

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
Youth Leadership Committee

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right. Good morning, everyone. It is now 9:00 a.m. and that is the time that we are scheduled to start our meeting. Amy, do we have a quorum?

AMY DEAVILLE: You do have a quorum.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That's exciting. So welcome everyone. I'm so happy to see everyone here today and I'm also very excited for our meeting today. So first off, let's do our member introductions. So hi, everyone. My name is Lillian DeJean, the chairperson of the YLF committee. Jill, would you like to go next. Oh, you're muted.

JILL HANO: Hi. I'm Jill Hano. I'm a member of the YLF committee and a member from region ten.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Jill. Happy to see you here today. And Liz, your block is next on my screen.

LIZ GARY: Good morning. I'm Liz Gary. I'm a parent from region nine and I had asked to join this committee as I was familiar with YLF when it was back in 2005, 2006. So I don't have a whole lot of it, I just remember the experience and I remember sitting on some of the meetings. And I apologize for not being in the last one as I was not aware of it. But anyway. Thank you and I'm glad to be here.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Liz. We're happy to have you. Dylan.

DYLAN SONNIER: Hi everyone. My name is Dylan Sonnier and I'm a member of the committee.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thanks, Dylan. Ms. Nicole.

NICOLE FLORES: I'm Nicole Flores. I am a parent and also the executive director of Families Helping Families of Acadiana.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. And last but not least, I think we have Shandrell. If I'm pronouncing your name wrong, please let me know.

SHANDRELL STEWART: Good morning. No. You pronounced it correct. I am Shandrell Stewart. Program monitor with the council this morning.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Well, it's good to have you here. And so a couple housekeeping notes before we begin. So the documents that I sent out prior to this meeting were those Oklahoma YLF schedules. One was for a virtual format, and one was for an in-person format just so you could kind of get a grasp of what a YLF may look like day to day. I also sent a typed-up history of our YLF that we had 2000 to 2005 from information that we have managed to gather over the past couple years. It's not comprehensive by any stretch, but that's what we were able to find out. And then lastly, Oklahoma YLF outcome report. And that essentially outlines the impacts of Oklahoma's YLF. They do one every year. It's really neat to look at to see the delegates knowledge of advocacy before the YLF and after. Then also a couple other factors that went into it. So I just wanted to send that out to everyone cause I thought they were interested supporting documents. Jill, I see you have your hand raised.

JILL HANO: I did not get any of this. I don't think I get, cause last quarter I didn't get the documents you sent either. But then after the committee I definitely know I got an email from you, so my email is correct. You definitely have the correct email address and it's working. But I didn't get an email from you. Can someone send me those documents.

AMY DEAVILLE: It's Amy. I just emailed them to you.

JILL HANO: Okay. Great. Y'all, I think I live in the twilight zone because all my Amazon, I don't get any Amazon packages. I don't get anything.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Well, then you're missing out on a lot if you're missing your Amazon packages and YLF documents. Like that's a problem. Thank you, Amy, for sending those documents.

JILL HANO: You did send it at 9:05. Okay. Thank y'all.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No worries, Jill. Does anyone have any other comments or questions before we move onto our second housekeeping note? All right. Cool. So the second thing that I wanted to share with the committee and everyone else who is attending is that I know I talk about Oklahoma a lot. I'm in love with Oklahoma, if you haven't already guessed. But they actually recently appointed two new members to their council. And these two members are actually youth. And so one 19-year-old and I believe one 20-year-old. Both YLF delegates. So currently Oklahoma's DD Council has three youth council members which is phenomenal and likely a result of their YLF. Our council after this next full council meeting will have zero youth representatives. So that just really emphasizes how important it is for us to get this YLF rolling. So the second thing, that's all for housekeeping, the second thing that we have is our approval of our July meeting summary. So would you mind pulling up that on the screen Amy, our July meeting summary. Thank you. Would anyone like to make a motion to approve the summary?

JILL HANO: I will. Can y'all see me?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes.

JILL HANO: Okay. Because I'm on my email. I mean, I'm paying full attention to Lillian.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I don't doubt it, Jill. So we have a motion to approve. Now we need a second.

NICOLE FLORES: I second.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. So our July meeting summary is now approved. So now onto the official business of the meeting. I figured that for our second meeting we could start developing our timeline because this will inform our committee meetings moving forward in what we're going to do. And so I've broken it down into a three-, six-, and 12-month timeline. And I figured it would be based on our formatting, scheduling, and planning list from the first meeting. And also the handbook items. The handbook was linked in this agenda. So if you need that sent over again,

I'd be happy to do that. But so moving forward I think it would be great to start with our three-month goals. So our goals from this meeting to our next. So does anyone have any ideas for that?

NICOLE FLORES: I think for us to figure out when we'll meet. Like how often per year would be something.

JILL HANO: I thought it was decided to meet quarterly in line with our council meetings. Like after this, if I remember from previous discussions, after this meeting we will meet in alignment of our January DD Council meetings.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think you're right, Jill. I think previously we did decide to meet quarterly.

NICOLE FLORES: Maybe just to narrow that down like when, like dates maybe.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So I think if Jill and I are recalling correctly, it would be in alignment with our quarterly council meetings. So I think, aren't those scheduled like a year in advance, Amy?

JILL HANO: They're scheduled like five years in advance. Hold on.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. They're scheduled pretty far out.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay.

JILL HANO: It's like whatever the third Thursday in January would be our January full council meeting. Right, Ms. Amy? Oh, shoot.

AMY DEAVILLE: Let me find the date really quick. The January date.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. So in the meantime I've pulled up that list of formatting, planning, scheduling that we came up with at our last meeting. So I can send that link in the chat, so everyone has access to it. So this is our to-dos that we came up with last time. And now we need to figure out how to schedule this into a three, six, 12, 24-month timeline. Because Liz, I know you weren't present at the last meeting, we kind of predicted this process will take about twoish years to plan a quality YLF.

AMY DEAVILLE: Lillian, the January council dates are set for the 19th and 20th.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. I'm going to stop sharing this and maybe we could pull up a fresh document and share it on the screen so we can start narrowing down when all these things will occur. If we could put like three, six, 12, 24-month timeline.

LIZ GARY: Lillian, this is Liz. Can I talk for a second?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah.

LIZ GARY: So what your goal for the 24 months is is that at the end of that period is when you would actually have the YLF forum. So that's why you're asking let's break it down. So the goal is from now until then to plan for that forum, what it looks like, how it would be, how we get the funding. Okay. I just want to make sure I'm on the same page.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Exactly. So really, we have that list from the first meeting that I sent in the chat that's within the minutes. And then also that handbook that the national association for YLFs has provided online. I know that handbook is slightly outdated, but that's the one everyone still utilizes so far. In that handbook actually it stated that it advised us that we should set a date and a location one year prior to our first YLF. So I think we can probably put that like date and location under that 12-month category to start us off. And Jill, do you have your hand raised? Oh, you were just stretching. Okay. So we also have things such as like finalization of topics, our decided age range for our delegates. I think those two things can probably happen a little bit earlier on. What do you guys think? Y'all, I need some input here. I can't just be doing my Darth Vader breathing over here all by myself. Okay. So I'll put that handbook in the chat, Liz.

