

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
Act 378 Committee  
April 20, 2022

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hey, everyone. Welcome to the Act 378 subcommittee for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. We are running a little late because the previous meeting ran late, and we wanted to give everyone time for lunch and break. So we will try to make up that time in the meeting. And we will get started by, I guess should we call roll? Would that be...

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. Ms. Banks. If you could jump on camera so we'll know if you're here. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Egle is not with us. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Dr. McKee. She is not with us. Ms. Polotozla.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Tarver. She is not with us. And Ms. White. She is not with us either. So you have four members here which does not give you a quorum.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So we will just go forward with the agenda, but just not be able to take any action. So we'll skip over the approval of the January meeting summary. And we will move onto our Office of Behavioral Health report. And I see Dr. Savicki is here.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Yes. I'm here. Can you guys hear me okay?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: All right. I will wait for the report to come on up. I didn't have to wait long. Thank you, everyone. This is the quarter three report from the local governing entities for the funding that's used for folks who qualify for this based on behavioral health conditions. So the first part of

this page, this first page is the child report. The first part you're looking at right now is the consumer care resources fund. And so you'll see there each human service district their budget, any changes in that budget over the course of the fiscal year, expenditures and, you know, what's remaining. So just a couple of things to highlight before I open it to questions. There are, we reached out to the local governing entities who are low on their expenditures this year to ask sort of what their plans are for expending the rest of the funding, you know, in the last quarter of the year. You'll see their responses in the notes section below. We got responses from most folks noting plans for the expenditures for the rest of the year. Some LGEs are probably familiar with based on the way they historically use the funds they use their federal funding first and then they catch up with their state funding at the end of the year. So some of these spending patterns will probably be familiar to folks on the committee cause you've seen it before. You've seen LGEs sort of use all the state general funding at the end of the year and kind of come out having expended it all. Let's see. There was one change in allocation. That was EMCAL. And they made some notes on this both on the child and the adult tab of the report talking about needs in their community that have changed as a result of the hurricanes that they're seeing a lot more requests for assistance on their adult side. So they've transferred some of their funding to meet needs on the adult side. So those are just a couple of things I wanted to note. And do folks have questions about the CCR, the child CCR portion of this report?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any questions.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: So moving over to the flexible family fund portion of the child report. This one, as is typical, you know, once human services districts get their allocated slots filled then the program operates pretty smoothly. You'll see, you know, a very standard amount of expenditures at this point in the year. The only sort of variation from, you know, most of the LGEs are at about 75 percent of their expenditures for the year. The only variation on that is I think that's North Louisiana that has a couple of their slots not

filled at this point. And they also reported in their notes section about their efforts to fill those slots. They've had some difficulty filling those slots and they've got some strategies that they're using to try to get folks out of the wait list and into those slots. Any questions about the flexible family funding?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: No questions.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Nicole has her hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes. Thank you for the floor. And as you were stating that they're starting to be a little more consistent in their family flexible funds, correct? But up on here how long are we giving them, is it the rest of this financial quarter to spend the rest of the funds? So they have like 148,000-dollars that they have to spend. Is that correct? Is that how I'm reading this or is that not correct?

KRISTIN SAVICKI: I'm sorry. Can you tell me where--

NICOLE BANKS: The family flexible funds in this first column under initial FFY budget.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Yep.

NICOLE BANKS: So this is the budget they have left, right? For the rest of the year. Or that's the budget for the whole entire year?

KRISTIN SAVICKI: That's for the whole year. No. That's a great question. The column that says initial is what is for the whole year. The whole fiscal year which ends on June 30th. And then you'll see over in the, a few columns over total expended year to date, that's the amount they've already spent. And then so just looking at that first row, that first LGE has expended 70 percent of their money so far. Which puts them on track. They should be at about 75 percent by this point in the year cause then they've got another quarter to spend that last 25. So they're pretty close to where they should be.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So this balance up on this side, that's how much they have left to spend. So when they have total obligated, when they have the zeros here...

