sure we're getting our public comment out the way before we come to any kind of closure or decision. Do we have any more comments from any council members? I don't see anything. What about from the public?

SHANTELL STEWART: Ms. Kathy Dwyer has her hand up.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Dwyer, you're recognized by the chair.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have to agree with Corhonda's comment about allocating those funds to FHF centers. Especially those that were impacted by the hurricanes and wanted to know if they were considered at all or were they contacted to see if they had any needs. I would hope the ones, the centers impacted by hurricanes would be a priority for any financial help they may need. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, most kindly. Do we have any other hands raised or public comment?

AMY DEAVILLE: I will say about giving money to FHF, they're currently funded under state general funds and the money that we're talking about now is federal grant funds. Two different sources of money. I do not believe that this money can go to the FHF centers. I can double check on that. But I don't believe this money can.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. If you will check on that because we see that's a very point of interest for many of the FHF's and those representatives that are part of the attending this meeting. I also see Jill Hano's hand. Jill, you're recognized. And then after that I see Kathy Dwyer.

JILL HANO: I'm definitely on board with what everyone's saying. And I don't want to give out money to give out money. I could be way off base and not reading the room. But the contactors, when a contractor request more money from us, I pay attention every quarter to each contactors' deliverables. In our committee meeting in July the guy from EU pitched to us for more funding and he specified I'm going to use this amount of funding for this, this and this. And go to this place, that place and that place. And I thought it was a good pitch. So I didn't see a problem. But like, I mean, I'm going to read a contract or like listen to why are you asking for this money before like I hand out whatever this is. I tend to base money on if it's going to be well used. I look at performance and proposals before you make a wise decision on whether not to allocate the funds. With what Kim said, like y'all talked about the percentage to this contactor and then equal percentage to the contactors. I mean, my only thing is what if like we have contactors that are good on funding. If I'm good on funding, like and my parents want to give me 50 grand, I'll be like, okay. But you see what I'm saying. Like how can we? I do want to be there, but like if we divide it equally then won't we be giving funds to

contractors that don't necessarily need it or am I like way off base here? Because that's just my 2 cents, but I could once again not know what I'm talking about. But that's just my opinion.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that, Jill. It's not, we don't tell you anything you're saying you don't know what you're talking about. When you're passionate about a subject everybody understands that. Ms. Dwyer, I saw your hand after Jill Hano. You have the floor if your hand is still up. I can't quite tell from where I'm standing.

KATHY DWYER: Yes. It is. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to agree with you that I think it would be important for the DD Council to look into seeing if the FHF centers could receive the funding being federal funding. I know when I worked for years for the sister agency at the Human Development Center managing the grants and contracts office. I also received the grants from, well, at that time it was the Administration of Developmental Disabilities. But I understand it's Administration for Community Living now. Even if the current funds may not quite meet the scope of work, which I would think there was some guidelines provided you could request a revision that it be used for another scope of work given that these funds were given to you, new funds or any funds leftover. And given the recent hurricanes in particular, I hate to keep bringing that up, I know the Families Helping Families centers have been having to provide extra support and services and outreach to try to get families the supports they need. So I would think there should be some way to request approval for funds to be dispersed to the FHF centers. So hopefully there is. I just wanted to add that little 2 cents. But thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for your comment. And again, we're going to have the executive director check into it. Because I know Families Helping Families is state funded. Those are federal funds. And we don't want to dismiss anybody from receiving any kind of

services because we do realize many agencies have been impacted by all the hick-ups that we've had. Whether it be from covid 19 to hurricanes, along those line. Make no mistake about it, by no way are we trying to short anybody. Again, we're not trying to make this short (inaudible) either. But just like Dr. McKee said, where anyone just feels like they were the most prompt and response doesn't make them completely eligible for those because we want to make sure we do a unique review for qualifications. But at this time, Dr. McKee, I'm going to ask that you restate your motion so we can move forward with the agenda. Dr. McKee, I see you have your hand up. You're recognized.

