

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Youth Leadership Forum Committee
January 11, 2022

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Hey, y'all. It's 1:00, but I think we're still waiting on a couple of our members. I actually got a message from Liz Gary saying she's going to be running a little late. But we'll just give it a couple minutes so we can achieve quorum.

All right, everyone. So I don't think we have a quorum quite yet cause we have five members on, and we technically need about six for a quorum. But I'm not really sure that we have a lot of things to formally vote on. And I also know that Liz Gary will be coming on soon. She just had to go get something for her son at the store very quickly. So I'm going to go ahead. Jill, I see you have your hand raised.

JILL HANO: This is my first Zoom meeting. Can you hear me?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes. I can hear you.

JILL HANO: Like this is not for Zoom meetings. I turned my camera on, and I don't know why y'all can't see me.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Oh, I don't know why I can't see you either. But I do miss seeing your face.

JILL HANO: Oh, my God. So is there a trick to this? I just thought you push start video, and the video starts. Like nothing's on. Hold on.

NICOLE FLORES: You might have, on the top of my laptop, there's a little slide where I can turn off the camera. It's like a little manual slide.

JILL HANO: I did know that.

NICOLE FLORES: I just learned that myself recently.

JILL HANO: My gut was to try it out before. Shoot. Oh, okay. I don't know what I did.

NICOLE FLORES: It worked.

JILL HANO: I have no idea somehow, someway I'm

here.

NICOLE FLORES: Good to see you.

JILL HANO: Thank you. Y'all too.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right. Well, I'm glad that we can finally see Jill. And so what was I going to say? So I'm glad we can finally see Jill. And I think it's about time that we can get our meeting rocking and rolling. So first let's do, you know, welcome and members' intros. Because I know we have a new member here today. So Maddie, do you want to go first and introduce yourself? I'm sorry to put you on the spot.

MADELYN YOUNG: Hi. My name is Maddie. I am 15 years old and I'm so happy to be a part of this meeting.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Maddie. We're so excited to have you here. And so, Nicole, do you want to go next?

NICOLE FLORES: Sure. My name is Nicole Flores and I'm glad to be here too and glad to see some new people as well.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right. Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi. I'm Bambi Polotzola. I am the executive director for the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Cool. And then Jill.

JILL HANO: Hold on. I am Jill Hano from region ten. No. Yes. The member at large for LADDC.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Awesome. Thank you, Jill. DD staff. Amy. Ebony.

AMY DEAVILLE: Hi. My name is Amy Deaville. I'm the executive director of the DD Council.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right. Well, I think we also have Ms. Ebony here and she's really phenomenal as well. Ms. Ebony, can you turn on your mike or is that not possible right now? Okay. She just said she cannot get her mike on right now, but please know that she is here, and we are happy that she is here. So what I really love about the YLF committee is that it's a very laid back, welcoming committee and I just for our newer members or any of our guests as well. Please

know that we are all learning together on this and that it's a really fun committee. And for our guests as well, if you have any input throughout the meeting, any thoughts, any questions, please, please raise your hand. Cause we're always looking for more input, more ideas, new ideas, fresh perspectives and it's just a really collaborative environment.

So for our guests who I've never seen here before, a quick background on what we are doing. So we, obviously, are the youth leadership committee, but we're working on creating a youth leadership forum. And so youth leadership forum is essentially an empowerment summer camp for kids with disabilities. It generally runs for about a week on a university campus, teaches skills like self-advocacy. I just saw that Mike Billings put in the chat I just came for the funnest meeting. He is right. This is the funnest DDC meeting that you will ever attend. But, yeah. The YLF teaches skills like self-advocacy. It also does lessons on legislative advocacy as well. How bills get passed in the legislature among other employment topics. It's really pretty comprehensive and pretty phenomenal. And so we're working on bringing one of these here to Louisiana. And so that is what our committee is all about. And it is the funnest DDC committee there is.

So the first thing on our agenda is the approval of the October 14th meeting summary. Which I think may have to wait since we do not have a quorum and that requires an official vote. So we can push that back until Ms. Liz Gary joins us for the fun today. And so we can move onto revisiting our suggested subcommittees. So the idea behind this is that at our previous meeting we had decided that we were going to breakdown this committee into smaller subcommittees or sub workgroups. And oh, thank you, Ms. Amy. She has put the subcommittees that we had decided upon previously onto the screen. And so we had figured we would breakdown the work because, you know, YLF is a pretty large undertaking. And so we wanted to revisit

the selected committees because we had also created this timeline that you see on the screen. And this is, this meeting is the meeting under the three-month mark where we are supposed to decide all those things on the bullet points, right. But whenever I looked at these tasks at the three-month mark, I looked at it and looked at our subcommittees and realized that some of these tasks are things that I think could probably be deferred to subcommittees. And I think it's really important that we use our time wisely, right. With the full committee and any of our subcommittees that we create. So that's why I put this at the top of the agenda so we can kind of figure out what we can defer to subcommittee and what we need to decide as a whole entire group.

So we have funding subcommittee. Logistics, which would decide when, where, the location. The party committee to ensure that the YLF remains incredibly fun. The speaker and topic committee. Selection/participant committee which would select our delegates or people who would be attending the YLF. And our marketing or outreach committee which would decide how we advertise the YLF and get participants. So I just wanted to open up the floor for discussion on these committees and see if there was any committees that you guys think are particularly important. Maybe if there's some committees that you think we can kind of get rid of and then we can move on from there as far as what can be deferred to subcommittee. So I know that was a lot of information I just dumped on you. But yeah, I want to hear your thoughts.

NICOLE FLORES: I think most of them are pretty important. Funding, that's the big one right there. Bambi has her hand up. I'm sorry. I didn't ask to be recognized.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. So Lillian, can you just repeat what our task is right now? Is that to decide what committees we need or?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. To finalize that list of

committees.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Got you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think you're right, Nicole. We definitely need, you know, that funding committee. Cause we had, like for guests it's their first time coming, we had a YLF in the early 2000s, but it kind of faded away because of funding issues. So that's definitely a piece we need to keep.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Lillian, are we maybe considering merging some committees? Cause this is a lot of committees. And so perhaps some things kind of just would go together. Maybe not, but.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And there are some things too that I think like can probably just be simply discussed as the full YLF committee. Like the party committee, I think it's really important that we keep in mind the YLF needs to be fun, right. But I think this is something that maybe we can just keep in mind as a whole committee. We can just remind each other of really. What do you guys think about that?

NICOLE FLORES: Makes sense. Like making sure it's an underlying, you know, concept in everything we're doing.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So are you guys okay if maybe we just consider the entire YLF committee the party committee? Instead of having like a subgroup for it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So Maddie, Nicole and Bambi are in agreement. Jill, what do you think?

JILL HANO: I was thinking exactly what Nicole said about fun should be the underlying theme. Like say if we were to be writing an English paper that would be like pieces of the whole end result is for it to be fun. And then as we're planning this, just like again, keep that okay, we need to talk about this, this and this. But we need it to be fun. So I completely agree with y'all.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Awesome. So it seems like we can scratch a party subcommittee. And instead we can just consider our entire committee the party committee. We

also have logistics of when, where and the location. And this is something that I wanted to discuss with you guys cause I was actually talking about this with Ms. Amy the other day. And the thing about like when, where and all these logistics is some of this may be determined by our funding sources. So that okay, we have like let's say hypothetically, you know, we're funded by like LRS and DD Council and these different state agencies, right. Though none of this has been determined yet. They may have a say in how it's structured, right. Based on state regulations and stuff like that or their own rules for funding. So I wonder if perhaps it is more of a discussion for like a funding committee or even for the entire YLF committee? What are y'all's thoughts on that? And Ms. Amy, if you have input as well, I'd love to hear it.

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't know that I have any input. You, I think, explained it really well. Some of your location and things like that might be determined not just on the funding source, but how much funding you have. So some of those decisions might kind of go hand in hand with the funding committee in terms of the location. And then when is likely a decision that the YLF committee as a large could probably make together. But yeah, the logistics committee could perhaps be merged with funding and that would maybe make sense.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I see Bambi and Nicole, you're nodding. So are you guys in agreement that maybe we could, you know, merge those two under funding?