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Sorry. I think I lost you. I got the total obligated. I didn't hear what you said after that.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, sorry. So the total obligated, the ones that has zero up on there. There's four of them that has the zero. The other funds are allocated to-- I'm just trying to find out where the other funds, cause the other ones I can see where the other funds it goes together. But up on some of these it's like it just has initial staff, like the 117 under the (inaudible). And then the total budget it's 117. But it doesn't put like zeros allocated to them, zeros allocated to other funds, and zero for change started. So what is going towards that? Because it's zero, but then they say they have a balance of 29,412-dollars left.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Yeah. I think, so I think you're asking about that one column that says total obligated?

NICOLE BANKS: Correct.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: And I'll tell you right now the way that different districts respond in that column can be kind of confusing. That is, honestly, not the most useful column to look at. Because some LGEs talk-- the LGEs respond in different ways, and they interpret that column in different ways. I think the most important columns to look at are what they started with. Which is that initial. The one that says total expended year to date. And then the balance. That balance column, that's what really tells you what they have left. So in that very first row across the top where it says their balance is 44,634-dollars, that's how much money they still have that needs be spent before June 30th.

NICOLE BANKS: Right. I understand. I get what you're saying in regards to all that. But everybody else ones is broken down to where it's going and they're just like yep, we're at this and we spent it up on that and that's how much we have left.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: It's all going to families. And you can see the number in the budgeted slots.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. These are the ones that serve on this waiting list, that can be served.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Yep.

NICOLE BANKS: That's what they're waiting on? Because it looked like they have the money to spend so this waiting list should have went down from the other report to the next, correct?

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Oh, okay. I think I'm

understanding your question now. The money they have left over so far will go to those same families because they're scheduled payments every month. So they have to have-- at this point in the year the reason they still have money is because those payments are scheduled to go out to those families for May and June. Sorry. They probably don't have April in here. For April, May and June. So that's where that money will be going to. Is to those same families. Each of those families gets a monthly payment.

NICOLE BANKS: I remember these from last year. And I'm just comparing from last year to these years so I can get a totality of it. Because I can't really form an opinion of anything just yet. Like I stated like a year before, I wanted to get on it for a whole year to see how everything is really going. So I'm comparing from last year to this year. And then at the next meeting I'm going to have real questions into the budget if I don't understand something from reports from one year to the next. So I'm just letting you know right now.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Sure. Fair enough. Yeah. Absolutely. These are great questions.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. Because I feel like every single column, if it's on the report, it's important. And I need to know, you know, exactly how it reads. And all of the agencies on here definitely need to have a clear and concise and be up on one report in regards to the data and information that's being inputted.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Sure.

NICOLE BANKS: Be like okay. Well, what's going on with the funding. Why this person say this and why that person says this. I definitely want that to be clear and concise throughout all of the agencies.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: You know, could I make a, I might want to make a request to the council. Because this report actually was most recently revised and edited from the council. And I believe the council put out some guidance at some point about how to use that total obligated column. Brenton, is there, am I remembering correctly that there was some guidance about exactly how the council intended for that column to be used? I'm wondering if you could resend that to us at LDH and we could remind the LGEs how to use that column.

Because I think, you know, different staff take on this report and sometimes they change the way they use that column in different ways.

BRENTON ANDRUS: So there wasn't anything specific from the council. It was actually from OCDD. And Tanya can probably speak to it better than I. But she had sent something out, oh, gosh, it's been a while now.

TANYA MURPHY: Three years or.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. That basically said kind of at least the LGEs on their side. Which is dealing with the DD and not necessarily mental health or behavioral health. How they kind of update information in the total obligated column. I don't know if you still have it, if you would be willing to share it again with Kristen.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. As matter of fact, we did a little training for the LGEs, and that obligated column was the most complicated. And I remember Capital Area created this beautiful color-coded spread sheet that had, you know, for each color exactly how to fill that in. You know, cause the obligated should be the money that you have not already expended. But you still have left. So your obligated and your balance doesn't equal each other, generally. Because your balance is how much you have left, that you have left plus, you know-- anyways. It's better explained on my color-coded sheet. I'll send it to you.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Yeah. Sounds good. So I think, Ms. Nicole, I think what I can do is I can get together with Tanya and make sure that we have clear understanding across offices and make sure we get clear guidance out to the LGEs to try to solve that issue of everybody using that column in the same way. Does that make sense?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes. It does. Because then that means the information we know is correct and accurate and every agency is on the same page of what that information entails.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Sure. Yeah. Fair enough. Any other questions on this page?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any questions.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: All right. So on this tab you'll see the human services districts that have