NICOLE FLORES: And I was trying to pull from the national book too. I did see those two things like the one year out would be the date and site and things like that. They also mention something about when to look at

contracts, probably at the year also, for contracts with potential site of the forum.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So they said contracts about one year before.

NICOLE FLORES: Uh-huh. Yeah. One year before set the date of the forum. So we need to get the site and get the contract.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Liz, I see your hand is raised.

LIZ GARY: So would you like some feedback kind of having run Partners for several years as far as how I had to, like what I knew from that as far as the planning for that each year.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All input is welcome.

LIZ GARY: Okay. So generally set date and location for YLF definitely a year in advance because to do the hotel I was generally booking the hotel, so this was me and this was the Embassy. So just keep that in mind. But generally by June or July of the year before we started in January. So it was only six months out, but it was very risky with that. And the only reason I did it that far cause I was still in a class so I couldn't prepare for the next year while I was finishing because it ran from January to June. The year out is definitely it because you want to set up not only the date, but then you want to start discussing what rooms are available because you need to know how many breakout rooms you're going to have on that session. Is it only going to be one room, will there be breakout sessions like they did for Partners.

Also at that point, you know, you have to know if there's going to be any rooms. Is this going to be an overnight thing. They need to know how to book the rooms because they want to book that at least a year in advance to do that. Speakers generally anywhere from nine months to a year ahead of time depending upon who you're looking at depending upon if you're bringing in national speakers. With that you need to consider the part with speakers is that you have to see how it's going to work as far as it can get difficult with having to remain in the state rates. So you've got to

be able to incorporate the airlines that they're coming in, or renting a car, or both. Including the food. If you put them in a hotel where the food's like with Embassy where there was breakfast, then you're able to use that breakfast as a meal that didn't have to be paid for kind of thing. And then they usually got their lunch or dinner with us at Partners. So depending on the forum is it an all-day thing or several days. You have to keep that in mind. Trying to think. I think the line of speakers probably could go at the 12-month mark at the same time as the set date and location for YLF. And that totally depends on who you're needing. Because if you're using state people you don't need them as far in advance as you do a national speaker. That's what's coming to mind right now, Lillian.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That makes a lot of sense. So it seems like based on that that also gives us a jumping point for some other bullet points that we have. So it seems like we need to finalize topics obviously before the 12-month mark so then we can do speakers and booking and things like that. I think one of the first things we need to decide probably is going to be the length of the forum. Because then we can then determine what our slate of topics is based within that time constraint. So maybe by that three month mark we can put length of forum. And then what do you guys think of finalization of topics after that. So then we can really get that stuff rolling.

EBONY HAVEN: Lillian, I think Jill has her hand raised.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Jill.

JILL HANO: I did have my hand raised actually, but I have a terrible itch. So sometimes it might appear that way. But I do have my hand raised. Ms. Nicole, did you find this suggested timeline in the handbook?

NICOLE FLORES: I think we found it was the two years, like the one year out it was, where was it? Yeah. I did find it all, those two things in the handbook, those two little dates. Yeah. I think it

was on page ten where they talked about the forum.

JILL HANO: Okay.

NICOLE FLORES: And I was thinking what we could add maybe at six months is we need to like start soliciting like when we get to the topics. Well, first we need to get like advertising or to solicit volunteers and start getting the word out about YLF.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So outreach.

NICOLE FLORES: Or at least, you know, some kind of plan by then.

JILL HANO: Amy, should we do this document the other way around instead. Because instead of three months it's months working our way up. Shouldn't we work our way down.

AMY DEAVILLE: You're muted. Do you mean have 24 months up at the top and then 12 months and then six and three?

JILL HANO: I did. And I think y'all muted me because I couldn't unmute myself unless I hold the space bar. But that was just a suggestion since this is like 24 months out shouldn't it go down since it's like a countdown. But maybe not.

AMY DEAVILLE: I can change it however you want. But my, I think that three months refers to like three months from now instead of three months out from the event.

JILL HANO: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Probably makes a little bit more sense.

JILL HANO: I thought it was the other way around. My bad.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Building off of what Nicole was saying with the outreach marketing, advertising maybe that six months we have, let me try to think of how to word this, maybe that's whenever we start developing those recruitment and diversity strategies that we talk about. And maybe the actual outreach happens more at the 12-month mark when we're more clear on where the location and contracts and the speakers will be. What do you think about that, Nicole?



NICOLE FLORES: I found something related to that in the national handbook on page 15. At six months it says they're starting to create and package the applications for the delegates. So it all kind of happens around the same time. Six months from now that's where we would be if we would be having the event in two years at 24 months. I was just reading trying to figure out what else it says in here.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Do you know if that's starting to develop the applications itself or sending out the applications? Does it say?

NICOLE FLORES: It just says creating and packaging the applications takes three months. So that means you start at six months because we want to have these applications sent out at 12 months.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Oh, that makes sense.

NICOLE FLORES: I was trying to read it and understand it too. The bullets like this are much more helpful I find at figuring out when we need to do stuff.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Dylan, I saw your hand raised earlier. There it is again. What were you going to say?

DYLAN SONNIER: I kind of have a question of what does it mean by the age range of delegates for the three-month part?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So I think Bambi also put a question in the chat about that too of what the age range. And so that would be like what ages we would take for the YLF. Maybe it's just high school years or maybe it's like 13 to 18. It's just setting what ages we would take. So Bambi asked if that's specified by national or we decide. And we really get to decide that ourselves which is pretty cool.

DYLAN SONNIER: I see. And like all the months, so that's like all the stuff we're trying to see about making this committee, I would say.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So it's like I guess we're planning our next steps and our next meeting. So what are three months from now, 12 months from now, what

will our meetings look like and what will we be discussing.

DYLAN SONNIER: I see.

AMY DEAVILLE: Bambi has in the chat she did see the sample in the handbook, how to target age of high school with junior and seniors in high school.

EBONY HAVEN: Liz has her hand raised, Lillian.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay.

LIZ GARY: You good for me, Lillian?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah.

LIZ GARY: Thanks, Ebony. What I wanted to say about the age is just to keep in mind if you're doing a day one or overnight based on the ages with legal ages if you're doing a 16 to 19 or 15 to 19, you're looking at some of them underage sleeping there. What does that accommodation look like and what are the requirements for that. I don't know what other states do. I think that's important to look into it and see. Also you need to consider when you consider that if any of these youth will need to have one of their DSPs with them staying. So that may be an added expense if it's an overnight. Whether it's an overnight or day you still have to look at the DSP cost for if it's a room it's no more cost if they get one room. But staying for eating and things like that you need to consider all those things too.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. I think so from what I understand of YLFs across the country there's really like one or two ways they'll do overnight. So most of them are overnight. And they'll either utilize a hotel or a college campus to mimic that sort of independent living experience. And, generally, if they need DSPs, I want to say sometimes they'll provide them. Because they'll generally try to avoid specifically if an individual needs support, like DSP support, they'll try to avoid having the parents there just so they can simulate, like I said, that independent living as much as possible. And so I think in the handbook they have, have to pull it up, they have guidance on that. But it really just, it depends. Trying to look at it. But I

want to say that there's some YLFs that some of the volunteer staff they recruit are like nursing students as well. So they kind of have a diverse staff that can really cater to the needs of the different delegates. Bambi says I suggest consulting with the universities that have programs. They do an excellent job of having natural peer mentors. Yeah. So like I think the UL life program, bridge to independence.