NICOLE FLORES: Yeah. Since funding's going to determine so many things. I mean, it will even determine at the point of how many delegates we do.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. Cool. And I saw Jill gave her thumbs up too. So it seems like we are in pretty good agreement about that. So we'll just say that we have our funding committee. Jill, I see you have your hand raised.

JILL HANO: Is so I think I know the answer Ms. Amy, but to reiterate when the council has their FY23 plan developed would this, like our planning committee

as a council will determine yea or nay about funding for this committee, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Correct.

JILL HANO: Or this forum. And then however much will be allocated from our council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Right.

JILL HANO: Okay. Just checking. Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right. So our next committee to revisit is the speaker topic committee. And considering how many topics that we had brainstormed, I think in our first meeting it was like 500 different topics that we had brainstormed, I think it's worth keeping. But I want to hear your thoughts as well.

NICOLE FLORES: I think it is too. Just thinking like a speaker, it could be connected with the outreach to get speakers. But I think it's also important that we all talk about it too. Like what are the kind of topics and important things to narrow down.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. I mean, I kind of see this as like everybody might have something to contribute. And so it could just be, you know, sending out, could be, Lillian, a Google doc that we add our suggestions to. Can we get another Google doc in our life. And that way everybody can contribute. I may only have one suggestion, somebody else may have three, but we all have, you know. Oh, there's some suggestions. There we go.

AMY DEAVILLE: These are the suggestions that the ad hoc committee originally brainstormed probably in that first meeting.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think it was that first meeting. I think a lot of this, like how many topics we can accommodate, will just depend on one of the things we're deciding today is the length of the forum. How long our YLF is going to be. So I guess, I mean it seems like a lot of us concur that it's a really important thing that we decide good topics for the YLF cause that's the bones of the YLF. But I guess the

question is does this need to be a subcommittee or is this going to be just something that we all kind of discuss as an entire committee.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think since our committee is so small that it could be all of us. You know, if it was larger than maybe not. But I think we all can contribute. I mean, based on who's on here now I think all of us would have something to contribute to making this, getting these topics and getting the speakers and that type of thing.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Jill, Maddie, what do you guys think?

JILL HANO: I think Liz Gary needs to log on because she has so much experience. She's been through this process for many, many years.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. I agree. She texted me and she said she'll be on as soon as she can though. So fingers crossed.

JILL HANO: Tell her to hurry up.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I'm not going to tell her that. I want to stay in her good graces. I like her.

NICOLE FLORES: Yeah. I was just trying to think like what you said when you were talking about timelines. Because let's say we get the funding, but now we need to look into logistics of how long out does it take to get a place and, you know, make the selections. So it's all going to just flow from that funding on down.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. It seems like there's a lot of thoughts on this topic and maybe it's something we ask Liz whenever she joins what she thinks as well. I'm inclined to agree with Bambi. We already have such (inaudible) I really feel like we need to narrow down those committees that we really need to breakup for. Just because we have a small committee. And then, you know, not only do we have a small committee, but whenever meetings roll around there's only so many of us that can attend the meetings as well. So to breakup for 500 different committees would be, I think, unwise of us. But the topics are so important that, you know,

I think we need to be smart about how we approach whether this is a subcommittee or just an entire YLF committee deal.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I feel like the funding committee is a committee where we need to get maybe people outside of this ad hoc committee. So, you know, like I'm thinking like with funding I know we have LRS. Melissa Bayham's on this committee, I think. We need to look at as far as like IDEA funds. Also look at like OCDD and like our LGEs. Like how can they support people who are attending in making sure that everything's, might not be direct funding of the program, but it could be that it streamlined the supports that people, the attendees may need. That either they get that through the programs they already have, the supports and services they already have, or they are able to tap into some of the LGE funding that is a little bit more flexible. So I feel like that's a little bit different conversation for those people. Even logistics might be that way. We talked about like maybe doing it on a university campus or something like that. So then that's maybe some conversations with some people at different places where we might can get into. But then the speakers and topics and even marketing, those are things that all of us really can contribute to that. All of us on the committee.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So after that extensive list of possible funding sources in my brain that says that Bambi Polotzola needs to be on the funding committee. Cause you just sounded way smatter than I ever will talking about funding. All right. So we're keeping funding. Logistics, we merge with funding. Party is out because we are, as a whole, the party committee. Speaker and topic is still, maybe that's party committee/YLF/speaker topic committee. What do you guys, anymore thoughts?

NICOLE FLORES: Like we're so small just, you know, like Bambi was saying, we all have something to put there.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And selection participant

committee, I know the national YLF handbook has some outline on selection of YLF delegates. I was not smart enough to link it in my notes for today. But I know they have some outlines for this. Go ahead, Jill.

JILL HANO: I have the YLF handbook handy. So if y'all need to look up something, I got it. But just throwing it out there.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill, I just want to express my deep appreciation for you and your commitment to this committee.

JILL HANO: Well, it's the whole council. Like I'm not going to be on a council or committee and not know anything since I work six hours a week, why not.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Well, I appreciate it, Jill. And honestly, I mean, I don't know why you wouldn't want to be prepared for the funnest DDC committee ever. This participant committee, maybe this could be merged with that marketing outreach. Cause that's all part of it, you know, we're outreach and that's in that step after outreach.

JILL HANO: I meant to call you. I just ran out of time. But I was thinking that outreach, what if since you are so lovely at this, what if we got into schools and had Zoom presentations about this. And hey blah, blah, blah we're starting to recruit. And if you want an introduction or if you're curious, we're actually recruiting for our planning ad hoc committee. And so I don't know what should be merged and should be separate. But if y'all find it feasible or meaningful rather, I was definitely thinking keep the outreach committee because that's how we A, get the recruit for the forum. Then let me check this out, there's meetings four times a year. Like let me see what the planning committee is all about. And then people have friends of friends of friends where one person showed up to the church and then like people kept inviting people. Like so that was just like my reasoning is to keep the outreach committee.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. Thank you for your input, Jill. And I like what you said about possibly going

into the schools and giving a presentation. I think that leaves a lot of options for us and a lot of room for creativity of what this would look like, right. And what outreach could possibly look like. Because I know that, at least I'm pretty sure in other states who do YLFs, that that's one of that main form of outreach. You go and talk to the SPED teachers, you talk to the school administrators and say hey, there's this really fun summer camp for kids with disabilities. Please send your students our way. Nicole, I see you have your hand raised.

NICOLE FLORES: I was thinking for the school piece we could actually, Meredith Jordan, we could let her share that information. And then if we did a presentation, we could have it done at the special ed advisory panel with the state. And then maybe the local special education advisory councils regionally.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Remind me, Meredith Jordan is with Department of Education?

NICOLE FLORES: Uh-huh. Executive director of-- I can't remember. Inclusive learners, diverse learners.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: You know, I think in our original research for the YLF, cause I was going through old emails preparing for this meeting. I think in our original research for YLF whenever we were trying to figure out what this looks like here in the early 2000s because information is incredibly hard to get about this and what it looked like. But I think Families Helping Families centers actually conducted the interviews for participants. Cause for those of you who don't know, normally whenever we have a youth leadership forum or people have youth leadership forums across the country, they perform interviews for delegates. Not only because sometimes YLF has a lot of applicants, and they need to kind of filter some out. But also because they just want to get to know people who are coming to YLF as well and narrow that down. So I think, you know, your selection and participant committee may not, just maybe it's like the funding committee like Bambi suggested where it's not

necessarily just us. But it's people who will be conducting those interviews. It may be that we reach out to our Families Helping Families centers and say hey, can you do this piece for us and come join our selection and participant committee, right.

NICOLE FLORES: Cause I think it was a lot of, they had like 20 panels throughout the year or something I think in the handbook where they would go out and do, they send out, they get the applicants, the applicants turn in, here's our application and then they go out and they would do the regional interviews usually in person by some kind of agency.