traditionally allocated funding on the adult side for these types of funds. Similarly, you'll see the budgeted, the total budget expended. This one does not include the total obligated column which is interesting to me. So we apparently don't have to deal with those complications here. And, you know, similarly you'll see their percentage that they've expended and their remaining balance. And I think similarly we had, you know, most of the, a lot of the LGEs are on track. There was one change, I think I noted, EMCAL had shifted some of their funding more to the adult side. Any questions on this one?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any questions.

BRENTON ANDRUS: All right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Is that it?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I believe that is it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. If there are no more questions for Dr. Savicki with OBH, we thank you for the reports. And we will have Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities report by Tanya Murphy.

TANYA MURPHY: Okay. So we'll look at the individual and family support budget first. This is the report for the third quarter. But we don't have all the expenditures yet for all of the third quarter since this report is requested about a month early. So generally we would look at the expended percentage to be, you know, we try to be right around 75 percent. And so it looks like the total is 60 percent right now. But I have no doubt that all of the LGEs will spend all of their money by the end of the fiscal year. I think something interesting to note is Acadiana Area Human Services District added 300,000-dollars to their budget in January of 2022 for the individual family support program. So their total current budget is 1,373,000. So their percentage is low. It's 59 percent, but that's because they got a bunch more money. So then it would lower their percentage. But they'll spend it. Do I have any questions on the individual and family support report?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Nicole has her hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you for the floor, chair. Okay. So this means that I know you said about Acadiana getting the extra funding. Which yes, that

means their percentage would be lower. So that means that they can reach more families, correct?

TANYA MURPHY: That's right.

NICOLE BANKS: So that number when we see this next time should be significantly higher than 175.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. It should be. Yeah.

NICOLE BANKS: Like we should be seeing what the other million is doing. We should be seeing like 300 something plus, right?

TANYA MURPHY: Well, it depends on how much they spend on each family. But yeah, keep an eye on that cumulative served. It should definitely go up.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So I'm also seeing a pattern. Every single third quarter we get to, even last year, the third quarter we got to was the same exact way. They had not spent, nobody had reached their target but like three people. And this year nobody's reached their target, the 75 percent. So what is it about this third quarter that this keeps happening? Because it happened last year.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. It happened last year on the first quarter, and it happened last year on the second quarter and third quarter. Because we have to give this report to the DD Council before the whole third month of every quarters' invoices have come in. So you're not getting the report for the actual total third quarter. You're getting a partial report. So that's why I'm saying once they're able to put the rest of the money in, invoices in for the month of March, then you would see a higher percentage spent.

NICOLE BANKS: I think it froze up for a minute.

TANYA MURPHY: Oh, I didn't free.

NICOLE BANKS: Mine froze for a minute. I'm sorry.

TANYA MURPHY: No. You didn't. I'm sorry. So did you catch what I said? I don't know where to start at.

NICOLE BANKS: You were saying that it probably wouldn't reflect it because y'all, how y'all have y'all reports does not coincide with our meetings because it's almost like a month off. So we're missing invoices that could have been done and paid for and stuff like that. So now I'm starting to see why it's like the way it is because the meeting times is off.

TANYA MURPHY: Yep.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Now I understand.



TANYA MURPHY: Yep.

NICOLE BANKS: Got you.

TANYA MURPHY: I don't want to move onto flexible family fund, but it kind of relates to this. Do we have any more questions about individual and family support before I move?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I was just going to tell Nicole that's why the October meeting is very important cause you actually get-- so in July you don't get final numbers because it's offset. So that's why in October we double up our meeting and we cover first quarter and the entire year previously so you can actually see everything that's been done. Cause you're always going to be off a little bit until October.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Brenton. That makes sense. Thank you for clarifying it.