LIZ GARY: No. I think it's fabulous. Cause the whole point is to give them their independence. So continue to, you know, have them bring their DSP. I was just making sure if there's anybody who had needs that were higher that you had somebody who was able to be able to work with them, so they had the opportunity also. So no, I think that's great. I think back to when my daughter was 13 years old and went on an overnight cheer camp. They each had their own dormitory rooms, but then they had one staff member keeping track, making sure. That kind of stuff. So I think you can do the same thing. I don't think there should be any difference. Just wanted to throw that out there and keep that in mind.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Liz. I'm really relieved that you're here because you bring such a great prospective to the table. Jill, I see you have your hand raised.

JILL HANO: What Bambi was saying when I went, the age range was for high schoolers who were going into their junior. Mine was over the summer. So it was going into your junior year and then individuals going into senior year. And that was the age range. Like not to like discourage anyone, but it was for incoming juniors and seniors. Yeah, it was just incoming juniors and seniors when I went back in the day.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I mean, it makes a lot of sense. I mean, you have older individuals who may be easier to, you know, I hate to use the word monitor. That sounds creepy. But we have older individuals who are more mature. And then also it may make sense for that starting out as well because you have a smaller pool of

potential participants cause we'll probably start out small anyway.

JILL HANO: And then it was a college campus. So I think the logical thing to do was get people, get that college prep age is juniors and seniors. Because my biggest blessing in life was having a sister one school year above me, one grade above me. So I knew that, okay, you can't start on this as a senior. You've got to start this as a junior. So I think the age range should be incoming juniors and seniors and maybe even some like recent high school graduates. That's my opinion. I'm repetitive. Sorry.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No. You're actually not. I think you brought up a really good point about how juniors and seniors, that's the time you start looking at college prep, job prep, independent living prep. That's kind of that time period.

JILL HANO: That was like I thought the idea was living in a college dorm was really beneficial to incoming juniors and incoming seniors. So like logically it just felt perfect.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. Cause whenever I've talked to any sort of YLF delegate from any state from any time period it's like the ones that went to the college campuses really talk about how, like you said, how beneficial it was to experience YLF specifically on that campus. Not only to experience what it's like to potentially, what it would look like for them to live independently, but also what does it look like to navigate a college campus, right. What does a college campus look like. What does it look like day to day. But I think with our age range and location being I think 12 months, I think we are doing great. Cause we are like so ahead of schedule with these discussions. I think we can give ourselves a high five.

LIZ GARY: Well, Lillian. I'm sorry.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No. Go ahead.

LIZ GARY: What I was going to say and with our college campus, and I'm so glad Jill was talking about that, is that now that the State of Louisiana has at

least three, maybe four, ULL, Southeastern, BRCC. I mean there's community colleges and regular universities that are now having the post-secondary education for those with disabilities. This gives an even bigger opportunity. Not to mention that LSU HDC is doing the paychecks program. Which is actually seniors in high school who are actually doing a dual thing instead of going onto the high school campus, paycheck actually puts them half a year on a college campus and half a year in the workforce. So these are kids who are seniors who are already experiencing this when they're seniors. And what they're doing is they're able to use IDEA money to do this. Just throwing that out for the purpose of it's already being done in paycheck for HDC in their senior year, but also, they're able to use IDEA money. Cause the schools are still getting the money, but then the schools are giving the money for those students to be able to go to Delgado and take classes. And then to actually get a paying job after they do that. So just throwing that out there. I don't know if that might even be the thought of getting somebody from paycheck to talk and explain kind of what they're doing and how that works and things like that for funding. Because that could be a potential too. Not from them, but through LRS, through IDEA. These are where the money sources are coming from for paycheck.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. Bambi says in the chat, I agree with Liz. There are lots of opportunities for partnerships are funding. Yes. And I think Melissa Bayham is actually a member of this committee. And I think she said LRS maybe through preETS funding may be able to assist with the expenses of YLF. Though, obviously, I can't speak for her. But I know she's mentioned that in previous meetings. One other thing too is that when speaking with other states who run YLF they talk about how they'll generally try to keep the location kind of close to the capitol. So generally they'll have a day when they go to the capitol and do mock debates and meet with legislators

and stuff like that. Right. I see Ms. Liz excited. I know, it makes me excited too. So Nicole, I see your hand is raised.

NICOLE FLORES: So talking about that, maybe six months we can add a bullet for funding.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes. Would that even be something we need to start doing at three months.

LIZ GARY: It's never too early to start looking at your options. So I would put it at three months. And also, I don't know who's typing, but if they wouldn't mind adding just like funding and put next to it just so we can remember- LRS - IDEA funds. Maybe in parenthesis for IDEA funds put paycheck program just so we can go back to know what we were talking about, so we don't forget what we were throwing about. Thank you. As we're kind of brainstorming I think if we're doing that.

And then just somewhere, I guess, looking at college campuses, like you said. Maybe that needs to be a three or six months based on where we're going to do it. Like you said at the capitol. I know BRCC has started it. So maybe it's LSU. I will tell you, which was very, very interesting within the last two years, and I can't remember which, I remember answering a survey for LSU asking that as a parent would I be interested in seeing a post-secondary thing that they had like ULL and like Southeastern. I was blown away when I saw it. I don't even remember where I saw it. But it came through and I applied. I answered because I think it is an opportunity with so many kids out there who are loving ULL imagine the potential of LSU in our state capitol to be able to have a program like this for individuals with disabilities, students. It would be awesome.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. That would be phenomenal. Maybe, like you said, six months we start looking at colleges and maybe at 12 months we make that final decision. Jill, I see your hand raised, but I do want to ask one question real quick to Amy. I don't know if you'll know the answer off the top of your head cause

it's nitty gritty stuff. So as far as DD Council funding goes, I understand that this would probably be something that would be put in the five-year plan verses yearly plan, correct? If DD Council would be a funder.

AMY DEAVILLE: Most likely we can work it in as an activity in a one-year plan. I think our five-year plan is probably broad enough that we can figure out a good place somewhere within our advocacy part to kind of put YLF in there for funding at a later date.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So the reason why I'm asking is I'm just trying to figure out like how that timeline. So like at what point do we come to the council and say hey, okay in two years we want to implement this program. At what point do we go to the council and start advocating for that?

AMY DEAVILLE: So I'm not 100 percent on my timelines either cause this will be my first go round, but the next time that we're discussing the annual plan. So the next time that we're doing a plan in committee that would probably be the time to do it. And that should be, I'm thinking sometime near the beginning of the year it will start up.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So that would be three months then, right? I guess under three months.

