Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting
April 21, 2022

RASHAD BRISTO: Good morning, everyone. The time is now 8:32 a.m., April 21st, 2022. Calling to order the Developmental Disabilities Council meeting. Just want to say welcome. Thank you so much for taking the time out to be a participant. With this particular meeting I'm going to ask that you please be patient with us because this format is very different from what we are traditionally used to doing. After the public health emergency was lifted, we had to scramble to make sure that we could try to be as compliant as possible with the format that we're using. We realize that there will be a lot of hiccups. So I'm going to ask as council members that you be patient with us. The public as well. Also, if you would, just take some personal notes of some things that you may see that we can probably do some improving on how we can do these things different. But at this time we're going to go ahead and start with our mission statement and the ground rules. To increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

AMY DEAVILLE: Just trying to make it easier for you to read. Not harder. Sorry about that that.

RASHAD BRISTO: No problem. And just go over a few ground rules. Make sure that you keep your cameras on so we can continue to have a quorum. Ask that you remain muted until recognized to speak. Also, public comment will be done a little bit later. That way we can try to address it. And for those that are in the office, they will receive a card that they're being acknowledged for public comment. So at this time next item up for business is approval of the meeting summary. A draft of the October 21st meeting summary was distributed. January. Excuse me. January meeting. The summary will not be read unless requested by a member. Are there any corrections to the summary?

With no objection, the summary is approved as distributed.

All right. Moving forward, next we have the chairperson report. So as chairperson I got an opportunity to attend a special equities diversity conference which was presented by LPH, the Public Health Institute. Very informative about equity in the disability community as well as racial issues. One of the takeaways from it was to make sure that we're very considerate of other cultures. And how one person can see something from one prospective and another person see it from another prospective. So it was very informative. Another thing as chairperson I had an opportunity to do, I was invited to the capitol to testify on making sure that voting machines are accessible for individuals with disabilities. I was also in partnership invited by Ms. Lillian DeJean and then the SILC Statewide Independent Living Chairman Ms. Jamie Duplechine. She was also one that testified about the need for accessibility for those voting machines. And hopefully it did not fall upon Deaf ears. The main thing is we just want to make sure that we stay at the forefront of many people's minds because sometimes people aren't aware that these are needs in the community because it's not a need particularly to them. But one of the things I did state in my testimony, which was only three minutes, was at some point in time we keep living all of us are going to fall into some form of disabilities. So don't dismiss what may not be a concern to you now, because it probably will be later. Does anyone have any questions about the chairperson's report? Any questions from any council members? Hearing none and not seeing none, thank you very much. So we're moving forward. Now we're up to executive committee recommendations.

AMY DEAVILLE: There was only one motion made for the executive committee. Do you want for me to display it?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, please. So yesterday the executive committee convened, and I want to say thank you for those members at the executive committee that had an opportunity to meet. We discussed the executive director's evaluation. And the evaluation was Executive Director Ms. Amy Deaville met all

requirements with a satisfactory report for her first year as executive director of the Developmental Disabilities Council. The recommendation by the executive committee to the council was a 4,000-dollar pay raise for the executive director. With that being said, do we have any questions from any council members of what the executive committee has requested, recommended to the council? Not seeing any hands raised and no questions at this point, I'm willing to entertain a motion of what the executive committee has presented to the council.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So you don't need a motion, right? We just have to vote.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. You just need approval.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you very much. So just asking for an approval.

LOGAN DAVIS: I make a motion to approve the executive committee's recommendations.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Mr. Davis. Cause, actually, I don't need a second.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We just need to seek any opposition.

RASHAD BRISTO: Is there any opposition to the recommendation? Not hearing any opposition, motion passes. Thank you so much. All right. Now we're down to the executive director's report. The next item of business. So the chair recognizes Ms. Amy Deaville for her report. Oh, I'm sorry. Y'all bear with me. Wonderful world of technology. Now up for discussion is the action plan that was presented by the action plan ad hoc committee. Like to thank those individuals that were a part of that committee. It was a day long process to be able to discuss that. Has everyone had an opportunity to review the draft 2023 action plan?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just have a question in regards to like our contracts that we've had I guess going on this year, fiscal year 2022. Is there any contracts that have not met their obligations or not fully funded as we have provided for, what happens with those funds? Or are there any, and so what happens with those funds, how do we allocate that funding?

AMY DEAVILLE: Within this fiscal year?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. So like 2022. Cause I hear like there's some, there was a couple that I heard

that didn't meet their...

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. So we're monitoring it. I think most people should be able to spend the majority of their funds. Where we were having the most issues was with the customized employment initiative because they can't get learning partners. So we talked about it in self-determination. The education and employment. And talked about the options of how we could shift focus in that contract. So they're going to switch to doing some gateway trainings. So three-day trainings, they'll do, I think the plan is to do three across hitting different parts of the state to be able to utilize the funds and also get people some certification. It's not the full customized employment certification. But it at least gives people a knowledge base on what customized employment is. To kind of help people learn about the importance of it and the skills needed and things like that. It would at least give people a jumping off point. And then our hope is that people who attend that gateway training might be able to later on hook up with LSU HDC who is going to be offering the full (inaudible) verification training and kind of work their way into full certification.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So the money that was for the contract for fiscal year 22, which is this current year, we're allowing them to continue beyond September 30th to be able to use, or they have to use--

AMY DEAVILLE: They're switching it now to spend that money within this fiscal year.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. That was my question.

AMY DEAVILLE: And then we're recommending-- excuse me. The planning committee recommended discontinuing that activity for next fiscal year because we're having too many problems.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Question satisfied?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Uh-huh.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any other questions in regards to the 2023 action plan? Not hearing any. Ms. Basile, you're recognized by the chair.

KIM BASILE: I just wanted to say that roll call was not done, and a quorum was not established.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you very much. Let's digress

for just a minute.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ebony, can you roll call for him?

EBONY HAVEN: This may not be in order, but I'm going to just go off the order on my sheet. Ms. Melissa Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rashad Bristo.

RASHAD BRISTO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Cheri Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Christi Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Julie Foster Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bambi Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm here.

EBONY HAVEN: Kim Basile.

KIM BASILE: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Brenda Cosse. Mr. Logan Davis.

LOGAN DAVIS: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Egle. Ms. Jill Egle.

JILL EGLE: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. Thank you, Jill. Ms. Chaney Guidry.

CHANEY GUIDRY: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Mitch Iddins. Ms. Mary Tarver. Ms. Vivienne Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Kimona Hogan.

KIMONA HOGAN: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Roslyn Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Hyacinth McKee. Mr. Tory Rocca. Mr. Matt Rovira. Ms. Crystal White. Dr. Phil Wilson.

JOLIE ROBICHEAUX: I'm here representing Dr. Phil Wilson.

EBONY HAVEN: You won't count, but thank you. And Dr. Patty Barovechio.

AMY DEAVILLE: We do have a quorum.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that. We do have a quorum. Sixteen members present. And just go back over the ground rules. Just remember that to be recognized by the chair before speaking. We'll break for ten minutes every hour and a half. We'll discuss council business in a responsible manner. Accept the necessary respect. Restrict the use of electronic communications during council meetings. Please silence and turn off all cell phones. Also, again, let's just be mindful that our meetings are streaming live on YouTube. And there are a lot more eyes on the meeting than the ones that you're seeing on your screen or that's sitting in this council room. So just be mindful. So back to the action plan. Okay. Ms. Hymel, your hand is raised. You're recognized.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. I was trying to see is it going to be the same in that for, was it Bambi's report, that on how can I say that she was reading off on?

RASHAD BRISTO: Talking about the discussion we just had or you talking about the presentation that she's going to do later up in the council meeting?

ROSLYN HYMEL: The first one that you said. That she spoke with.

AMY DEAVILLE: Right. So Bambi asked about the customized employment activity. And in the plan for next fiscal year the planning committee's recommendation is that we don't do that activity again next year because it's not working as well as intended. We're not getting the results that we wanted to see.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So are we going to do another plan to replace this one since it's not working out very good or what? So what's going to be, you know, a newer plan for next year?

AMY DEAVILLE: Right. So we're discussing the new plan right now. For customized employment we don't have an exact activity that's the same for next year. Because that one just wasn't really working. So we need to take some time to reevaluate.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I'm trying to get to in that. So are we going to discuss it and then come up with a better one than that one?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Roslyn, this is Melissa Bayham

with LRS. So LRS is continuing customized employment training. It's just being done through LSU, and we had a separate funding source that was actually paid for LSU to go through the training to be certified to certify customized employment vendors. So we really had two separate trainings going on at the same time in order to fulfill the same goal of certifying vendors for customized employment. So even though the DD Council is no longer going to be funding at the end of this fiscal year, customized employment vendor training, LRS is still going to continue through LSU HDC. And they will be trained and certified to certify customized employment vendors. So even though it's not going to be fulfilled any longer through this action plan, it's still ongoing. Does that make sense?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. I could follow now with that one in that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Bayham. Thank you, Ms. Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Mr. Davis, I see your hand is raised. You're recognized by the chair.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you, Chairman Bristo. And good morning, everybody. Regarding the draft plan I only had a question about one activity, and it was the one activity that didn't have any explanation on the document that had the goals. Well, like the activity numbers and then the goals, like the explanation. And my question was regarding activity 3.2.4. I just wanted some information behind that and that's all I was raising my hand for. Besides that it looks amazing.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that. So your question was about activity 3.2.4?

LOGAN DAVIS: Correct.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. To ensure potential employers have access to financial information about financial incentives to support unserved and underserved populations including people with the most substantial employment support needs. Okay. On that particular one there was a discussion during that particular meeting, and feel free to jump in at any time, those that were sitting in, there was a discussion at that particular time how some employers

are not aware that there are certain incentives to employ those individuals who have disabilities. And just want to make that known to some of those employers that way them to be aware that there's an incentive, there can be an incentive possibility for hiring individuals with disabilities. Just that way it would give someone else a more fair opportunity to receive gainful employment.

LOGAN DAVIS: I agree. And I'll talk to you about that offline if you don't mind.

RASHAD BRISTO: Not a problem.

LOGAN DAVIS: But I like that. Thank you for clearing it up for me.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, sir.

LOGAN DAVIS: Are we to the motion to accept the plan?

RASHAD BRISTO: We're to that point.

LOGAN DAVIS: I make the motion to accept the plan as written. The FFY 2023 action plan.

RASHAD BRISTO: We have a motion on the floor to accept the 2023 action plan.

NICOLE BANKS: I second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: It's been moved by Mr. Logan Davis. It's been seconded by Vice Chair Banks. Any questions? Any discussion from council members? Roslyn, I see your hand. Ms. Hymel, you're recognized. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. Thank you, chairman. Could I really get this and maybe some other paperwork sent out to me where, you know, I could see what other plans that there will be done in that? Cause I am very so interested.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah, Roslyn. Do you want us to mail that to you?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes, please. I'll appreciate it. So I could keep my notes in that.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure.

ROSLYN HYMEL: In my notebook in that, you know, I would like that. And I do agree with this as well.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Sorry. I stepped out. Y'all might have addressed this. But just for, you know, I know we have a lot of people who are new to the council. And several of our programs are going to be, like it's our second or third year of funding these

particular contracts. And so can you explain how, I know we don't fund things typically ongoing forever. There has to be a limit. So what is that process and where we're at on this knowledge?

AMY DEAVILLE: So every five years the council develops a five-year plan. The last five-year plan started this year in fiscal year 22. So fiscal year 23 is the second year of our five-year plan. So some activities carry forward for a number of years when we feel like there's more to do in those activities to reach those goals with the five-year plan. So that's why sometimes we'll have some that will last multiple years. And sometimes occasionally span in between two different five-year plans. Because sometimes an activity starts at the end of one five-year plan and will get carried forward into the next.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. I guess the point that I would want to make for everyone to understand is that we have restrictions on our federal money that we can't, this isn't to fund, it's to start some type of initiative and then have another entity perhaps take it on and carry it if we see that it's best practices.

AMY DEAVILLE: Thank you, Bambi.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I've only been on the planning committee for like ten years. I learned something in those ten years.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Hano, you have your hand raised. You're recognized. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I don't know if this is a comment or a question, so I'll find out when y'all do. But I've been tracking the planning committee for a few years now and like we haven't had any kind of new-- well, never mind. Cause I think it's because we're on the five, we're in the midst of a five-year plan. But just I know when we created the last five-year plan there was no really new concepts proposed. Like how did we generate that to get like new ideas for new concepts? Does that make sense?

RASHAD BRISTO: It does.

AMY DEAVILLE: I mean, generally it's generated by the council and by people on the planning committee. So if you have an idea for something for, you know, if you have a concept that you want to think about or a

plan you kind of have to wait until the next time we're developing the plan. But yeah. I mean, ideas generally come from the council and from people on the planning committees and from standing committees. Cause last council meeting, last quarter all the standing committees generated some ideas and then the planning committee take those and put them in or change them up a little bit.

RASHAD BRISTO: Question satisfied, Ms. Hano?

JILL HANO: Yes, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: So just to remind everybody we do have a motion on the floor. We do have a second. Questions by any council members?

JILL HANO: Thank you, Ms. Deaville.

AMY DEAVILLE: You're welcome, Jill.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any more discussion from council members on the draft for the 2023 action plan? Ms. Basile, you're recognized. You have the floor.

KIM BASILE: Yeah. I think we need to be careful how we say things because it was just said that we should only be funding new initiatives. LaCAN is not new. So that would leave them out.

AMY DEAVILLE: So there is a caveat with our funding for supporting activities that are about building leadership and self-advocacy. So programs like Partners in Policymaking and LaCAN can be continually funded. Most of our other activities we cannot continually fund anything. We have to have a set goal in mind. Once that goal is reached, we end that activity. So there are only a couple of things, there are a couple of things that you can continually fund. But those are pretty limited to LaCAN and Partners in Policymaking.

KIM BASILE: And since those are continually funded, why don't we put those out for bid every year or every other year like we have to do other contracts? Because I really think why should we just keep giving it to the same people. Why don't we put it out for bid?

RASHAD BRISTO: Is that something that the council would like to entertain moving forward? Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand raised. You're recognized.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair, for recognizing me. I feel like that is a discussion that needs to be

had because we are trying to move the council forward and programs forward and make the most effective change. So not saying that the agencies that we have working with now that they're not doing what they're supposed to be doing. But I do agree with what Kim is saying because we should be able to put out a bid. In other contracts other people put out a bid every other year, every year to see if other companies can take on the workload, or they're cheaper, or they're getting more work done than the ones that we currently have right now. So I think that does need to be put in a discussion. And I yield the floor.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Mr. Davis, I see your hand. You're recognized. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you, chair. I too think that opening the contracts, like bidding out, would help sustain other people. Like just not using the same one organization for everything. Diversify everything. Use multiple organizations for-- and like I think I'm just, you know (inaudible) contracts and bids. And for that, I'm sorry. But just put it out for bid and see what you get. I mean, I don't know. Diversifying things. Everything-- I'm thinking economy everybody gets a piece of the pie.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that comment. Noted. And Ms. Basile, I see your hand. You're recognized.

KIM BASILE: I just think what Logan was trying to say is let's get some fresh blood and fresh ideas in there.

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes. Thank you, Kim. Yes. Perfect way to summarize what I was trying to say. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Like I understand, but like for Partners in Policymaking and LaCAN, I don't want to prevent change. But like I thought that was kind of standard. Like branch out to who? Cause like, I mean, I thought specifically with Partners, and again, specifically with LaCAN, it was kind of like even though like it's not a mandate, it kind of like goes on. Like every year we're not not going to have Partners. And we're not not going to have LaCAN. And I thought those contracts were standard. So like who

else would we reach out to because we have the Partners contract. Like I'm very confused. Like what would be some examples of the end goal?

RASHAD BRISTO: So let me ask this question for clarity. When we're talking about looking at rebidding, are we talking about just those two specific ones or just in generalization moving forward? Just like we talked about Partners, and we talked about LaCAN. Ms. Basile, I see your hand. You have the floor.

KIM BASILE: I would say everything. Like I said, fresh blood. New eyes. New ideas.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Anybody else have anything for discussion?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. Act 378 is pretty clear about strengthening our DD system. And so while I'm all for competition, we need people being most effective and efficient in whatever programs we're doing. I'm just kind of concerned of where we would, who we would give these contracts to. I've seen instances where the council has given money to entities that are out of state when we've had in state that I felt could do a good job. And so I'm concerned. Not necessarily our group. But we're making long-term decisions. And, I mean, both of these contracts that we're talking about are with our Families Helping Families center. And so I feel like it's our job to make sure that we're strengthening our Families Helping Families centers. Which I know we all value. At the same time having a good rubric of how we're making sure they're doing their job. And if a certain contract is not being done correctly, then open it for someone else within our DD system. I'm just concerned that there's a slippery slope of us going outside and diluting the power that's within our DD system as it is.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that. And just remind everybody we still have a motion on the floor. We have a second. Discussion amongst council members. I see Ms. Vivienne Webb. Your hand is raised. You're recognized by the chair, Ms. Webb. You have the floor.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes, sir. Can someone explain to me why we're talking about like bidding it out. Isn't LaCAN the advocacy network for our council?

RASHAD BRISTO: It is. It was just a question that

was brought up by one of our council members because we're in the process of reviewing our 2023 state plan. Action plan, excuse me. It was just a question that was brought up by the council members and it's a conversation that's being explored, currently exploring and weighing the options and advantages and possibly the disadvantages of doing something. And also another thing to take into consideration is we don't have to do a bid under any state document that's under 250,000-dollars. Does that answer your question, Ms. Webb?

VIVIENNE WEBB: Well, why are we like talking about like-- who would we bid it to? Why I don't completely understand.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Rashad, I think what she's asking, so right now it's Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana that has the LaCAN contract. Is that right? So that's who they get the contract every year. So our Families Helping Families in Lake Charles is the fiscal agent, I guess in a way, for LaCAN. And so that's what they're talking about. Like who would get that, who would do that work. Right now it's been for a long time Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana. So the discussion is should we open it up to let somebody else be that entity that kind of organizes and coordinates and does the fiscal agent stuff for LaCAN. Does that make sense, Vivienne?

VIVIENNE WEBB: I'm not completely sure. Is there a way you could reword that?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Excuse me. If I may?

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Hymel, go ahead. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Ms. Webb, for me I am a part of the LaCAN in that. I'm in one and ten on the LaCAN. So for us what we do, we are a part of DD Council as well. And we kind of bring, we do the same thing, and we bring it to the DD Council's attention in that. So if we could find the plan and kind of bring up, you know, what we can do to our leaders on here. So if you want to have like a plan, let's say for school, for the schoolteachers to get a better raise for an example. We could do that. Or other plans to have the funds that they need in that. Even here at Magnolia. We could get, you know, the plans. We could get the funds

that we need here. So the LaCAN and DD Council comes together as one. So if I may, chairman, did I say that about right if we come together as one big team. If I did say that right.

RASHAD BRISTO: In so many words, yes. And I see a bunch of hands, so what I'm going to do is I'll just go across the row to recognize everybody. Ms. Webb, we haven't forgotten about your question. Hopefully with some discussion your question will get answered. Mr. Davis, I see your hand. You're recognized. Then we'll have Ms. Egle. And from that point Vice Chair Banks and Ms. Basile.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you for the recognition, Mr. Chair. I actually forgot my question. So I'll lower my hand.

RASHAD BRISTO: Not a problem. From that point, Ms. Egle, your hand was raised.

JILL EGLE: Yeah. What's going on with LaCAN? I mean, I've been active for, I don't know for how long, ever since I got on the DD Council. But what's the big picture? Is LaCAN ineffective? Are they trying to do another contract? I mean, what's really going on?

RASHAD BRISTO: Just to bring clarity, there's no discrepancy with anybody with any organization. The question was just asked about the consideration of offering the bid to someone else. But I see Ms. Basile's hand. Ms. Basile, I'm going to jump ahead of you for a minute, Vice Chair Banks, so you can go ahead and answer the question that's being proposed.

KIM BASILE: I don't want to do away with LaCAN. I don't want to do away with Partners. I think what I'm trying to say is let's put out for bid who runs those contracts. Maybe someone could do it better, more efficiently. Because you have to remember, for instance, the one that has the LaCAN contract, they hire and fire all the LaCAN leaders.

JILL EGLE: Oh, my God.

KIM BASILE: So, you know, just because they've had it for 5, 10, 15, 20 years does that mean they should always have it. And I'm not picking on anyone. It could be said for Partners, it could be said for anything. And just because the state says you don't have to put something out for bid, if that's best practices, why don't we do it.

RASHAD BRISTO: So did that answer your question, Ms. Egle?

JILL EGLE: Yeah. It does. But, you know, I'm still active in LaCAN. It seems like whatever region you're in or parish, they're good LaCAN. But the question is how it is ever going to be a trustworthy person for people with intellectual disabilities and the DD Council. Cause there's such a low turnout right now with everything. You know, with Covid dying down if they hire a new LaCAN leader based on the reason if it's a trustworthy, honest person. Cause sometimes LaCAN leaders do it. But then after they're like oh, I can't deal with this, and they move on.

RASHAD BRISTO: Let me redirect. We're not just talking about a particular entity or agency. We're just talking in general about the bidding of the contract. I don't want anyone to walk away from this thinking that LaCAN is the enemy and that we're not in partnership or agreement with the services that they're providing. This is just a discussion about moving forward if we want to continue to do business the way we've been doing it, or we want to find another contractor to handle business on our behalf. That's basically the question. Vice Chair Banks, your hand is up. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. Okay. So now since I'm getting more information about how, you know, things are run and about the bidding and about how much it can actually, we don't need an amount for the bid. So that leads me to this. I see what Kim is saying about, you know, just because they've been there for 20 years plus that doesn't mean they have to still be there. But are these the entities that's like really making decisions and moving the council forward? I'm talking about like LaCAN and just the example that she gave. So my question is-- I'm going to word it the right way. I think that we need some clarity in regards to each like all of our partners and where they line up with us. I believe we asked that before, probably about a couple years ago with all of this. That was asked. Is there a way that we can find that on the council? Like how each partner that we're working with, how does that correlate with the council?