HYACINTH MCKEE: The mute again. The mute monster. I apologize. So I'm really, really going to restate my motion and I'm going to try to see if I can word it in a way that can capture what was heard by the public as well as what I am trying put together. And it may not be what our executive committee might, but please feel free to amend it or reject it and then amend it. So my motion is for the executive committee to direct the staff or the executive director to look and see if these dollars can be allocated to Families Helping Families centers who were impacted by the hurricanes. And so I want to make sure that that is clear in there. So that would be, I believe that would be the first motion, but it might be a semicolon. So I may need help at 5:00 today. As being the priority. If we do determine or find out those federal dollars cannot be allocated to Families Helping Families centers who have been impacted by the hurricanes then I would like for us to, for the executive committee do distribute the funds equitably among all of the contactors that we are better involved, that we're dealing with right now. That we're working with on our planning. So I hope I clearly stated that. But that is the motion that's on the floor right now.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Dr. McKee. Before we go any further, I want to make sure I have that for clarification. So Dr. McKee, you're saying that as far

as this goes, we're going to look and see, have the executive director to check and see if Families Helping Families can receive any of those funds and if not, we'll move forward with distribution equitably among those agencies that were already contracted. Did I understand that correctly?

HYACINTH MCKEE: That is correct. That is the best paraphrase that I can offer at this time. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee, can I ask a follow-up?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Sure.

AMY DEAVILLE: You stated that you wanted the money to be allocated to the FHF centers that were affected by the hurricanes?

HYACINTH MCKEE: That were impacted.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yep. So does that mean taking the full amount of the money to be allocated and dispersing it to those centers?

HYACINTH MCKEE: So that would be the priority. If we can disperse those, if we find out that those federal dollars can go to those FHF centers that were impacted by the hurricanes, I would like to be able to disperse those funds equitably as well, right. I want to make sure that all of those FHF centers who were impacted by the hurricane gets first priority access to the funds if we are able to distribute these federal funds to those centers. If not, then we need to move to the ladder.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: So we have the motion. I see Vice Chair Nicole Banks, you have your hand up. You're recognized by the chair.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. Dr. McKee, I was asking a question. So the whole 97,000, you want that all to go to the hurricane centers. If they receive federal funding. And from reading the comments, Ms. Susan is saying that they can receive federal funding. So you want all 97,000 to go just--.

RASHAD BRISTO: Let me interrupt you for just a minute, Vice Chair Banks. Before we go too far with

that, we do have a motion. Let's see if we have a second. Then we'll go to questions. Which pretty much sounds like where you're going with that conversation.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: We have a motion on the floor to look and see, I'm going to paraphrase the motion, to look and see if the FHF that have been impacted be first priority and move forward with those allocated funds. If not qualified, then we'll distribute them amongst those other contactors. Do we have a second? Not hearing a second, then the motion dies. Okay. Now Ms. Vice Chair Banks, you can go with your comment.

NICOLE BANKS: That's what I was asking. Well, it got died. So, I mean, I guess my question is irrelevant now because the motion died. Can I make a motion?

RASHAD BRISTO: By all means.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. I motion that the executive committee present to the executive director that the additional funds be allocated to all of our contactors in respect to what is priority to the council as a whole. And regard to the percentages that Ms. Kim was talking about earlier. That way everybody is covered.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. Do we have a second?

AMY DEAVILLE: Can I ask a clarifying question of Ms. Banks?

RASHAD BRISTO: Is it with regard the motion?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. It is.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Banks, is this us going back to basically looking at the percentages of how our money is currently allocated and taking this new money and allocating it in the same way. Wonderful. That's what I needed to know.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am. That's exactly what I mean.

AMY DEAVILLE: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Again, we have a motion on the floor. Do we have a second? Not hearing a second.

Motion dies. So what is the pleasure of the executive committee? Dr. McKee, you're recognized.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I just want to try my best to restate my motion and ask the committee to consider what the public is asking us to do. You know, I had a motion and I had in mind first, but then after hearing both sides of the argument from the public, you know, and their concerns as it relates to what the needs are in their respective communities, I'm just going to ask the committee to really consider passing a motion, you know, that will be best suited to make sure that everyone that we discuss is receiving access and opportunity to the surplus of money that we have. And so with that being said, I am going to pose my motion, again, and I will ask that the executive committee consider hearing it and if it dies, it dies. So I would like this opportunity to present my motion again.