MADEYLN'S MOM: Hey, y'all. This is Maddie's mom. Y'all know me. Hi. I was telling, but Lilly said it about when going into the school systems and stuff. Right now what would be another good idea is if you can go into the classroom of certain classes. Like, for instance, Maddie took Quest to Success which would be a good class for someone to go in and speak about what you guys do. Also another one is something like Career Media. So if y'all want to target like on the 10th through 12th graders, that will be great. Okay. I'm done.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. We always welcome more input. We always need more input. So and yeah, maybe it's a thing where we go into those classes and we say okay, we're going to do a presentation, generally, on self-advocacy and at the end give that spiel about YLF. And say hey, look if you want to learn more, this peaks your interest, I know just the camp for you, you know. So maybe it's a way where it's like we don't necessarily go in and just say hey, there's this really fun summer camp, we're not going to give you any context. Come join us for a week in the summer. But rather kind of give a little feel about what YLF will look like. So Bambi, I see you have your hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. I'm just thinking back whenever I learned about Partners in Policymaking. I was in the 2007 class. It was by going to a training that Families Helping Families was putting on. It

wasn't about Partners in Policymaking. It was at the end them sharing oh, and by the way this is something, you know, if you want to take it a step further and they had the little brochure and that's how I found out about it. So it could just be something that's promoted throughout and embedded into other things that our developmental disability community or disability community is already doing throughout the year.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And maybe it's a thing where we just get really, really close with our Families Helping Families centers. Especially if we're going to consider going a similar route as we did before where perhaps we partner with them for specific elements of YLF. Okay, if you put on a training maybe mention it to the parents and say okay, if we have a kid with a disability of this age then, you know, maybe they might be interested in the YLF. Just kind of quick little, I don't know. But there is excellent news. Liz Gary has now joined us. I see she's part of the attendees' list. We will have a quorum. That is exciting. And Bambi, do you have more input or is it just up from earlier? Zoom problems. Ms. Liz, welcome. We were just talking about you. Jill was saying how you needed to be here, and we needed your input so I'm happy that you're here.

LIZ GARY: Hi, Lillian. I'm sorry. I was late. I apologize with all this craziness going on I had to get my son a Covid test. I'm back. I'm here.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No worries. We're just happy you're here.

LIZ GARY: Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And just for context, we have been discussing like the subcommittees that we had discussed previously and kind of narrowing down which ones we need, which ones we can possibly merge or get rid of and just discuss as an entire committee. So we decided that we're going to definitely keep the funding but merge the logistics with the funding since our funding sources may determine location and such. We're getting rid of the party committee because we decided that we

as a whole YLF committee can be the party committee. And then it sounds like we're going to be keeping the selection participant and marketing and outreach, but that's also what we're actively discussing right now. So that's where we're at.

LIZ GARY: Got it. Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So what do you guys think about keeping, merging marketing and outreach? I know we just had a robust discussion on that.

LIZ GARY: You're asking about keeping it or merging it with something else? I'm sorry. I missed that.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So keeping it because it sounds like a lot of us are in agreement that we obviously need that component of marketing and outreach and what that could possibly look like. I know I had suggested earlier possibly merging it with selection and participant. But do you guys think it's important that we keep that in two separate boats? Bambi, I think you're on mute.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I am. Sorry. I think the marketing and outreach is kind of like the speaker topic committee that we just keep it as part of the whole. Because we're all going to have input on how and who to market and outreach to. That's just my thoughts on it.

LIZ GARY: Okay. So let me make sure I'm understanding what we're trying to do is seeing if we need subcommittees for this particular thing or keep it as a big picture where everybody's working together. Did I understand that correctly? I agree with Bambi because I think it's everybody's role to be marketing and outreach. I don't think you can reduce that down because that needs to definitely be a big picture thing for everybody out there putting the word out.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Awesome. So seems like party, speaker and topic and marketing outreach will be an entire YLF/party committee. And we'll be keeping, correct me if I'm wrong, we'll be keeping funding/logistics and then selection participant. But we have

also agreed those two subcommittees need to have outside people outside of the YLF. Those very specific niche topics as well.

LIZ GARY: So explain to me the speaker topic committee is going to be removed as subcommittee and talking on everybody as the whole or it's not? I'm sorry. Cause I'm looking at the scratch throughs and trying to follow it and I'm getting a little confused. I'm sorry.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes. I know it probably looks a little all over the place, but you're exactly right. So any committee that we're getting rid of we're just merging it to the whole YLF committee and saying okay, this needs to be discussed as an entire committee. The train of thought between kind of narrowing down which subcommittees we need is acknowledging that our committee already is really small. And then attendance as well whenever it's time for meetings to roll around there may be people who can't make it to the meeting. So dividing into too many subcommittees may not be the best way to utilize our time just because we're already super small and super close already. We, I think we just need to be really smart about how we break this up and breakup the work and use our time. So, yeah.

LIZ GARY: No. I got it. That's perfect.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So is everyone comfortable with our two other subcommittees and how we've kind of decided this to be so far? I just want to make sure we're all good. At least give me a thumbs up or a verbal okay. Awesome. Cool.

AMY DEAVILLE: Lillian, did you discuss the staff and volunteer committee? I don't remember that one being discussed, but it was on the list.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No. I didn't. I didn't put it in my notes, so I completely forgot about that. Staff volunteer committee. What do you guys think? Not really sure I have much input on this.

JILL HANO: I don't have an opinion yet on this, but I do have a comment. Instead of crossing the topics out cause all these, these are all like our

goals. These are kind of in a way changing from committees, from subcommittees to goals of the whole YLF committee. So I think it's important like to move this down and say like and put a section in a notes page emergent topics. I don't even know what emergent means. But like so different in my mind because for me like seeing them all with lines crossed out, I'm going to personally go okay, well, that's scratched. So I've put these topics in the back of my mind. But we need something to remember that these are still emergent topics. Our goals as a committee. And I know that this committee is a little different because it's a timeline thing and we have an end goal. But I know on other committees, other ad hoc committees once you achieve your goals you abolish the committee. So I think we need to change everything you crossed out should go in another section of goals of this committee and kind of like a to-do list and things we need to work on. That's just a food for thought.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think you bring up a lot of good points. So I think it may help that like whenever we were kind of, whenever I was thinking about the agenda and how to approach this meeting cause originally, you know, whenever the agenda was being developed it was just if you see on the screen kind of this tasks list of decisions that we need to make by three months because we are in that three month meeting, right. Whenever we created this timeline, this 3, 6, 12-month timeline that's outlined on the screen that timeline was created completely separately as a completely separate discussion as the subcommittee discussion, right. And so a lot of whenever we were discussing these things like how do I put this, I don't think that by getting rid of these committees the discussion that would have been had by these committees are necessarily being eliminated. In that we're just saying okay, we don't really need to worry about speakers or topics. But rather I think they're already outlined in this timeline. And really by saying okay, which committees do we need, which committees do we need to keep I think

it's really just about how we're going to be using our time as a full committee verses when we need to split up, right. One of the tasks for today was kind of looking at funding, but I think now we can say okay, that's going to go to the funding committee, right. So I think you have a really good point that we need to, as an entire committee, remember that we are the party committee, we are the speaker topic committee. But I think we also have a lot of those tasks outlined already in our overall timeline. I don't think it will be lost. Does that make sense?

JILL HANO: Okay. Yeah. I was just suggesting it just to have in the tasks at hand just to be fresh in our minds. Cause, I mean, I know we're not going to, I know we're abolishing the subcommittees, but not the topics. And I was just thinking like just to make sure that the subcommittees are handling it. The subjects would be fresh in our mind. But if everything's in the timeline then like what you're saying is making sense. So yeah, thanks.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think you brought up really excellent points that like okay, we're getting rid of these committees, but it doesn't necessarily mean these things aren't priority.