TANYA MURPHY: So for flexible family fund if you look at the expended it does have 75 percent. And that's because like Kristin was saying before, this is a set amount of money, 258-dollars, that goes to each family that meets the criteria. And so they already know that it's going to be 258 and they can put it in their expended. They don't have to wait. So that way that's why flexible family fund says 75 percent and it's on point for how much they're supposed to spend. And I guess that's my flexible family fund report. Any questions?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Did Acadiana, I mean, other than this, did they say why they put another 300,000?

TANYA MURPHY: I don't know why. I mean, they just said they did. So if they see the need, Brad Farmer, the executive director, just gives them more money. And I've seen them do it in other years as well.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Well, good for them.

TANYA MURPHY: I know, right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think if nobody has questions about this we can always come back if something comes up. But I think the next report kind of helps out also to see how they're doing spending.

TANYA MURPHY: Yes. The Act 73 compliance report. This reflects the information as a result of the DD Council asking the LGEs to budget 9 percent of their state general funds towards the Act 378 programs. So

the report has one column that shows the entire amount of state general funds that each LGE receives. The next column says what 9 percent of that would be. And then the next column says how much the LGEs have actually put towards the Act 378 programs. You know, you can look through and see that many of the LGEs put exactly 9 percent into the program. But then there's some that exceed the 9 percent. But they all put at minimum 9 percent of their state general funds towards Act 378. Then the next column is the total combined individual family support flexible family fund that has been expended. And then the next one is the percent of the 9 percent. So we're looking for 100 percent of 9 percent of the state general funds to be spent by the end of the fiscal year. And because some of the LGEs put more than 9 percent towards then they exceed their, you know, if you look at Northwest Louisiana Human Services District, they spent 121 percent. Acadiana, 102 percent of what we've asked them to spend on the program. And they all generally meet very close to that 100 percent by the end of the year. Questions on the Act 378?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Do not see any.

TANYA MURPHY: All right. I also sent in the IFS individual and family support approved pending funding report that shows some of the requests that people have sent into the LGEs. And the LGEs have approved it, but they don't have the funding to be able to actually fund it yet. One, two, three, four, five total requests. Four of them from Imperial Calcasieu. One from Capital Area.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: In the report that shows how many, cause this is showing what they approved with their pending funding. There could be some that they haven't approved.

TANYA MURPHY: Well, you have to make a decision one way or the other. So you're either going to fund it, deny it, ask for more information, or approve it pending funding.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So there could be a list that have been denied. To me this really doesn't give a lot of information.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. I think this was requested in the first place because we wanted to know how much more

money would it take to be able to fund all the requests. And it was very helpful when we first asked for it because some of the LGEs, they weren't entering the data correctly. And so it fixed that problem.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Kind of a twofold purpose. Exactly what Tanya said. And then also to some extent kind of monitoring priority level. So whenever you were getting a waiver based on need rather than the waiting list and just when your name came up, we wanted to make sure that if people were consistently hitting at priority levels one, then obviously there might be a need there that they have a waiver as opposed to these state funded services. And so we have noticed that with this report. Like we don't really get ones in there. We don't typically have a whole lot of twos either. So it's kind of the purpose of that report. I don't know how much the committee still gets from this report. I don't find it terribly useful. Y'all might. I'm not on the committee. I just put it together in a neat little way when Tanya sends it to me. We also don't have a quorum to pass a motion to change anything about this report as an FYI. But I do see Nicole has her hand raised if she has some questions as well.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. Okay. So this report is like pending funding. So this is funding that's just waiting to be spent, correct?

TANYA MURPHY: This is a list of services that a family has asked for, they've been approved for, but the LGE doesn't have enough money to pay for it yet.

NICOLE BANKS: Now that's what I'm a little confused about. Because up in these reports it says that they have this money left that is used to be, that they need to be spent. So how they don't have the money for it?

TANYA MURPHY: So this is how that works. The LGEs have these contracts, these agreements already done with all these families. And they've already promised the family can spend, for example, 5,000-dollars this fiscal year. And they can spend that money all the way up to June 30th. So as of right now maybe they've only spent 3,000 of it. So yeah. It looks like there's 2,000-dollars left in the budget to spend, but that's already been obligated to somebody. So they have money

left that they need to spend, but a lot of it's already obligated to somebody. So they can't turn around and spend it on somebody else.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So now that's where the other report comes in, the obligated stuff.