RASHAD BRISTO: You have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: So the motion is to check and see if the surplus of federal money, federal dollars can be distributed to our Families Helping Families centers who have been impacted by the hurricanes. That's the first priority. Number one. If we find out that those moneys can be distributed, I'm asking that we distribute this surplus of funding to our Families Helping Families centers who have been impacted by the hurricane equitably. If it is not able to be done that way, I'm asking that the funds be distributed equitably using the formula that Ms. Basile proposed to the executive committee.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. We have a motion on the floor. Do I hear a second? Not hearing a second. The motion dies. Dr. McKee, I see your hand up. You're recognized.

JILL HANO: Y'all I got a phone call. I second the motion.

RASHAD BRISTO: I apologize.

JILL HANO: I was on the phone. I'm so sorry.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you Ms. Hano.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So bring back into

correction, we had a motion on the floor by Dr. McKee. It was seconded by Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: My bad.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any public comment in the chat box, Amy?

SHANTELL STEWART: Ms. Susan Riehn has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Riehn, you're recognized.

SUSAN RIEHN: Thank you, chairman. I appreciate it. I just wanted to clear up the federal funds just because I've been here for a long time. The Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana does receive federal funds for the LaCAN program. Just history, real quick. DDC started us, Families Helping Families, and gave us federal funding for several years. After a while they were cited because there was some type of ruling that the DDC could not give continued funding for continued operations of a program or a center like ours or anything like that. Long story short, that's where the money got allocated from the legislature for the Families Helping Families centers and that's why it got allocated. So we can receive and have received federal funds for programs, not for continued operation of the centers. So it would have to be, and my understanding, and I'm not anybody just besides someone who's been around for a while, my understanding it just can't be for general center operations.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that input, Ms. Riehn. So we have on the floor, it's been moved and seconded. Now I'm ready to call for a vote. All in favor.

{Collective aye}

Let me clarify. I apologize. Let me back up. I was premature. Do we have any objections? Do we have anyone abstaining?

KIM BASILE: Kim Basile is abstaining.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Kim Basile is abstaining. vice Chair Banks, I see you have your hand up. You're recognized.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So let me just get it real quick because I don't want to vote wrong. We're moving to see if they can get federal funding. So if they are able to get the federal funding all of the money is going to go to Families Helping Families, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Correct. Not all of the centers. Only the centers impacted by hurricanes.

NICOLE BANKS: Right. So only the ones that's impacted by hurricanes. And Ms. Mary put up in the comments, and I'm just reading cause I'm reading all of the comments too, is it clarification when you talk about impacting or is this helping the centers or helping the families that the centers are serving? Well, this is a comment that was in there and I understand what they're saying. Like are we helping just the centers, or they helping the families that serve the centers? It would behoove us to think that the centers would use the money for the families. Like Ms. Susan just refreshed our information about how Families Helping Families worked. We can't use it for center, what is the word I want to use, the center, the operation for the center. Is that correct? I'm just making sure.

AMY DEAVILLE: That is what Susan said. Yes.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So this money that would be allocated to them would help with the rebuilding process or help our families that have been impacted by the hurricane?

AMY DEAVILLE: If what Susan said is what is true, then the money would have to be for a targeted program. So they couldn't be able to use that to help rebuild a building or for general daily operation. It would have to be used for a program.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So it would be programmatic. So now that we have the vote on the floor. We have a motion. We have a second. We've had one abstain. All in favor. Say by saying aye.

{Collective aye}.

Any noes?

NICOLE BANKS: No.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: You have two yeses and one no.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So motion passes. The next item up for business is the membership committee recommendation.

JILL HANO: Did Ms. Jacobs speak?

RASHAD BRISTO: I'm sorry, Jill. I didn't recognize, what did you say?

JILL HANO: I'm sorry to talk out of turn. Can Ms. Jacobs speak? And I'm positive it's on this issue.

RASHAD BRISTO: Mary Jacobs, you're recognized.

MARY JACOBS: I was just trying to speak before y'all took the vote. I just wanted to mention that, and depending on what happens with everything, that after Katrina the DD Council-- because y'all got the money from Puerto Rico, that's why I'm thinking of this. The DD Council got money from a lot of other DD Councils around the country. I'm not sure if that was just donated funds. If I remember right, I thought it was federal funds that they sent to them that was maybe unspent or something that was used to provide for families that had lost a lot of stuff and they needed support and replacing items. And I was trying to get that message out there that if that's something that could be done depending on what can and can't be done with the money. That was something that was actually done after Katrina. And I want to say it was probably close to around 100,000-dollars that was spent. Now for my own personal gain I wanted to tell you that we don't get money from y'all. But I would hope if y'all did do something like that, that you would give some money for the families in my region, to one of the centers. Cause we do have a lot of families in our region too that were impacted that could probably use that. Especially when you look at lower Jefferson Parish and Lafitte area. But that's all I really wanted to say.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for those comments.