Like what actual activities do this Partner do? Do that Partner do. Are they working with that goal. Because then we can get a clarity of who's working with who and then we can go and talk about okay, is this person really getting the job done. I think once we get that and we get a clarity of how all of the structure and the partners and people that we work with goals, then we can make a more informed decision upon this topic.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that. We have public comment that's in the room. I see your hand Mr. Davis.

AMY DEAVILLE: Before you move to that, can we let Ebony kind of explain so that everybody understands the relationship between LaCAN and the council and how things are run.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. So I don't know if everyone can hear me, but Susan is the executive director over all the LaCAN leaders. She works with us. We're a team. She works with Brenton, I and the new program monitor, Ms. Rekeesha Branch to hire the LaCAN leaders. But we provide the support for the LaCAN leaders. We educate them. We make sure that they know what the council's advocacy agenda is every year so that they can educate their members. We support them on their legislative visits. We support them on their roundtables. And Susan is the executive director, so she does make the rules. But she's still working together with the council. We're a team. So I don't want anybody to walk away thinking that we're not, the council staff isn't working together to make sure that LaCAN is successful with Susan. She's not completely over the whole thing. The council staff work very closely with Susan to make sure that the LaCAN leaders are educated and carrying out the council's business. And I kind of went over that yesterday whenever we were in self-determination just that the LaCAN leaders, we support them in every way so that they can make sure that they are carrying out the council's business as you guys set the agenda in October. And whenever roundtables come around, they are doing the council's business. So we work together as a team with Susan to make sure that LaCAN is on track. So that's the relationship we have with them. But I can answer any other questions if you guys have questions specifically

about LaCAN and how it works.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that. And just to refresh everybody's memory. This is a discussion about rebidding. Not the performance of LaCAN. Just want to make sure we clarify that. Also, we have a public hand that was raised. You have the floor. Please identify yourself. You have three minutes.

CHARLIE MICHEL: My name is Charlie Michel. I'm the executive director of Bayou Land Families Helping Families. Three points quickly. One is to what Ebony said. I can attest to the level of support that we get. I don't have the contract, but I see what our LaCAN leader, what kind of support they get from the council and the staff. So that's without question. The other thing is if we were to put this out on bid, we would need to come, I say we, pretend I'm part of y'all. We would have to put deliverables in that so the people that would be bidding would know what it is. So my question to you would be can we not come up-- if we don't think the deliverable's being met, that's one issue. You deal with that. If the deliverables aren't maybe getting what we want out of it, then address that with the people who have the current contract. And if they can't or won't do it, then you look at rebidding. That's the two points that I would make. The last point. I really think that this whole topic of conversation is a separate agenda item and it's not truly related to what the motion is on the floor because we're not talking about who's going to get it. We're talking about the activity. And even as we're discussing the bidding it is to continue the activities. So I think we could stop the discussion on whether or not we bid it out. Vote on whether or not the council wants to approve this action plan. And then at some later date or a later time in this meeting if y'all want to, discuss the whole bidding process of how y'all would go about doing that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that. There was another hand that I saw.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Lillian.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Hi. My name is Lillian DeJean. I'm a self-advocate. Two things. One, our Families Helping Families centers have held these contracts for years and years now. We know LaCAN is a really

effective entity. And also, we also have seen a lot of turnover with our LaCAN leaders. So I'm not really sure why we would disrupt the system when we already have turnover. But yet it's still an effective entity. So I think changing up the contracts, we're just causing more disruption in the system when we could just be working on making it a little bit more stable. Secondly, I have a comment about YLF after this motion is over and I just wanted to put that out there.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that, Ms. DeJean. The hands that I saw raised, Ms. Webb. Your hand is raised. Let me preference something. Once you've actually made your first comment, your point's pretty much been made. The second is just to bring clarity. But when you start going on third and fourth comments, you're kind of killing the dead horse again. So I just want to make sure we have this understood moving forward. Ms. Webb, you're recognized. You have the floor.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes, sir. I just have a question out of curiosity. How many of y'all have been showing up for yellow shirt days lately?

RASHAD BRISTO: Is there anyone in the room or on Zoom able to actually answer that question for her? Ms. Webb, (inaudible) asking exploratory question. We'll try to have an answer for you before the end of the council meeting. Mr. Davis, you're recognized. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: I think I am like confused about the bidding contracts, everything like that. But are you worried about safety with the bidders of the contracts or are you worried about their financials? What exactly is the hesitation to solicit bids for services? I heard deliverables. I heard a bunch of things. But would there be a background check done on these contract bidders or whomever, an audit established like within the contract? Like I said, I'm confused.

AMY DEAVILLE: I'll answer your questions really quick, but then I do think we probably have to table this discussion and get back to the motion on the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Agreed.

AMY DEAVILLE: But there aren't background checks done on people that we contract with. Financial audits

are only required in certain circumstances with the people that we contract with. And that usually has to do with the amount of federal funds that they get from all entities in the course of a year.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Hano, your hand is raised. You're recognized. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Okay. I was not on mute. I kind of forgot, but I think my first question was overlooked. But then Vivienne kind of asked the same thing I was wondering. Then it was answered. But if we contract, if we get new bids, like I don't understand who it would be to because I thought that PIP and LaCAN were both funded through FHF and then contracted by DDC. So would these bid outs-- what I think I'm for I just need more clarity. Would these bid outs be to the other eight FHF families? Or like cause I thought that we could only, we can't, not that anyone's saying it, but we can't not fund, we have to fund LaCAN and PIP. But like are we limited to the fiscal agents that we can solicit from? Like would it be one of, like would we be specifically looking for a bid from one of the other FHF centers? Or like where would we look for the bid from?

RASHAD BRISTO: To answer your question it would be presumptuous to say another FHF. It would have to be bid. With it being a bid it would have to be whoever bids and whoever the DD Council feels the most comfortable with who accepts, it gives the bid that we're satisfied with, and they have the credentials that we're satisfied with. It goes in that part. So it's really a lot more dynamics to it than just saying we'll remove it from one to another if we're going to do a bid. Because with the bid we have to be non-biased. And everyone would have to-- it would just open up the doorway. Anyone could be able to bid for it. So we wouldn’t be able to be discriminate to just one particular avenue of service centers. I hope that answers your question.

JILL HANO: I don't know.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Let me remind everybody we do have a motion on the floor in regards to the 2023 action plan. We had a first. We have a second. So after discussion, I see Ms. Egle's hand, then we're going to move forward with the vote. The comments

really need to be towards the 2023 action plan. So Ms. Egle, you have the floor.

JILL EGLE: You know, I'm trying to inhale all this with the DD Council. But why just when you think of, you know, people with IDD, why is there a low turnout with everything right now?

RASHAD BRISTO: In regards to your question, actually it's not relevant to the plan. But to answer your question a lot of it's people are just coming out their reservations from the pandemic.

JILL EGLE: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: I believe has a contributing factor to it. I believe a lot of people are just starting to feeling comfortable getting back out, being active and doing the things they was doing in the community in order to be effective for the services in which they provide.

JILL EGLE: You know, actually, chairman, Mr. Rashad, I understand that. And, you know, people are now feeling at ease because the pandemic being over, they gradually going back. But my biggest advocacy is I know the legislative session is still on. You know, the DSPs and the personal care attendants for the self-advocates, when are they ever going to have a good turnout so the rates can go in affect, and everything can be okay? Cause every year it's always the same thing.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. That's a good question. I really don't have an answer for it. But I do need to redirect to the council members that we do have a motion on the floor for the 2023 action plan. We have a first. We have a second. We're at discussion. Are you ready for the question?

JILL EGLE: Yeah. And I'm more concerned about the LDH and the OCDD budget because if that's not allocated with rates, how are the DSPs supposed to work with us and support us when none of the DSPs and PCAs want to work with IDD. I mean, that's a crisis right now.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am.

JILL HANO: Oh, man.

JILL EGLE: I'm just expressing my concern.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Well, thank you for that.

JILL EGLE: You're welcome.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Basile, I see your hand.

You're recognized. You have the floor.

KIM BASILE: I'd like to call the question.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. It's been called, the question.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I second.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. It's been called the question. Been seconded by Ms. Polotzola.

AMY DEAVILLE: We have to roll call.

RASHAD BRISTO: We're going to do a roll call vote on accepting. Do we have any objections to the motion? Do we have any abstentions? Okay. So at this point the motion on the floor is the approval of the adoption of the council's 2023 action plan. At this point we're going to do a roll call vote. Do we have any objections?

EBONY HAVEN: If you don't have any objections, you don't have to do a roll call vote unless you want to.

RASHAD BRISTO: Please.

EBONY HAVEN: So we're going to do a roll call vote. And if you say yes is a vote to approve the draft plan that the planning committee presented to you all that was included in your packet. If you vote no, that is a rejection to the draft action plan that the planning committee submitted for fiscal year 2023. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Basile, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Davis.

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Davis, yes. Ms. Egle.

JILL EGLE: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Egle, yes. Ms. Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Gonzales, yes. Ms. Guidry.

CHANEY GUIDRY: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Guidry, yes. Ms. Hagan. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hogan. Ms. Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hymel, yes. Mr. Iddins.

MITCH IDDINS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Iddins, yes. Ms. Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Polotzola, yes. Ms. Tarver.

MARY TARVER: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Tarver, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Can you please restate what we're voting on.

EBONY HAVEN: So you're voting on the draft action plan for fiscal year 2023 that the planning committee submitted to the full council. A yes would be you're in agreement--

VIVIENNE WEBB: All righty. Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Motion passes. Thank you so much. Also, with the discussion, there will be another time, we'll have time for a discussion to pick up on what's been presented in regards to bids. Probably when it comes down to maybe new business. At this point we're at the executive director's report. So the next item up for business is executive director's report. The chair recognizes Amy Deaville for her report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Thank you, chair. I always try to keep these brief as much as possible. So in January we did new council member orientation with our new members. We covered a number of topics about the council history of the council, the makeup of the committees, and the executive committee, standing committees, mission and responsibilities. New members also received an orientation for parliamentary procedures by Nicole Learson. This quarter we also did federal reporting. We had to submit to the administration for community living our program performance reports for fiscal years 20 and 21. And that was due by March 1st. And it took a lot of time. March was developmental disability awareness month. And so we collaborated with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, the Arc of Louisiana,

People First, Special Needs and Parents Support Services of Louisiana to develop a series of webinars and panel discussions on various topics that we had throughout the month. And there is a link in my report to the recordings of those webinars. They were very interesting, and we were pretty proud of that. Legislative roundtables were held in February and March as we went over our legislative agenda. And presented that to the public and to legislators. We had a pretty good turnout at those events. And we got a lot of great responses from legislators. Our first yellow shirt day since 2020 was held on March 23rd. And so that was a very exciting day when people were able to show up again in yellow shirts for the senate education meeting where we heard SB645, cameras in special education classrooms.

In addition, we also hired, we've referenced her name a couple times throughout the meetings, Ms. Rekeesha Branch. She has taken the program monitor position that Ebony vacated when she moved into the deputy director role. We're very excited to have her. She's got years of experience in the developmental disabilities field. So she's got a lot of great background to share with us. Ebony and I both participated in the Medicaid TEFRA visual workgroup. Which was Medicaid and OCDD worked together to put together kind of a visual workflow of the TEFRA process. Which is available online. Ebony also attended the disability policy seminar. We took part in LDH stakeholder meetings. Brenton attended the OCDD state advisory committee and GACDA legislative committee. We typically end up attending all the GACDA committees. And then there were many other meetings referenced in this very long document that you're free to go through and just see all the meetings we attended. And that's it for the executive director's report.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Ms. Deaville. Are there any questions from the members on the executive director report? Questions from any council members in regards to the executive director report? All right. Ms. Hano, you're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I don't know if this pertains to, and I

think I'm out of order, but when does this increase take effect for Ms. Deaville? Or should I ask this later?

RASHAD BRISTO: Are you in regards to the increase that the executive committee and the council just voted on?

JILL HANO: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: It could take place as soon as next pay period.

JILL HANO: Okay. Cool. Thank you. Sorry, chair.

RASHAD BRISTO: No. Not a problem. Do we have any more questions in regards to the executive director's report? All right. This report requires no action. It will be placed on file. There was a public comment from Ms. DeJean. I will recognize you. You have the floor.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So I was a little bit unclear on the motion earlier whenever we adopted the plan. I thought it was a vote on Kim's motion regarding the bidding of the contracts. And so the planning committee offered the Youth Leadership Forum that we're planning in 2023 15,000-dollars. And so for those of you who don't know, a Youth Leadership Forum is essentially like a PIP for youths with disabilities. It's essentially like a one weeklong summer camp. Over 30 other states have it. It's incredibly successful. And we used to have one in 2000 to 2005. This actually ended because of funding issues of Hurricane Katrina. So like I mentioned y'alls planning committee allotted it 15,000-dollars. But in the early 2000s the DD Council actually funded it approximately 17,500-dollars. So we're planning on giving YLF less funding than we did over 20 years ago. Yet it was incredibly successful and only ended because of funding issues. So I want to ask that the DD Council allots an extra 15,000-dollars to YLF. Because this year you're planning on funding Partners in Policymaking at 90,000-dollars. You have an average of 20 participants in PIP. We're anticipating approximately 15 in YLF. So we have nearly the same amount of participants, but only 1/6 of the funding. Additionally, YLF will be 100 percent self-advocates or just people with disabilities. Combining statistics from 2018, 2019 and 2020 only about 16 percent of PIP participants were

self-advocates. The rest were parents or professionals. So I question what this says about our priorities and training our self-advocates. And cultivating this new generation of advocates that we so desperately need, right. The DD Council has been talking about a need for more self-advocates for years now. We've been talking about a need for more youth self-advocates for years now. Yet we still haven't funded anything. And now that we're giving YLF 15,000-dollars. I just think we need a little bit more. So could this be a reliable method to cultivate a new generation of self-advocates. And this has a huge potential to make a really, really positive impact on our community. And so this DD Council has had a positive impact on our community for years now. And so I think this could really help support y'alls mission. I think it could be really positive. So if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer. And thank you for listening and letting me speak.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. DeJean. Mr. Iddins, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Lillian, for your comments. I was just wondering if we have the funds in the budget to increase the budget for your program? Do you know what you would spend the additional 15,000-dollars on? What activities you would be doing with the additional money?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So this would all depend on other funding sources and restrictions. But just for context, there's a lot of different elements of YLF that need to be funded. Because essentially what this is is an overnight summer camp for youth with disabilities. So we may have to pay staff as support. Maybe nursing for your more medically complex kids. Lodging, food. There's also a day at the capitol too as well so they can learn about legislative advocacy which is what we're so strong with with LaCAN. So there's a lot of different funding nuances of this that the YLF ad hoc committee under this council is working through right now. But really, we need the funding to get this started. I mean, we haven't had a YLF in over 15 years. Which is absolutely ridiculous when we consider that over 30 other states are having one and

we had one that is incredibly successful. So we're still in the early stages of planning this. We're still trying to figure out where funding is going to go and how to divvy it out among the different needs. But the bottom line is we really need this funding and it's a great program to support. And also, I think it would really benefit the DD council because we've needed more self-advocates for years now. And this is a direct pipeline to cultivate that new generation of advocates.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. DeJean.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Iddins. I see your hand Ms. Hano. Hold on just a moment. The protocol for this would actually have to be, would come up with new business if anyone really wants to entertain or make any kind of amendment to the discussion for the YLF. Because at the moment we're in the middle of the budget report. I yielded the floor to Ms. DeJean so she could have an opportunity to speak because I didn't know how long it would be before we were able to get to that point. So the discussion from this point moving forward will be about YLF. I just want you to take into consideration no action can be taken until we get to new business. So I just want to go ahead and preference that moving forward before I take the next comment. Ms. Hano, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: Roberts Rules have gone out the window today, apparently. May I ask Lillian a question?

RASHAD BRISTO: Hold on just a minute. Ms. DeJean, will you be able to be here for the majority of the day?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. We're going to table that because the appropriate time to have a discussion about YLF would be during new business. Because if there's any kind of desire to make any kind of motion, that would be the only time we could really effectively address this.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Rashad.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. So that way we can stay in protocol with Robert's Rules of Order since that way we can move forward with the business. Hopefully we can expedite it. So we don't have anything about the executive director report. So now

we're about to the budget report. Next item up for business. Ms. Deaville.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. Did I miss anything?

RASHAD BRISTO: No, ma'am. We're just up to the budget report. We just got through the executive director's report.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, okay. I just stepped out of the room and I'm just trying to catch up.

RASHAD BRISTO: You didn't miss anything.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: You're welcome.

AMY DEAVILLE: I expanded it so you can't see everything on the screen, but what we're really looking at are year to date percentage expenditures and budget balance. We are about, at the time of this report, approximately about 75 percent of the way through our fiscal year. So you would expect to see percentages somewhere around there in most line items. This part right here that is all zeros, that is travel for meetings. Which you'll recall we didn't do any of that until April. So those types of expenses we won't have any until next meeting you'll see on the report. Everything else in terms of percentages expended is trending in the way that we would expect. And so yeah, our budget is good. We don't have any shortfalls anywhere at this time. And if we should have any, I anticipate being able to move money between line items should that be necessary. But at this point, I don't even anticipate that being an issue.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. That completes your report?

AMY DEAVILLE: That does complete my report.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Deaville. Do we have any questions from council members in regards to the budget report that's presented that's on screen?

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

RASHAD BRISTO: Mr. Davis, I see your hand. You're recognized. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Can this report be sent to me via email? Just the document that we just saw, the budget, the SFY20...

AMY DEAVILLE: The one that's on the screen?

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. Thank you. I'm sorry. That was my nervous tick when my language messes up.

I'm sorry you had to witness that.

AMY DEAVILLE: It's fine. Yep. I will email it to you.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you. Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand. You have the floor. You're recognized.

NICOLE BANKS: Thanks, chair, for recognizing me. So I just have a couple questions. You see where under operating expense and dues and subscriptions we're already at 82 and 95. I know we only have like what a couple months left of this fiscal year, right? Correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yep.

NICOLE BANKS: Are y'all going to go over that because they already high? Like they above the 75 percent. I'm just asking for the operating expense and for the dues and subscriptions. Because that's already higher than the 75 percent. Or maybe that's broken down a different way.

AMY DEAVILLE: No. So dues and subscriptions, that expense is really already paid. Everything that's going to come out of that line item for the year has already been taken out. That's why it's almost finished. Operating expenses, we will probably be fine. But if for some reason we are falling short in that one line item, we have enough funds unspent, for instance, in the travel portion where we weren't able to spend money, that I can move down to cover any expenses that we have. But I actually don't anticipate that we'll go over.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. All right. Thank you. That was my question. I yield the floor.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

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

KIM BASILE: Thank you. Okay. Amy, under-- oh, so that is my cursor. Under year-to-date percentage expended. Let's take the first line, salaries, 56 percent. Fringe benefits, 66 percent. But then you go to total personal services, and it says 20 percent. That doesn't make sense to me. Shouldn't it be 478514 divided by the 805746 which would give you closer to maybe 59 percent?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. Let me look at it. Can I get

back to you on it? Cause I need to see exactly what lines it's pulling from to get that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. In the meantime, Ms. Hymel, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. This is my question for the straight across the board in that. Would all, for each quarter straight, would it ever, the budget, would ever, ever change? The numbers itself. Or does it stay the way it is? That's what I want to know.

RASHAD BRISTO: Talking about the budget in general?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. In general.

RASHAD BRISTO: The budget will change basically from year to year based upon whatever expenditures and whatever comes up based upon multiple dynamics. One, it could be whatever is prioritized over (inaudible) at the time. So it's a lot of moving parts. To answer your question, it does fluctuate annually.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Is it like in general with the budget? Cause I'm seeing there's still a lot of zeros. I don't know what those zeros mean. They never...

RASHAD BRISTO: The zeros that you see in that column where it's straight zeros, that's going to be what's considered a fourth quarter expenditure. And that has not been calculated yet because I don't think--

ROSLYN HYMEL: They never--

RASHAD BRISTO: The fourth quarter hasn't come yet. The fiscal year starts July 1st, and it ends--

ROSLYN HYMEL: I mean, like, no. The first, second, and the third. They have zeros.

RASHAD BRISTO: We haven't had any travel for council. Those zeros that you're looking at on the first, second and third, that's in regards to the travel because we haven't had travel for council members. This is the first meeting where travel is basically being activated. So you won't see that until the end of the year report. But that's why you see the zeros under that because that goes under the travel. And we haven't had any travel because of the pandemic everything has been 100 percent virtual up until this meeting.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So when could that be, I mean, with

traveling, what could that consider going to happen?

RASHAD BRISTO: You're asking like will that money be lost or?

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. Would it come up? Would it bring it up when we start traveling again?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. When you start traveling again, we would start seeing some dollar figures in those columns.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, thank you for that one. That's where I was stumped. I didn't understand that why, you know. So that part is like being on hold.

AMY DEAVILLE: Right. There wasn't any travel because of the Covid pandemic. So nobody was traveling. So staff and council members had no travel during all of the rest of the year.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, okay. That makes sense now. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: You're welcome. Any more questions in regard to the budget report that's been presented by the executive director?

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: Mr. Davis, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ms. Deaville. My question is regarding going-- again, I apologize. My question is going back to the action plan.

RASHAD BRISTO: Mr. Davis, we're not able to digress at the moment because we moved forward from the action plan. All questions have to be directed to the current discussion right now which is the budget report.