JILL HANO: Right.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And we can almost say that they're almost more of a priority and we're saying these are really hard hitting, you know, priorities or topics or whatever and that's why we're going to be discussing them as an entire committee. Because they're relevant to all of us and they are important. I really appreciate you bringing that up. So Bambi, I see you have your hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Lillian, I had my hand raised for so long I forgot what I had it raised for. I apologize.

JILL HANO: I talked so much. Sorry, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: That's okay. Oh, I think it was regarding the staff volunteer committee. And I don't really know what that committee would be tasked with

doing, you know, finding the staff and volunteers or. But I guess my bigger question is will there be like a director kind of like we have in Partners in Policymaking, someone who oversees it and what will their role be in the staffing and, you know, whatever volunteers they have to secure. So just how will those dynamics play out?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think that's a difficult one to narrow down right now. Just because we don't know which agencies will be involved quite yet. So Liz, I see your hand is raised.

LIZ GARY: And I'm thinking you're on the same page as me. I think it's going to determine where the funding comes from to determine from there how the staffing and volunteer will work. I think once you start figuring out your funding and logistics, then you might be able to determine the amount of volunteers you need and where you're going to be able to get them and how much staff. Because if you end up with a funding person that has, you know, 100 employees you might be able to get at least 25 or 30 of those employees to volunteer and then you may not need as many more. Those are just thoughts. So I think it's definitely something you still need to think about. I'm just not sure it's at this point yet where you can determine the funding and logistics. I do have another question. I'm sorry, Lillian.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No. Go ahead.

LIZ GARY: Is there anywhere in any of the documentation from other YLFs as far as based on you take in 25 participants you may need over the course of a week this many volunteers? Is that written anywhere to give any idea?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: You know, I really didn't-- that's an excellent question. I really didn't even think to look into that, but that's a really--. I'll reach out to the different YLFs and see if they kind of have a rule of thumb and what it looks like for them. But maybe there is like a suggested like staff delegate ratio.

LIZ GARY: I know there were several documents that were sent out, but I just don't know. I mean, I didn't read through all of them. So I don't know if they said hey, if you have 25 people you should have at least 50 staff. If you have 30 people. That kind of thing. Just thinking out loud.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. So I see Nicole had her hand up first and then Jill.

NICOLE FLORES: Yeah. They actually did have something in the YLF handbook on page 18. They talked about, but I think this is when they were talking like 100 people attending. And then they talked about the volunteers and staff. And they said they had the participants in six small groups of ten student delegates. So 60. Each group had two co-counselors, one peer counselor and one program assistant. So you had four staff for each group of ten students. Let me see if I can pull it up. Jill might have it.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill has everything.

JILL HANO: Anyone who knows me knows that is not on a file, it's on a hard copy. Cause I love my hard copies. I have more papers than my parents.

NICOLE FLORES: And they did say though this says like four staff per ten student delegates. But two of those are actually like peer counselors. So, you know, you're really looking at two adults for every ten delegates. And then like two additional peers, you know, supporting them.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Lillian, if I can, that was the point that I was going to, that Nicole just made, and I know that you will emphasize this throughout. But I think we can't say it enough. Is that we need to have the supports that are provided to the delegates need to be as natural as possible. And they need to see people with disabilities as part of the staff and part of the volunteers. And so that's really something that needs to be emphasized in that area.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Absolutely.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: They don't need me there. They need people half my age, you know, involved.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So hearing all of this discussion and amazing points that you guys have brought up, I know I would almost say that we need to keep that staff and volunteer committee as a subcommittee so we can say okay, this is the focus where we make sure not only we have adequate staff, but like Bambi mentioned, adequate representation of peers and people with disabilities. What do you guys think about that?

NICOLE FLORES: I agree. It's like one of the most important things to make sure that everything we're doing is involved or upholding like the ideas of YLF. It's like it's not about us, it's about the people who are attending and seeing other people with disabilities too, you know.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Cool. So if anyone disagrees, please feel free to interrupt. But it seems like staff volunteer committee is a committee. Jill, is your hand raised from earlier?

JILL HANO: I do have a question. When you said this like two years ago, but do we have any reference from how this is done in other states that we could look at? And also, I remember when you talked about this initially how many YLFs are there and how many states currently have this program?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So I'll reach out to the national, you know, YLF organization to see how other states do this like staff volunteer thing. But it seems like we have a pretty good guide with the manual and some ideas from-- like for instance, I know Oklahoma a lot of the way they staff is from alumni. So that's not going to be really an option for our first year. But usually like with other YLFs what happens is is the delegates enjoyed it so much that they want to come back, but they come back as staff. And so they're able to be those peer mentors. They're able to build that staff base and spread the word. And so for your other question of how many states have a YLF, prepare to be depressed. So there's like over 30 other states that are doing YLFs currently. So I think we need to get a move on, but that's just me, with how many other states

have a YLF. So there's a significant amount and then hopefully one day it will be all fifty states. So it seems like we've narrowed down kind of what subcommittees we need. So at this moment I want to go back and revisit, now that we have a quorum, revisit the approval of the October 14th meeting summary. I know we're bouncing a bit back and forth, but I think it's important that we check that off our list. I don't think I can make that motion. Does anyone want to make a motion to approve that summary before we move onto the decisions to be made in accordance with the timeline?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I make a motion. This is Bambi.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you.

NICOLE FLORES: I second. This is Nicole. Did we lose Lillian?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I'm back. You lost me for a good couple seconds, but I'm back. Sorry. So did we approve?

AMY DEAVILLE: You have a motion and a second. So you just need to call for any abstentions or any noes. Make sure everyone approves.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Does anyone have any abstentions or objections? Okay. Hearing none. Thank you, Maddie. Hearing none, we have now approved our meeting summary. Jill, is your hand raised from earlier?

JILL HANO: It is. Y'all, how do you spell ratio? Is it R-A-T-I-O?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes. Okay. So we've approved our summary. Glad we got that out of the way so now we don't have to worry about that. And so now onto the next big thing of our YLF committee is our decisions to be made in accordance with the timeline that we created previously. So you already have it pulled up, Ms. Amy, thank you. So we have these things to decide upon. There are some of these things that I think we could defer to committee, but not all of them. So we have, let me see. So the first thing we have is the age range of delegates. We have that selection and participant committee. Is this something you want to

decide as an entire committee or is this something you think needs to be discussed in that subgroup? Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: There's no federal requirements, correct? Like on what the age range has to be.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No. Like it's just going to be high school. Generally, you think high school students, but it's more of like which parts of high school. Is it going to be like, you know, your 9th through 12th grade. Yeah, 9th through 12th grade or a smaller window.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I guess I would like to hear just like what are people's thoughts about it. Should it be just high school students? Do you have to be in high school? Or should it be a window, juniors and seniors? What are other people's thoughts on that?

NICOLE FLORES: I thought it was like juniors and seniors, like you said. I don't remember seeing a certain age. I remember seeing something about grade in school.

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

MADELYN YOUNG: Yes. I feel like it should be seniors and juniors and sophomores.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think that's a good range. Jill, are you here? I see your camera's off.

AMY DEAVILLE: She said she had to step away for a second.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. We'll get her thoughts in a second. I see there's something in the chat.

MADELYN YOUNG: Like 15 on up is what I'm trying to say.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Nicole and Bambi, thoughts?

NICOLE FLORES: I think I'm just trying to think of ages and grades and stuff. Just to make sure we get a good range of people they have to have demonstrated leadership ability of some sort. I think by a certain age being a sophomore at least, you know.

MADELYN YOUNG: But I feel like the seniors would be more interested.

NICOLE FLORES: More invested, probably.

MADELYN YOUNG: Yeah.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think that's a solid age range.

NICOLE FLORES: Yeah. It's just important to make sure cause some people, you know, they're a senior and they're this age. Somebody else is a senior at that age. Depending on the track they're on. Something to consider too. Or if they're not in public school, maybe they're not in school. They're unschooled and we're looking at grades. It just depends.

MADELYN YOUNG: Like is it targeted towards the summertime or like the fall, spring?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. Generally it's like kind of like a summer camp.