SUSAN RIEHN: You're welcome.

RASHAD BRISTO: So now we move to our next order of business which is the Membership Committee recommendations.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. I'm not sure if Dr. McKee wants to speak to this because she chaired the committee or if she wants for me to just run through it?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Feel free to run through it and I can jump in at any time.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay. The Membership Committee met. We had six seats to fill. Six people were recommended to fill the seats that we have. Three that are currently open. Three that come open. Sorry, four that are currently open and two that will come open in November. The six people here and in the agenda that is online, their bios are linked so if everyone-- I can pull bios up and we can look at them or, however. But every person who was interviewed and rated was given a perfect score on the rating matrix. So the six people who were recommended by the committee are three self-advocates. Because we had three self-advocate seats open. And three people of color to try to help meet our diversity requirements as stated by the DD Act. So the six people who were recommended by Membership Committee are Angela Harmon, Chaney Guidry, Christi Gonzales, Kimona Hogan, Logan Davis and Vivienne Webb.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So you see the names of those that have been recommended by the Membership Committee. Do we have any council members with any questions? My friends, let me say this real quick. Time is well far spent. So for those that have comments, let's try to limit them to three minutes because we're over time. And we just want to be considerate of everybody's time cause I know a lot of people are probably exhausted from having a full day. Kim Basile, your hand is up. You're recognized.

KIM BASILE: Thank you. I would like to make a motion that the executive committee accepts the recommendations from the membership committee of the six listed candidates and they go forth to council.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Motion has been made. There's no need for a second. Doesn't require a second. Thank you for that, Ms. Basile. Let's see. Where are we on our agenda? Do we still have a quorum, Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: We do still have a quorum.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. I lost my place. Where are we at?

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hano has her hand raised before we move.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Jill Hano, you're recognized by the chair.

JILL HANO: Thank you. You said four are currently open and two will become open or did I get that backwards?

AMY DEAVILLE: Nope. You're right.

JILL HANO: Four open, two will be open.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes.

JILL HANO: Let me write that before I forget.

RASHAD BRISTO: The next item of business is a quorum at standing and ad hoc committee meetings.

AMY DEAVILLE: This was an item that was requested to be placed on the agenda by Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Mr. Chair, if I can have one minute of the floor's time. I know we are way, way over our time. So can I have one minute to speak to this?

RASHAD BRISTO: Dr. McKee, you're recognized.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. It's concerning that when we are fulfilling a commitment--.

RASHAD BRISTO: Dr. McKee, I apologize. Before I get ahead of myself, we didn't call a vote for the recommendation on the committee members, did we? The committee members.

HYACINTH MCKEE: You know what, I don't think we did.

RASHAD BRISTO: I apologize.

HYACINTH MCKEE: That's okay. Listen, I'm with you. It's been a long day, Mr. Chair. Let's go back.

No problem.

RASHAD BRISTO: I apologize. So it was on the motion. The motion was made by Kim Basile. Do we have a second?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Second by Dr. McKee.

RASHAD BRISTO: Second by Dr. McKee. Any question? No question. All in favor.

{Collective aye}.

Any opposition? Any noes? Okay. This recommendation to be presented before the full council. Now, Dr. McKee, I apologize.

HYACINTH MCKEE: No. Mr. Chair, thank you for your time. My concern is just coming from a place of when we are signed on as a commitment to be present at these meetings and recognizing that it does take time, it is a commitment. But it is a promise to the public that we attend and show up at these standing meetings and these ad hoc committee meetings. And I find it very concerning that individuals put a lot of time, work and dedication to put these meetings on, the expectation of the public is to see us present and then we get to a place where we don't have a quorum and we can't vote on important items that need to be shared. And I'm concerned about the issues of chairs trying to get a quorum at different meetings. I'm also concerned about attendance of members. And I believe that that is made public and is on the council's agenda tomorrow. The attendance of council members. But I just wanted to bring that to the attention of the executive committee, the concerns of having a quorum.