LOGAN DAVIS: It is. It's going back to the action plan. For the item-- well, I calculated the amount of costs from the action plan, and it is 700,000-dollars. Where does that pull from on the screen?

AMY DEAVILLE: So it won't. So this budget report is for the current plan and the current fiscal year. So you won't see that total on this budget report. But next fiscal year you would see it coming out of this right here that says total contracts. It will come out of here. It is grouped into, you see this much larger figure?

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

AMY DEAVILLE: That is because we received state general funds for the Families Helping Families centers. So those state general funds are rolled into that same line item, so we keep track of all contracts there. But that 700,000 would be rolled into that line-item next year.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. And there's currently a balance of 789,000 roughly. And so if there's any extra left over, what do you do with it?

AMY DEAVILLE: It depends on the timing. If there's anything extra and I have enough time within the state fiscal year, then I would come to the council and ask to have that money reassigned probably to an existing project that might be able to spend those funds.

LOGAN DAVIS: It's never reallocated back to the general fund, is that correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Correct.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. Another question I had was so there is, where on it does, where on it will it pull from council members choosing to go to training or educational opportunities? Would that be under...

AMY DEAVILLE: It's going to be here in this council meeting, or council member instate travel, or council member out of state travel depending on where it is or what it's for.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thanks for answering my questions. And I yield back my time.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you for that. Any more questions in regard to the budget report that's been presented by the executive director? Not seeing any hands, this report requires no action, and we'll record it to file. If there's no objection the meeting will recess for ten minutes. The time is now 10:03. We will return at 10:14.

RASHAD BRISTO: We're going to get started in one minute.

Okay. The time is 10:17. The meeting is back in order. The next item of business is committee reports. First report is from the Act 378 subcommittee. The chair recognizes Chairperson Bambi Polotzola of the committee for the report.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi, everyone. This report will

be brief. Yesterday the Act 378 subcommittee met. We don't have any recommendations for the council to consider. We did spend some time reviewing fiscal year 22 3rd quarter data for the programs within Offices for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health and Aging and Adult Services which is through the Arc of Louisiana. These reports can be found linked in our committee agenda on the council's meetings website, web page if you would like to review. When we discussed the behavioral health report specifically the consumer care resources and the flexible family funds there were questions and confusion about the total obligated column. It was noted that there were discrepancies between the way Office of Behavioral Health and Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities report this information. So Tanya Murphy who's with OCDD will share with OBH how they complete this particular area of the report and what efforts they have made to ensure consistency with the LGEs. Which is the local governing entities or the human service districts and authorities. Also, when we discussed the state personal assistance services program or SPAS, which is contracted with the Arc of Louisiana and funded through our Office of Aging and Adult Services, a few committee members were concerned about the lengthy wait for this service and the need to advocate for more funding for this program to ensure individuals on the wait list are served. At this point it's too late for legislative advocacy, but this may be something that the council wants to consider advocating for during the next legislative session. And that concludes my report.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Ms. Polotzola. Do we have any council members, any questions in regards to the report that's been presented by Act 378 subcommittee? Not seeing any hands on the virtual or in the room. This report requires no action and will be recorded, placed on file. The next item up for business is the report of the education, employment committee. The chair recognizes Mary Tarver for the report. Ms. Tarver, you have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Mr. Chairman.

RASHAD BRISTO: Hold up just one minute, Ms.

Tarver. Ms. Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Jill had her two fingers up. I didn't know if she had a question or not.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Hano, did you have a question?

JILL HANO: Bambi, what did you say about the SPAS program? There was a (inaudible). I call it SPAS because when I write it in my mind that's how it comes up. But there was a long waiting list. And what did you say?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: The long waiting list is for the SPAS program. Like several years.

JILL HANO: And you said there was something else y'all discussed.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Potential advocacy in the future. Not for this session because it's too late, but in the future it's something the council could consider potentially advocating for more funding for that program.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. And thank you, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You're quite welcome, Jill. I just saw you. That's all.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you very much. If there's no other questions in regard to that, we move forward. Ms. Tarver, you have the floor.

MARY TARVER: Thank you. Good morning. I filled in for Dr. McKee yesterday as the chair for the education and employment meeting. There was information presented on Act 456 for cameras in the classroom. That right now is going through the legislators. Right now the legislation has added the policy for implementation of the cameras in the classroom. Has added a date that all school systems have to submit their policies by January the 15th of 2023. It has to include a guidance on how the family or guardian can request the cameras. There were some things in there, the oversight was not included. Initially funding for 8 million-dollars was in the legislation, but it did not go through. The budget did not reflect that. So at this point funding has not been secured for this. The discussion was and the legislators, I think, that Louisiana Department of Education should look for funds to move this forward. And so Meredith Jordan gave some information about how

they are trying to do that. And working with the federal government for federal funding and trying to find the correct source or if there is a source that can be used for that.

In the education, Department of Education update Meredith talked a little bit more about cameras in the classroom. She presented information on the state performance plan. And the performance report and the target setting. And went over that information as well as the special education funding. And IDEA FY22 funding activities. And those are all attached in your packets. We did have a discussion about a letter from the council to the attorney general for clarification of open meeting laws and how it relates to the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that all open meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. We also talked about the seminar for our activities of the activity 3.2.2. Which was the seminar for hiring individuals with developmental disabilities. They did have a kickoff with the seminars. They had good attendance. There was 43 people that attended. And there was a discussion about how we could get the DD Council to work on hiring individuals with developmental disabilities.

There was also a report from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services for Melissa Bayham. And she also has her report attached to the agenda for today. We did have the last discussion about customized employment training which is activity 3.2.1. Kelly Monroe gave an update and requested that they move toward certifications, not the customized employment training that is currently being worked on. They only have, I think, two people she said that have been able to partner with the learning partners and go through the process. They're having trouble with between Covid and finding people that can help be mentors. So the request was to have-- about 18,000-dollars was left and that they could still use that for the same activity for employment training. It would be something that they would do, the gateway training. So that was discussed. And then there's also the Louisiana Post-Secondary Inclusive Education Alliance for LAPIE. That's activity 3.1.1. And Amy gave an update that the bill for LAPIE has passed through committee. And so it

is also working through the legislative session this time. That's what information I had from the meeting.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Tarver. Do we have any council members with questions in regard to the education and employment committee report? Ms. Hymel, I see your hand. You're recognized. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I want to find out about the cameras in centers in that is because here I am at, we're back up and running at Magnolia. And I am noticing some cameras are missing in the classrooms in that. And so I am very so concerned about that. Does that considered all schools or is it in a certain schools are we discussing? Because I'm noticing over here at Magnolia.

MARY TARVER: Yeah. I think it just covers the, I want to say like pre-K through 21 like in public schools. So I don't think that it would be for anything outside of public-school setting at this point. And the legislation hasn't gone, hasn't passed all the way through to make that happen yet. So it would not, it's not in effect yet completely.

ROSLYN HYMEL: And also, I want to find out too is because when would it be in effect?

MARY TARVER: Yeah. It depends on the legislature as they go through this session. But I don't think that it's going to have, I think it's just public schools that its requirements are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees. So it's just special education classrooms in public schools at this point.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. Because here I am, I am representing Magnolia school because, you know, I am concerned about that. I don't know if we was added. That's why I'm doing this.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hymel. Ms. Hano, your hand is raised. You're recognized. You have the floor. You're still muted.

JILL HANO: Okay. Am I understanding correctly? So this is a point of order. This isn't on subject. But I know that we are not (inaudible) council we are not including customized employment in our plan for FY23. So have I been hearing that (inaudible) is going to be or has been contracted? Is that their customized

employment contract with LRS now?

MARY TARVER: I'm sorry. This is the action plan from 2022. So it's been going on since October of 2021 through September of 2022. So it's an activity that's already been ongoing with customized employment training. So it's not anything new.

JILL HANO: No. That's not my question.

MARY TARVER: I'm sorry.

JILL HANO: Sorry, Ms. Mary.

MARY TARVER: It's okay.

JILL HANO: So LRS has a customized employment training activity as well, correct?

MARY TARVER: They do customized employment. This is training to get more people certified to help LRS throughout the state.

JILL HANO: Okay.

MARY TARVER: And they're working on trying to get more people certified in customized employment training. But it is a very long process. And Covid and the lack of people to be mentors has slowed the project down. So I think where we are now there will only be probably two people that are going to be certified for customized employment training. And then the rest of the training will go for the gateway training. Which more people were able to do. It didn't require as much as a time commitment. But that they still were getting a certification and helping to understand the different aspects of what you would need to help somebody get a job through the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. That's my understanding. I'm sure Kelly or Melissa Bayham have, I know they have lots more information about that. But that's my take on it.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Ms. Tarver. Thank you, Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Mr. Davis, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thanks, Chairman Rashad. And my question is for Chairwoman Tarver. So would that mean training more people to become RED certified? REDS, R-E-D-S certified.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Mary, do you want me to make the clarification?

MARY TARVER: Yes. Please.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Bayham, you have the floor.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Actually, a REDS is a rehabilitation employment development specialist. And those are actual staff of LRS. So those are individuals that we hire. We have one in each region. The contract, that doesn't have anything to do with the REDS. That had to do with the customized employment training.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. But the customized employment training is like OJT, correct?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Not exactly. On the job training is where we will basically pay an employer to train an individual on the job. Customized employment is a lot more labor intensive than that. It's where--

LOGAN DAVIS: How so?

MELISSA BAYHAM: It's where the actual vendor is going to have to learn the unique needs of a particular individual and then they have to contact employers. And it's almost like job carving where a particular individual because of their unique needs may not be able to do a job as the job description is written. And so they work with the employer to essentially create a position that's needed within an organization or with a business. But may need to be customized, for lack of a better word, in order for that individual to be able to work. Does that make sense?

LOGAN DAVIS: In a roundabout way.

MELISSA BAYHAM: So in OJT the individual with a disability would be able to perform the essential functions of the job as is written in a job description. Whereas with customized employment the vendor actually has to work with the employer because there may need to be some modifications to the essential functions of that particular position.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. But to establish an OJT-- sorry. To establish an OJT, LRS requires you to select a vendor or and then they will go out and find a job no matter if you already have a job lined up. So customized employment leads to OJT, is that correct, in a roundabout way sense of terms?

MELISSA BAYHAM: OJT and customized employment are two different, they're two different things. OJT is where we pay an employer one and half times the

person's salary to provide the training on the job. And in customized employment there's a lot more activity on the side of the vendor whether it be job coaching, identifying supports, identifying different job tasks that the individual can do. On the job training is basically the employer that's going to provide the training. And in customized employment the vendor has a more active role in working with that particular individual. On the job training you don't even have to have a vendor, a community rehab provider. Our REDS, our rehabilitation employment development specialists sometimes are the ones that actually identify the OJTs.

LOGAN DAVIS: So you can already have a job lined up and go to the REDS person and be like hey, I want to work here.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I mean, you can. I mean, the REDS' job is to find you a job. But so it would just depend on what you need from that-- you know, once you get that position, I don't know, it depends on your needs and what you need as far as what service would be provided after that.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. So a customized employment vendor is someone like Goodwill or Atticus LLC, correct?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Correct. It's a community rehabilitation program. Yes.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. Then that ties in directly with OJT.

MELISSA BAYHAM: No.

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes. Yes. I have been down this road before and that's how it works. I don't know if that's how it's supposed to go down, but I just wanted to let you know that that is how it works in Shreveport. And I'd let Dr. Ken York know about that and handle that situation accordingly. And I yield my time back. Thank you, chairman and chairwoman. I yield back my time now. Bye.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Do we have any other questions in regards to the report that's been presented and in regards to the education and inclusion committee?

LOGAN DAVIS: Could I ask Ms. Bayham to give me a call offline whenever this is concluded?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, sir. She acknowledged she'll give you a call offline in regards to your concerns.

LOGAN DAVIS: All right. Thank you. Okay. Bye.

RASHAD BRISTO: So this report requires no action. So it will be placed on file. Next report is going to be presented by Ms. Kim Basile for self-determination and inclusion.

KIM BASILE: Good morning, everyone. The self-determination and community inclusion committee met yesterday and does not have any recommendations to present to the council. We did receive a lot of great updates from the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and Medicaid. A lot of the information shared is included in their agency reports and I'm sure they will touch on these topics later today. Julie did share some of OCDD's fiscal year 23 major initiatives. Including but not limited to continuing work around Covid flexibilities being permanent in waivers. Including updating waiver manuals and training for workers and participants. Working on electronic plan of care and the tiered waiver assessment tool to prep for eventual migration to a consolidated waiver. Researching what other states are doing and technology used for remote supports. Value based payments to help incentivize person centered planning and thinking which will require waiver amendments. Shared living model which is where multiple waiver participants may be able to share support staff because they may not need one-on one-assistance. Continued prep for the home and community-based settings rule which must be implemented by April of 2023. Training for dental practitioners on the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Training for direct support workers. Julie also discussed some of the legislation that is being debated at the capitol which if passed will utilize quite a bit of the department's time researching and developing reports for the legislature. We also received an update on the implementation of Act 421 children's Medicaid option or TEFRA. CMS approval was received and TEFRA went live January 1. To date there have been 510 applicants. Ninety-four of which have been approved. Three-hundred-ninety-three applicants are still being reviewed. Sixteen denied. And four applications were

withdrawn. Also a workflow was released by the department to assist with understanding the application process. This workflow was attached to our committee agenda if you'd like to review. Finally, we discussed some of our contractual activities and goals one and two of the council's fiscal year 22 action plan. I encourage you all to review the status update document that we received quarterly for specific updates on each activity and any of the documents linked in our committee agenda. And that is all.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Basile. Do we have any questions in regards to the self-determination community inclusion committee report that was just presented? Ms. Hano, you're recognized. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Sorry. My computer is-- I don't know. When did you say the date to comply with the home and community-based settings rule was?

KIM BASILE: April of 2023.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

KIM BASILE: You're welcome.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Hano. Do we have any other questions in regards to the report that was presented by Ms. Basile for the self-determination and community inclusion report? Not seeing any hands, this report requires no action and will be placed on file. We're really ahead of schedule. We're supposed to take a lunch break. If there's no objection, I would like to proceed to standing committee reports. So the first report would be by the Human Development Center. Dr. Phil Wilson has a representative for that report. So we yield the floor for your report.

JOLIE ROBICHEAUX: Hi, everybody. My name is Jolie Robicheaux. I do outreach, marketing for the Human Development Center. I think as Phil likes to say we have our quarterly report here, but rather than read it we would like to show you. Specifically now we're recruiting for two of our interdisciplinary training programs. First, we have LEND which I'm sure you guys are aware is Leadership Education Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. We also have a second one called the Interprofessional Preparation Program for Related Service Personnel. Which prepares graduate students in special education and allied health related services

and prepares them for these skills and practices within the school environment which they will eventually work. So we're talking about like (inaudible) and speech language pathologists within the classrooms or school systems. So they are now recruiting for their third cohort. So we've collected a bunch of interviews from previous scholars and faculty and got some of their feedback on how the program has helped them and what they think about it. So we have the first video. I think it's all about what it's like learning in community-based settings rather than in clinical work.

LOGAN DAVIS: Am I the only one who can't hear it?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I can't hear nothing.

RASHAD BRISTO: Give us just one minute. Technical difficulties.

LOGAN DAVIS: 10-4.

JOLIE ROBICHEAUX: Hello, everyone. Never mind. Yeah, so anyone has questions about the report just let me know and I can get the answers from Dr. Wilson. And then if you have any general questions about what you're about to see or what you've heard so far, just let me know as well.

RASHAD BRISTO: So while we're working out the bugs, does anyone have any questions for Ms. Robicheaux for the presentation she just presented, until we're able to look at the video, what she was just discussing.

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes. Can you explain what LEND is again?

JOLIE ROBICHEAUX: Sure. So LEND is the Leadership Education on Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. It's a program from the Association of University Centers on disabilities. So LEND takes graduate students, practicing professionals, self-advocates and family members and brings them together for an interdisciplinary training on leadership advocacy. They also have like a family mentoring experience where they get real hands-on experience or learn from lived experiences of people who've actually had these experiences of disability. That's it in a nutshell. Do you have any other direct questions about it by chance?

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other questions for Ms. Robicheaux? All right. Are we ready for the

presentation? Fingers crossed. If you hear any audio, please let us know cause we're going to mute out on our end.

LOGAN DAVIS: Can't hear it.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I can't either. And I don't have my hearing aids in either.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I can't hear it either.

LOGAN DAVIS: Can you send the URL out to everybody? Would that be easier?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I agree.

RASHAD BRISTO: We apologize. The wonderful world of technology. Nothing to worry about, technology is about like some people I know. Sometimes just won't do right. So with that being said, we have the report that has been presented. It requires no action from Ms. Robicheaux, from the council. So this report will be placed on file. The next report that we have, we have Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Mr. Bernard Brown. Is he present?

BERNARD BROWN: Good morning. How's it going?

AMY DEAVILLE: Hey, Bernard.

BERNARD BROWN: All right. So I'll just touch on a few things. Kim kind of touched on a lot of what we were going to discuss today. But just to kind of cover some other things. Specific to the PHE changes, as you guys may know for the NOW and for the children's choice waiver, those amendments were approved by CMS on March 25th. As far as next steps there's nothing, you know, that's going to change from your end for the providers and things like that because those things are currently in place with the appendix K amendment which is still active because we're still under the current PHE. But once the PHE goes away, those three things that we identify that we wanted to continue will continue hopefully without a blip. And I say hopefully.

Another thing to note, for the ROW, that waiver, those waiver amendments are still with CMS and hasn't been approved. Specifically it's the dental service that we're adding to the ROW that we're waiting on approval on from CMS. One other thing to add, we do have some additional amendments that need to go out for the NOW, I believe. But because we had-- so those are already in place. But we had some additional amendments we needed to send out, but we couldn't send

those out because we were still waiting for the initial approval from the first NOW submission. So once we get that done, we'll add those other amendments to that waiver and then we'll send it out.

As far as the arbor plan. The following activities have been approved by CMS. The START model, which is the systemic therapeutic assessment resource and treatment model has been approved. We're actually underway with developing the contract with the START teams so we can get that submitted and implemented so we can begin the assessment piece of that. The infrastructure standup for the technology first initiative, which is the remote supports piece, that was approved as well and currently doing research on that. The VVP model was approved for the arbor plan and we're also researching that. And we're going to be reaching out to stakeholders soon to assist with the finetuning of that model. And then the community practitioners training was also approved. We met with the dental task force. Took some feedback from them. And we're collaborating with the Louisiana Dental Association on developing or incorporating some of those trainings into their continuing education program. What else we got here. I think that's all the major updates that I have. If there's any questions, I'll be happy to take those.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brown. Do we have any questions in regard to the report that was presented from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities? Mr. Davis, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Oh, I forgot to lower my hand after my last question. My bad.

RASHAD BRISTO: No problem. Do we have any questions in regards to the report that was presented? If there are no questions from council members on the report that was presented this report requires no action. It will be placed on file. The next agenda item up to report is from the Office of Public Health. Do we have a representative here? State your name, please.

DR. NORTHINGTON: Hi, everyone. My name is (inaudible) Northington. I'm here representing Dr.

Patty Barovechio who could not be here today. She did give me a couple things to share with y'all. But, of course, the complete report is available on the council website if you have any other things that you wanted to know about or ask about. Let's see here. The first update, some things are strictly informational, is children special healthcare services continues to provide direct care clinics in all regions except for one and seven. And they're trying to specifically meet needs with provider shortage areas. The complete information on that is also available on the website. One of the bigger updates is from the FRC, the family resource center. And it's offering resources and referral services for families and health providers statewide. They are also available to provide community referrals and resources via phone and email now. They are currently piloting an outreach program for families and children identified through the Louisiana birth defects surveillance system. And to ensure that these children and families are linked to the needed resources. And an analysis of the pilot will be conducted in July. So it's kind of ongoing until July 2022 when the Bureau of Family Health epidemiologist will conduct the report.

Let's see. Next, there is a couple things from the children and youth with special healthcare needs initiative. As well as helping with Families Helping Families. Both are working together to coordinate resources and referral networks across the state. There's some upcoming events that they have on the books. In region eight Families Helping Families on April 27th is going to be conducting a workshop. The title is best practices for early childhood screening addressing cultural and language gaps. The next one will be for region ten, May 12th. And it's called building blocks for a brighter future, zero to five years old. Ensuring optimal health outcomes through evidence-based intervention. May 17th will be region five early childhood developmental health evidence-based practices to ensure optimal developmental outcomes.

Next update is from the CSHS transportation assistance program. And they are currently providing transportation assistance for families who need to

attend medical appointments but may not have the means to do so. Of course, they would first have to seek assistance from their MCO and then if that's not being provided, they can go to the CSHS transportation program. Currently they have issued seven stipends, I believe. And some are also being looked at right now to date. The Louisiana early childhood risk and reach report from 2021 is available if you haven't seen it yet. It has lots of good information in it describing the five categories of health challenges facing Louisiana kids and families. The report can also be found on the DD Council report and there's a hyperlink in there if you wanted to take a look at it. The LCD, Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, functions as the (inaudible) program and they have a couple of strategic priority updates. Particularly priority five which is the interpreter service program. They are working with the (inaudible) Strategies to create a plan of action to develop a sign language interpretation framework to establish oversight and regulatory policies and procedures based on statewide data. This work will, it began last month and it's going to be going until November 2022. The next priority update is for priority six which is support service provider program. And the LCD released a request for proposal for the support service provider program. They are kind of working on it right now. Haven't quite awarded anything yet. They're waiting for approval from the state to complete the process. But they're in the process of doing that right now. And the last one is me, actually. I'm the new developmental screening coordinator for the state and I work with the AAP in different agencies around the state to train and to educate providers, early care and education centers on best practices for developmental screening. And that would be all.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Dr. Northington. Do we have any council members with any questions in regards to the report that was presented by the Office of Public Health? Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: It's just a clarification question. But what is, you said for the transportation they must

seek assistance through their MCO. Is MCO Medicaid office or what is MCO please?