AMY DEAVILLE: Uh-huh.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Can we add a bullet point and add that under the three months. Like discussion with DDC, I guess. Jill, what were you going to say?

JILL HANO: Ms. Amy, to prevent my confusion on every header you have can you write like three month and then in parenthesis can you write from now. And then also the planning committee meets in June, July. So I think you would remind the full council to add this to the 23 plan would be like sometime in January or April of next year. Because this would be the funding, you're asking for would be added to the 23 plan, correct.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes.

JILL HANO: Okay. So I think that starts in June

or July. So January, April you might, or even next week you might to get the wheels for the council, get the wheels turning so we can ask sometimes in January, April to add the funding to the 23 plan. Because the planning committee will be meeting, like I said, in June, July.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Jill. I want to point out that Bambi put in the chat, I know Baton Rouge capitol is important, but it may be more feasible to have it at a university with a program that has students living on campus because that university understand what we're doing and the values that we're doing. Yes. I completely agree. I mean it always can just be okay, we take a longer bus trip to the capitol, right. Because we want to be at a university that really just gets the values of YLF. Liz, I see that you have your hand raised.

LIZ GARY: Yeah. So I kind of forgot what I was going say before, but in reference to what Bambi was saying. Let me back up. I want to talk about that one too in case I forget. This goes back to the funding and DD Council. The question is that the goal is two years out to hold the first forum. After that is what is the goal. Is the goal to have a forum every year with new delegates or is it to do follow-ups maybe the next year. Because what I was thinking was if you give them a forum and you start getting them prepared for what-- I'm sorry. My mind is exploding all of sudden with ideas. If you give them a forum one year that's focused on the history and this and that and then the next year you can come back and focus on it with the same group maybe being legislatively wise and having it at the capitol and kind of working the things in. Or maybe there's a field trip later on in that year where they did the YLF actual form and then they come back and do a campus thing on, not a campus thing, but go to the capitol.

I'm just kind of thinking out loud the different ways that could potentially continue if it's going to



be an ongoing thing with new recruits every year or is it going to be something that's ongoing all year long for forums. I'm kind of picturing it like a leadership program that not only does a forum, but they continue on throughout the year doing other little things for a year and then you get 30 new ones or 15 new ones the next year. I'm imagining it kind of like a Partners in Policymaking where you're giving them more information than just one forum several times in that year that way, you're continuing to grow them and build them instead of just a onetime stop. Just thinking out loud. I'm sorry.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No. I love your ideas. Thank you for bringing them to the table. So just as some background, so generally, nationally what YLF looked like is they'll have like three, four days or like up to a week of like a weeklong summer camp almost where it's like self-advocacy skills, legislative skills, life skills, et cetera, et cetera. But the intention, actually, like you said, is it's a steppingstone towards Partners. So whatever I would talk to other states they were like so confused when I brought up the fact that we had a really successful Partners program but haven't had a YLF for over 15 years. Because to other states it was like that doesn't make sense. That's not how the natural progression of things goes. So I think for our first year, obviously, we need the input of the committee. It may be simpler just to have it within that one week so we can kind of start and get our feet underneath us, right. Before expanding to something as big as Partners.

LIZ GARY: No. Forgive me. Because the one week, I was not clear on that. Since I wasn't in the first, I wasn't aware that it was a one week. Cause you can do a lot in a one week. And that could be a field trip to the capitol and stuff. And you're keeping them engaged. You're keeping them excited. It's one of the things I've said over and over with Partners. Partners is successful because you bring the groups together and they spend the night together and they

learn from each other, and they gain. If you do virtual you just don't get the same impact of these people being in the same room, the same evening and that kind of thing. So a weeklong is extremely powerful. I got it.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think it's like Partners condensed into one really super intense week. That's my understanding of it. I participated virtually the past few years and it's intense. But it's great. It's effective because it's so intense. It sounds like we have a lot of ideas as far as location and formatting and planning. Just trying to think about what's next. Oh, Amy, you put the dates. Thank you. That's fantastic.

AMY DEAVILLE: If I could make a suggestion. At some point you also need to determine how many people you want to accept the first year and then there might need to be some sort of group that reviews applications and decides who gets in if you have more than you can actually accept.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. Thank you for bringing that to the forefront of our minds because I completely forgot about it. Maybe we have that, what do you guys think, maybe three months to figure out? Dylan.

DYLAN SONNIER: I think that would make sense. I think three months would make sense as well.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. Yeah. Cause while we're discussing the nitty gritty like length of forum and age range. Liz Gary, love it, in the chat. All caps. So that almost brings us to, naturally, to our next agenda item is kind of figuring out what the distribution of work would be. So Amy mentioned like a group of people who would decide on who gets in and who doesn't if we have an overflow of applicants, right. And one thing that was that Louisiana did have and some other states do have as well is that they have, it wasn't a nomination committee. I think it was called a selection committee. But I think the point that I'm trying to make is that the work is distributed sometimes among committees. So I know that we have our

YLF committee here today and some other states. And what we did here in the early 2000s was that we had this main YLF committee with these like subcommittees. And so like one of those subcommittees would be in charge of selecting those applicants to say okay, these are the delegates that we want for this year out of this pool of applicants. And another subcommittee would say okay, how are we going to get funding done. They reach out to previous funding partners, figuring out new funding partners, et cetera. So the agenda item that we have is figuring out how do we want to structure our work. How do we want to form these committees, if we want to form committees. Also what can the DD Council staff do as well. So I just want to open up that discussion for what this is going to look like for the next two years as we plan this. And would love if our DD Council staff could also participate just because they're going to be a huge piece to this as well. So I do want to mention that I acknowledge that our YLF committee is fairly small. And so making subcommittees may be challenging considering that we have a pretty tightknit committee already. So Amy, do you have any input on this as our ED? I think she may have took a break.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sorry about that. I had to step away.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No worries.

AMY DEAVILLE: Can you ask me again.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So I was just saying do you have any thoughts on what this distribution of work may look like moving forward as our DD Council ED.

AMY DEAVILLE: I mean, like you said before, your committee is not very large. So making subcommittees I think will be difficult to do. So you either have subcommittees that are made up of only two or three people or you continue on as a kind of small group and just make all decisions together. Or you could, I guess, go out and recruit for new members, new people who are interested in being a part of the committee to kind of add some numbers and then that makes it a

little easier to break off into subcommittees. Yeah. Cause you have, I believe, nine committee members and a lot of work to accomplish.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. Thank you for the gentle reminder of the tasks that we have ahead, right. Bambi asked, am I a member of this committee. Well, considering that you're a panelist, I would say so. So Dylan, I think you had your hand raised first.