MADELYN YOUNG: And maybe we could do like some college kids. Yeah, the kids that are entering college. That's what I mean.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So maybe it's like if you're in the summer before you enter college. And then if you're older you can be staff. Nicole DeJean. Hi, mom. Maybe as the program grows you can expand the age range of delegates. Start with 15-to-18-year olds and possibly expand to 19, 21. It's difficult cause I would have to look in the manual to see if there is a limit as far as like delegates go. But I wonder if there's opportunity to partner with Partners in Policymaking. Cause YLF is intended to be a steppingstone into Partners in Policymaking. In fact, whenever I discussed anything with any of the other states who have YLF they're like really kind of mind boggled that we have Partners in Policymaking, but don't have a YLF. In other states it goes hand in hand, right. Maybe it's an opportunity where we really start partnering with that Partners in Policymaking program and say okay, so we have YLF for 10, 11, 12th graders and then after you transition out of that maybe you're staff at YLF. After you're staff at YLF you go into Partner's in Policymaking and there's that kind of smooth transition that we develop later on after YLF is established. I know that was a huge tangent. Maybe that's how we think of it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And I don't think that age is a

good way to go about it because of just some people, you know, they stay in school. You know, they can stay in school until they're 22. So it could be that, you know, their high school is 18 to 22. That would be four years. But we're talking about people who have developmental disabilities. So their development can be a little bit later than usual. So they may be a little older than average high school students. So yeah, I think grade is kind of a better determinate of how we should, you know, make that range.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Hey, Jill. I see you have your hand raised. I need to run to the restroom real quick so I will be right back. But please continue talking while I'm gone.

NICOLE FLORES: Yeah. I was looking like the handbook has it just says a student with a disability and then that demonstrated leadership. I couldn't find any with a certain age either. But I agree with you Bambi. That makes sense.

JILL HANO: I always envisioned this being the summer and being in the summer. And I think it should be on grade, not age, agreeing with Bambi. And I was thinking incoming juniors and outgoing seniors.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: My experience with high school students is they claim the next grade they're going into as soon as they finish the previous year. In the summer they're counting themselves as whatever grade they're going into. So yeah.

JILL HANO: So like yeah, that's what I always thought the rule was. So if you just finished your sophomore, junior or senior year, meet the age bracket or the criteria. I should say outgoing sophomore, junior or senior.

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

LIZ GARY: How do you determine how will you deal with that when some students aren't technically in a specific grade? Cause a lot of the special ed classrooms, and maybe it's just in St. Tammany, they don't ever really declare a grade. So how will we do

that? Because if they put junior, seniors, freshman, sophomore all together in one special ed setting. Just keep that in mind.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That's a really good point. Maybe we have like an either-or system where we say okay, either you are 10, 11th, 12th grade, or you are 14 to 19. So if you're older, but still in 12th grade, you can come. Or you're 14 to 19.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: People can stay in high school till they're 22. So I think you should go to 22.

LIZ GARY: Right. Yeah. And what I've been noticing too is a lot of people will say-- so what I've seen is they'll graduate at 18 or 19 per say, but then go back to the school for two or three more years. So that's where you're kind of falling into the place so if they're 19 and go back for three more years and per say graduated, then technically they're not in 12th grade anymore. I don't know how they look at that when that happens, but I noticed that a lot.

JILL HANO: Okay. I had an idea. I took it back. This is what I'm thinking, and I don't know if this makes sense. But like just say 15 to 23, but if you're like my mama you're going to be like I'm not sending my 16-year-old somewhere where there's 23-year-old men. So I'm just, I mean, that's just what I was thinking. Twofold is just have the 16 to 23 age range, but then, I mean, people might not want to even now that schools are K through or 8th. High school has eighth grade. Like my 13-year-old eats lunch with like that's just how I was thinking. But, I mean, like I'm thinking 10th, 11th and 12th. Or 15 to 22 to be like as criteria.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay. So a little bit scatter brained right now. But Jill, thank you for such a thorough comment on this really, you know-- I find this conversation so interesting cause about what ages to take. And so while you were speaking, I actually called Jen Randall from Oklahoma. She's the ED of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council and used to run their YLF. So Jen, say hi to

the YLF committee.

JEN RANDALL: Hi, guys.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So YLF committee, please say hello to Jen.

NICOLE FLORES: Hello.

SPEAKER: Hi, Jen.

MADELYN YOUNG: Hi.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So we're having this discussion about, okay, what ages to take at our YLF. And so there's this dilemma of, okay, so are we going to do, are we going to take 10 to 12th graders or we going to say we're taking 15-to-19-year old's, right. But our dilemma is is if we say we take 10 to 12th graders people with disabilities may be 22. Not 22, but like 21 in tenth grade. So how do you guys handle that? Like whenever you're advertising for YLF do you do an age grade or grade range? What do you guys do?

JEN RANDALL: What I usually do, and I will be honest, we may look at maybe lowering it to freshman. And the reason why I say that is we did an outcome study really see that we're getting the impact that we're wanting. Still waiting on the report. But I know I had talked a little bit with the researcher that's doing the study and she said-- we have taken younger students. We've taken freshman before. Generally, we want them to have that, a little bit more mature because there are some topics that our YLF does that, you know, are pretty deep. And I think some of that is just by talking with them and trying to get a sense of kind of who they are and if they're younger can they handle it. I think that's the youngest that we've gone. We have had a young man that, trying to think what grade, he was in eighth grade, yet he was 15 and half. So that's about tenth grade, you know. And he attended YLF. As far as going older, the oldest that we've had is 21 and that's because they can go, I think sometimes some schools in Oklahoma call them super seniors. I don't know how Louisiana does it. They've gone through their senior year, but they're still in high school working on those transitional

skills. I'm like well, technically they're still in school, you know. I don't think we've had very many of those. But in my head, I can think of at least two or three that were in that situation. And again, it's just trying to know okay A, trying to kind of get a sense of who they are. As well as when we do roommates and things, I probably would try not to do a 21-year-old with a 15-year-old. Even though it's still like girl and girl roommates, but just to give them a little bit more sense of commonalities. I don't know if that helps.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. It's just a discussion of like trying to figure out how to approach the age thing of what ages we're going to take, right. So whenever you guy advertise this do you just say like 10 to 12th graders?

JEN RANDALL: Yeah.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. That makes sense. All right. Well, I appreciate you taking the time.

JEN RANDALL: You bet. You bet. I'm excited for you guys.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you.

JEN RANDALL: It's the best thing ever. You guys are going to love it.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I know. I keep telling them. I'm not sure they believe me. We'll work on it.

JEN RANDALL: You guys come on up to Oklahoma to check it out.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Well, thank you. I appreciate it. I'll talk to you soon.

JEN RANDALL: Have a good meeting.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Bye.

LIZ GARY: You know, Lillian, she made a point. One of the things she was saying was she wouldn't put a 15-year-old with a 21-year-old. It's no different than when I had to do the rooming for partners how I was very meticulous as far as trying to who to put where, how it was related. You know, what were the connection with the disabilities. What was the connection to where they were located close by. Could it be

something that they would, you know, could I find two people that were in the same vicinity so that they could be stronger when they finished the partners and stuff. So it's the same type of thing. They try to work it and see to the best of the abilities. So that makes sense. Of course, like she said, she had an eighth grader who was 15. I know that a lot of parents, you know, hold their kids back. So you've got a lot of that because they know they're going to be in high school till 22. So a lot of them will try to attempt. I know that at one time the law said that you couldn't be 16 in the eighth grade. Louisiana law. I don't know if that's still the case. But the point of the matter is that there is that issue out there, so we need to be cognizant of that.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. I think you bring up a really good, interesting point that there's a similar dilemma with partners as well. And hearing what Jen has to say I kind of wonder if we can just say 10th through 12th grade and also take it on a case-by-case basis at the same time. Where we say okay, maybe there will be-- am I still here? Can you guys still hear me?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Good. I thought I dropped out again. But I think there is that wiggle room to say okay, you know, we have a kid who is 15, but in eighth grade. So it seems like for them, you know, they advertise throughout 12th, but there's that like wiggle room there. I think maybe just to keep it simple you say 10th through 12th, but we'll take it on a case-by-case basis at the same time. What do you guys think about that?