DR. NORTHINGTON: Sure. That's pretty much their insurance provider. So if they need to go to an appointment they would have to contact, it could be Medicaid or whoever their insurance provider is, first, to see if they will cover it. And if they won't, then they can come to the transportation assistance program.

RASHAD BRISTO: Satisfied the question, Ms. Hano?

JILL HANO: Yes. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. Do we have any other questions for the report that's been presented by Dr. Northington for the Office of Public Health? Not seeing any questions online or in the room, this report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next report we have is for the Office of Aging and Adult Services. We don't have a representative present so the report itself is online for those who would like to review it. And we'll proceed forward with the Department of Education. So the floor--

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Before we go on from the Office of Aging, is there a reason why there's not a representative? Do we have somebody on the council that's been appointed?

AMY DEAVILLE: No. We don't have an appointed representative from OAAS.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Are we just waiting for them to give a name? Cause I just think this is really important to the DD community. Even though like it might not be necessarily people with developmental disabilities served, we look at the entire family. And so the impact of these services that the family can get helps keep the family together. So like I just think that's important to get somebody appointed and get a report so we can ask questions about it.

AMY DEAVILLE: I'll continue to push.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Polotzola. And for those that was online, executive director's going to continue to try to move forward for someone to be a representative so that way we can make sure we have well rounded reports with information that impacts all our families and households. The next report we have is from the Department of Education. We have Ms. Meredith Jordan. Chair yields the floor for her

report.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Excellent. Thank you, all. And we had a great in-depth discussion yesterday at committee. But I will go through, again, each of the updates on my report linked. So the first one is around our guidance for leading inclusive special education programs that really, as I came into this position at the beginning of this school year, began to hear from special ed directors around we need more guidance, we want more professional development, we want more support. And we have our SPED fellow academy which targets a small group of novice, newly entering the profession or the role around special ed directors. So what we've begun to do is monthly release guidance followed by implementation webinars. We really begin to talk about those topics more kind of like a community of practice. We get to talk about the challenges happening in their school systems. Some of those very unique challenges. Complex issues around serving students with disabilities. Whether it's following the pandemic. Whether it's around natural disasters. You know, what are all of the challenges that they're seeing. And it's great for us at the department to really be able to give our SPED directors that space to communicate with us at the department what are our challenges.

So you'll see here we've released three topics I've linked to those documents. We've got leveraging data to align budgets and spending to priorities. We started with that one in January because it was really tied into our school system planning process and where they were at as they began to plan for the 22-23 school year. And so we started with that topic. Our second topic was around creating compliance systems for student success. And our most recent topic was around staff wellbeing. How do we make sure that we are taking care of the needs of our educators who we need to be there and be in their best mindset in order to be able to support our students with disabilities. And for that one we really partnered with our wellbeing team at the department. You'll see our future topics. Our next topic is going to shift and talk through student wellbeing. How do we take care of the mental and the wellness needs of our students. And even

specifically our students with disabilities who have more complex challenges. And post pandemic we know they were impacted in larger ways than students without disabilities in some ways.

And so what happens is we released a set of guidance materials. We really are targeting school system leaders, school superintendents to build awareness. As well as our special ed directors. So what we instruct them to do is review those documents together. They usually begin with a self-assessment. Where are we at around this topic. How visible are we with supporting the wellbeing of students with disabilities in our district. And then it goes into some best practice topic guidance around how they can address those. And then we follow that, and we ask those folks from those districts to get on our implementation webinar together. We work with a group of advisers in the field, special ed leaders from our charter schools, our LEAs to kind of help us as we guide. So, for example, one piece of feedback that we received we really had staff and student wellbeing initially together, but what we found and what we heard from them in their feedback was that's such a large need right now. You know, before we even talk about academics and challenges just, you know, coming off of another very active hurricane season. And then our recent storms and tornadoes that significantly damaged some of our schools in St. Bernard Parish. And so what we realized was, and listening to our advisers, okay, let's step back. Let's talk about staff wellbeing. And then we'll shift to student wellbeing. And so we're very excited about this. We've gotten a lot of really great feedback around this guidance. We've shared it with the US department of ed and actually gotten some feedback saying wow, you know, we're really excited that the way that you're going and beginning to really put in writing some really clear, really concrete guidance for school systems around some topics that are responsive to their needs. So this is something that we were excited to expand this year and offer some support for our special education and school system leaders.

The next update on my report, I know at the last meeting we began talking about our IDEA budget

application process for our state set aside funds. And how that process would look. We spent some time talking about that. I wanted to come back with an update that we are now in our public comment part of that process. And I want to say really thanks to our Families Helping Families centers, our Parent Training Information Center. In the beginning of our process we did an input survey to receive initial input on what should those budget activities look like. Are our state priorities aligned. And we received over 500 responses. So we got a huge input there. We also brought that application to our Special Education Advisory Panel. And so we're now in the public comment process. It will close the end of this week. It's been open for quite some time. So I wanted to ask you all please feel free to share. I will, in total transparency, we have not received a lot of public comment. I don't know if that's because we did a good job and got a lot of public input on the front end. But please feel free to share those links that are here in the report.

I'll also say that to date the final allocations that each state will receive has not yet been released. So our draft application is based on last year's allocation which for state set aside was around 22 million. So our draft application is based on last year's allocation. As soon as we get this year's allocation we can go in, update that to reflect that increase. Which I'm hopeful for based on some communication around USDE and around increasing funding for special education and moving towards a plan to fully fund special education. I'm hopeful. Even in our early childcare centers we've heard that even for our youngest children with disabilities that there will be hopefully some increased funding from the US department of ed. So I just wanted to provide that update. Ask you all feel free to share that public comment survey there. Or, of course, if you all have any comment, please feel free to get that in by the end of the week.

The next update on my report is around our SPED fellow academy. I know I try to keep you all updated on this activity throughout the year. We are now in our process where we are closing out cohort two of our

academy. Which is yearlong comprehensive program for novice special education leaders. They attend both in-person and a few virtual sessions throughout the year. Following a very in-depth scope of learning around really developing them as special education leaders. And hopefully addressing our retention issues. And as we support these special education leaders, encouraging them to commitment and to stick to these positions. They're valuable. We need them. And so this year in order to sort of improve that leadership pipeline for special education, one of the decisions that we have made is to number one, expand our cohort by at least five applicants. And I will explain, we talked a lot in committee yesterday, the challenge. I want to reach all of them. It's so very hard when we receive applications to tell folks, you know, no, you can't be in. We've reached our limit. I would like to get up to 40 participants in our program. The challenge is finding mentors who are, who have that expertise in our school systems to partnership alongside our fellows because we feel like that's a real key piece in our development program. But we are expanding this year.

Part of that expansion is going to also, in hopes of helping to approve this pipeline, again, I'm also going to open it up to what we're calling aspiring special education leaders. So in a lot of our systems we may have special education directors, especially in our larger systems who are overseeing pupil appraisal staff and then they're overseeing also their special education staff. They may have IEP facilitators. And sometimes they have what's called special education supervisors. So I'm not at that director level yet. But we are going to reach down and try to grab those people and really get them pumped up about that director role so in hopes that, again, they commit, and they feel prepared and ready to move into a directorship down the road. Those individuals what we are requiring is a letter of recommendation from their direct supervisors. So from their current special education director. You know, saying that they have the skills, they have the dedication, they have the commitment so that once they join our program and we spend a yearlong comprehensive program walking them

through executive learning projects, how do I identify system level issues and create system level change in our school systems that then they stay in those roles. That's the goal. So our applications are open. We've done some informationals(sic). We'll continue to reach out. We already have close upwards to ten applicants already. So I'm hopeful. It's a very popular program. And we hope to continue to expand that program. That's it. We've gotten ten applicants so I'll see there may be a glitch or something happening with the app.

So the next one, the next update I have is around SEAP vacancies. Again, this is one of those items that I'll ask everyone, you know, please get the word out, please share. You'll see us begin to do some coms around our vacancies on our SEAP panel. Which is our State Education Advisory Panel. They serve three-year terms. And we rotate off approximately a third of that membership at the end of each year. So the link to that application there is live. Please ignore, there's only one where we talk about all the roles. There's one highlighted, but we have multiple roles open. I'll go through those now. I'm in the process of getting that application updated where it highlights all of the current roles that are rotating off. So our charter school rep position, her term is ending. We have a related service provider opening. We have four parents. As you all know, our parents makeup the majority of that panel. So those are important for us. Those are the most seats that we're going to have open. So we have four parents. A child welfare, a foster care individual representative. Our rep of voc rehab community or business provided transition services. That position is also opening up. And so our vacancies, like I said, we'll start to do some coms and advertise those. And then my two chairs of this council of this panel will begin interviewing in May. And hopefully we will have appointments for June. So again, please feel free to share that information out.

And our last update that I wanted to share each year we survey parents of children with disabilities who receive SPED services. This is a federal requirement for us. It is something that is part of our federal reporting. And so the purpose of that survey is to get feedback on how well school systems

are communicating with parents. How well they are involving them in the processes of servicing their children. And so we use that information to kind of guide our efforts and hopefully improve services and results within our school systems. And so our current parent involvement survey is now available. I have the link here. Per federal regs we have to use a sampling method that gives us a demographic representative of our children with disabilities across our state. This year what I have also decided to do, so when you go to that link it's going to list you the school systems that give us that demographic makeup. That we have to report for the federal government. However, this year I'd like to-- it's open. So any parent can complete the survey. I'm one of those that feels like the more input, the more voices we hear around parents the better informed we are as a department. The better we can make decisions around how to best support our school systems as well with engaging parents. So that survey is completely open. We can disaggregate it the way that we need in order to pull out the sampling that we need to go to the federal government. But again, wanted to just let everyone know here that one change we're making is that it will be open for all parents so that we can hear from everyone this year. And that concludes my report. I'll entertain any questions if there are any.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Jordan, for your report. You have hands raised. Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: It's not in relation to this so I'll move on.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for letting us know that. Ms. Hymel, the chair recognizes you. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. Mine is like with Families Helping Families is that like I know what Families Helping Families do in that. But I'm talking about with parents with the children with the disability. Do they have like the school board in that do they ever, you know, get the help that they really need with the school board? And how many could it be for their children alone with a disability?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Their supports are expansive and varied by need based on the school systems. I know some of these individuals are in here that we partner with. But we do have school systems. We have special education directors who reach out to Families Helping Families centers for supports, for information. We recommend as a department, you know, when I have parents who contact me and they're looking for specific resources, especially if they're in rural communities and they don't know where to go, their local Families Helping Families centers are a vital part of just providing them with the information they need and the resources that they need. So we will refer them to their Families Helping Families centers. They can probably speak to the volumes that they get. I also know their webinars, their trainings that they do are extremely popular with both our parents as well as our school systems. Like I said, our school systems are reaching out to them for support. I also know that, and we recommend this, that local special education advisory councils, that they could also reach out to their Families Helping Families centers and bring them in as a partner. You know, that's a place where our local special ed advisory councils as well are made up and should have many parents involved on those councils as well. And so they could bring those Families Helping Families centers in there. I know some of them that do for presentations, for information. And it's a way for them to also provide them as partners and give them those contacts as well. So that's a great question. The services vary and could really address whatever that need is when the parent or the school system reaches out to Families Helping Families.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Also, do they have to have pay like for schools' dues or, you know, the school system I know they have to have like, you know, with pay rates that they have. Do they have to really pay it, you know?

MEREDITH JORDAN: The school systems and parents do not have to pay Families Helping Families. Those services are there for them.

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. I mean with the school. With the schools' tuition. The parents alone.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Do parents have to pay the school

tuition, is that the question?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. It is. Who pays it? Families Helping Families or the parents have to pay the tuition?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Families Helping Families doesn't pay any tuition. Parents are only paying tuition for their children to attend school if they're going maybe to a private school. There may be some tuition involved for private school attendance.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I was asking.

RASHAD BRISTO: Was your question satisfied, Ms. Hymel?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. It is.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hymel. Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. I'm asking about the, I see the job-- well, the vacancies that you guys have. Is that like to sit up on-- that's your panel member. But I remember yesterday you were telling us about other positions you guys had open. Is that the same thing or something different?

MEREDITH JORDAN: That's something different. So yesterday I also gave the committee just an update on my team at the department. Our diverse learners and our SPED team and the positions that I have and those vacancies. I did find out for you, Ms. Nicole, that that mild, moderate position we talked about did close. But I will make sure I forward you any additional positions that we have open. Or if we have to repost that one. I will definitely share it with you.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. I just wanted to note the information. Cause they asked me yesterday. I said oh, they didn't tell me what exact position it was to apply for. So I'm not sure. That's why I was getting more information about the exact position. Cause if you go on the civil service website and type in--

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

NICOLE BANKS: It's just too many.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes. It's a lot. So they are educational program consultant positions. And then you really have to look and take a look at them, Ms. Banks, to see, you know, what is the focus. So just to kind of give everyone that overview, that update of my team

cause I know it's changed, thankfully, and we are growing. Since I first started, you all know, total transparency, there were lots of vacancies on my team. And so when we are fully staffed, I will have total 11 team members including myself. But part of that initial process was throughout the fall getting civil service approval for a team structure. So many of you know if you're in state employment, it's a process. So we currently have seven employees including myself. I have four vacancies. But like Ms. Nicole is referencing, I've got a couple of those that have closed and we're in the process of filling. One of those is going to be it's an ed program consultant. But the experience that I'm looking for is that pupil appraisal experience. That's a school psychologist or a diagnostician. Really having that area on my team. I have another ed program consultant position that I am looking for and this one is closed. I'm looking for a mild, moderate experience. And the other ed program consultant is I'm looking for an individual with more experience with serving students with significant disabilities. So I have that experience. And then I have one more team member who left for a job advancement. She was phenomenal on our team. We were sad to see her go. She was leading our sped fellow work, which I'm now continuing to advance while we advertise that position. That one should be going up very soon. And that person could be someone who has success leading successful special education programs. But again, that specific title on civil service, Ms. Banks, will still be ed program consultant. Then you've got to go in and kind of look at the description to see that job focus.

NICOLE BANKS: Another question. You said that severe, does it account for severe and profound disabilities?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Cause I just wanted to make sure that was clear. Because they have experience in both of those too. So I was just asking.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Absolutely. Absolutely.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. I yield the floor. That was all my questions.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. Any more questions in

regards to the report that was presented by Ms. Jordan for Department of Education? Dr. Michel, you're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

CHARLIE MICHEL: I'm Charlie Michel. Again, executive director Bayou Land Families Helping Families. Wanted to tell you how wonderful it is to see that y'all are doing the guidance for reading and inclusive education. We have been asking for that for years. I was a special ed director before. And that was never forthcoming. My hope when you tie it into all three of these areas is great. My hope is that there's an ancillary activity going on with Cade talking to the superintendents. Because one of the biggest stressors of a special ed director is not achieving for students, it's fighting the superintendent over the appropriate use of the funds that are available to the school system for those students. And in the previous administration there were several questionable methods of funding that were modeled and embraced by superintendents. So the old superintendents, the old guard are still embracing that because it's hard to get them to change their behavior. So special ed directors that don't have the wherewithal to fight that, are in a bind. Then you have new superintendents coming in that don't know it's wrong because it's always been that way. So I'm hoping that that's part of it cause that will do the most for staff wellbeing when they can do their jobs and not have to worry about losing them (inaudible).

MEREDITH JORDAN: Right. I'm so glad you said that too, Charlie. You know, one of the things that I have heard in working with SPED directors in our SPED fellow academy they'll say too, you know, school superintendents. And also God, my principals, my school building level leaders need this information as well. So I'm trying to figure out too how do I partner with our superintendents' academy. And we've started a principals' academy or principals' fellowship. But how do we partner with those development activities, educator development activities, to also embed this content and knowledge as well.

CHARLIE MICHEL: And for the record since it's being recorded, my superintendent never did that. She really didn't. She was awesome. But I was one of the

few fortunate ones.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Dr. Michel.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Hano, I see your hand. Do you have any more questions for Ms. Jordan in regard to the report that she just presented?

JILL HANO: I do. I wrote in my notes that I wanted later to look up the makeup of the SEAP panel. And I know in legislation in our bills and laws we have the breakdown of the makeup of certain panels. Where can I find the breakdown of the makeup just for my personal wellbeing? For my personal reference.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Jill, I'm happy to send you our breakdown. You can also find it if you go to the department's website, Louisiana Believes, and you type in the search SEAP. The most horrible way to try to find information. But you can find it. As long as someone can share with me your email, Jill. If I could email you our breakdown, I'm happy to do that.

JILL HANO: Of course.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Okay.

JILL HANO: Yeah.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Hano. And we'll make sure your email address is passed onto Ms. Jordan. Do we have any questions, any more questions from council members in regard to the report that's been presented by the Department of Education?

EBONY HAVEN: Rashad, there's a question in the chat from Ms. Cosse. She asked if the SEAP summer meeting is open to public or retreat?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Good question. We will have at least one agenda item so it will be open to the public and then we'll break to retreat. Good question, Ms. Brenda.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Hope your question was satisfied Ms. Cosse. Do we have any other questions in the chat? I'm sorry.

EBONY HAVEN: No.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Not seeing any more questions in regards to the report that's presented. Jill, I see you hand up. Is that intentional or just an oversight?

JILL HANO: I was literally lowering it.

RASHAD BRISTO: No problem. Didn't want to overlook you. So the report from the Department of Education requires no action. So it will be placed on file. The next item up for business is the report from the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. The chair recognizes Ms. Cheri Crain for the report. You have the floor.

CHERI CRAIN: Unfortunately, our report was late. We had some technical difficulties in gathering some of our information. But I think Amy and them have it now. So I'm just going to touch basis on our updates. Since the public health pandemic our councils has been closed. So they're just now getting back to opening up. They didn't stop providing the meals and the services. However, if was a little challenging on providing those services whether that individual didn't want anybody in their home, or they didn't want to come to the council when it was open. So some of those services, the units, you know, went down. But they still provided those services as much as possible. Our ombudsman program has an opportunity where they are getting funds to enhance the volunteer program throughout the state to help advocate on behalf of the residents of those long-term care facilities. So now since the pandemic, the emergency has been lifted, they are now going back into those facilities and able to talk to them one-on-one as to where they were just teleconferencing residents to advocate for them. So that is a grant that is going to be coming to help do that where we will contract out to media campaigns to start that campaign to start drawing in some more volunteers.

Our elderly protective services. We have currently opened, since July 1st, 3,777 cases. Of those cases 328 are classified as high priority. 2305 cases were classified as medium priority. So as the pandemic was going through any high priority cases were not necessarily being seen unless it was severe then our investigators would go out. Otherwise, they would either call law enforcement to help assess that need and then handle it from that point. The medium cases were basically handled as much as possible through teleconferencing or just simple phone calls once the reports came in to investigate those as much as

possible. Our ADRC program. We have a grant that is pending approval right now to help enhance the public health workforce when it comes to our resource centers and getting information out to the general public for any assistance referral that they require. It's going to be in the amount of 115,000, maybe a little bit more depending how many states actually apply for that grant. So we're hoping to hear within a couple of weeks, that award, to see if we have gotten that grant award.

Our MIPPA program, which is our Medicare program to help with a low-income subsidy as well and your Medicare savings plan. We have the FY20 grant was extended by 12 months. Just due to the pandemic and not being able to assist with open enrollment face to face. That was extended. So then the FY21 grant started in October 2021. So we have two grants running concurrently. We have one that ends in April, the end of this month. And then that's the FY20. We had the 21 that ends June 30th. And the new grant for FY22 just opened yesterday. So those are three grants going on at pretty much the same time for me.

The next update really is that we have implemented a new phone automated system and I kind of mentioned that our last quarter. So if you know of anybody that has used that new phone system, we are looking for feedback to see how we can enhance it or if it has worked. If it, you know, if there's some things that we can improve or some things that, you know, you've come across that would be an issue we would like to know so you can just email us at elderlyaffairs@la.gov and give us that feedback. We would appreciate that to see how we can streamline some of those phone calls. Whether they come to us at the state office or if they need to be distributed out to those individual councils or to our resource centers. And that's pretty much it for our update.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Ms. Crain. Do we have any questions from council members in regards to the report that's been presented? Mr. Davis. I see your hand. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. But thank you for recognizing me. Who was the speaker again that just spoke?

RASHAD BRISTO: That was Ms. Cheri Crain with the Office of Elderly Affairs.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you, chair. Ms. Crain, can you repeat what the ombudsman program was? I don't think I'm saying that right.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes. That's okay. It's ombudsman. It's fine. I knew what you meant. So basically what our ombudsman do is it's a federal and state funded program where we're mandated to advocate on the behalf of residents in long-term care facilities. So if they have a complaint, example, their food is too salty. Our ombudsman goes in and talks to the resident and gets their input on what their complaint is. And then they will talk to the facility and see if they can, you know, modify that person's meal intake to where it's not as salty to help resolve that issue.

LOGAN DAVIS: Excuse me one second.

CHERI CRAIN: Sure.

LOGAN DAVIS: So what is the status of your ombudsman program? What's the status of it?

CHERI CRAIN: So right now we do have a state ombudsman and then we have regional ombudsman who are paid through the Councils on Aging in different regions. But there is a greater need that those regional ombudsman cannot reach everybody so we are actually doing a volunteer program where we are going to train them and help mentor with our regional ombudsman to get them up to speed on what they can and cannot do. Or what their shared purpose is is to advocate for that resident. And so we have a grant that's going to be coming through to enhance that program.

LOGAN DAVIS: Got you. Are there any ombudsman program vacancies?