Additionally, I want to, along with this is adhering to virtual protocols. I do believe that there are times when we have the cameras off a little longer than we should have them on. I know that in the Zoom world there's so many different things that goes on that can distract us. But it seems like it's starting to be a pattern where there are more individuals who are on the committees or on the panels with cameras being off for an extended period of time. And so I would like to offer this to the committee to help us

get back to a place where we are committed to coming to these meetings, coming committed with our Zoom cameras on, ready for the questions from the public. And then hopefully we can start transitioning and developing a plan once all this happens to transition back into in-person. Because I do believe the Zoom environment has become a challenge and just maybe if we are back in-person we would have more of that human connectiveness and spirit that we usually do when you're in an in-person meeting. I had added this to the agenda as a way to bring it to the attention of the executive committee and the council. Thank you for your time.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Dr. McKee. And I wholeheartedly agree with you in regards to that. Do we have a motion so we can bring this before the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Since it was largely just expressing concerns, I believe it can just be restated at the full council and doesn't need a motion.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Good. Let me say this while we're at the executive committee meeting and for those who are public. We really appreciate what you do because everyone here is volunteer. And the reason we do what we do is because most of us have a face attached to why we're here. So, you know, sometimes we just have to be reminded about that face that we see. Whether it be the face in the mirror, or the face that we kiss goodnight, or the face that we take to school. So sometimes it's good to be reminded on why we do what we do. So we definitely going to make sure we bring this before the entire council because quorums are important. Because when we fall short of trying to meet a benchmark with the legislators because we didn't have enough people to vote, then it falls back on us. We're personally accountable for that. Then it's like I'm betraying the love of my son or you're betraying the love of whoever your interest is here. Let's make sure we stay focused on that. Even though we're over time we still do this because we're passionate. No

one's here for social status. Matter fact, we're not here to be liked. We're here to get the job done So let's make sure we keep that in mind. Moving forward to the next order of business is the executive director performance review. Jill Hano, your hand is recognized.

JILL HANO: I have a question and I don't know if this is in order or not because it is a question about something I saw on the Membership Committee agenda. And I'll get to my other question for you tomorrow, Dr. McKee. But I was trying to compare the membership application to the PIP application. Is the Partners in Policymaking application not on the DD Council website?

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't think that it's currently on the website. No. I just received a version of it yesterday.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Jill, your question satisfied?

JILL HANO: Yes, sir.

HYACINTH MCKEE: My hand was raised because I had also put the next item on the agenda.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Did I overlook something?

HYACINTH MCKEE: No.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So now we're up to the executive director performance review. Dr. McKee, I see your hand. You're recognized.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you. Being that we are on a strict time deadline, typically the executive director performance review is conducted in executive session. And (inaudible) did not have the time to today to actually do a thorough look, see and also to go into executive session. I don't even know if we still have a quorum to do such a task. But it is on there because it is something that is pressing, time sensitive, something that we do have to, I believe, get completed before December. So really the next time we meet won't be until January. So if we do not get to this item today, which it doesn't appear that we will, we may need to move this and have an executive committee

meeting, you know, could be a special executive committee meeting inclusive of executive session to be open during that meeting to discuss the executive director performance review. So I just wanted to share that with the executive committee that this is something that's time sensitive and we do need to get to. I don't know if I should motion to table it, the discussion, to call an emergency executive committee meeting prior to the deadline of when the performance review is due. That's something I'm willing to do if I need to.

RASHAD BRISTO: Hold that thought for just a moment. I see Ms. Banks' hand. Is it in relation to what you're about to bring forth? Vice Chair Banks, your recognized.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. It is. I was reading the bylaws and she is right. We have to have this information, supposed to really have it every quarter. And I know that she's new and we didn't even get to meet. But we should call an emergency meeting so that we can get this evaluation in process so that we are following our bylaws.

RASHAD BRISTO: I definitely agree. Because it's definitely a time sensitive issue. Do we have any more comments?

AMY DEAVILLE: I have a question. Ms. Learson might be able to answer it. If a special committee, special executive committee meeting is called for this agenda item, does it still need to go to full council for final vote and approval?