MADELYN YOUNG: I probably agree with you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I see Bambi nodding. Nicole, thumbs up, thumbs down. Liz is nodding thumbs up. Okay. Cool. So it seems like we have our age range at 10 through 12. Jen's always a good time. We love Jen. So length of forum, what do you guys think about the length of the forum? Some states do three days. Some states do five days. Jill, I see you have your hand

raised.

JILL HANO: Since I do envision this in the summer and it might be a possibility, should we be more specific in saying incoming 10th through incoming 12th graders?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. We can say that. I don't see any issue with that. Maddie, I see you have your hand raised.

MADELYN YOUNG: What about the waiver workers, if they can go with the three to five days with them.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So that's actually a really interesting point you bring up. You know, I don't know, I know that individuals who require support workers in other YLFs definitely take individuals with more significant disabilities. But I don't know if the staff provided services to their support worker or if they bring the support worker or if it's a case-by-case basis. And that may be something that we discuss where maybe there's some individuals who do bring their support worker. Cause I know for sure that most YLFs try not to have the parents there. Simply because the idea is that generally these YLFs are hosted on a college campus. The idea is they get this taste of campus life and independent living away from the family and growing as an empowered disabled person away from the family. And kind of developing that identity at camp independently. But I don't know how it works with staff. We'd have to research that. That's a good question you bring up. No one is moving anymore for me. But in the freeze frame I see Liz has her hand raised.

LIZ GARY: Hey, Lillian. Yeah. I just wanted to say with partners that those with disabilities were able to bring their caregivers. Now that was just pretty much probably more like 26, 28 hours. I'm not sure how that worked. But I can check with the provider agencies of the state to see how that worked. I want to say they were able to pay their provider 24 hours. Now if you're talking a full week or three days or five days, it might be a little different. But I

know there's been exceptions for that. So I don't know if it would be a matter of having to have more than one caregiver during that time. I don't know how that will work or if they give an exception for those specific days and times. But it was done with partners.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. And I guess it also depends on cause I know there's only so many hours in a row that a support worker can work. Obviously, before needing legally to take a break. And so it's like for YLF, like don't know if you could bring one point person and have that be all right.

LIZ GARY: Well, I think, Lillian, something to consider if there's any way that-- I'm sorry.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No. Go ahead.

LIZ GARY: Okay. I think what we'd consider then is if there's a way to have people who are there during the day to be able to assist more in a natural method and then the night people would be able to sleep. And so even if they were there for three nights or five nights, they would only be getting maybe ten hours through the nighttime kind of thing. Whereas during the day other people could be assisting them. Which is a lot of times what happened with partners is that unless they really needed, you know, the care, with extraordinary care then that person pretty much would walk out and not be in there and would only be nights. So there is the potential that we could find that, maybe even find somebody who's a volunteer nurse or one or two that would be on staff if there were medical needs that would be there throughout the thing to be able to volunteer and things like that. I think the potential is huge for what we can do. It's just a matter of getting it out there and letting people know and be aware. I think about it every year that LSU New Orleans, the med students put on the event every year for kids with disabilities. Tiger something. And they run the entire camp for an entire week. Now it's not overnight, but it's from like from seven in the morning till five in the evening. And they take care of everything, all the med students. So I think if we tap

into one of the med schools or something like that depending where it is on campus and try to get some medical people. Whether they're nurses, whether they're doctors and stuff to be volunteering and things like that. I think there's huge potential. Especially since it's going to be on a college campus.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Absolutely. And I know there generally the YLFs will enlist nurses to be there, not only for the people with extraordinary medical needs, but also just so they can have a nurse on staff. So Amy, if you wouldn't mind putting-- wait. What was I going to say? Dang it. I hate whenever you think of something, and you just completely forget what you were going to say. So we need to figure out probably how other YLFs do the whole staffing issue. And perhaps that's something we do at the six-month mark where we kind of have a more robust discussion about what staffing is going to look like. While I love that we're having such a robust discussion, I also want us to keep in mind we only have 30 minutes left and we still have a couple more decisions on the agenda to make. So if you guys don't mind, maybe we can kind of narrow down that length of forum right now where we kind of figure out what this is going to look like. I think the max most YLFs have is five days. So what do you guys think as far as length goes?

LIZ GARY: I would imagine it's going to totally depend on funding. I would say shoot for five, but it may have to start with three just depending. Maybe the first year is three based on funding and then once there's proof of what. But I would say anywhere from three to five days based on funding and people and that kind of stuff.

NICOLE FLORES: And one thing the YLF handbook did say was that support services for delegates and staff. They provided interpreters, personal care assistants, real-time captions and communication facilitators at no cost to attendees and staff.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay.

NICOLE FLORES: Part of the funding too.

LIZ GARY: Nicole, where is that? Is that the one in Oklahoma?

NICOLE FLORES: That's the YLF handbook.

LIZ GARY: Okay. So I wonder is that PCAs, are those PCAs like for during the day stuff or day and night. And the only reason I'm asking that is some states don't have waivers so it's possible that they were not a waiver state. So let's just keep that in mind. It may be that the waivers are able to fund their own and then we can fund those who don't have waivers and help with that. Cause that's the same thing partners would do.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Cool. All right. So I guess length of forum is TBD, to be determined. But the idea is a three-to-five-day forum. Does that sound about right to you guys? All right. Cool. So while we're still talking about logistics and such, we have the question of do we have a daytime only forum or overnight forum. I want to just express support for the idea of an overnight forum. I know it would be more of a big undertaking, but I think it's really important for us to keep in mind that whether it's hosted on a college campus or at a hotel, part of the YLF experience is having the individuals with a disability be away from the family and kind of learn some of those independent living skills. And have that experience of, you know, being independent and in a safe environment. So I would almost advocate for having overnight forums even if it would be more difficult. But I also want to hear you guys' thoughts. So Maddie, I see you have your hand raised.

MADELYN YOUNG: I think like Ms. Liz and Ms. Nicole said, start with the three day first of overnight and then as it progressively continues, go with the five days.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. Maybe the first year we do start out small and we say okay, we'll have a three-day forum because this is our first year. We want to see how it goes. It's our pilot year, right. And then our goal is to extend it as the years go by. What are you

guys' thoughts on that?

NICOLE FLORES: I agree with that too. And I also think it is important, like you said, to have it overnight. You know, as part of the (inaudible) of everything that YLF has.

LIZ GARY: I am in agreement of overnight. I think it's a great opportunity to get them the opportunity for some of those who may have never ever been away from home to have that opportunity and feel that sense of freedom and independence for sure.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. And it also defeats any transportation issues as well. If maybe the forum is like in Baton Rouge and the delegate's in Lafayette, they don't have to travel back and forth every day. It's just the beginning of the forum and the end of the forum. Because we know transportation is a huge issue for our community. We have overnight. We have length of forum. Do we want to keep the length of forum plus four or do we want to start small?

NICOLE FLORES: We can maybe have it smaller as our pilot year.

JILL HANO: I was going to say the same thing. But like, I mean, I'm afraid to go any smaller than three nights because like I want to jam pack, like get into the nitty-gritty. Oh, I'm finally in this. Like I don't want people to get in the groove and then all right, see you later. And like definitely do not want to short people information. Cause I do know that our topic list is rather lengthy. But at the same time the inaugural forum I think it's smart to have the inaugural forum shorter. Just like we're accepting less delegates, we talked about starting small for our delegate selection since year one. So I'm thinking kind of the same pattern for the length. Again, that applies too to start smaller because it's year one. So three days and then maybe when it's not year one, maybe like instead of three to five it would be five to seven. Preferably five. Three for year one. This is really long time. Y'all, I'm sorry. But year one would be three and then beyond would be five.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. I think you have a really good point. But we already kind of, you know, discussed having a smaller pool of delegates starting out. I see on our list that, you know, we have-- I see on our list that one of the things we have to discuss today is how many people to accept into YLF. And that 30 delegates was suggested. I would think 30 delegates is quite a lot. So maybe like Jill said, we start out with year one with three days and have our goal maybe year two be three days. And year three be five days, right. And so then that way whenever we do go to our funding sources, we do have a little bit more concrete information than hey, we want to host this thing, but all the details of this thing depends on how much money you're going to give us. Cause I'm not really sure that would make a great impression, right. So are you guys comfortable with this idea of like staggering it like year one, three days. Year two, four days etc. Is that something we're all cool with? Or comfortable with?