CHERI CRAIN: Not for the paid positions, no.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. That was my question. And I yield my time back. And thank you so much, Ms. Crain. And chairman, thank you. All right. I yield back my time. Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Mr. Davis. Mr. Iddins, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could you specify for the members of the council, and those

listening, and the public what the ombudsman specific role is in regards to a person in a facility that is requesting to transition? Someone that's not interdicted. Someone that maybe has a developmental disability or some other disability that's in a nursing home or other institution that is requesting to transition and they're not getting the support from the staff, or the in-house social worker, or other folks there. You know, they're making this, making it known that they would like to transition back in the community, but they're not getting the support. What is the ombudsman's role in regards to supporting that person?

CHERI CRAIN: So the ombudsman can actually, you know, really advocate for that resident, express their concerns. You know, express their wishes to the facility as well as to the family members if need be. It kind of transitions from the ombudsman to possibility our home and community-based service unit who would actually help transition that person into another, you know, either nursing assisted or back to their home or families to take care of them. So it's kind of a two-part unit that works hand and hand in our office. So it's not necessarily just going to be ombudsman. It depends on what all is entailed in that transition as to what other units in our office would help with that transition.

MITCH IDDINS: Right. I understand. I mean, I'm more concerned about what specifically, you know, what the ombudsman, you said the ombudsman would advocate for them. Advocate to who? Advocate to the nursing staff, to the administrator? Who would they be advocating to to express this client's concerns about transition?

CHERI CRAIN: Yeah. It could be the facility itself. It could be the director of the facility. It could be family members of the resident. It's basically they're the mediator at the table to say what their wishes are if they're not being heard. And like I said, depending on how severe the wishes of that client it could also involve another unit in our office besides the ombudsman. So it just depends on the specifics of the situation.

MITCH IDDINS: I just want to make sure that the

ombudsmen take these concerns about these clients that are expressing that they want the desire to transition seriously. Because, you know, and I'm talking about people that aren't interdicted. People that can leave anytime they want to if they had the means to do so. Because quite often I think people are saying out loud, and quite frankly that I don't want to be here, but no one's listening. Cause I hear that all the time. And so I want to make sure that if someone reaches out to an ombudsman that ombudsman takes that request seriously and takes it to the proper people in the staff, be it the nursing home staff or whomever, to make sure that this client's desire to potentially transition is heard and that the process begins. Or at least that their desires are addressed seriously. Cause I hear that all the time. Nobody's listening to me. I've asked and I've expressed that I don't want to be here. I want to transition, but I'm not getting the support that I need.

CHERI CRAIN: Absolutely. And that is part of this new grant that we are waiting on approval for to help drum up that information to just the general public itself as well to even know that there is the ombudsman program to help those people that are expressing that concern. A lot of people that I talk to just in the general, you know, in my personal life does not even know what an ombudsman is or that they even exist.

MITCH IDDINS: I have people in the nursing home tell me all the time, I say have you talked to your ombudsman. Well, who is that. What is that. I mean, they should be introduced to the ombudsman when they're admitting them when they first go into the facility. They should have a clear understanding of who their advocates are there. Who the person they can trust. Who is the person that they can go to when people are stealing from them, stealing their personal items. You hear that kind of stuff going on in these facilities all the time. So they need to be able to know that the ombudsman is a person that they can absolutely go to in confidence and somebody that they can trust that will listen to them and take action for them.

CHERI CRAIN: Absolutely agree. And I can tell you I'm over the state ombudsman and so there are many changes that I have made in just the two years that I

have been there in order to get this out and get it to the general public. Cause like I said, in my own personal life I know that people don't know. So to get that, I wrote that grant and so I'm, you know, waiting on that response. And we did get a couple questions on the grant proposal. And that's what I'm saying hopefully within the next two weeks we'll know if we get that grant. And that we've already, you know, started talking to a couple vendors to get that media out there, how we're going to do it and get that word out. So I appreciate you saying that cause I know it's out there. I know it's an issue. And we're addressing it the best we can, as quick as we can.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you.

CHERI CRAIN: The other is when you were talking about the stealing and all that, that is another unit in our office. But we work hand in hand very close with all of those. And so if it's an issue where they're not even getting through to the regular regional ombudsman, they can go on the website and either get my name or our state ombudsman person and call us directly. We will address it.

MITCH IDDINS: Well, you're talking about people that are institutionalized that don't have access to computers and internet. Quite often the only person, like I said, that they can trust, that they feel they might be able to trust-- cause listen, they go to the nursing staff all the time. The nursing staff often just brushes this stuff off. They don't want to hear it. They hear it all it the time. And so nothing gets done. And I say that from experience cause I've got a client that I'm working with right now that she's constantly expressing to me people are stealing from me all the time. And when I say something to the nurse, or I say something to the administrator I just get brushed off. Matter of fact, she said that they would quite often just pat her on the arm and say just calm down. It will be okay. You know, so they don't take her seriously. And so if she knew that the ombudsman would take her seriously, that that's somebody that they can go to that will absolutely be, she can talk to in confidence and that they will take her concerns seriously. Cause quite often the administration and the staff, they just brush them off. They're

overwhelmed by things in there quite often. And so they don't either have the means to address it or they just hear it all the time and they've become desensitized to these issues. But for a person living there that's their home. They want to know that if I have to live here the rest of my life that I don't have to worry about people stealing from me and taking my little bit of money that my mother gave me because I only get, you know, 35 dollars a month or whatever it is. So, you know, these are legitimate concerns for people. And we just want to try to do all that we can to make sure if they're going to have to be there, that they have quality of life while they're there. And that they're happy and they can have some joy while they're there.

CHERI CRAIN: Absolutely. And I welcome any calls. So you can call me anytime and if you have specific facilities or regions, please let me know and we can facilitate that.

MITCH IDDINS: Well, I would love to do that. Would you please share your email address with maybe one of the staff there and they can pass that onto me via email, please.

CHERI CRAIN: Absolutely.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you.

CHERI CRAIN: You're welcome.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that, Mr. Iddins. Very thought provoking.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you.

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

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. For me with ombudsman, how many total that y'all have? Because we have an ombudsman for our group home. She does a great job for us. When we say that if we need something and she hears us in that for whatever it is that we say, she brings it to attention to our queue in that and all. And she do it for us. So how many total ombudsmen who goes out to group homes or out to nursing homes? You know, whatever places that y'all send them to. And how many are there?

CHERI CRAIN: Roslyn, I will have to get you that breakdown as to how many. Because we do have some that are paid, and we do have some that are volunteer. And

then we do have them broken down by region. And sometime the region is broken down even further depending on the need. So I will definitely get that information to you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Please. I would appreciate it. Because, I mean, how much do they ever get paid on that kind of help that they do get?

CHERI CRAIN: So it really depends because what happens is the Office of Elderly Affairs contracts out to the Councils on Aging. And the Councils on Aging pay the ombudsman. And so it's kind of like a subcontract. So it really deems on the area and the need. We don't have any really control over how much they pay them. And some of them are part-time ombudsman so they're not full time. So they do other job functions for the council as well as the ombudsman.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's really the sad part of it.

CHERI CRAIN: Absolutely.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I wish we could do more for ombudsmen because some ombudsmen are good.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes, ma'am.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I wish we could do more.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Hymel. Mr. Iddins, I see your hand. Did you have another question? Oversight? Okay. All right. Do we have any questions, comments in the chat box?

EBONY HAVEN: There was one. How to sign up for ombudsman volunteer training. Who can. And waiting on grant or seeking volunteers now to build capacity. And that's from Ms. Brenda Cosse.

CHERI CRAIN: So Ms. Cosse, you can call our state office and ask for the state ombudsman. The number's (225)342-7100. And I'll repeat the number for you. It's (225)342-7100. Listen for the prompts and it will, I think, please do not quote me on this because they've been changing the prompts. So it used to be prompt three for your state ombudsman. But just listen for state ombudsman on the prompt and then push the number that it tells you to push. So you can talk to her about the whole program. The volunteer you can do now before the grant comes through. We do that anyway. The grant is really just to enhance that capability to get the word out and get additional volunteers.

RASHAD BRISTO: One more time on that phone number.

CHERI CRAIN: No. It's okay. (225)342-7100.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. That number has been placed in the chat. Do we have any more questions in regards to the report that's been presented by Ms. Crain for the Office of Elderly Affairs?

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes, sir, chairman. It's Logan Davis.

RASHAD BRISTO: Mr. Davis. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Ms. Crain, you said there was one state ombudsman and how many regional people?

CHERI CRAIN: I would have to get that number for you because we've had vacancies and then we have filled some. But those positions are all through the Councils on Aging. The only one that is a state civil service position is the actual state ombudsman.

LOGAN DAVIS: And we can find the vacancies on what website, again? I'm sorry for asking irrelevant questions.

CHERI CRAIN: No. That's okay. You won't be able to find the vacancies because we do not, it's not civil service positions. It is contracted through the Councils on Aging. So you would not have that information anywhere. I would have to get that for you and that's part of the information I will get for Roslyn, and we can distribute it out to the whole council.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. I'm going to put my contact information down below for both you and Ms. Bayham. My cell phone number and my email address.

CHERI CRAIN: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Mr. Davis. Do we have any more questions in regards to the report that's been presented by Ms. Crain? Not seeing any hands. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. At this time we're going to move to lunch. So if there's no objection, recess for lunch. We'll reconvene at 1:00.

RASHAD BRISTO: Good afternoon, everyone. Just want to announce that we're going to reconvene in two minutes. If you can go ahead and turn your cameras on, that way we can know who's present that way we can move forward.

All right. Good afternoon, everyone. The time is

now 1:00 April 21st, 2022. We're calling the meeting back to order. I hope you had a great lunch. Like to remind everybody of the protocols. Make sure that your cameras are on with video. Make sure you remain muted. Whenever you're recognized-- make sure that you raise your hand electronically to be recognized by the chair for comment. Also, remember that we are streaming live on YouTube. And at this point of the meeting we're going to proceed with the rest of our committee reports. And we'll begin with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. So the chair recognizes Ms. Melissa Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. My report was late, so I don't think it's in your packet. But I think it is available at this point on the council website. I apologize for that. I'll go over briefly what's in the report and then go over some other items with you. The first section of the report is preemployment transition services. Which is our services for students with disabilities. We're currently providing services to approximately 2800 students statewide. Which includes active preETS programs in 41 of the 64 parishes and over 547 schools throughout the state. We currently have 14 active third party cooperative arrangements with local school districts to provide those services. So we provide those services either on a contractual basis with the school districts or through one of our community rehabilitation programs. We have approximately $10.6-million in our preETS budget for this state fiscal year.

You will also see we have statistics on the number of vocational rehabilitation consumers currently. If you add the vocational, just the VR cases and preETS cases we're serving a little over 10,000 individuals right now. We have also provided statistics by region of how many individuals with developmental disabilities that we are currently serving for a total of 3,104. We also provided statistics on how many cases have been closed rehabilitated. Which means they have been successfully closed with an employment outcome. And we have provided information regarding our rehabilitation employment development specialist position and their statistics for the quarter. I will note that we are still recruiting for a REDS or rehabilitation

development specialist in our Houma office. We haven't been able to get a qualified applicant up until this point. So we are actively looking for that particular position.

Also, wanted to mention that our Louisiana Rehabilitation Council will be meeting, which is the advisory council for LRS, will be meeting next Thursday April the 28th at the Courtyard Baton Rouge on Siegen Lane. And also wanted to note that we are, we have started conducting some statewide trainings for our rehabilitation counselors and our counselor associates. You know, a lot of the feedback that we receive is that our services are not always consistent statewide. So that's an effort for things to be more consistent. Also, we've had turnover and so we had a lot of new staff. So we're doing a lot of statewide training to try to address some of those concerns.

I wanted to, happy to report we're again collaborating with the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for seasonal employment opportunities with the Office of State Parks. So the Office of State Parks, they contacted us and said that they have positions statewide. These are seasonable positions, but when we've done this in the past sometimes these positions do turn into permanent employment. And it is just a really good opportunity for people to get work experience and possibly to be able to be able to work full time for the state.

Our state plan, we have to do a state plan to the federal government and this year we're doing our state plan modification. And it will be on the Louisiana Works website. Probably tomorrow for public comment. So feel free to go to it's laworks.net. You can go that website and the state plan should be on the banner at the top of the screen. And you can provide public comment for the state plan. Which this is the combined state plan. Meaning it's not just Louisiana Rehab Services, but all of your employment programs through the Workforce Commission and also adult education. I will say the major changes in the state plan for vocational rehabilitation would be we did change our order of selection. Which was promulgated. And so we did have a public comment period for this. But we now have three order of selection categories instead of

five. So it doesn't really change anything per say. We still don't have a waiting list at this point. But it does just reduce the number of categories that we have. And also in addition to the state plan we've also added that we are participating in a disability innovation fund grant. We are actually participating with Michigan Rehabilitation Services. They're actually the grantee and we are the sub-grantee. And we're actually sub-granting some of the funds to Southern University in Baton Rouge. And the purpose of this particular grant is to assist individuals who want to either enter into or advance in employment in a STEM occupation. And Southern University is going to be developing a curriculum for social cognitive career theory. So they're going to be using social cognitive career theory interventions to assist these individuals. And also, they'll be training our staff on these interventions so that we can assist our consumers better in the future in terms of employment in STEM occupations.

The last thing I wanted to mention, we still do have vacancies statewide for the rehabilitation counselor position. So we do have a continuous posting on civil service. So if you know someone who is interested in applying, please have them apply to the continuous posting and we usually pull that posting every two weeks. We did recently add to the minimum qualifications business administration. So prior to this that particular, if you had a degree in business administration you would not necessarily qualify for the rehabilitation counselor position. But we added that to the minimum qualifications because it was added in the Rehabilitation Act under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. In those amendments it added business administration as a degree field that qualifies you to be a rehabilitation counselor. We've been having a lot of problems recruiting staff. You know, when we post things on civil service, we are just not getting the number of applicants we used to get. And so this is in an effort to hopefully increase our number of applications. But that's all I have for my report. But would be happy to take any questions.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Bayham. Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand. You're recognized by the

chair. You have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. So I have a couple things. What position in the Houma office you said was available?

MELISSA BAYHAM: We call it the REDS, but it's the rehabilitation employment development specialist. Which is essentially a job developer, an in-house job developer in the Houma office. And they do a lot of business relations as well. You know, they go out into the business community, make those contacts so that, you know, they can help employ our individuals with disabilities.

NICOLE BANKS: And where is this located? Where is this posted at?

MELISSA BAYHAM: It's on the civil service website. I don't know if it's active right now. I need to check because we continue to repost it. So I don't know if it's active right now. But we do continue to repost it.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. And another thing, you said you guys have been having issues and problems with finding qualified people to apply for these jobs on the civil service website, correct?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Correct.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So let me just share a little bit of, you know, insight. I applied for some of these positions years ago. I have a degree. I have a lot of experience up in mental health, up in all those different positions. I never even got a call back. So I'm not sure why y'all have that. And at this point I just stop applying because I have applied for 225 jobs on the civil service website. So I know for a fact that I don't know if y'all not-- what are the qualifications? Because to me a bachelor's degree is enough. And then if you have experience in that background. If you have an interview with that person regardless if they have experience or not, because experienced people are still not producing results. So like what are the qualifications? Because I'm just confused at this point just personally.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. I don't have all the degrees in front of me, but you do have to have a bachelor's degree and one year of experience working with individuals with disabilities. But one thing that

we have found, and we've had-- if we know someone has applied that doesn't end up on what we call the list, you know, sometimes we can get civil service to look at it. But sometimes if you don't, like civil service vets all the applicants. And if you don't pass the civil service vetting process, we never see your name. Does that make sense?

NICOLE BANKS: I mean, it does make sense. But, I mean, like you said, like I have degree. So to me check, that's all. I have experience in that. Check, that's all.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah.

NICOLE BANKS: You know, and maybe that's just my insight of it and maybe that's probably why you guys don't have people applying because after applying for 225 jobs I'm not applying no more. I'm going to go move on and put my experience and expertise into something else.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay.

NICOLE BANKS: So maybe y'all need to see what the vetting process is to ensure that you are-- even whatever the requirements are, they're at least meeting two or three of them y'all at least need to give them an interview. Because this isn't working out. And it's a high turnover. And we're having a problem cause this been a problem for the last two years. We've seen this issue with having problems with filling jobs and keeping people. And, you know, that kind of stuff. And that is the point of having this, you know, having these kind of things so that we know what's going on. But now you have a person that was in the inside before all of this that knows, you know.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. I'm not certain what happened in your particular position. But I will also note this is an issue on the national level as well. But like I said, if we know applicants who have applied that don't end up on the list, we can ask civil service specifically about those particular individuals. But otherwise we just don't even know that you applied.

NICOLE BANKS: Got you. But the Houma office one, I mean, I'll talk to you after that.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay.

NICOLE BANKS: Ms. Bayham, about that position. Because, you know, I'm in the Houma area and I know

what the council needs. And just you make sure there's not a conflict of interest there, you know.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I understand.

NICOLE BANKS: But if they need that like they need some restructuring and that's what needs to happen, that's my area. That's where I live. That's where I'm from. So I'm definitely down to help the Houma office. For sure, for sure.

MELISSA BAYHAM: And I can tell you one other thing that we have, you know, one thing that we do look at is the entry pay is low. And we know that. And so if you put on your application to have on there required salary, if you put 50,000-dollars, they're probably not going to call you in for an interview because we can't come anywhere near that, for example. That could also be it.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So maybe we got to restructure some things. Because if we're really trying to make movement. I'm just saying, you know. We might have to restructure some things because if we really want to make systemic progress, and that's the point of all of this, then that's where we have to start making those little changes in little areas with all of these different agencies that's in the room. And if we all collectively do something little we might just, you know, you just never know what happens then.

MELISSA BAYHAM: But I also want to let you know we don't have the authority to change the pay. So only civil service has that authority. So we have met with civil service on this issue. Like the starring entry pay for a rehabilitation counselor is 14.25 an hour. So now if you have certain extraordinary qualifications we can hire at a higher rate. But that has to be approved by the human resources department. And I can't put that pay scale on the job posting.

NICOLE BANKS: Right. So are we looking at the cost of living? Are we looking at like family? You know, we're looking at the cost of living when we're doing these pay things, right?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. But that battle is with the state department of civil service.

NICOLE BANKS: Right. Well, that was all of my questions. I yield the floor. Thanks.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Vice Chair Banks. Mr.

Davis, your hand is raised. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you, chair. Ms. Bayham, I just have a few questions. One is what are the three new order of selection categories? And yeah, are they just mild, moderate and severe?

MELISSA BAYHAM: So, and I'll explain it this way. So we used to have five categories. One and two used to be most significantly disabled. Now one and two is only one. So category one is most significantly disabled. Then categories three and four were significantly disabled. So now that's only category two. So category two is significantly disabled. And category five is now category three which is non significantly disabled. So in other words we used to have two categories that were most significantly disabled. And two categories that were significantly disabled. And now we've just collapsed those into one category each.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. Thank you for the clarification. Now what is the criteria for being deemed eligible for services in those three categories?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. So category one, most significantly disabled, you have to have functional limitations. Severe functional limitations in at least three functional capacity areas. So we have eight functional capacity areas. I will try to name them for you. Mobility, work skills, work tolerance. It's been a really long time since I've done eligibility. But there's eight areas that we look at. And if you have severe limitations in three of those areas you will be in order of selection category one. For order of selection category two it would be one or two areas. And order of selection category three means you have a disability, and you need VR services, but maybe your limitations are just not severe.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. And so would a doctor's diagnosis put you in one of those three categories?

MELISSA BAYHAM: So we do need a diagnosis from the appropriate professional, but it also-- and that's why we have to have qualified rehabilitation counselors. Just having an impairment does not qualify you for vocational rehabilitation services. You have to have a substantial impediment to employment. So the counselor

through their interview and through the medical documentation has to determine what your disability is and then do you have limitations, substantial functional limitations in at least, depending on which category, however many areas.

LOGAN DAVIS: Got you. And so for the medical documentation is it required that you are to sign a HIPPA release form?

MELISSA BAYHAM: You do have a release form. Yes. Correct.

LOGAN DAVIS: So you are required to sign a HIPPA release form?

MELISSA BAYHAM: If we are going to obtain medical records, we have to have a release signed or they're not going to send them to us.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. And where do you get the records from, the doctor's office that you see?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Correct. Like when you come in for your interview, we'll determine which doctors you see and which ones we would need medical documentation for. And then you would sign a release form for us to get information from that particular doctor.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. What if you bring your medical records to the appointment and give them a paper that has all the diagnoses that has a traumatic brain injury and stuff like that? That's just for example, chair.

MELISSA BAYHAM: It should be sufficient as long as it describes your current level of functioning, it should be sufficient.

LOGAN DAVIS: Perfect. And so like Ms. Banks, I too like last month I think applied for the rehabilitation counselor entry level counselor position. It was actually December the 6th at 10:22 a.m. I mean, I have a bachelor's degree in political science. I have a disability. And for the minimum compensation requirement I put under the one that you have. You have 14.25, you said?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Correct.

LOGAN DAVIS: I put 13-dollars or 27,040-dollars a year and I wasn't even offered a phone call. So something’s up.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. I can see if your name was on the register. I don't know if it was or not. I can find out.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. Yes. Thank you. And yeah. Please call me after the council meeting. I have some things to discuss or questions and all that stuff.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. No problem.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you so much. I yield my time. Thank you, chair and Ms. Bayham.

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

JILL EGLE: Yes. When you say category by IDD and services LRS, what do you mean by category and people with IDD who wants to seek employment? I mean, you have to follow a state standard in order to work.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm not exactly sure if I understand your question. Are you talking about the order of selection categories?