TANYA MURPHY: Exactly.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Okay. Now it's starting to make sense with it being explained like that. I have another question, but I'm just going to have to come back because I'm going to have to reword it the way I need to reword it.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. Another point to remember in this pending funding is the LGE might have the money, but they're worried to spend it on a priority four in December because they might have some massive thing happen in February and they need to spend it on a priority one. So they might approve these pending funding and then wait until May. And if they have the money and it doesn't need to go anywhere else, then they'll quick spend it on a bunch of these pending fundings to make sure that the money gets spent.

NICOLE BANKS: Right. So that means the people that were asking for this stuff is waiting for this stuff though, right?

TANYA MURPHY: That's right.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So could we come up with a better way? I'm not saying that the way that we have isn't right. But it could be a little bit more efficient when you're saying that, you know, how you just explained it to me. So, I mean, it's just a suggestion. This is what I'm thinking. So if we have a situation like that where they're cautious to use the money in December because something may happen later on that's a priority one. So maybe what they can do is they already know how much funding they're going to have, right?

TANYA MURPHY: Yes.

NICOLE BANKS: So maybe they can just allocate like hey, if something major like a four, possibly, we have to pay it. Let's allocate this amount of funds just, you know, so we can get this paid off. But just in case something happens later on. It's like a savings thing. Allocating the percentage of, you know, what it is so you don't have people on the waiting list that's

waiting for this kind of stuff. Because then it looks like all right, well, the state's just not doing what they have to do. I've been having this request for six months and they still haven't did anything. You know, I'm just putting the (inaudible) eliminate this kind of stuff, maybe they could do something like that. You know, just in case. So that they would have stuff like this happening. Just a suggestion.

TANYA MURPHY: I hear what you're saying. I know that a lot of the LGEs actually obligate up to 50,000-dollars more than the money they actually have available just in case people don't spend all the money. So they're over-obligating to make sure they spend it all. And I think this is just kind of one of those-- I'd have to get back to Imperial Calcasieu and ask them specifically if that's why they didn't fund these four specific requests because they were holding it. I'm just saying that's what some LGEs do. But I can find out if that's why they're holding these. Cause I'm with you on like the household living expenses and the vehicle mods might be something that could wait. But PCA is something that you would need now and so why wait.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: That's what I was going to say about the vehicle or home modifications. You can't just do half.

TANYA MURPHY: Right. You have to do the whole thing.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. So you have to have the money. And maybe to be able to move into the house. You have to have the 3,000. If you don't have it, you can't move. So it could be that you can't just partially fund where PCA maybe you could partially fund. But then again, might not do that either.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. That's what I'm think too, Bambi. Like you can't partially, you know, fund household and living expenses. Somebody, you know, their lights about to get cut off or something like that. You know, they can't wait for the funding because something up in the vehicle stuff may have come up. You know, in somebody else case. So I know they have the level of priority and how it's supposed to be. And it's difficult to strategize how to, as the requests come in, how to just go ahead on and fund them

just because something may happen and then you don't have the funding. So I get it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: The other part of that is is that they should have a committee made up of stakeholders. And I think Families Helping Families is on it and they should have like stakeholders of the DD services on these committees. So it's really important that, you know, we have really good people who are going to be advocates. And making sure this is, you know, processing every one of the LGEs is going as, you know, it should for the benefit of people with disabilities. And while I know the leadership of those agencies are doing the best they can, you know, there's a reason to have stakeholders there as well. That's an important part. That it's not just the staff at LGEs making these decisions, but they have community input as well.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. That's a very good point.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions? Is that all your reports? Any questions for OCDD? Okay. Hearing none. I think it is time for our Office of Aging and Adult Services which is provided through the Arc of Louisiana. And Kelly Monroe will give that report.