NICOLE FLORES: It should be easier going into year two and year three because you've had attendees and now they would want to come and act as staff later on.

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

MADELYN YOUNG: Yes. I have a question. Should we put our age division, like what year they can go up to like 18, 19, this age? Or we just going to like they can go like however ages they are?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think right now we have incoming 10th, 11th and 12th graders.

MADELYN YOUNG: No. I'm talking about like the campers. Like the campers who the people are going to take care of. You know what I'm trying to say?

LIZ GARY: Maddie, are you referring to the camper assistants, the helpers, is that what you're referring to?

MADELYN YOUNG: No. I'm talking about the campers, campers.

LIZ GARY: Oh, okay. That's what the 10th, 11th,

and 12th is.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And if I looked confused it was also because you were breaking up and I was trying to hear you. Sorry about that.

MADELYN YOUNG: Oh, okay.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: But, yeah. So just for context delegates, that's our campers. So we're thinking like incoming 10th, 11th and 12th graders. But with the discussion earlier about some people with disabilities may be older and be in 10th grade also taking it on a case-by-case basis as well and having some flexibility there. All right. Cool. I went quiet cause everyone froze again, and I was concerned the Wi-Fi went out. I see Ms. Amy has put we defer funding to funding committee. That makes a lot of sense to me. Are you guys okay with deferring the discussion DDC to the funding committee as well? Maybe funding committee meets as six-month mark and they kind of handle that.

LIZ GARY: Say that again, Lillian. I'm sorry.

AMY DEAVILLE: If I can just cut in real quick. If that's okay, Lillian?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah.

AMY DEAVILLE: We're starting to take suggestions for next year's annual plan from council members starting this next round of meetings in January. So waiting till the sixth month mark is too long. But you're okay because you have a number of council members on your committee and so I would imagine that one of them will bring this up as a suggestion in committee for funding.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But I have a question. When is it we want to have the first YLF? Is it 2023?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That's just what I was about to bring up. So at the bottom of this thing we have October 2023 as the 24-month mark. And the original idea was that I think our first meeting ever was October 2021. And the manual suggest that you have your first YLF 2 years out from the initial starting point of planning, right. But YLFs are normally held in the summer to accommodate anyone who is in school.

So do we want to say summer of 2023, or do we want to say summer of 2024? And then we can go to DDC and say hey, we want to host this thing. This is when it's going to be. Cause I think that will determine also funding as well.

LIZ GARY: I would shoot for 2023. I would shoot for summer of 2023 and then present it. And then once you know your funding's behind it, everything else is going to move a lot quicker. Because once you get your funding then you can book your hotel and start moving in. And you generally nine months to a year you're going to get a good feeling of being able to get into a hotel or school depending upon where you decide to do it. So I think that would be good shooting for 2023. So you got about a year, about 15th months right now if you could get moving. And so Amy, tell me this. If you submitted-- I never understood this. I'm sorry, with all the years I've been around the council I never understood the whole thing with that. If you apply now then you could potentially get the money for when, October of 2022 through October of 2023? Is that how it worked?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. October 22 through the end of September 23.

LIZ GARY: Yeah. So that would be the opportune time now if you're moving on it to submit what your plan is and plan it for summer of 2023. And Amy, one more thing. Roughly if we submitted it for coming up in like January, February, March when are they generally announced and approved?

AMY DEAVILLE: It's not all 100 percent approved until we've gone out for public comment, and everything has been ratified. And that typically doesn't happen until the July meeting.

LIZ GARY: Okay. So then that gives one full year to about 11 months if you're going to do it on a hotel. So I think the next thing to think about is it going to be a hotel, or it is going to be a campus and start talking about that and planning that rather quickly. Because the other thing you can do is at least talk to

hotels and get their dates. And then I know in the past with partners sometimes they pencil you in and give you several weeks to know before they would give it away to somebody else. So these are things to kind of think through and process now because the venue is going to be your biggest issue as well as the funding.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So with the goal of having our first YLF in summer of 2023 I think it's important to be transparent that we probably need, like this is kind of go time for us. Like this will require quite a bit of hustle to get all these decisions done and made and everything ready for YLF. So first the next step in my mind is A, getting that funding committee together and B, having this presented to the DD Council for their plan so that can be set in motion. And at least possibly an option if the DDC rules in favor of our YLF. Which hopefully that would happen. So discussion with DDC, that happens outside of YLF committee. How many people we accept into YLF, the capacity I would think that would be determined by funding. That is something that I think we can definitely defer as far as until we know how much funding we're going to have. What do you guys think about that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think that kind of goes back to what was said about the length of the forum. And, you know, I think you said this, Lillian, in regards to being able to go with like a plan instead of just saying hey, how much will you give us. That if we're going say in summer of 2023, we're going to have a three-day forum and we want to have 15, 20 whatever that number is, then that's our goal. And we say we want to ramp it up to eventually by year three we want to be at full capacity, five days with 30 delegates. It could be different in numbers, but just to say as a way to go about it.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So maybe yeah, we do it where we say okay, we're staying flexible, but this is our overall goal. So Jill and Maddie, I see you have your hand raised.

MADELYN YOUNG: Yes. Are y'all bringing this to

the DDC this week? Or the upcoming?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Amy, can you provide?

AMY DEAVILLE: In the upcoming committee meetings that are happening this week and next week council members are making suggestions for activities for next year's plan. So a council member would need to bring this up in one of those committee meetings to be included.

MADELYN YOUNG: Okay.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I would suggest for like how many people like year one 15 to 20, year two 20 to 25, year three 30 people. Or 25 to 30.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I like that. Thumbs up, thumbs down?

MADELYN YOUNG: That's good with me.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill, I see you have your hand raised. I think you're muted.

JILL HANO: So, okay. Like literally this morning I was finishing on reading about our planning process. But so I don't know since we're in year one of our five-year plan, like do we solicit proposals every year?

AMY DEAVILLE: If we have a new activity that requires a new contractor.

JILL HANO: Okay. So like would we have to like make a proposal to the DC? And by we, I mean Lillian?

AMY DEAVILLE: I think what you would have to do is suggest it as an activity in next year's plan because you're the only group around doing it.

JILL HANO: Yeah. That's true.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So it seems like we got discussion with DDC checked. We've also got capacity, check. We are just about out of time. But the selection criteria-- YouTube comment from Steven. Oh, good God. It's okay, guys. He's not causing any trouble. Considering overnight would nursing service be available and personal care services? Oh, we deferred that to six month. More discussion on that. So as far as the other topics, I think the selection criteria can probably be deferred to our selection committee. If

you guys are comfortable with that. If not, please interrupt me. And then finalization of topics, we're going to have to move that to the six-month mark cause we're out of time. But the one thing I did want to say is that we need more committee members. So if you guys know of any people who would be interested in serving on the YLF committee or maybe interested, especially people with disabilities, especially youth with disabilities, please send them our way. We need more people. And we need your help getting more people. That goes for anyone in the audience, anyone watching on YouTube, please help us out. So Liz, I see you have your hand raised.

LIZ GARY: Just moving things to the six month mark my question is one more time, and I'm sorry Amy, I keep asking you this. If I can ask is that it would have to be brought up at one of these meetings by one of the council members for consideration and then when would the committee have to have the presentation or the proposal to the council?

AMY DEAVILLE: Then the planning committee, which has not been appointed yet, will meet sometime in February or March. And then they will be making basically the decision or the recommendation to the full council about what the next year's plan will look like. So I guess you would make it to the planning committee, which would be sometime in February or March.