JILL EGLE: Yeah.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. So if an individual with a developmental disability applies for LRS services we would just look to see if you have limitations in which functional capacity areas. And so if you have limitations in three areas then you're going to be in order of selection group one. And if you have limitations in one or two areas, then you would be in order of selection category two. Does that make sense?

JILL EGLE: Yeah. I'm an advocate and I'm on the DD Council and I go do the Arc of GNO uptown center. A lot of my people who want to work through LRS they get frustrated and anxious because it like takes them forever. But then once they're in the system, the category saying what do you really want to do. You know, is it a job at first or is it a career you follow your passion later.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. If I can make a clarification. The only reason why we have an order of selection is for budgetary reasons. There are certain states that are very blessed and don't have budget issues and so they don't have an order of selection. If you have a disability and you need VR services you're going to be qualified and you're going to receive services. But we have an order of selection because if we end up in a position where we don't have enough funds to serve everyone who's applying then we would have to close some of those categories. And the rehab act requires us to serve individuals with the

most significant disabilities first. So the categories are structured that way so that individuals with the most significant disabilities are going to be served before individuals with less significant disabilities.

JILL EGLE: Oh, so you get to the severely IDD and then after that then you go to the- what about the high functioning? Y'all can't turn high functioning applicants down if they want to find work, correct?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. We don't turn anybody down. If we close categories, which right now we don't have a waiting list, you would just be put on a waiting list. But right now we do not have a waiting list.

JILL EGLE: Well, I represent everything within the DD Council and the Arc of Greater New Orleans, and I'll never forget when I went through LRS they turned me down because they knew of my high level working with the government and with the senator and representing (inaudible). But I moved on because I'm just who I am and I'm not going to let nobody control me because I always try to do big for everybody with developmental disabilities.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm sorry. I don't know what happened.

JILL EGLE: Yeah. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Egle. Ms. Hymel, you're recognized by the chair. I see your hand. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you. This is what I want to find out even with LRS. You know, I'm trying to go forward, and I know at times I even spoke with my director here at Magnolia. Right now I'm trying to look forward of getting back with LRS right now. Is it possible that even with a job that I really want to do, and I really don't know how to really go about it, is there a way that even for me?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. You just need to apply for services. Now I will say we only do community employment or competitive integrated employment. So we don't find employment like at Magnolia. But if you wanted to work out in the community, we can certainly assist you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. No. What I mean is for me to go back-- okay, for example. I want to go back to like Cafe Du Monde in that. And that's my goal. What I

truly want to do.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. You just need to reapply for services, and I can assist you with that.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can I really get in touch with you about that?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. Absolutely.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All I need is like maybe-- is there a way I could get to call you in that?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

ROSLYN HYMEL: And you and I could really talk about it.

MELISSA BAYHAM: That's not a problem.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. Thanks. I appreciate that.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Ms. Hymel. Ms. Egle, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL EGLE: Thank you, chair, Mr. Rashad. I have a quick question. So I know you support your work with the Arc of Greater New Orleans for employment, but why y'all don't do Magnolia? Because that's a nonprofit like the Arc of GNO.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Let me explain. We only assist individuals with competitive integrated employment. In other words, you can go to Magnolia. You can go to the Arc of GNO. But we only find employment in the community. We don't find what they call segregated employment where you're not working alongside individuals without disabilities. The rehab act doesn't allow us to do that.

JILL EGLE: Yeah. I know a lot of people at Magnolia including Roslyn who's a good leader. And let me tell you, the stories that those advocates tell me oh, I try to find work and they turn me down. And when I go with my DSP to buy something I can't afford anything. So budgeting. It's always a same issue every year. And I just wish that everybody could take a change to, you know, to make the changes. Emotional because I want everybody to be who they are, but times are rough. But what can we do to make a change.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I understand.

JILL EGLE: Yeah.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Egle.

JILL EGLE: You're welcome.

RASHAD BRISTO: This conversation that we're having now is part of it being systematic change because this is the room that's involving the people who have an impact in making those changes that people on this council are passionate about. So thank you very much. Do we have any more questions for the report that's been presented? Mr. Davis, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you, chair. Ms. Bayham, when you mentioned competitive employment, can you define that for me, please, because it's just over my head.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Sure. Not a problem. The competitive piece simply means that we do not support subminimum wage. You have to be making at least-- we only support positions that are minimum wage or basically to put it simply, you should be making as much as your counterparts without disabilities. That's what competitive means that they're not going to pay you less because you have a disability. And then the integrated piece is the community piece where you have to be working in the community alongside other individuals without disabilities.

LOGAN DAVIS: So would you say a work from home position is nothing you could help out with?

MELISSA BAYHAM: No. We can help with work from home positions.

LOGAN DAVIS: Oh, well. Okay. All right.

RASHAD BRISTO: Does that satisfy your question, Mr. Davis?

LOGAN DAVIS: So does the competitive, it's minimum wage. But is that all that has to be? Does it have to be like cost of living in Shreveport Louisiana, for example? Or Baton Rouge or New Orleans?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Well, when we say competitive it's whatever's in the competitive labor market. So depending on what position you're going to be applying for, there's usually a competitive wage for that particular position. I mean, it's really directly related to in the past, and when I say in the past, a long time ago, vocational rehab assisted individuals in employment that resulted in subminimum wages, and we do not do that anymore.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. And so is there like a database? Oh, here it is. Do you go to the US Bureau

of Labor Statistics and find that occupation and find the minimum wage?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. And then there's O*NET. There's multiple sites you can go to for that information.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. All right. Copy. Thank you. I yield my time back, chair.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. Any more comments, questions in regards to the report that's been presented by Ms. Bayham? Not seeing any. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. Moving forward to the next agenda item we have the report from the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, Ms. Bambi Polotzola. Ms. Polotzola, you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi. My report is online and in the packet. Just a few things. First off, just want to remind people that we are having our annual GODA conference again this year. It's the last week in July around the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. And we have a call for proposals. So if anyone would like to, you know, do a presentation during our conference, which will be virtual again this year, they can do that at the link. It's been in our newsletters the past two months. And also, even if you don't want to do the presentation, the proposal, but if you have ideas of what you would like, what type of sessions you would like to have at the conference let us know because we will be working to firm that up over the next month.

The big thing that we have really been focused on is, of course, the legislative session. We have the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is tracking about 100 legislative items. We have a link that anybody can go in and look at. There's lot of legislative items. You can go in there and look. You can see who is taking positions on different bills such as GACDA or the DD Council. We incorporate all the positions for the DD Council. That is updated multiple times a day so you can see what's being heard each day or what's coming up in the week if you wanted to get engaged. A couple of other things I just wanted to talk in regards to legislation. And I don't know if this is the appropriate time. But there are several bills that I just wanted to call you guys' attention

to. And I know that they are level twos on the DD Council's legislative agenda. They are all bills that there are one, two, three, four, five, six bills that basically they're education bills, like education savings accounts. But all of those legislation has provisions where basically a parent would have to sign away their child's rights to special education services if they engaged in getting that education savings account. And I know that this was not a priority for the DD Council because when we do our legislative agenda typically it is around positive, moving things forward, getting funding for things or getting things in place. And then we get hit with these type of bills that are actually very detrimental, I think, discriminatory against people with disabilities. And so I would like to see the DD Council take a stronger position, a more active position in opposition because we're the only group that I could think of that is going to have an impact is stalling these bills and not getting them through the legislative session. So I don't know if this is the appropriate time, but I just wanted to bring that up. I have other items, but I don't know if we have to take action or anything like that on that. How would we go about, I guess my question is how would we go about the DD Council doing more in regards to those legislations and if it's the will of the DD Council to do more?

RASHAD BRISTO: I tell you what, if you would, go ahead and proceed with your report and we'll double back after we complete the report we can entertain.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. And I could just tell you that, if I can, the clause that is in all of these bills reads if a participating student enrolled in a participating school would have been entitled to receive special education services in the resident school system his parents shall acknowledge in writing as part of the program enrollment process that the parent agrees to accept only such services as are available to all students enrolled in the participating schools. So that is the clause that's in all of these bills that I'm referring to. Another bill that I want to-- I know it's a number two on the legislative agenda for LaCAN. Which is HB645. It has to do with creating a community options fund. Similar to the NOW fund, but

this fund would fund our community choice waivers. And as I kind of made a comment earlier, I feel like that's important to the DD Council because we look at the entire family and our parents that are the caregivers of people with developmental disabilities, or even not caregivers, just their family unit, someone in that unit may need those services through the aging system and we want to make sure that they have those services. I think it's the right thing to do. I think it's in line with our values that people should have choices to live in their communities. And this would provide a funding like the NOW fund, but specifically for those community choice waivers. So that's HB645 by Representative Tanner Magee. It passed the house unanimously. But, you know, whether it will pass the senate or there will be people who do anything to try and stop it, that's certainly a concern.

And then the last bill I'm going to talk about is HB496. Which actually is just amending the legislation that created the local special ed advisory councils in 2019. It is just kind of updating it based on feedback that has been received, that the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs has received. We probably talked about it here in the DD Council meetings. But basically putting a minimum number of members on those special ed advisory councils requiring that there be a certain percentage of parents of at least 50 percent. And that their annual reports, which are required to go to the SILC superintendent, now have to be posted on the local school board website. So those are just kind of the main changes that are going to be amended in that bill. And those are the legislatives items that I just wanted to bring up to you guys.

RASHAD BRISTO: Does that complete your report?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: That's my report.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Polotzola. Do we have any questions in regards to the report that's been presented? Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand. You're recognized. You have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. Okay. Bambi, the one that you said that was very, that you thought that it was discriminating to people with disabilities. Which one is that again?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: There are six of them. They are house bill 33, house bill 227, house bill 452, house bill 824, house bill 838 and senate bill 203. And all of those have that clause that I read out to you guys.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. That's what I'm going to say. Can you read that clause again because I missed it. Just read it again for me, please.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Sure. If a participating student enrolled in a participating school would have been entitled to receive special education services in the resident school system, his parent shall acknowledge in writing as part of the program enrollment process that the parent agrees to accept only such services as are available to all students enrolled in the participating school. Basically what that does, these bills are designed to where parents can take their funding-- basically a savings count. Instead of going to a public school, you take your money, and you go to another school that will accept your money. The issue is is that our kids with disabilities typically these private schools they may take somebody else's kid that doesn't have a disability, but they won't necessarily accept our kids with disabilities. So essentially it gives us, who have children with disabilities, less options. It's discriminatory.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So what I'm understanding cause it says that they're only going to get services that's offered to all the other students. But we all know that other students are not going to get the same services as people with disabilities, correct?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Right. I mean, you'd go to your, you know, local private school in your area and, I mean, they maybe don't provide the level of services that say my son needed whenever he was in school. So therefore while every other kid in my son's public school may have that option to this education savings account, it would mean nothing to me because I wouldn't have any option to take him out of that school and go somewhere else. Whereas kids without disabilities may have an option that really works for them. It doesn't give that option to our kids with disabilities.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. I see what you're saying. Because I was thinking that language too. And I'm like so is it going to leave them out? Are they not going

to be able to get the same services? Are they not going to be able to get the same services over there in a private school whereas in a public school they would?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So basically what they're saying is you can take your money, take the money assigned to your child, but you will not, but you have to agree in writing that you're going to accept just whatever services that private school already provides.

NICOLE BANKS: And nothing else.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: That's right. And so you're basically waiving away your rights for special education services.

NICOLE BANKS: No. How can that even happen and go that way? It doesn't even seem legal. I feel like it doesn't even seem legal that they can put language in there like that and it can just go ahead and pass and nobody is even thinking about everyone.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But that's my point is that we need to make sure that they are thinking about everyone.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. And this comprised list that you have is like what, about 100 and so different bills up in the chart, however you have that. We asked for that and y'all delivered so round of applause to you. Because I know we asked for that I think a couple meetings ago and this is what we need because then we can go straight there, see what is working. You know, see how we relate to it. But I do have one question about this. What does the green mean verses like you have some that's in green and some that's in red. Okay. Never mind. I see it. I didn't see all of it. Never mind. Strike that question. I just saw it.

RASHAD BRISTO: The question's satisfied, Vice Chair Banks?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes. It is. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I have a two-part question. Cause you know you talked (inaudible) about house bill 33 and I have the numbers 838. And then I have house bill 645 and 496. Were those part of those or different? Can you give me the six bills that have the clause?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, ma'am. It's house bill 33.

JILL HANO: Okay.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: House bill 227.
JILL HANO: 227. Okay.
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: House bill 452.
JILL HANO: 452. Okay.
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: House bill 824.
JILL HANO: 824. Okay.
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: House bill 838.
JILL HANO: Okay.
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And senate bill 203.
JILL HANO: Thank you. And I have senate bill 203, Bambi?
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, ma'am.
JILL HANO: And I have another question if that's okay.
RASHAD BRISTO: Go ahead.
JILL HANO: And I know you will know this. And I'm kind of giving it a chance. But are there any waivers, any OAAS waivers that are specifically mentioned in house bill one?
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: There's funding to continue services for people who have those waivers.
JILL HANO: Okay. So like there's nothing specifically?
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: There's a waiting list though. There's people on the waiting list for the community choices waivers. And we have that in the report for OAAS. They're saying the waiting list for community choice waivers is 7,682 people. And the adult day healthcare waiver--
JILL HANO: Okay. My bad. Okay. Thank you.
BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.
JILL HANO: I got it. Thanks. Sorry.
RASHAD BRISTO: Question satisfied, Ms. Hano?
JILL HANO: Yes, sir.
RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you. Do we have any more questions in regards to the report that's been presented, or the information that's been presented by Ms. Polotzola?
EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Brenda has a couple of questions in the chat. I think she was asking Bambi if that was a motion. And then she confers with all the GACDA legislative recommendations and what changes (inaudible) Polotzola reviewed about Special Education Advisory Committees and (inaudible) in school

districts. She asked to please re-clarify the difference between Special Education Advisory Panels and Special Education Advisory Committees. And how parents can apply to special education advisory committees.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So there was a law that was passed in 2019 that created local Special Education Advisory Committees. And that means every school district had to create that. Now the Special Ed Advisory Panel is the state Special Ed Advisory Panel which is operated through the Department of Education, and it is a requirement by federal law that that exist. The Special Ed Advisory Council's on the local level is a requirement because of a law that was created in 2019. So the legislation HB946 is just helping to put some more requirements to ensure that all of those councils are operating the way that they should. Which should be collaborative across professionals in the system. Parents, adult students or, you know, perhaps students as well as community people who serve people with disabilities.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thanks for that clarity. Any more questions on the report or presentation that Ms. Polotzola has presented?

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Brenda also asked if the DDC can clarify positions on the bills and rational if time permits.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. We're going to give it some attention just as soon as we get through with these reports. If there's no other question and no other comments in the chat in regards to the report that's been presented by GODA, this report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next order of business is actually Disability Rights Louisiana. We don't have a representative nor report, do we? Okay. For the Disability Rights Louisiana we don't have a representative or a report to present to the council. So from that point we're going to move forward. There is something I wanted to address real quickly. On yesterday there was a dialogue exchanged during the education and employment committee where one of our council members stated that he resigned. Mr. Logan Davis. He was only referring to resignation of that particular committee. Not the council itself. I did

want to bring that clarification into place because there was confusion as to what his position was and when he made the statement he resigned. So for the clarification for the record and for those who were watching and wondering, Mr. Davis is still a council member. He was only resigning from that particular committee. Thank you, Mr. Davis.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you, chair.

RASHAD BRISTO: We need to digress for just a moment. During the education and employment presentation there were two motions that were brought up that we did not move forward on. One of the motions was that the Developmental Disabilities Council pursues an opinion from the attorney general on open meeting laws in regards to the ADA compliance to ensure all public meetings offer every available accommodation for individuals with disabilities. And the second motion was a motion to continue with the customized employment contract, Activity 3.2.1. Allow Ms. Kelly Monroe to redirect customized employment certification to another avenue. Made by Mr. Iddins. It was seconded by Ms. Banks. No objections and the motion carried. So at this time I need to entertain a motion for-- we'll do one at a time. The first motion about the DD Council pursuing an opinion from the attorney general about the open meetings law, ADA accommodations compliance to ensure our public meetings offer available accommodation for individuals with disabilities to participate. So is there any objection? I see your hand. Is there any objection for us being able to move forward with this motion? Not seeing any objection, this motion will pass. So we will, at the DD Council, get the opinion of the attorney general to find out about these open meetings laws so we can make sure we make the right accommodation moving forward. Discussion.

CHARLIE MICHEL: A quick point. I listened to that discussion yesterday afternoon and I was thinking about that last night. I think there's some really good points and some really good reasons to do this. But I was thinking in the interest of efficiency when writing the letter to the attorney general rather than asking if what we're doing is right, maybe there should be a plan of how we will do it to address the state law and

the federal requirements of ADA. So present a plan to the attorney general so that he can rule on that and then you've got a plan in place. Otherwise, if he says, if we write saying what we're doing now, and it doesn't meet the needs then we may have to get some kind of approval to do something else. Just for expeditious purposes, come up with a plan, have the stakeholders do the plan and then write a letter seeking if that plan would be efficient. Cause I do think that there are ways to comply with the state, I know there are ways to comply with the state law and the ADA at the same time. So that's just my thoughts on that subject.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that. And I apologize for that oversight. Any other discussion?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I would just add to that that I also think before that goes to the attorney general that we bring that perhaps to our state ADA coordinator now so to get some input from her as well.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Duly noted.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And it's Rikki, R-I-K-K-I David.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Any other discussion? I don't see any hands. Do we have any comments? All right. We'll move forward. Ms. Hymel, I see your hand. You're recognized. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. Can you fill me in on the initials of ADA.

RASHAD BRISTO: I'm sorry. Thank you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What does that stand for, again, please?

RASHAD BRISTO: Americans with Disabilities Act. I apologize. That's the initials, the acronym for Americans with Disabilities Act.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because it kind of threw me off. That's why I wanted kind of, you know, fill me in on it cause I was confused.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for bringing that to our attention.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you. Cause it sounds more better about it because it was missing.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. Thank you for that clarification and bringing that to our attention. Do we have any other comments or discussion about the motion?

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. Now I can take the motion cause it sounds about right now.

RASHAD BRISTO: So this will pass by unanimous consent since there's no objection. Now the next motion. The motion to continue with customized employment contract 3.2.1 and allow Ms. Kelly Monroe to redirect customized employment certification to another avenue. This was made by Mr. Iddins seconded by Vice Chair Banks. No objections or no abstentions. One more time. Motion to continue with the customized employment contract Act 321, Act 3.2.1 and allow Ms. Kelly Monroe to redirect from customized employment certification to another avenue. I see Mr. Iddins' hand.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That language sounds really confusing for folks that are as confused about that as I am. Cause I'm the one that made the motion. That the issue was that we were having some discussion about whether or not the funding that was allocated for this program was being used because it was a lack of participation. It was hard to get learning partners for the vendors so that they could continue the process cause it's a lengthy process. I think Kelly said it could take up to 16 months to finish. And, you know, there was a lack of participation of learning partners. And so the question was are we using our funding in the best way and should we even continue with the contract. And so there was a lot of discussion about whether or not we should continue with the contract. And then we kind of decided that well, those folks that are still, I think there was three people or that were working towards the certification, don't quote me on that, but to continue to let them finish the program. And I don't think that they would get a certification, but there would be some other training and education aspect of it that would allow them to continue to work with people. So that was kind of what we were trying to make the motion on. Basically to let the contract continue and continue to fund it is the bottom line. As opposed to not funding it any longer.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for bringing that clarification. Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand. You're recognized. You have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. Just to add on what Mr. Iddins said. We want to continue, it's actually two people that's in the program that needs to continue and finish. So we're going to let them continue and finish what they need to continue and finish. But they don't have enough to move onto the next process in the stage, yeah, the stage in the process. So what we decided was she can reallocate the funds somewhere else and not to that program. We'll fund out the rest of, you know, those two people, but then the funds can be reallocated to something else that's deserving. And until they get more people, more learning partners to participate in then we can circle back and see if this is even a program that is worth us funding. So yeah, that's kind of what we had put out there. Cause we needed to do something with the funds is there.

MITCH IDDINS: I'm not sure if we had talked about reallocating the additional funds. Is Kelly on? Is she listening in? Could she...

AMY DEAVILLE: She's not here. Sorry. This is Amy.

MITCH IDDINS: Go ahead, Amy. Thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: It's not really a reallocation of funds. It's keeping the contract that is in existence right now and letting it move forward. And instead of trying to keep those funds only for people who can complete the full certification process, because we're not able to get learning partners for people to complete, we are going to move towards offering gateway trainings. Which are, it's a two- or three-day training and they'll be able to do two or three of them across the state in-person. And those trainings will still get people the information about customized employment. The background behind it. Why it's important. What it is. And allow for a lesser certification. So it won't be the full customized employment certification. But it will be a lesser certification that the people who attend those trainings will be able to receive.

MITCH IDDINS: We need to reword this motion to state that, you know, allow Kelly Monroe to continue to provide, to continue the contract to provide gateway training as opposed to the certification training.

NICOLE BANKS: Well, can we already change a motion

once it's already there?

MITCH IDDINS: You can change the language in it, for sure.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We also need-- it's not Kelly Monroe. It's Arc of Louisiana.

MITCH IDDINS: I'm sorry.

MELISSA BAYHAM: And if I can clarify. Also, we're going to be working with LSU HDC. Which is who was going to be providing the training. Who we are working with to provide customized employment training. We're going to allow them to transition from the gateways into the training with LSU HDC. So the gateways will give them some good information and hopefully it will hook them and then they'll want to continue with the certification.

NICOLE BANKS: So once they get this certification, where does that put them at with helping someone?