DYLAN SONNIER: Yeah. So I kind of agree on that. Like first I was kind of thinking like with that subcommittee at first, we could just like start our way up small and then work our way up from there if that makes sense. You know, like first get more youth members or get some more people involved. Then once that happens then we can accomplish more than just having a small group. Because it is good to have a small group, but also, it's also good to have a lot more people, I would say, or more people into your small groups that way you can get more done. To me, I guess, really depends on how that person is committed onto wanting to get these accomplishments done. It pays to have a person wanting to get this stuff done right and want to like work with or people in that group as well. That's what I think on that.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think that you're such a voice of reason in all this. So thank you. You know, I think, like Amy said, we have a lot of work ahead of us. And then like you said, okay, small groups are great. But expansion may be the way to go. Maybe part of our plan that we just wrote out is expansion of this committee. Maybe we start out small. Maybe we say okay, for three months it's just us, you know. It's just us our small gang that we have right now. But maybe by okay, six months we start trying to recruit more people and 12 months we have a bigger committee that we can parcel out into smaller subcommittees that does, you know, all these little things that we have laid out. So Nicole, I think you were next, if I'm remembering correctly.

NICOLE FLORES: I was just going to say the same

thing. Recruiting more youth or self-advocates. Because when we actually get to the forum it is going to be about people participating or people presenting. Us as an ad hoc committee are here to help ramp it up, but to start building out and getting more people that will actually be involved in it too. You know, looking at it maybe in three months and like you have soliciting the volunteers and everything at six months.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So six months we start looking at expansion. I think you bring up the point that we should just always keep in the forefront of our minds that it's for the youth. So we need to recruit more young people, more self-advocates. The people that we will be creating the forum for. Was it Jill or Liz who had their hand up next?

AMY DEAVILLE: I think it was Liz.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Thank you.

LIZ GARY: Thank you. So I agree fully with Derrick. Was it Derrick. I'm sorry. Dylan. I'm sorry, Dylan. I apologize. I agree with Dylan and Nicole. But what I do think we should probably talk about doing now is figuring out what committees you want first. And that way you can focus on getting more people who would be interested in specific committees. And with that being said, I definitely, absolutely 100 percent agree that you need more youth on here because they need to have a word in what they want in this forum more than we do. So but I definitely think you can look into committees because you're going to have so many different because you're going to need a financial committee looking at trying to get the funding. You're going to have the actual, I don't want to say party committee, but the people planning the seven days. And that in itself is huge. Different than just speakers. You know what I'm saying. The locations, the things that occur on what days and how we're going to get there. And that kind of stuff. You have quite a number of committees, but I would definitely plan the committees. Even talk about them today so then you can focus on letting other people

know we're planning this, it's going to be huge and that kind of thing. But I think that's important.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So I would like to make an official motion to have an official party committee just for fun. But maybe I misheard you. Maybe you didn't say party committee, but I think that would be a really fun committee to have. Maybe we start, what were you saying.

LIZ GARY: No. I was going to say absolutely. Because when you say party committee, you got to keep in mind too that you're not only going to want this where they're going to be learning. And I say like academics and learning about different things, but you got to have events in the evenings where it's kind of just chilled where they can after dinner, they have a couple of hours or two to do something whether you plan a karaoke party or whatever you plan. But you have to have something that engages them. Because if they think they're coming to learn all day long. But if there's excitement and connections and getting to know other people from Baton Rouge, you're now learning to know people up in Monroe and connecting. And then they decide we can be roommates down at the college in Lafayette. That kind of thing. I'm sorry. I'm getting so excited.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I relate. I mean, this is exciting stuff. I think it's really important for us to be excited whenever we're in these meetings. Because it's like while planning the YLF we need to have that same excitement the YLF is going to have. Maybe we do have a committee called the party committee. But it is making sure that YLF is true to YLF. Like you said, it's not just learning, but okay, we get to do all this really cool stuff together and we make it fun. Because it needs to be fun. It doesn't need to be boring. I mean, in order to engage youth we need that party aspect or make it entertainment committee. We can call it whatever. We can call it the confetti committee. I think that would also be fun. But I think that's a great point that we need to

keep in mind. That okay, A we need youth on these committees. And B it needs to be fun. It needs to be engaging. Jill, you had your hand up next.

JILL HANO: I was listening to what y'all were saying, but I was in the other room when y'all were talking about selection of delegates. And I have the handbook. I have a to-do list and then I have a DDC to-do list and my council to-do list. Goes on forever. So I know with Partners, and I know with council membership Partners has a criteria of what like a selection criteria. We all know the DD Act has membership requirements. In the YLF handbook is there anything about a selection criteria or process. Because that would be something to start looking at. Like when we're planning delegates or like selection the first step into planning selection is obviously going to be what is A, do we have a selection criteria. And if we do, we need to obviously follow that. We need to follow it. I hate this whole spiel y'all. If YLF has a selection criteria we definitely need to look into what it is. If not, do we make one. We need to look, before we look into selection, we need to look into selection criteria. Twelve minutes to say five words.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Jill. No worries. I always appreciate hearing your input. There actually is some selection criteria laid out in the handbook. And so I'm going to send that link in the chat. It's on page 14 and on where they kind of describe what the selection process may or may not look like. Some criteria they have. We may want to develop more specific criteria, we may not. Just up to our committee. So thank you for bringing that up, Jill. I think it would be a good time for us to take a five-minute break. And so, yeah. So maybe we can re-adjourn at 10:10ish. I don't see any other hands raised. In the meantime, if you want to take a look at the manual, great. If not, I'll see you very soon. Thank you, guys.

Hello, everyone. It is about 10ish 11. If

everyone could come back that would be great.

JILL HANO: Wouldn't that be 10:11ish.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. I realized that after I said it. But then it was too late.

JILL HANO: I'm famous for that one.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. I'm sure like everyone can relate. You say something and you're like oh, no. That didn't come out right.

AMY DEAVILLE: Before we really get started again, can everybody kind of look at the timeline and see if there's anything that needs be moved around. It was mentioned that maybe recruiting more committee members should be moved up. So I just wanted to see if there's anything that needs to be moved from one area to another.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think we kind of need to start recruiting more committee members at three months. But that's just me. I would love to hear what you guys think as well. Just so then by six months we have those committee members is what I'm thinking.

AMY DEAVILLE: I think Nicole had mentioned moving it up earlier.

NICOLE FLORES: Yeah. I think, at least, start looking at three months.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Shandrell, I see you have your hand raised.

SHANDRELL STEWART: I'm sorry. I clicked it accidentally.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No worries. So my question to you guys is I know Liz had mentioned figuring out which committees we're going to have. Do you guys want to do that at three months, or do you guys want to do that with the time we have remaining today?

LIZ GARY: Lillian, I personally don't feel like it would hurt to at least start it today and just kind of be thinking about it. Because then that gives you as we think about it then over the next meeting then you can think about other ones that may come up as we're thinking about it. And then, of course, when you have the council meeting and you're introducing this there



may be more recommendations. But I think if you start kind of devising what committees are important right now, I think that's really probably good to start now. It can't hurt. Unless you have something else on the agenda that you needed to accomplish today, I think planning the committees will probably be good. Because then as you meet at the council meeting in October you can start to get more people talking about it and the committees and the planning stuff.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think that's a great point. I think the cool thing is our agenda today is pretty broad as far as our agenda item that we're on now. And essentially the last agenda item is the distribution of work and figuring out what that's going to look like. It's a huge piece of that. Nicole, did you have your hand raised.

NICOLE FLORES: No. I was agreeing with what Liz was saying. Just to start. I had a couple of committees in mind too to at least start with.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: You want to share what those are?