KELLY MONROE: Hey, guys. Okay. I see Bambi's got it on the screen. And we'll run through this fairly quickly. So there has been some changes since last quarter. We had two drop off of the contract because they are now, one of them is receiving CCW and one unfortunately passed away. We added another individual towards the end of this quarter. So of those people there's 42 people this third quarter receiving the SPAs program. Of those there were 15 who were African American. Twenty-six who were Caucasian. And one who is Hispanic. There were 29 of those people were males and 13 of those people were females. Most of them, well, all of them range from the ages of 24 to 89. So also some changes have been significant changes in the regions where the people are being served. Where the biggest increase is in region seven like usual. But the regions are written right there. Don't know if you need me to go through those. But the biggest increase was in region seven though.

So of those people everyone received support coordination. There were 35 people who received personal care assistance. Three received rental and

utility assistance. Four for medical supplies and medical equipment stipends. And none this quarter that received home modifications. So of those expenses we had 907,000-dollars to spend on the services. And so far, we have spent in this quarter 187,014.39. And there's the breakdown. You're probably looking at this thinking that there's nowhere near that we're going to be able to finish spending all 907,000. But we will. There are a lot of things that really just like a timing issue. We will have probably about, I want to say it's going to be about 18,000, 17,000, 18,000, something like that. That is going to be available for onetime funds. And mainly because a lot of people had a hard time getting a personal care attendant to work with them. So that was a huge issue. Plus we had someone pass away. And so getting someone onboarded took us a little bit. And then there was somebody who moved onto CCW. So getting someone else onboarded, it does take a little while. So I think we have probably about somewhere between 16 to 18,000 that we'll be able to spend on onetime funds. So we'll be working on that.

If you go to the next page there were, on the waiting list, we did drop 12 people off of the waiting list on this quarter. Most of them was because there were several of those 12 people, I want to say, let me look real quick cause I wrote it down. Eight of those passed away waiting for services, unfortunately. And then there were some who no longer needed to receive services because they moved into a nursing home. So that was very, very unfortunate. But of the 54 people that are on the waiting list, 21 of those are people who are African American. Twenty of those are Caucasian. And then there were 18 that were unknown because they didn't fill out that part of the paperwork. So and if we were to finish and serve all of the people on the waiting list, we would need about \$1.1-million. So this dropped from last quarter 283,000-dollars of needed funds. I don't know if anybody has any questions.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Nicole has her hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: Thanks for the floor. How long were these people on the waiting list that passed away?

KELLY MONROE: A very long time. Like some of them have been on since 2012. Yeah. It's a small contract. And so, I mean, it's really not enough to serve everybody who-- anyway. 2008, I want to say. I mean, 2012, I mean.

NICOLE BANKS: Wow. That is a long time.

KELLY MONROE: It's a very long time.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Kelly, were any of these people who were waiting who were either passed away or went to a nursing home, were any of them receiving any other type of services? Do y'all keep track of that or you don't know?

KELLY MONROE: We do keep track of it. And no, they were not.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Not eligible?

KELLY MONROE: No. Most of them were not. Because you have to remember these are onset, adult-onset disability. A lot of them who was on here early on. And so because that's what the requirements used to be. And so a lot of these people worked, or maybe became disabled after they worked, or something like that and so they made too much money for Medicaid. A lot of them.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Even for the community choice waiver they were above?

KELLY MONROE: Oh, yeah.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Got it.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah. They made too much money for that. And so some of them were retired and receiving retirement funds. So there's a large population of people who just slip through the cracks because-- and that's what this program was serving. But it's so incredibly small. And we've gone to the legislature a couple of times to try to get them to fully fund it. I think when we were looking at it and we had maybe 60 something people on there we needed only like 500,000-dollars of state general funds and we just never were able to get it. Like what's great about this program it's the only program that Louisiana runs that really encourages people to go to work and not be afraid of losing their services. It really is the only one.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So now let me ask this as far as like, you know, not losing their services. Because



if they go to work and they don't have their services anymore, are they getting jobs that is going to sustain them and help like that's going to be able to pay for all of their expenses and stuff like that?