MELISSA BAYHAM: So if they go through the gateways, I think they can get what's called an ACRE certification. Which is not a customized employment certification. So at that point they still won't qualify to be a vendor of LRSs for customized employment, but they will be better prepared to go into the certification process with LSU HDC. And to become a certified vendor. And we're working with LSU to develop what that's going to look like. When you are working with a consumer in customized employment with your learning partner you will receive LRS, the vendor would receive LRS milestones payments. And then a portion of those milestone payments will be paid to LSU HDC for the training. But we're working those details out. So the point being, you know, they'll be able to get the gateway training and their first step towards customized employment certifications through the gateway training. But then they'll have to transition into the training with LSU HDC. And we're hoping, I'm trying to remember what term Kelly used yesterday. She said we're trying to get people to think a different way. So we're hoping that people will go through the gateways and understand what customized employment is. Cause I think some vendors don't completely know what they're getting into. So they didn't make that leap into doing the training. And like we discussed, it's a lengthy certification process. So we're hoping that

through the gateways they'll get enough information, they'll become interested and then they'll continue with LSU for the certification process.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you for that clarification. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Anymore comment or discussion in regards to the amended motion? Just for clarification for the record. The amended motion is motion to continue with the customized employment contract activity 3.2.1 and allow the Arc of Louisiana to redirect from customized employment certification to the gateway training. All right.

EBONY HAVEN: Does that sound right?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. And just so everybody understands, it is customized employment gateway training. Just so people know it's still customized employment. It's just not the full certification.

RASHAD BRISTO: Anymore discussion? Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor. You're muted, Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: I thought Mitch had his hand up before I.

RASHAD BRISTO: No, ma'am. His hand's no longer up. No.

JILL HANO: Okay. Is gateway training part of the training through Mark Gold and Associates?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. It is.

JILL HANO: Thank you. I don't recognize the voice, but thank you.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm sorry. That was Melissa.

RASHAD BRISTO: That was Ms. Bayham.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. I was like Melissa or Marilee voices do not sound like at all.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Hymel, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: For the training in that for it, how many days or is it going to be weeks to be trained into this for the gateway training?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I think the gateway training is either two or three days. And I'm not sure what the contract calls for. There's a couple of different gateways. So I'm guessing that if we were redirecting the funds that it would go to, there's three gateway

trainings.

ROSLYN HYMEL: How many are there, different gateway trainings?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I think it's three gateway trainings. I think one is assessment. Or it might be called discovery. And job development. And then systematic instruction.

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

RASHAD BRISTO: Anymore discussion in regards to the amended motion? Any discussion in the room? No hands. Do we have any comments? If there's no opposition, this amended motion will pass by unanimous consent. Okay. Thank you very much. Now on our agenda we're actually up to a break. We're ahead of time. We're going to deviate for a minute. We have a couple topics that was going to be brought up. By unanimous consent if the council entertains it, we can entertain a new agenda item. Any opposition? Okay. So the first agenda item I wanted to bring back up, Ms. Lillian DeJean, she brought up a question in regards to YLF. At the time of the presentation we were in the middle of another topic. Ms. DeJean had presented-- I'll let someone else entertain it. Ms. DeJean had something she wanted to bring forth.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right, everyone. I think most of the people are here that were here earlier. So one thing that I would like to add that I did neglect to mention earlier is that YLF will likely function like PIP and LaCAN and it will likely need a fiscal agent. So if we are to have a fiscal agent, let's say one of the Families Helping Families centers, I know it's not determined yet, but that also includes administrative costs as well. So that's also going to be widely beneficial to get that extra funding to YLF to make sure that quality is there for the program. And to make sure everyone has the same opportunity and that we make a good quality YLF for everybody. So I'd be happy to answer any questions you guys may have.

RASHAD BRISTO: Does anyone have any questions for Ms. DeJean? Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Assuming that I'm not on the YLF committee at all, can you spit me out, did we even talk

about ideas for some budget items?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So we're still in the process of developing a more specific budget. We have a draft that the DD Council was able to kind of pull together for us. But a lot of how we're going to issue funding will really depend on our funders. Because some state agencies have different restrictions as far as what the money can be used on. And so I mentioned earlier, you know, there are some things like lodging, transportation, food. These are all costs that YLF, that would need to be paid for YLF. Or even that administrative cost of whoever that fiscal agent is to help us move this forward and actually get this happening. But as far as distribution of funds that will depend on where it comes from. And also what this is going to look like as well. So we're in that process. But the first step is getting the funds. That's why I'm requesting the extra 15,000 to make a total of 30,000 to YLF.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I want to make a motion that we move 15,000-dollars from the video and visual materials and move that into the category for the Youth Leadership Forum.

JILL HANO: So okay. Never mind.

RASHAD BRISTO: We have a motion on the floor. I'm about to recite the motion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what my question was, chairman.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. The motion on the floor--

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Can you put the motion, or can you put it up on the board?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. We're going to put it up on the board. We're just giving Ms. Haven an opportunity to type it up. That way it will be for everyone's visual clarification what the motion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Okay. Thank you. That was my question. Why my hand was raised on.

RASHAD BRISTO: Not a problem. Thank you for that.

EBONY HAVEN: Can you repeat the motion, Bambi.

RASHAD BRISTO: We're going to ask that Ms. Polotzola repeats the motion so that it can be typed correctly.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I make a motion that we reduce 1.1.5 videos and visual materials by 15,000-dollars and increase activity 1.1.9 Youth Leadership Forum by 15,000-dollars.

RASHAD BRISTO: The dead silence is typing. Don't worry, everybody.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: While she types I just want to say we have the funnest(sic) DDC committee ever. The YLF committee is a hoot. So whoever wants to join at our next meeting, you'll definitely have a good time.

EBONY HAVEN: Does that look right, Bambi?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Uh-huh. Perfect.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So the motion on the floor is the DD Council reduce activity 1.1.5 by 15,000 and increase activity 1.1.9 by 15,000. Made by Ms. Bambi Polotzola.

LOGAN DAVIS: I second that motion.

RASHAD BRISTO: Just one moment before we present. Need to state somewhere where it says YLF in parenthesis that way you know.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. I can put it right here.

RASHAD BRISTO: And the YLF 2023 action plan to be more specific.

JILL HANO: So when you add the total--

RASHAD BRISTO: Hold on just one moment, y'all, while she's typing. We want to make sure we got these details correct. I'll recognize you in just a few minutes. Okay. So the motion on the floor is the DD Council reduce activity 1.1.5 which is videos and visuals by 15,000 and increase activity 1.1.9 Youth Leadership Forum in the FFY 2023 action plan by Ms. Bambi Polotzola. We have the motion on the floor. I see three hands. I'm going to recognize you by the order in which I see you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: You need a second.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have a second?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I second that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So it's been moved by Ms. Bambi Polotzola, and it's been seconded by Ms. Roslyn Hymel. Any discussion in regards to this motion?

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes. I have a question, chair.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Give me one moment, Mr. Davis. I'm going to recognize Vice Chair Banks first, then you, and then Ms. Hymel, and Ms. Hano in that

order.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair, for recognizing me. Okay. So I'm for moving the money, but I'm just looking at this money that's being moved from the 51,000, right? Is this coming off of the council budget report also? Because if we take from the video, and I know we probably have the funds, but if we take from it and they need it, is this coming from, I just want to know like where is this coming from upon the DD Council budget? Or is that something different?

RASHAD BRISTO: I'll have Ms. Deaville to answer that question for you.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: This is Amy. So we're not talking about in this current year. Which is where that budget report is from. We're talking about next fiscal year.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. We're planning for next fiscal year.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, all right. That's what I was asking. I was like okay, am I getting it off of this report or that report. But okay. This is for next year.

AMY DEAVILLE: Right.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. No problem. Thank you for the clarification.

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

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you, chair. We had a public comment that was a very good question. And it was what's the total funding for YLF. And I too am wondering what the total funding is.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So to answer your question for the 2023 budget for the action plan in place that was voted on earlier YLF was allotted originally 15,000-dollars. That's 2023. That's not for the current fiscal year we're talking about. So for 2023 they was allotted 15,000. There's just been a motion on the floor to increase it to 30,000 by moving 15,000 from the video and visuals activity to have 30,000. Now if your question is what were they receiving in the past, they weren't receiving anything because YLF was not receiving any allocation. I don't know if that answered your question or not.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. And are these funds only for the YLF conference?

RASHAD BRISTO: The dynamics of that, I'm going to yield the floor to Ms. DeJean and give you a little more clarity.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So YLF for our first year we're planning to do about a three-day forum with about 15 delegates. So this funding would go towards lodging, food, transportation, administrative cost for a fiscal agent. And that's not an exhaustive list. And we're hoping to get other funders as well. So like I mentioned before, we're not completely clear on how we're going to be distributing the funds because we need to get all the funds first before we decide how that's going to be distributed. But yeah, those are the costs that it's going to be used on.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. That makes a lot of sense. And so I'm guessing since it wasn't an exhaustive list the YLF can use the funds as needed? Is that a correct assumption?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It would just depend on the restrictions of the funding from DDC or any other state agencies that we receive funding from. But for y'alls funding it would depend on y'alls restrictions, really.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. That's all my questions. And I just covered the public's question, Brenda Cosse. And I yield my time back.

RASHAD BRISTO: I'm about to move to the next one. Ms. Hymel, hold on just one second. I want to refresh everybody's memory we do have a motion on the floor. It has been seconded and this is the discussion in regard to the motion on the floor. So Ms. Hymel, you have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you. For what I have the question on is for the leadership, I should say the younger is saying youth leadership in that forum. How many of that leadership forum will be tribute to that? And by the amount of money that y'all have 5,000, is this 5,000 I'm looking at?

RASHAD BRISTO: No. The total amount that's being requested is 30,000. So that would be 30,000-dollars. If I'm understanding your question correctly, you're asking how's that going to be itemized in the process?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. That's still to be determined based upon when and if their funding is received and what other funding sources, along with the DD Council, will be funding, assisting YLF with the funding. So it's kind of a premature question to answer if I'm correct. Because we're not in the position to really give an answer to it because we're just at the foundation of starting it out.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because to me even with the videos, or what's the other one besides the videos?

RASHAD BRISTO: Is that the videos and visuals?

ROSLYN HYMEL: But is that going to be in the 30,000 as well?

RASHAD BRISTO: No, ma'am.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Or is that just the opposite?

RASHAD BRISTO: That's the opposite. What happened is the video's budget will be reduced, depending on how this motion will go, will be reduced by 15,000 and the YLF forum will be increased by 15,000. So I don't know exactly how much is video and visuals for the plan at the moment. Okay. So to put it in prospective for you currently 51,000-dollars is in the plan for 2023 for video and visuals. So reducing that amount by 15,000 that would put it somewhere about 36,000-dollars will be left for videos and visuals. But Youth Leadership Forum would be increase by 15,000 and give them 30,000-dollars. So videos and visuals has 51,000-dollars in it. And the motion is suggesting that we remove 15 from it which will leave videos with 36,000-dollars. I hope that answers your question. Puts it in prospective.

ROSLYN HYMEL: It did. And it also shined a light a little bit more to it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you very much. Before I go to Ms. Hano, I want to remind everybody we do have a motion on the floor. It has been first. It has been seconded. And this is discussion in reference to the motion. Ms. Hano, you have the floor. You're muted, Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: I mean, I could be wrong, but I thought I seconded the motion. But whatever. Ignore me as always. Can we put the new total in the motion?

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay.

JILL HANO: Hello?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, I hear you. You're asking for the total of 30,000 be put into the motion to bring clarification.

JILL HANO: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, did I miss anything?

RASHAD BRISTO: No, ma'am. The only thing that was stated was Ms. Hano asked for that just to be a little bit more itemized, give clarification that upon the moving of money from the video and visuals, that would leave videos and visuals with 36,000-dollars. She just wanted that to be visually a part of the motion that way everyone would have a good understanding.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. I would agree on that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. So I'm going to reread the motion reminding everybody we do have a first and a second and we're in discussion. The DD Council reduced activity 1.1.5 videos and visuals by 15,000 to bring the total to 36,000 and increase activity 1.1.9 Youth Leadership Forum by 15,000 to bring the total to 30,000 in the FFY 2023 action plan. Made by Ms. Polotzola. Second by Ms. Hymel. I'm not seeing any more hands.

EBONY HAVEN: There's some questions in the chat.

RASHAD BRISTO: There are questions in the chat. Okay. Thank you very much.

EBONY HAVEN: Well, I think, Lillian, you might have already addressed the first question cause she's asking what's the total funding for YLF. And then she ask are these funds only for the YLF conference. I guess does the funding include YLF staffing even if part-time, as needed, seasonable?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So the hope is we that would get some volunteers so we can save funds there. But there may be, like for instance, say we have some medically complex delegates, maybe we have some nursing. Or it would be staff or transportation. Anything that goes into having a YLF, those funds may go towards depending on the restrictions of the funding sources.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Understood. Appreciate that. Thank you, Ms. Cosse. So with that being said, we have a motion. We have a second. We had discussion. I don't see any more discussion in the comment. I don't see any more hands or discussion in

the room. Am I overlooking anyone? All right. So we're ready to move forward with a vote. I'm not going to worry about a roll call unless we hear someone says no. And we're not able to determine that being said by the audio. So all in favor of this motion.

{Collective aye}

Any opposed? Not hearing any noes, the motion is adopted. Thank you very much. Just to remind everybody this will take place in the 2023 action plan. Do we have any public comment?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I had some other things.

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

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So first off, I brought up in my report about having some type of higher priority in regards to those bills that I listed, those education bills. I don't know what the motion should be. I guess we should get some feedback from staff just to see what is possible.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. Just so that everybody is aware, and our legislative tracker is on our website. You can find it on our banner. It's updated every Friday. And it has how the bills that we're tracking, what priority they are for us. The bills that Bambi's talking about, those six education bills, are all ranked as a level two. And so is the fund...

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: 645.

AMY DEAVILLE: There you go. 645. It’s also ranked. Things are ranked as a one if they are on the legislative advocacy agenda that the DD Council votes on. So those are our number one level priorities. And then HB1 almost always ends up appearing on there too because of funding issues. So those are the issues that we've worked on. We've done legislative roundtables. We've engaged legislators on. We have, you know, had yellow shirt days for-- level twos are usually administrative advocacy. So those are things that we write letters. The chair, in fact, posted on there letters that the chair has written on all of those issues. And then 645 we have sent emails, or I've sent emails to various committees that that has appeared in in support of that bill. Cause we are for that one. Most of our other level twos we're against because they're all those education bills that Bambi

mentioned. If you want to move the priority from a two to like a one B, we could do alerts, basically just do alerts saying this is the issue. We're in opposition. Contact your legislators. Contact this committee. Council members can also get involved and send letters as well in opposition to the committees that those bills are coming up on. Moving it to a priority one would mean that we would really need to basically stop working on those other priority one bills that we have been working on, and that LaCAN has been active on. Because LaCAN, you know, typically does about three, four bills a year. And keep, you know, that's a lot of back and forth to the capitol and a lot of work that they do on them. And we've been very successful. But moving these bills up to a level one would really mean we'd have to kind of stop working on those other bills to be able to focus on these. And these are bills that we have not worked with LaCAN on at all up until this point.

RASHAD BRISTO: So with that being said, before we go any further, let me get the unanimous consent to add this item to the agenda before we move forward with any other discussion. Do we have any opposition? Okay. So by unanimous consent. I don't see any opposition in the report. By unanimous consent we move forward adding this item to the agenda. Okay. You can proceed.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: My motion would be I think that we, in regards to like SB192 was the post-secondary education bill, like I feel like that is being done. It's pretty much handled. It does not need to be a level one for LaCAN. We can activate the universities and the people who have been in the programs or people who want to be in the program. Like I feel like that could be done without having-- that that's not as much as a priority as these other bills are a threat to access to education for kids with disabilities. So I don't know what that would do if we didn't activate as much on that and activated more on those other bills.

AMY DEAVILLE: Well, I don't know either except SB192 is one bill and you're talking about six other bills. So that's many, many more alerts. Many, many more committees for them to try to contact, try to go to the capitol for. And they're not all moving in one

group. They're kind of moving through at different speeds. So it's not, you know, it's not like oh, this is education bill day on the capitol. So it's just, you know.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So I want to do more that's reasonable.

AMY DEAVILLE: Well, I think we could-- Brenton's lurking in the corner so if you want to add anything. He's always lurking.

RASHAD BRISTO: For those who don't know this is the staff development director, program manager, Brenton Andrus. Mr. Andrus, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: Where's Waldo. I didn't even see you until you opened your mouth. That was kind of creepy. I'm not going to lie.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. So I'm going to yield the floor to Mr. Andrus so he can give us an explanation. So he can elaborate, let me say that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: For starters, these particular bills, at least the one by DeVillier, I don't think we've had as many in the past, but they have come up before. Last year, it may have been the year before as well, we've had them as a two. We haven't had them as a one because we focused on what our other agenda was. Part of the concern that we would have is more operational that our leaders have not been trained on any of these issues. We've not found testimonies for anyone to come on these days. And so just as a background, we don't just go to our leaders and say this is the issue, go forth and find us people. So we start training our leaders in October on the agenda that y'all set. And that training goes all the way up until January when we start having roundtables and that's where we look to get our testimonies. That's where we look to get members involved. That's where we start lining up people to try to go on visits. So it's not like we're just-- I mean, some of these bills are being heard right now. One has already moved into the senate and some of them are being heard on Monday and Tuesday. I don't know how effective we're actually going to be if you make this change today for us to stop anything in the next two days. We're not even going to be able to touch some of these things until they move over to the senate side because we have to

train our leaders. We're also going to have to educate ourselves on what impacts-- well, Meredith isn't here, but we can rely on her as well. What impacts some of these bills may have more so outside of that clause because I don't know if we take that clause out, does it impact anything else in the bill good or bad. I'm not sure.

Cause another problem that we also had it's not just that clause, but you're also pulling money out of the public school system. And you're able to take that public funding and go somewhere else. And I don't know, I am certainly not the expert, but one of the concerns we've always had is dealing with charter schools people are pulling funding from your public school, your charter school and they're not pulling the right amount of funding. So what should follow that child to a charter school, or a public school is not necessarily happening. So we need more information about that. What does that impact from those bills have. We're also going to need to figure out, you know, just in general the council likes inclusive settings. And more often than not your private schools and some of your charter schools are not very inclusive. So that's another issue that the council had with those particular pieces of legislation. So you have to keep in mind we would have to focus more than on that one paragraph. Now granted, that one paragraph is very bad. I mean, it's not great at all. But there are other areas that we would have to work on.

We haven't been able to do our research. Most of us in this office are very new. I'm the most senior staff at seven years. That's not long. And I'm not education focused. I don't focus on education at all. So I'm not going to pretend that I can talk to you about these bills in great detail. But I'm just saying consider what we have to do to get prepared to fight some of those things. I don't know that we would have a great clear pathway to attack it right now. I think there are some things you could do without bringing out all the troops. We could probably ramp up some more of the advocacy. So whenever it's a two, I think, I don't know if y'all remember what a two is, but that's more administrative. You can maybe even send out an alert

just telling people in general to reach out to their legislators about those concerns. But that might be a very generic alert that says hey, this is what it says. This is the problem. We don't think you should give up your rights to participate in this program. And then see if people want to tackle it that way. But I would caution you just on the full-blown attack that we normally do on our agendas of getting everybody out there to the capitol. Also, if you're looking at six bills and the amount of yellow shirt days on that, I don't know if we have the funding in LaCAN to pay everybody to travel to come to the capitol that many times. That's part of our process in gearing up for legislative session and trying to figure out what do we actually bring people in for. What we can afford to bring people in for. But that's bigger. There's so much planning that goes into these things that I know y'all don't know the ins and outs of. You don't need to cause that's what you pay us to do. So we'd just like to share some of that information when you consider some of the changes that you want to make. But, ultimately, you make the changes. Just know that those are some of the things we have to consider, and it may not end up happening the way that you want it to happen.

And the final thing, since these meetings are a little different this time, we don't have our LaCAN leaders here. Keep in mind that they have always recommended to the council, at least in the seven years that I've been here, a batch of three to four issues that they're working on. So if you want to tackle those bills, more than SB192 comes out. And I would caution you when you start looking at some of the funding pieces such as dental and FHF, all of you here that are advocates you know just cause it's in there now, it doesn't mean it's in there on the senate side. So I would recommend you probably not touch those. Because you want to make sure that funding stays in there. That's what I got. Thank you for coming to my ted talk.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So we need it to be a one B in order to do what you're saying? Like just to give people more information about it to be able to outreach. That's what I want, Brenton. You didn't

have to come in here and stroke out. I knew he was not coming in here to say support Bambi.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You have to be such of a--

RASHAD BRISTO: Hold on just one minute, Ms. Hymel. You haven't been recognized by the chair. Ms. Polotzola is still talking.

AMY DEAVILLE: So it's not necessary that we make a motion on this item because as the executive director one of my powers is to move the ranking of some of our legislative advocacy agenda items. So we'll move it up to a one B. You'll probably see it like that on Friday once changes are made to the tracker. And it's been updated on the website. So those bills will now be one B instead of a two.

RASHAD BRISTO: So it's not being dismissed.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Education or y'all thinking of the NOW stuff, the 645, HB645? I didn't know which ones y'all were tackling.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: The six education.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Okay. I was also going to say 645 I don't think is going to have any opposition.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Now you're recognized by the chair, Ms. Hymel. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. For what Mr. Brad was saying. So how many items are we going to really work on is what I want to know. Is there going to be a one or we going from the one into the two? Or we're going to skip one, go to two and three? Or how's it going to really work?

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay. So the bills that the council originally voted to have as priority one on our legislative advocacy agenda, those are going to stay a one. And the six education bills that Ms. Polotzola was talking about, we're going to move these up from a ranking of level two priority to 1.B. So we'll move it up and we'll just ramp up our advocacy, our administrative advocacy a little bit on those.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So how are you going to, is it going to be into slots? Or it is going to just, how is it going to work out?