NICOLE FLORES: Well, I think one thing like Liz was saying it's never too early to start about fundraising or like a funding committee. I just had some broad ideas. Another one was, and it probably needs be broken down, logistics. Like where, when, to find the place. Things like that. There's probably a better way to talk about it. Or phrase it.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I just want to say that if you guys start hearing screaming, my two cats are about to have like a fist fight in the middle of the living room. So I just want to apologize in advance. So the logistics part, I think it will be really important to have a lot of staff input on that just because I know that likely if the DD Council does decide to approve funding for the YLF the staff will be a huge part of that logistics planning, right. So I just wanted to mention that.

Another thing that I did want to mention as well is that under the funding committee, I know I'm putting the cart before the horse, but under the funding

committee one of the reasons why our previous YLF essentially kind of died was because there was no sustainability plan. And then Katrina hit, right. And they were never really able to get it back on their feet as far as funding goes. And so whenever we're looking at funding, I think one thing that we really want to have really consider is potential grants that are not dependent on state funding. So if something like Katrina happens or, you know, similar circumstances to, you know, 2005 when YLF previously ended there's that backup plan and a sustainability plan where it doesn't just fizzle into nonexistence. So I wanted to mention that before moving on. So Jill, I see you have your hand raised.

JILL HANO: I think you mentioned something like how we wanted to, I forgot what I was going to say, but what time, we have till 11. What time does this end.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: We adjourn at 11. And so currently it's 10:17.

JILL HANO: So I mean if we wanted to start looking at the three-month list, like I mean, we're not overly pressed for time. But we kind of well, not really. So I didn't know what else. I don't know, y'all. Never mind.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No worries. So were you thinking of starting on the three-month bullet points. Is that what you were trying to say?

JILL HANO: Yeah. Like whatever you were asking us if we wanted to do the three-month work. Or well, I don't know y'all. Never mind.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think I get what you're saying. I think earlier we were trying to figure out what we were going to do with our remaining time. And I think right now we're kind of looking at distribution of work and what that's going to look like and committees. Thanks, Jill. So then I think, Bambi, I see your hand is raised too.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I was going to ask about the funding. So would YLF fall under the category essentially like the same as Partners where I know

there's some restrictions around the DD Council funding where it's really, they're supposed to fund pilots and pilots are then supposed to have sustainability after that. But is this an issue where YLF could be part of the annual plans, funding plans like LaCAN and Partners are?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So I think that's a difficult question. So I think it would be similar to Partners because YLF is intended to be a steppingstone to partners. You know, it's supposed to be the youth version of Partners. Previously when we had our YLF 2000 to 2005 we had a variety of state agencies whose hands were in the pot. So the steering committee back then, or essentially what we are now, fell under the LADDC. But on the steering committee they had different state agencies who were also helping fund it in addition to the council. I think it was Human Development Center, LRS, OCDD, Department of Ed. I think there were some Families Helping Families who had their hands in the pot as well. So it was a good variety of state agencies who were all contributing funding to this program or some sort of assistance. So that's how it was structured then. Different states YLF funds it differently. So some states have like a specific nonprofit for YLF. Which is, obviously, probably not what we're going to do. But there's some states that it does fall under the DD Council. Which is I think the direction that we're going in since this committee does fall under the DD Council. So I would hope that the DD Council is, you know, hopefully they would be supportive in having this in the five-year plan. I don't see why not since it's similar to Partners. But Liz, what were you going to say.

LIZ GARY: I just might add that be sure based on not knowing what the amount that this could cost is to just be open to other agencies who have youth that would be interested in being a part of it too. So I think it's critical, kind of as you said, not to put all your eggs in one basket. To make sure that you have it across the board so that you know that we're

working in partnership with other agencies to ensure not only the funding, but also because there's a buy-in. If they're funding it, they're going to be also helping support it. They're going to also be helping push it and get more people involved in it. So I think it definitely pays for you to have other funders involved and have the buy-in not only from a financial matter, but also getting the people involved and the ones who would be a part of it also.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Absolutely. I just sent from the national association for YLF a budget sample in the chat. The budget sample is pretty, the total cost is pretty large. But we also have to acknowledge that this is for probably more delegates than we are interested. They said projected cost for 60 delegates. So maybe we say we don't want to have 60 delegates the first year because that's quite a lot of people. But rather we want 15 for our first year. And maybe instead of like a weeklong YLF, like I think this is projecting, we look at a four-day YLF. So while this total cost is okay, 95,000-dollars, we're not going to have a YLF of this magnitude our first year. So I just wanted to send that in the chat for some supplemental information because I think it's interesting.

LIZ GARY: Lillian, that was great. Thank you. And with that being said, 95,000 is not unreasonable for a weeklong for 60 people. Because that is about, that's about the budget of Partners for six months which included a salary. So that is not unreasonable at all for that. One thing to consider and I think what you were saying is start out smaller in the first year to get your feet wet. Because to try to have 60 people when it's the very first time could be extremely trying and cumbersome and things like that. I'm not saying it's not doable in the future, but 30 I think is going to be a good start. One of the things, you know, in what you got to consider is what you're going to have is you're going to have, once you get these groups together, you're going to have little pockets of the people going off in different areas and forming little,

you know, whatever, clicks. I don't want to say that. I hate to say that, but that did happen even with Partners. You know what I'm saying. But I think with 30, you know, it's a potential that they're all going to be kind of like starstruck and like what's going on and they're going to want to come together as a group. And then as you learn you expand and get it bigger and bring more people in as your experience with it gets more, I don't know the word I'm using. But, anyway. You know what I mean.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. I mean, just the thought of having 60 participants kind of makes me a bit nauseous. I mean, just the thought of that many people our first year that would be kind of insane. Because I just think of how I just can't even imagine how hard it is to plan like quarterly DD Council meetings in person for 25 people, right, for two days. So starting out small I think is going to be our best bet. I don't know, does anyone else have any input on anything, everything?

JILL HANO: Okay. Well, first of all, I didn't realize this was from California. The first thing I saw was the word Sacramento. Sacramento dorm. But then I saw this was from California. Was like okay, got it. So you said 60 delegates may be too much. And this is a rather large budget. So my suggestion is if we do 30 delegates and just make it easy. Thirty delegates in the budget would be whatever 95, I can't read, but it would cut the 93,550-dollars in half. But is 30 larger than what you were thinking, Lillian? Again, since it is the first one, we could do 15 and cut it. I can't do that. Take half of the half. Would that be a third, fourth?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think really, we have a lot of freedom whenever it comes to what we want this to look like the first year. I mean, obviously, it will depend on the-- What? Sorry.

JILL HANO: No. I was agreeing with you. Like we can make it look however we want. I have looked into the past, because of Katrina, I can't pin down any

official document of what this looked like for those five years. Cause if you cut your delegates in half, you cut your budget in half. But if that's still large for our first one you can cut the 30 in half and cut whatever that budget is and take half of that budget. No. It's half of a half a fourth. Yes.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes.