KELLY MONROE: Well, in this program the income limits were very high. So people were not losing their services going to work in this program.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Because, I mean, I know a lot of people that's encouraging the work thing and I know like two, a family member and a nonfamily member that went through this whole, you know, working thing and all of their services got taken away from them and they could not survive at all from what they were making, you know.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah. Most people, you know, try to stay around 20 hours a week because the fear of losing their services. Which is really sad that we can't let people contribute.

NICOLE BANKS: So what do we do to combat that? Because I know like that happened to a couple people and they lost their services. And, you know, I know like I'm with Dr. Beckers with the educational thing to make the push for them to get real degrees. And, you know, to really sustain their selves. But we don't tell them the flip side of losing everything.

KELLY MONROE: Right. Yeah. You get degrees and you want to go get a job and use that degree. Well, if you make too much money you could lose your services. So yeah. This is the only program that really allows for people to work and become professionals and earn professional pay.

NICOLE BANKS: Without losing all of their services.

KELLY MONROE: Without losing all of their services, yeah.

NICOLE BANKS: Right. Okay. So another question aside from that one. Because we do have a lot of funds I know from last year that went back to the general funds. You know, just from sitting on the council for the last two years they had a lot of funds that went back to the general fund. And I will always ask where does that money go. And see this kind of stuff why would it not be allocated to stuff like this when we're asking for things like this. Because it could be used

for it. Because I'm trying to get a clear understanding of how the general funds and whatever been put back into the account, how and where that's being used. Isn't that what this is kind of for too?

KELLY MONROE: Well, they could, but then people start to rely on it. So you couldn't tell them every year, you know, you may not be able to get it because they wouldn't be able to allocate it for the whole year. That's why when I said we had 20,000, about, you know, somewhere between 16 and 18,000 to use for onetime funds is because I don't want to give people PCA services and then just to take them away in July.

NICOLE BANKS: Right.

KELLY MONROE: So it has to be something that's onetime like a home modification, vehicle modification. Like medical stipends. Something like that.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you. I yield the floor.

KELLY MONROE: You're welcome. Anybody else have any other questions?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I was going to say just for Nicole to keep in mind when we talk about funds going back to the treasury, a lot of times you don't know it's going back until it's the end of the year. And you can't use it within that fiscal year anyway. So it would be hard to be able to redirect some of those funds.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah. Once the year is over, it's as good as gone.

NICOLE BANKS: Wow. So I know that the year's over in like June, right, for everybody.

KELLY MONROE: June 30th.

NICOLE BANKS: June 30th. So I'm just asking, cause see I don't know how things work up there. I'm not working over there in the capitol, in the senate, and how they run things. So if they have all these funds left over, and all this stuff that could be used, and they have so many people putting things back into the general fund, I know they know within, I know they know in May, they know in May how much money is going to be going back to that general fund. So to me in May they need to come together and like hey, y'all. We have this amount of funds that's available to be used. Use this. I mean, so that at least all the money would be being spent and nothing would be left behind because

then you'll have at least a month of knowing. Or if you got this much left over, we used all we had to use. We covered our people. We spent this money for that. We got ourself. We have this left over, somebody else can use it. If we come together like that for real, for real, then we can really change Louisiana. If we don't do that, then we're going to keep on being in this predicament because I feel like if we have money that's going back, the stuff that I know the DD Council is working on, we can give it to y'all. Because there's no reason that those people should have just passed away because we don't have the funding. And they have all this funding goes back.

KELLY MONROE: And I'm not saying that that's the reason why they passed away. Just that they passed away waiting. And no one should have to, no one should have to do that. But they did. So, you know.

NICOLE BANKS: I mean, it's a suggestion. I mean, I don't know who we have to suggest it to, or where do they have to come from to do that.

TANYA MURPHY: Nicole, this is Tanya. I just kind of wanted to throw out there that they don't know in May. They don't find out actually until August how much money is left over because we have all the people that are continuing to spend those agreements all the way through to the end of June, and then they don't send in their invoices until July. And so then they find out oh, well, we didn't spend this amount of money. And they find out like really in August. And by that time, fiscal year's over. And so I think it's a wonderful idea, but I just wanted to let you know we really don't find out until August.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So maybe we have to do some restructuring because that's what we're trying to do, systemic change. So maybe some restructuring needs to go on because that is not going to be accurate. Some of this money can be used for other stuff and waiting a whole other month and it could have been used because we're not getting reports, that's just like we're just missing the ball on something. And it's like that's something that can be fixed. Or at least suggested where many minds can come up with an idea or something.