RASHAD BRISTO: That was going to be my next question as well. Ms. Learson, can you shed some light on that for us, please.

NICOLE LEARSON: Yes. If there is a motion to postpone this item to a special meeting or special called meeting by the executive committee, it does not require the need to go to the full council. You would just simply need someone to make that motion to postpone this item to a special meeting to be called at a date determined by the executive council.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay.

NICOLE LEARSON: And then please keep in mind that the meeting, the special meeting is called expressly for this purpose. So there should be no other agenda items for that special meeting. It would be called expressly for the purpose of this agenda item. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. And I'll reecho what Ms. Learson just said. We are able to make a motion to postpone by executive session. It would not have to go before the council, but this is something very time sensitive. So if we have a motion, we would need to make a motion for it to be determined, but we would need to get on this expeditiously because we're moving into the holidays and everybody's schedule's already busy. We don't want to put off any kind and be uncompliant. So at this time, I'll entertain a motion.

HYACINTH MCKEE: So moved.

RASHAD BRISTO: It's been moved. Do we have a second?

NICOLE BANKS: I second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. It's been moved and seconded. Moved by Dr. McKee. Seconded by Vice Chair Banks--

HYACINTH MCKEE: You're on mute Mr. Chair.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you very much. I'm sorry. The wonderful world of technology. It's been moved by Dr. McKee and seconded by Vice Chair Banks that we postpone the executive director performance review for special executive session with a date to be determined. And I'll ask the executive director to do a Doodle poll to find out about the first convenience of everyone. That way we can go ahead and make this happen. Especially now that we know this does not have to go before the full council. Any abstentions? Any objections? All in favor by saying aye.

{Collective aye}

Any noes? Motion carries. Ms. Deaville, if you will, take that upon yourself for us to be able to do a Doodle poll to find out the Executive Committee's

earliest convenience to convene on this discussion.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, sir. I'll do that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you very much. Now we're up to public comment.

SHANTELL STEWART: Ms. Kathy Dwyer has her hand raised.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Dwyer, you're recognized by the chair.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I'll make this quick. First, I want to say what a pleasure it is to have you as our chair of the DD Council and what a wonderful job you're doing. The only request I have from the public is if there's a way for the DD Council or through the LaCAN email system that we receive notification of DD Council committee and council meetings.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that. And yes, we will.

AMY DEAVILLE: All committee and council meetings are put out on social media and on our website. I'm uncertain how else she's asking to be notified.

SHANTELL STEWART: Ms. Dwyer's hand is raised again.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Dwyer, you're recognized by the chair.

KATHY DWYER: Yes. Thank you. I'm aware it's on the website. And occasionally I see it on Facebook. I'm just asking for an email notification using the LaCAN subscription list. Unless the DD Council cannot use LaCAN's email distribution list for notices. Then perhaps start a separate email distribution list. While I know it's on the website and when I think of it now that I'm a senior I certainly go to it and subscribe to the meetings. But I am not always able to remember to go check the website. So this is just an accommodation for an elderly person. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: You're welcome. And we'll look into that. It's our goal as the executive committee and the (inaudible) to make the name of the DD Council be as broad as possible and expand the footprint in the

State of Louisiana. So we thank you for that input. Do we have any more public comments before we come to an adjourn?

SHANTELL STEWART: There's no other comments.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Before we close, I just want to say thank you so much for your time. Listen, I know time has been well spent. I know it's very progressive. I don't want anybody to walk away feeling defeated just because what you are requesting may not have been initially met this time. But make sure you realize a seed has been planted and that we're going to move forward with everything that we can do to try to help the DD, help all of this (inaudible) and not only that, the Families Helping Families. I just want to say this, the job that we do, like Dr. McKee said, everyone is basically a volunteer. There's a face to what you do. All of us, the best way I can describe it with nails. You know, when a person walks in the house, they always talk about how pretty a picture is, but nobody ever talks about the nail that's holding that picture up on the wall. Everyone on this council, everyone that gave public comment, you're a nail. You're holding up a pretty picture. Make no mistake about it. We recognize that and we thank you for it. So on that note I want everyone to have themselves a great night. We'll see you in the morning all fresh, bushy eyed and ready to take care of some business so we can make sure that we look out for the constituents that we've been blessed to be stewards of. Y'all have a great night. Bye bye.