JILL HANO: Okay. Sorry. Math was a while ago.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Math is the worst. I hate math. I'm not going to lie to you. But yeah. I mean, we have a lot of wiggle room and it's just figuring out what we want this to look like the first year. And also who our partners will be as well. I think Nicole, you call it Google foo. She used her Google foo skills and found DD Council minutes from, I want to say, like 2009.

NICOLE FLORES: Yeah. 2009.

JILL HANO: I couldn't pull that up at all.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So it was from 2009 and they were discussing restarting YLF which ultimately was unsuccessful. I think the DD Council was going to contribute about 17,000-dollars to the initiative. That was planned in addition to those other state agencies that were involved. So we've got a big task in front of us. And we have our logistics committee, our funding committee. I know we talked about our funding committee in depth. We have that supposed party committee that Liz and I were talking about.

One thing I did want to mention is that I know we had talked about notifying like the governor's committee in California, there was something mentioned in the handbook. I talked to someone who runs YLF in another state and she had said, because this handbook is pretty outdated, I think it's like from 2007. Really we can just notify the national AYLF, the national association on YLF. Send them an email say hey, look. We're thinking of starting a YLF. And she said we should be good to go after that. It doesn't seem like it's as much of a formal process as it was when the handbook was first created. Wanted to let you

guys know about that before I forgot.

JILL HANO: Can I ask another question.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Go for it.

JILL HANO: You said you found a 2009 mention. Can y'all make that a link in anyway.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: You know, I'm going to have to pull it up. But I'm sure I can find it somewhere. Yeah. I'll try to find it and send it over to you, Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Oh, DDC minutes from 2008. And I'll put it in the chat.

JILL HANO: It was April 2008.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Looks like it, yeah. It was like a brief burb. It wasn't anything extensive. But, I mean, finding information about the YLF that was here has been nearly impossible. I mean, really most of the information we have is from word of mouth. I'm not really sure, like I would love, I don't know. It's just been so difficult to find. I don't know if that's because people have gotten rid of the documents because it was like okay, YLF isn't a thing anymore.

JILL HANO: I think it was. The contact that I made, shoot, said that all got destroyed in Katrina. Cause do we know the funding source. Well, we do know the funding source. I don't even have my July notes. We could contact our funding sources from 2005, which sounds ridiculous, and see if they have any type of documents.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So I have a couple notes in this document that I found on my computer about where it seems like the funding came from based on stuff I've pieced together from people who were involved in it back in the day. I'll put it in the chat. Liz, I see that you have your hand raised.

LIZ GARY: Did we not have any feedback from, I'm sorry, Matt Rovira. Because I know that when I was around it was during his time when he was at the Governor's Office on Disability Affairs. Because that's when it first started out. Of course, I had

packets of information that I threw out probably six years ago cause I said oh, it's never going to happen again. Just kick myself. I'm so aggravated with that now thinking about this. So my other question is, is that could some of this money have come-- no. I was going to say after Katrina with the influx of money. But it was like 2005 and it disbanded in 2006 when Jindal took over cause that's when Matt Rovira was out, and Brandon Buras came in under Jindal Administration for Governor's Office of Disability Affairs? I can talk to Kelly at the Arc. I think she probably would remember stuff. She tends to keep a lot, so I'll check with her and see. Yes, Laura Brackin. You're right, Bambi. Because her and Kelly were big back then with Laura and OCDD and all that stuff.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Laura was the director for GODA during the Foster Administration. And so it started with Laura. Laura and then Matt Rovira and then Brandon and then me. And Laura met with me right when I got the job, I guess in 2016, I remember meeting with her in my office and she told me a lot of details about this. I know she knows.

LIZ GARY: She would be a good one. And she probably still has notes cause she keeps stuff too just like Kelly.

JILL HANO: Bambi, do you have any archives?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: No. Whenever an administration leaves, they wipe out everything. Luckily, I have Jamar who kept some things.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. Cause, actually, Jamar was one of the first people, it was before, couple years ago, Jamar was one of the first people I touched base with about YLF. His picture is next to an article about YLF in the GODA newsletter.

JILL HANO: Didn't you talk to Rose Gilbert.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So I talked to Rose Gilbert, Mary Jacobs, Jamar Ennis, Brenda, Brenda's daughter. There was three women who were like the top three dogs of the YLF, right. I talked to all three of them. They didn't have any documentation like everyone



else. They had just thrown it out cause they assumed it would never happen again. And I also talked to Matt Rovira as well. But really none of them had any documentation. It was so long ago that really remembering the minuet details was difficult. But really, I mean, we have this history of YLF here, but I think we also have to consider the fact that YLF across the country looks different like now than it did in the early 2000s, right. So we also need to keep up. Yeah. And Sharon Delvesco, I think Sharon's supposed to be on this committee as well. This is a new opportunity to re-create it fresh and new. So we can barrow from what we had, but keep up with the times. So Dylan, I see you have your hand raised.

DYLAN SONNIER: About the old committee, I still kind of find it weird that even though those people that were in the old committee thought it was never going to happen again. Like recreate a new one. I just find it weird that you just throw out all the old documents. Cause in my case, I would probably save them because you never know. But then again, that was like back then and things were different. Plus it was like after the hurricane. So, you know, with all that I can understand. But to me, it's almost like finding, we try to like find old documents about something that they threw out all those years ago. To me it's like trying to find pieces of lost media if that makes sense.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Dylan, when I tell you that finding information on our old YLF was like finding a needle in a haystack. I mean, it was ridiculous. But I really think it's because we've had such a lack of youth advocacy in our community for so many years now. Like after YLF stopped I mean, we really haven't had a lot of youth advocacy. So it hasn't been on anyone's minds. So it was like why keep it if we're not going to do anything surrounding it, right. What were you going to say, Jill.

JILL HANO: Whoever mentioned the name Mike Foster made me feel about a zillion years old.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Oh, goodness. I'm sorry, Jill. So I actually don't think we have anything else on the agenda. I think we got a lot accomplished today. Does anyone have anything else to add, any questions, more discussion? Just want to open the floor to anyone. Hey, Liz.

LIZ GARY: I just wanted to ask do we want to add another committee or two before we disband. Just as far as just to kind of throw it out there. The funding committee, logistics committee, party committee. You know, the party committee. What about even like a speaker committee. Speaker/topic committee so you can start thinking about topics and then who the speakers are for that.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Would that fall under logistics?

LIZ GARY: Well, kind of sort of. But logistics is going to be more about the whole weeklong event, where it's going to be, what it's going to be every day. Not so much what is going to be inside of every day. But Monday you'll be in LSU, whatever doing this. Tuesday you'll be going to the capitol. Wednesday. So that's where I think logistics more of planning. And that's going to have to be around. And then you'll have to figure out when you're putting your speakers in and how many. So they're all going to have to work together. But I think it's definitely speaker topic committee is different than logistics. Nicole, you were shaking your head, so I think you were thinking the same thing.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That makes a lot of sense. Yes. Nicole

NICOLE FLORES: I had the same thought and I had two other potential committees. One would be for staff volunteers. And then another would be, I'm guessing maybe selection and participants. Selection of the participants and a committee like around the participants in YLF. It's a lot of committees, but I think it would cover most of the main topics.