KELLY MONROE: And also OCDD's and OBH's programs are a whole lot bigger than Act 378 than ours. I mean,

we have 42 people. And we're looking over a million dollars. They're looking over several. You know what I'm saying. So their programs are a lot more difficult and a lot more moving parts. So I can see how they wouldn't really know every month exactly how much they're spending and how much they got left over. But if you want to encourage the council to make this one of their ask legislatively next year, I would totally be in agreement.

NICOLE BANKS: We're trying to work on one thing at a time.

BRENTON ANDRUS: It does come up every year as a recommendation to the council. It's just when the council prioritizes.

NICOLE BANKS: We can't make anything happen, huh Brenton? We can't make anything happen right now because we don't have a quorum, right?

KELLY MONROE: No. Not now. I mean, it is too late. It's too late.

NICOLE BANKS: So when could we make something like this happen so that at least could be aware of a date and make a suggestion at the appropriate time?

BRENTON ANDRUS: October.

NICOLE BANKS: October meeting. Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Every October the council votes on its agenda. And, I mean, if you think about it, what was it Kelly, 1.1-million. That's really not a lot of money at all.

KELLY MONROE: Hey, and that includes the federal match.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Oh, yeah. So the state general would be even less.

KELLY MONROE: So state general fund you're looking at maybe 400,000. Something like that. Four, 500,000. So it's really not much. And considering that people could go to work and not worry about losing their, you know, their services. I just, you know, I just think it's the best program that we have in Louisiana. One of the best.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. Because that's what a lot of people struggle with when they get older. I know my grandmother, uncles, aunties, other older cousins have struggled with the same thing. They don't even want to go to work. Or they want to, or they want to get paid

under the table because they don't want to lose their services and stuff. So, you know, this is happening to a lot of people that I know that's up in age. So in October I'm definitely going to make that suggestion. I know it's a little big or whatever, but, I mean, across the board with, I mean, on all the other different committees that I sit on with education, all of it is overlapping in every single one of them.

KELLY MONROE: Yep.

NICOLE BANKS: It's not the only one in just this one. It's in all of them.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah. So if you guys know somebody who is looking for some like, some type of modification who is an adult with a disability, when the disability occurred does not matter, but, you know, have them call our office and we'll get the application through. Cause we do have some one-time money available that, you know, would be great if we could help someone, you know, do a home modification, vehicle modification, or buy a wheelchair or something like that. Someone in need.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Kelly. I get a lot of calls about people wanting vehicle modifications. I normally send them through LATAN because LATAN has the low interest, kind of low payment program for people to be able to do those type of modifications. But yeah. That's a big deal. Cause there's not really access to that. Unless it's like maybe LRS could do it if it's for employment.

KELLY MONROE: If it's work related.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But, you know, sometimes it's not. It's just that they need a good, reliable vehicle to go back and forth to medical appointments or whatever. And so yeah. That's a big issue.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah. Send them my way.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions for Kelly? So we have a quorum now, I think, if Kim turns on her camera. And so we could go back to our approval of our January meeting summary and get that done. So, you guys, if y'all had a chance to look at the meeting summary from our January meeting, we just need a motion and second.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You can do it by unanimous consent. So if there are no objections then we don't

have to have a full motion.

NICOLE BANKS: We can do that. Unanimous consent.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. There's no objections to these minutes? Okay. So they have been approved. And do we have any other comments from our members or from our audience? Or guests, I should say.

BRENTON ANDRUS: None that I see.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Well, thank you, guys. The next meeting is self-determination at what time?

BRENTON ANDRUS: 3:00. Council meeting starts tomorrow at 8:30. If there are no objections y'all can adjourn by unanimous consent.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you. No objections to adjourning? Okay. You get 30 minutes between now and the next meeting. Thank you, guys.