LIZ GARY: Okay. And so at that point you won't, you don't have a proposal sent yet because the planning committee is only planning for what potential objectives they may carry next year, or goals, or whatever. I can't even think of the name. And then at that point is when the RFP goes out asking for people to submit, is that correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. But in this instance because you're technically a part of the DDC because we put this ad hoc committee together, we don't have to do a solicitation of proposals or anything.

LIZ GARY: Okay. I'm just trying to figure out how

to make sure that when we can jump on.

AMY DEAVILLE: Right. So all that we would need is for a council member to make the recommendation for that to be included in the plan. And then the planning committee has to approve it and assign some number value to it. A budget value to it.

LIZ GARY: Okay. And so you don't need anything from the YLF committee with an estimate of what they think it could potentially cost because that wouldn't matter?

AMY DEAVILLE: It may be helpful to inform the discussion, but I don't think that the council was ever going to be your sole funding source. You know, it certainly would inform the discussion. But it's unlikely they'll match like the 100 percent amount.

LIZ GARY: Okay. So thank you, Amy. So Lillian, my thought with that in asking those questions is that although we have to figure out the percentage that we may be requesting or thinking that we may request from DD Council, and then be prepared who else are we going to hit up because that all is going to determine when we can nail down the place and how much we have and what we can do in the future. So I think that although-- the reason I'm going here is because I don't know if we should wait till April of 2022 to have our next meeting. I think it's probably important to have together one and start planning in between who else we may consider. First of all, figure out what do we think we're going to need. Do we think we're going to need 80,000, 100,000, 125,000 and then go from there knocking out who may else be. Because we don't know everybody else's system and how long it takes and when they have more funding.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. I agree with all of your points. I do think that we definitely need some sort of meeting before April 2022. Especially considering that hopefully one of the DD Council members will bring this up, wink, wink to Bambi and Jill, please. I'm sure we'll be in discussion before then. But the question is do we need a full YLF committee meeting or

is this something where we say we pull together a funding committee and that committee discusses it. Because a lot of these things that we're discussing has to do with funding. The funding committee would identify those entities that would possibly be funders. Talk about plan for DDC, estimated budget, etc. So yeah, that's the question, I suppose.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Lillian, that was going to be my point was that I would volunteer to pull together after the DD Council meeting our people who we know like LRS, OCDD, Department of Education, those people as part and pull in the funding committee and start talking about what they can do. Because they have restrictions on their money, but see how it could work into what they're, you know, required to do.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Yeah. So is everyone comfortable with the idea of possibly having like a funding committee meeting prior to April 2022? And that's not necessarily the full YLF committee. We can determine who on this committee wants to be on that subgroup and subcommittee. But I guess I'm just throwing the idea out there of having another meeting before April 2022. Everyone comfortable with that idea that we start that discussion just generally?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I would go as far as to say we need to have that meeting in February before the legislative session starts.

LIZ GARY: I agree. I honestly don't think it's a problem too-- I'm sorry, Lillian.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No. I was literally going to ask if your hand was raised from earlier or not. So go for it.

LIZ GARY: Well, it actually wasn't, but I don't even know. But what I was going to say is I think it's probably good to, at this point in time I know you're going to have a funding committee. But I don't think it hurts to have everybody, considering there's only six or seven of us on here, I don't think it hurts for us to throw together another one in February. And then when it comes down to it have one specifically going

out working on it. But I think everybody has good information to share right now and I don't think we need to separate yet. That's just my personal opinion.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Cool. So Bambi, if you could work on the pulling together some of those state agencies who may be potential funders. Then what we'll do is we'll plan to have a meeting in February. We're not going to say it's the funding committee quite yet, but we can narrow that down later with those state agencies and the members of this overall committee who's interested in doing that very specific niche piece. And yeah, I think that sounds like a good plan to me. Maddie, I see that you have your hand raised. I'm sorry I made you wait so long.

MADELYN YOUNG: It's okay. Here's the problem. I'm usually at school during this time. And can we have the meetings like during 4:00, 5:00 around that time? Because I definitely want to be a part of the meeting. Or does it have to be a specific time?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So with the meeting in February, I don't know what that's going to look like quite yet. We can definitely try to do it later in the day. The only thing that I'm thinking really is that whenever we start involving the state agencies and these funding discussions, they'll probably want it to be during work hours because that would be a part of their job and their work. So what we'll do is we'll keep everyone's schedules in mind, and we'll do the Doodle poll and try to do the very, very best that we can to have everyone at the table because everyone's voice is important at this point.

MADELYN YOUNG: Yeah. Y'all caught me during LEAP testing this week. Well, I had my LEAP test last week, last Thursday and Friday. But other kids are testing yesterday and today. So today was a perfect day.

LIZ GARY: Maddie, do you have any days coming off in February or half days in February? I know a lot of times schools will do half days for teacher and faculty and stuff. Maybe if we know one or two days that you might have and work around that.

MADEYLN'S MOM: Would y'all be interested in doing it on this Thursday? No, that's DD Council meeting.

JILL HANO: Mardi Gras is--

NICOLE FLORES: Is March 1st.

MADELYN YOUNG: Yeah. Mardi Gras.

MADEYLN'S MOM: They're off on January 13th, which is two days from now. But I know not enough time to get together.

MADELYN YOUNG: I can do it in between three.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay.

LIZ GARY: Maddie, do you have the whole week off of Mardi Gras because it starts on February 28th and March 1st?

MADELYN YOUNG: Yes.

MADEYLN'S MOM: Oh, wait. I think so. Remember the hurricane. But I think so, Liz.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We'll try and schedule it for like three. I think we can get people on board at 3:00 one day in February.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Sounds good.

MADELYN YOUNG: When is Mardi Gras?

JILL HANO: On a Tuesday.

NICOLE FLORES: March 1st.

LIZ GARY: March 1st. February 28th is a Monday if that would work for anybody.

JILL HANO: One thing about having a meeting at 3:00 during the week is we have to keep in mind the DDC staff gets off for the day at 4:30. Is it 4:30 or 4?

AMY DEAVILLE: It's supposed to be 4:30, but we flex it around if we have to.

MADEYLN'S MOM: If I need to sit in for her and I give her the information to email things to y'all.

MADELYN YOUNG: And I can do it on my phone.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Lillian, can I just say one last thing in regards to the last thing about recruiting more members. Like I would really encourage all of our members to at least find one person to be able to recruit and really, like you said, look for people with disabilities, look for youth. Racial minorities, geographic, you know, look for geographic-- drawing a

blank on the word. But I don't see anyone from North Louisiana on this committee. So just to think about that and recruit at least one person. That's my charge to everyone.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Cool. Great point. So, all right.

NICOLE FLORES: Do we send the recruits to you for the committee?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So, yeah. If you could, yeah, just shoot me an email and we can kind of set up a phone call and I'll give them a rundown of what the committee is about and see if they're interested and we can go from there. And hopefully some of our new DD Council members will be interested in the committee. So hopefully we will have a larger committee by the next time we meet. So we have a lot of homework.

MADELYN YOUNG: Sorry. Is the calls always recorded? Is every call going to be recorded if I miss it? Okay.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So, yeah. So generally all DDC meetings are public and recorded and posted on the DDC's YouTube page. So I suppose our plan moving forward is each member please bring some recruits and then we will plan to meet in February to discuss funding. Specifically with some state agencies that may be able to support the YLF financially. Yeah, and that sounds like a plan. We will also meet in April as per our quarterly meeting schedule. And I am sure we will all be in discussion in between those meeting days. So does anyone have any closing additional comments before we adjourn? Cool. It seems like we're good. I just want to thank you guys. I know this meeting was a lot and we are also overtime as well. So thank you for your hard work and for sticking with it. Cause this is going to be great, but it's just that hard work to get there. So, yeah. Thank you, guys. I appreciate it.

NICOLE FLORES: Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right. I'll see you guys sometime in February. Bye.