LIZ GARY: But I think you need all those committees to really be an effective thing. You got two years to do it, so I think it's good. You can

always get rid of a committee and add it to another one if it doesn't work or you can't figure it out. But I think this is probably the best way to move forward now to make it most effective.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Absolutely. And I think too we have the opportunity to (inaudible) so we say okay, our selection committee meets at the 12-month mark. Or even like the 14-month mark. So it's not necessarily like we have 500 committees starting right now. We can parcel it out amongst the timeline. Dylan, I think your hand ways raised next.

DYLAN SONNIER: Yeah. And also going back to like flowing from the old committee to like this new one right now. I think also to keep in mind that adding youth members here also needs to stay fresh in our minds as well. Because it might add more new members then that will be like way different than what we had all those years ago with that old committee. If you get what I mean.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Absolutely. I'm not even sure they had youth members on the old committee. Dylan, so you and I, we have to make sure the adults don't take over. Just got to make sure of that. Jill, I think your hand was raised next.

JILL HANO: I don't know if it's how everything can be done. And I know I'm trying to prevent like bad feedback, but can an ad hoc committee have subcommittees or like are we going to have a motion to have these ideas for these subcommittee topics. And then when the meeting comes around, like we have as a DD Council meeting, like we'll have to officially form like a subcommittee and have Rashad appoint members. Like the subcommittees be named by the council and then like appoint members. Like have the members appointed by Rashad as the individual ad hoc committees are named. Cause I don't know anything about like having subcommittees with an ad hoc committee. So I'm just thinking, am I talking too much, is that why you're laughing.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No.

JILL HANO: Keep us, no offense to anyone, keep our comments. Like keep our questions to a minimum. So I don't know how that works.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I just want to clarify that I wasn't laughing at you. I was laughing at the idea that we're going to have subcommittees under ad hoc committee cause I think that idea is--.

JILL HANO: You know how much (inaudible) for nor against.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah.

JILL HANO: Where's Amy. What is your opinion. Hello. Amy here.

AMY DEAVILLE: I'm here. I will get some clarification on it. I believe the way that it would work is Rashad appoints members to this ad hoc committee. And if there were subcommittees, Lillian is the chair of this committee, appoints.

JILL HANO: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: But I will double check myself.

JILL HANO: So we don't need full council to form all these different committees.

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't think so because these are, you're calling it subcommittees, but they're workgroups. A group of people doing the work.

JILL HANO: That makes sense.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. I think it doesn't necessarily have to be super formal where we say okay, it's like an official subcommittee, but rather just like subgroups where we say okay, I want to be on the party committee, or I want to be on this committee. Like, I think it can be really natural-- and call them mules. Can you verify that. Funding mules.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: It's a joke. Mules do the work.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Oh, I was a little bit slow on the take on that one.

JILL HANO: What. Can we go back. What.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to

interrupt the meeting. I was just making a joke that obviously everyone didn't get. Apologize

JILL HANO: Definitely going to Robert's rules and look up a mule and not me in there.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So with these jokes I think you should be on the party committee, Bambi. So I'm officially making that appointment in this moment right now. I think we have a good slate of committees. I mean, does anyone have any further input or questions or comments?

JILL HANO: How many committees is this?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: 500.

JILL HANO: Seriously. Like ready to write my notes.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Looks like about sixish.

JILL HANO: Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: So Lillian, there was also another suggestion for a marketing committee by Liz. And Dylan has his hand raised.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Dylan.

DYLAN SONNIER: My question was that, how do I put this, with us trying to get more youth members involved down the line, I'm wondering how we're going to do that. Like are we going to find ways to promote that or what's y'all's take on that?

JILL HANO: Can we put out an LAD. Y'all, I'm talking too much.

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't know how many youth it's going to hit. We can try it. But I don't really know how many youth it hits.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So if I could just quickly give my 2 cents. I think this will be our biggest challenge is recruiting the youth because the way that our advocacy community stands right now, we don't have a lot of youth involved. And I think that's why this committee and the YLF is going to be so important because then we can get those youth. But then the question is how do we get them the first go round, right. So I think we're just going to have to get really creative. And I see Liz you have your hand raised.

LIZ GARY: So I think that has to do with the marketing outreach committee. And a recommendation would be just next to the marketing research committee, maybe right now, brainstorm for a few quick seconds on things. LSEA, Louisiana Special Education Association. They meet regularly, quarterly, I believe. And so they could be the steppingstone first of getting it into the school systems because LSEA is representative of the districts. Of course, I also think you reach out to the sister agencies. The Disability Rights Louisiana, you reach out to LSU HDC. I mean, there's a litany of them. But I'm just thinking you're going to get the most bang for your buck probably from the school system. Because that's who you're trying to get as juniors and seniors. So you're going to have to figure out so that would also include LDOE, SDE, whatever they call themselves right now. That kind of thing I think would be the way to start getting the word out. Maybe if it's like even just some kind of, not a save the date, but some kind one-page flier that says we're looking to bring back the Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. We have it slated for the year of 2023 or something to that affect. I think if we get something like that, a one pager out there, start trying to get that out. And Susan Ream is saying counselors in the high schools. I would agree with that too.

JILL HANO: I like that.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I wish we could give each other high fives over Zoom. I see, Bambi, you have your hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So our Families Helping Families centers, they know the people, young people as well as our organizations that are doing preETS in schools. That would be another, so it would be preETS vendors. Yeah.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Liz Gary says LRS which is, absolutely. Susan, we can outreach to local providers, parent groups, et cetera. LRS, of course.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I was going to say one more. Also our LGEs. So our DD directors and our LGEs should

know some of the families and the participants and be able to make some recommendations in outreach.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Nicole.

NICOLE FLORES: I was going to say I'm also on SEAP and we can have that added to the agenda to have it spread out that way. And then also when we do that if we're looking at youth and if they're youth in high school we would need to think about if we're having them on committee, we need to look at scheduling our committee meetings outside of school hours.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. And Jill.

JILL HANO: We should reach out to Ms. Thomas cause she has an alumni database for Partners. And I know Partners has parents with obviously youth. Trying to think.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. We could utilize the DD Council's current network which is mostly comprised of parents to reach the youth through the parents. I mean, that's a built-in resource right there. Bambi, is your hand raised currently or up from earlier. Okay. Any other comments, ideas, thoughts?

JILL HANO: I'm trying to minimize the wrong screen.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right. So it's about 11. I think this meeting was insanely productive and I just wanted to say a big thank you to our committee members. I know we have a big task ahead. But I think, like I said, we have a great group. And if we just keep having the youth in the forefront of our efforts in mind and also being excited about the fact that we get to recreate an incredible program for like an incredible cause I think we're going to be all right. So thank you, guys, again. And let's see, is there any public comment before we close? All right. I don't see any.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Lillian, for everything.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Well, thank you, Jill. Happy that you're here. And do we have a motion to adjourn?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'll motion. Bambi.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. And then a second?

JILL HANO: I'll second.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thanks, Jill. Well, we just had our second YLF committee meeting. Thanks y'all.