AMY DEAVILLE: So that just, all that that refers to is the way that we track bills when they come out. It's basically just a system that we use internally to prioritize something. So nothing is changing other

than we'll send out some more alerts about those particular bills.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

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

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I don't know what's going on. Like all day I've had my hand up for before other people and I'm getting called on last. And it's not fair. It's not right. And y'all know how much I love this committee. Cause I keep getting overlooked. I'm going to be looking for a new self-advocate in region one. That's not fair.

RASHAD BRISTO: Let me say this, Ms. Hano. Our apologies. Nobody was trying to overlook you. The challenge that we have from this vantage point, the view in which we're seeing in our screen. It's really one of the challenges that we're having. So when the hands go up, we don't see everybody. And we know as passionate as you are, we're by sure not dismissing anything that you're saying. Where we are now, we're just making sure that we prioritize these bills to make sure that we do our part to do that. But personally I want you to think we don't want to lose you because you're an asset to this council. And I don't want you to feel that we were disrespecting you. Personally, as the chair, I am not disrespecting you. I apologize, again. It's from the visual that I have where I can see whose hand is up and who's not. Just kind of put in prospective for you, I don't know where we are on your screen, but on our screen, you're showing to be at the bottom. So it's all the way you look at it. So I just want to let you know that it's not anything that we're doing against you that's disrespectful. Because the way I'm looking at it, and I want you to get a good understanding, and I want to see a smiling face. I want to see the smile, not the tears. I see Ms. Vivienne. Then I see Mr. Iddins. Then I see Mr. Davis, Ms. Hymel, Ms. Banks. Then Mary Tarver. And then Ms. Hogan, Ms. Guidry, Ms. Cosse. And for some reason technology has saved the best for last.

JILL HANO: I'm sorry.

RASHAD BRISTO: No apologies necessary. I just want you to make sure that we're not discounting your contribution to this council. We had a lot to say with that, but what did you want to tell us besides that you'll roll off this council cause you're not going to do that until your time's up.

JILL HANO: Okay. I'm sorry. What do you, Amy, with all your powers-- your words, not mine. Like how do we determine the priorities of the bills? And I do realize that like the agenda we set-- Brenton, is that your head in the doorway? The agenda we set in October like they're always priority one. Is that why they're always priority one and literally at the top of the list? Because it is set by our council and our legislative agenda items are always priority one because-- and also, I very much agree with Bambi. Like because these education laws can get overlooked. But, I mean, it's a double edge sword here. Like cause, I mean, like you said, it's six items. Whatever Bambi said and whatever Brenton said was both correct.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. So you're exactly right. If the DD Council has a bill on their agenda item, on their legislative advocacy agenda, it automatically becomes a priority one. If you voted on it, it's a priority one. And then the rest of the bills we go over internally. So Brenton, Ebony and I. And we look at, we read the bills and we see what they're about. And then try to determine based off of the council's mission sort of where they fall in priority. Yeah. Because there are so many bills. Bambi's tracking 100. I don't even know how many we track.

JILL HANO: Right. I saw that.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. And that's just a small portion of the bills that are actually done every year.

RASHAD BRISTO: Does that satisfy your question, Ms. Hano?

JILL HANO: Yes, sir. It does.

RASHAD BRISTO: So from that point it's going to be moved. Those legislations going to be addressed. I'm looking at the agenda. It's 2:50. We have a ten-minute break. So at this time, if there's no objection, do we have any comments before I go any further? Any chat or anything that I'm overlooking?

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. I think Ms. Brenda was asking is there consideration to build capacity of LaCAN in the future during the legislative session.

RASHAD BRISTO: The answer to the question, Ms. Cosse, is it's really just going to be about the funding. And that's just something that we'll just have to continue to look at allocation. That way they can have a bigger footprint in the legislation. So at this time are there any questions in the room?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Is this public comment time?

RASHAD BRISTO: We're at the break. Then we're at public comment.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Oh, we're just going to break and then come back for public comment? Is that all we have left?

RASHAD BRISTO: That's all we have left.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can we just do the public comment?

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. If that's by unanimous consent. We can go ahead and push on. If you have to take a bathroom break, by all means.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just wanted to say, if I could be recognized, just if I can, I was asked to make this request to provide email announcements of the DD Council meetings so that the public is aware of it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So the floor recognizes Ms. Bambi Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't know if that needs to be a motion or is that just something you could do?

AMY DEAVILLE: We have a list serve and email announcements go out. We have a memo that it goes out to everybody on our list serve.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Announcing this meeting, our quarterly meetings? Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Excuse me for a minute. Let me interject something. This is for the council members and those of the public. That way we can be more proactive. Please make sure your mailing information is correct. Your contact information is correct. Because there are some who have not been receiving the correspondence that's being distributed electronically. Make sure your contact information is correct. That way you can receive it. And also another thing I wanted to bring forth is making sure that we try to be

as proactive as we can as council members now that the public health emergency has been lifted with the roundtable meetings and just making sure that we get more and more active in the community again. That way the DD Council can be recognized for doing what it was initially put in motion that we do from that point anyway. So, I'm sorry. I just wanted to make sure I put that out there.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And I apologize. I probably get them. I just, I get as a council member I know I get the notices of the meetings and just probably just overlooked the one I get for the general LADD news. Is that how it goes out, Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: It goes out-- no. I don't think it's a DDC news.

EBONY HAVEN: So anybody is on the email or the request list. And Hannah's here cause she sends out the citizens' letter to those that want the information. So we've added anybody that wants that information that can get added to that citizens' letter list serve and we can email it to them that way. I'm not sure which member or.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can it be sent out as an LADDC news so that people don't have to opt in? That everybody gets it. Like just an announcement that our meetings are going to be happening.

EBONY HAVEN: If the executive director is in agreement with that, yeah.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. We can do that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. My next thing is just in regards to, and you asked us to have input like to make the virtual ability to comment during DD Council meetings, that as we look at what process we want to put in place to allow an ADA accommodation. Like what does that look like in regards to allowing the public to comment. Those that are participating virtually. And I think it needs to be like very structured. Like you have, you know, a certain amount of time or certain texts they can send in that can be read at a certain time. You need to allow them as an ADA accommodation for the public to participate, they may need to be virtual. But they also need to have the opportunity to be able to speak. But it needs to be very defined, I think, to keep our things, I don't know, structured.

RASHAD BRISTO: It does. And when I opened up the council meeting one of the things I did ask was please be patient because this is virgin territory for what we're doing. On this particular meeting, this was a quick throw together just to try to see what works and what doesn't work. And if you remember I did ask council members to take notes. And we're open for ideas on how to be able to make this work. Like Ms. Polotzola said, we want to make sure that it's accommodating and structured all at the same time. And nobody gets dismissed. Because I know (inaudible) this was not our intention for it to be like this. Truth be told it was my request, as the chair, that this meeting be 100 percent virtual. But that was not able to be met.

AMY DEAVILLE: And to be honest, staff would have preferred for it to be 100 percent virtual too. (Inaudible) for us to manage that way. This has been a logistical nightmare.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yeah. Logistically this has been challenging. Do you have anything else, Ms. Polotzola? Cause I see hands on the screen. So we're up to public comment. Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand. You're recognized. Then I see Ms. Hano. Then I see Ms. Basile. We'll go in that order.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you, chair, for recognizing me. Where do we get the yellow shirts at for yellow shirt day? Because I just want to know where I get a shirt from because I saw the emails. And another thing when they are sending out these emails, they're only sending them out, I know I went back and checked mine during lunch because I wanted to start going to the roundtables and stuff like that. They're giving it to us four days before the event. That's not enough time for people that work. For people that has kids with disabilities that we got to try to get somebody to watch our child. You know, it's just not enough time. Could we get like a month, or two weeks, or just a little bit more time? I'm getting them like four days before the event.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Vice Chair Banks, I'm going to let Ms. Ebony Haven respond.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. So Vice Chair Banks, I know we would all love like as much notice as possible, but

when you're talking about the legislative session we're waiting until those agendas come out which may not be until like two or three days before the bill is going to be heard.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, okay.

EBONY HAVEN: So we're letting you all know as soon as we know so that you have the time. But sometimes it's out of our control. Not sometimes, but all the time it's out of our control as far as yellow shirt days. We're just letting you know as soon as we get the information.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. All right. I just wanted to make sure cause I was like three days. Oh, man. All right. Thanks y'all. I yield the floor.

RASHAD BRISTO: Next hand I see is Ms. Jill Hano. Ms. Hano, you're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I didn't unmute. I'm sorry. But I don't know how-- this whole day has been a blur. But there's not a Medicaid representative? Did we look past like...

RASHAD BRISTO: No, ma'am. It was not an oversight. They were not able to attend today. So there was no representation for this particular meeting.

JILL HANO: Okay. Sorry.

RASHAD BRISTO: No problem. I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

KIM BASILE: Are you talking to me?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: I'm sorry. Are we going to do any new business and go back and discuss what we were discussing early this morning about putting out for bid, some contracts?

RASHAD BRISTO: I can present for a new agenda item by unanimous consent to have a discussion.

KIM BASILE: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Does everybody consent to have a discussion in regards to a new agenda item by the council? I'm not showing any opposition in the room and not showing any opposition online. So we're going to discuss a new agenda item. Ms. Basile, you have the floor.

KIM BASILE: I'd just like to make a motion that

the council put out an RIF for our two biggest initiatives, LaCAN and Partners in Policymaking.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. There's a motion on the floor presented by Ms. Basile to put out an RIF for LaCAN, for a rebid, for bid for LaCAN. Let me let it get typed up real quick. I don't want to misquote it for the record. Can you repeat that one more time, Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: To make a motion that the council put out a request for information or RIF for our two largest initiatives, LaCAN and Partners in Policymaking. An RFI. I'm sorry. I said it backwards.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Stand by. It's being typed up so it can be put on the screen for other council members to have a visual of the motion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I must hand it to you, you correct yourself Kim.

KIM BASILE: Specific to Partners in Policymaking and LaCAN.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Kim, you're starting to break up.

RASHAD BRISTO: She said specific to Partners in Policymaking and LaCAN. We are able to make her out.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, okay. Because I couldn't tell because it was a little choppy.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. Okay. So there's a motion on the floor for the DD Council to put out a request for information, initials RFI, for the Partners in Policymaking and LaCAN contracts. Do I hear a second?

NICOLE BANKS: I second the motion.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I could second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. It's been moved by, it's been motioned by Ms. Basile, and it's been seconded by Vice Chair Nicole Banks. We did hear you Ms. Hymel, but Ms. Banks seconded before you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I didn't even hear it. So I don't have my hearing aids in.

RASHAD BRISTO: No problem. Apologies. So we're getting ready to move into discussion. I see hands raised. I want to remind everybody there's a motion on the floor and it has been seconded. Mr. Davis, I see your hand. Do you have a discussion in regard to the

motion that's on the floor? You're muted, Mr. Davis.

LOGAN DAVIS: It does not pertain to this motion, but it pertains to another new business item.

RASHAD BRISTO: I ask that you table that until we're able to move forward with this motion, Mr. Davis. But we'll come back to you, okay.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Webb, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. Discussion is going to be in reference to the motion that has been seconded on the floor.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Can like someone reword this, like restate what it means? I'm a tad confused.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So basically the question, to try to put this in prospective, this motion at the moment the DD Council has direct oversight, is that the word?

AMY DEAVILLE: We have contracts with basically fiscal agents, Families Helping Families centers would be the fiscal agents of these.

RASHAD BRISTO: So to put it into prospective for you Ms. Webb, these two contracts have other organizations that are the fiscal agent over those contracts. Which is Partners in Policymaking and LaCAN. So this motion would say that we could offer someone else to be basically the manager or the fiscal agent-- explore if there's other organizations capable or interested in being the fiscal agents and managers of these two contracts. Does that answer your question?

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes, sir. May I like ask another though?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes, ma'am. You have the floor. You can ask a question.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Why would we like give away these contracts when they're effective already? And like don't we actively like use LaCAN and interact with them? It just doesn't really make much sense.

RASHAD BRISTO: I yield the floor to Ms. Basile since she made the motion. Maybe she can bring a little more clarification for you. Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: So I'm not saying that we stop working with LaCAN or that we stop doing Partners in Policymaking. All this motion is requesting is that

the people that are supposed to administer and run the contracts, that we look at other entities that could possibly bring a fresh set of eyes, a better way to do things. It's just best practices to keep everything fresh. That you put contracts out for bid every few years. And it is my understanding that the LaCAN contract was awarded around 2016 and it has just been consistently given back to the same FHF that runs it. And it's been well over 12 years that the Partners in Policymaking contract was handed out. And that too is just given back automatically each year without ever going out in the state to see if there's someone else that could possibly run it better. Manage it better. Maybe, you know, cost a little less and do a better job. And I'm not saying that anyone has done a poor job and that anyone can do it better. I'm just saying why not we go see if there is someone.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Okay. But aren't we-- there's a phrase that says don't fix what isn't broken. Is there like a specific thing you have in mind? Is there any specific thing you know that's like wrong or that needs to be fixed?

KIM BASILE: I don't know that there is anything wrong or that needs to be fixed. All I'm saying is let's go out and see if there's a better way to do it.

VIVIENNE WEBB: And if there isn't? I mean, is there even a better way to do it?

RASHAD BRISTO: Well, let me interject right here. That's the whole purpose of there being a vote. That's the appropriate purpose of a motion. This is just, to put this in context and remind everybody, this is a motion which is basically considered a suggestion until it's voted upon. So just wanted Ms. Basile to kind of put it in context for you, Ms. Webb. But I don't want you to get into a dialogue because we still have other people who have other questions. And some of your questions may be answered through their question. So I'm just asking that you be patient for a minute. I'm going to recognize Ms. Hano. Ms. Hano, your hand is recognized. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I think I need some clarity because the way-- I concur with the idea that we may or may not need a pair of fresh eyes. You don't know what works or what doesn't work until you try. But I was always,

or the way I understand it, and this is what I need clarity from either you, Kim, or the staff, or whoever. But I thought because LaCAN and FYF were-- not FHF. PIP were so intertwined with the council, that the fiscal-- like I could be wrong. I just always assumed that your hands were tied, but that there were only certain avenues you could set as a fiscal agent for PIP since this is such a specific program because-- I don't know why I said because. But like could you give me other examples of fiscal agents we could use.

KIM BASILE: Jill, let me say about Partners. Partners does have a handbook that you have to follow that was, you know, developed by the one in Minnesota. So that would still be followed, and we would still have the Partners program. It's just the person that we would contract with to run the program. And who would manage the money. That's who I'm saying go out and contract.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Question satisfied, Ms. Hano?

JILL HANO: I don't think so, but I don't think I'm asking the correct thing. Like cause to me-- and again, like I'm agreeing with you. But I just want to organize this in my head more. But to me Partners more of a specific program then let's say like customized employment. Maybe I'm wrong. And like I thought only an FHF could hold a LaCAN contract.

RASHAD BRISTO: Let me interject for just a moment. Hold that thought because they're not saying, we're not saying-- the motion is not suggesting to get rid of the programs. The motion is only suggesting explore other fiscal agents. So I hope that brings a little bit more clarity.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Point of order. When is the appropriate time to object? Do we do it after discussion or do we do it at any time?

AMY DEAVILLE: I think it's after discussion.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Mr. Davis, I see your hand. Then Mr. Iddins I see your hand. In that order. Mr. Davis, you have the floor.

LOGAN DAVIS: It's not regarding this one. It's regarding after this.

RASHAD BRISTO: If you would, Mr. Davis, just take

your hand down until we come to the topic of your interest. Mr. Iddins, you're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

MITCH IDDINS: I just have a quick question. How did Families Helping Families Southwest Louisiana ultimately become the fiscal agent for LaCAN? And additionally, Crossroads Families Helping Families at Crossroads become the fiscal agent for Partners in Policymaking? Was there an RFP that went out years ago that these folks bid on this opportunity be the fiscal agent? How did they wind up with the contracts?

RASHAD BRISTO: Is there any staff that can answer that question for Mr. Iddins.

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't think there's any staff left from that time.

RASHAD BRISTO: At the moment, Mr. Iddins, this was something that was put in place prior to any of the current staff or council to be able to know.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. I don't have information on Partners as to how that contract went to Crossroads. For LaCAN in 2016 it went to Families Helping Families of Southwest because they responded to the proposal that we put out. It's my understanding they were the only ones that responded to the proposal. Historically LaCAN and Partners has gone to our FHF centers that have requested. So in the past prior to the merger of LaCAN and LaTEACH, LaTEACH was our education network, another FHF center handled LaCAN. That was in northeast. And then I think it was Southwest that handled the LaTEACH piece. It was combined into just LaCAN. And FHF Southwest took it over and they employee our LaCAN leaders. At the time that that proposal was submitted FHF of Northeast actually sent a letter of endorsement for FHF Southwest saying they were perfectly fine with not using, our not having that contract anymore.

Historically the reason why Partners and LaCAN have gone to FHF is because they share our values and our vision. Which, and by our, I mean the council. If you look at other individuals or entities that might request to take over those contracts, I mean, that's going to be something y'all are going to have to look at very closely and to look at their track record of what they've done. Because we need to make sure

whoever holds these contracts are going to be in line with what the council stands for, advocates for and the work that the council does. Otherwise we're going to have conflicts there where this new contractor might come in and start working on things that may not be in line with what we do. And then how are they supposed to employ people and work and help support people that may not be in favor of the council's work. So that's something to also consider in your discussions. That's a little background history lesson.

MITCH IDDINS: Okay. Thanks for that, Brenton. What my point was was a proposal went out and we only had one person respond to the RFP. You know, it kind of goes back to if it ain't(sic) broke, don't fix it. And these folks have been doing a good job for years. And if there were some issue with charging too much money or mismanagement of funds, I mean, those issues would have already come up and been addressed. So I really just don't see any reason for the motion. But that's my take on that. Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And I might add--

RASHAD BRISTO: One minute. I need to bring a correction. I was just informed by the parliamentarian, Ms. Polotzola, you do have the option to object anytime during discussion. My apologies.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I object.

RASHAD BRISTO: Objection noted. You object to the discussion?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I object to the motion.

RASHAD BRISTO: Objects to the motion. Okay. Mr. Andrus, you can finish.

BRENTON ANDRUS: One thing I had left out. Keep in mind for both of these contracts you're really looking at purely a fiscal agent. As far as-- which means they cut the check. As far as what's actually happening, the work that's being done, the direction that's given I would say the majority of that weight comes from the directive that the council gives and that you provide to staff, and we provide that to educate our contractors. So I do-- I wanted to make that statement just so you know that switching to another contract isn't necessarily going to be a perfect cure because that contractor's still doing the work that you're telling them to do. And that you have staff that you

pay to make sure the work that you want done is happening. So this person is really just going to be cutting checks. They're not really directing the work in those contracts as much as, I don't know, maybe some people think. If that makes sense. It's very different than our FHF contracts where we just give them these deliverables and they go forth and they achieve it however they think possible. Whenever it comes to Partners and LaCAN we are very involved in the ins and outs and the how-to dos. Especially more so with LaCAN. I don't want to speak too much Partners because that's not one of my contracts. But with LaCAN it is very much more of a fiscal agent type situation. We do bring Susan in when we have to deal with personnel issues because they are her employees. But for the most part, it's mostly council and leadership that are involved in running that advocacy network.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for that. Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair.

JILL HANO: So okay. So fiscal agent for LaCAN and PIP can be whoever we want it to be. Like it doesn't have to be an FHF center, does it?

RASHAD BRISTO: It would be whoever responds. Let me preface for everybody's memory. There's a motion on the floor and if the motion is to pass-- cause I'm about to call the vote. Depending on where the motion stands, then that's when we'll do, you know, provide for information. I hope that answers your question. Has everyone, do we have anymore comments? I see any hands in the room?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Is there a hand up on the screen.

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

KIMONA HOGAN: Are these the only two contracts that have outside fiscal agents?

RASHAD BRISTO: They're not the only two that have a fiscal agent. The only two in discussion at the moment, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Well, they're the only two in discussion, but they're also the only two that operate like that. Our other contracts are different in that technically like we work with People First. The Arc of Louisiana is the fiscal agent for People First. So we do have some other contracts that are like that where

we have fiscal agents. Who technically get the contract.

KIMONA HOGAN: And if that was the case, I was just wondering from Ms. Basile why these two particular contracts she was making the motion for.

KIM BASILE: I'm sorry I missed that question.

KIMONA HOGAN: So since there are some other contracts that have outside fiscal agents, I was just wondering why these two particular ones you were making the motion to do the RFI opposed to all contracts.

KIM BASILE: Because these are two of our largest and these are two that I know for a fact that have not been put out for bid in a couple years. In fact, six or more.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Basile. Ms. Webb, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes, sir. I'm not completely sure, but did I hear someone object this motion?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes. That is correct.

VIVIENNE WEBB: May I second that motion, or the objection to the motion.

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes. You can also object as well.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Cosse is asking is it true that those particular contracts have gone years without RFIs. And I would assume the answer is yes to that question. She also wanted to state for the record who held the contract. So the LaCAN contract is held by Families Helping Families of Southwest Louisiana. And Partners in Policymaking is held by Families Helping Families at the Crossroads. But she's also asking to please explain who that's an administrative decision to select fiscal agents for Partners in Policymaking and LaCAN.

RASHAD BRISTO: That decision would actually just be based upon wherever, if the vote passes, that would be based upon whoever, you know, whoever announced the RFI. Wins the RFI. Vice Chair Banks, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair, for the recognition. I had a question. I remember Mr. Iddins had stated that-- or I'm not sure who. Don't quote me. I'm not sure. I know somebody said that it was a proposal put out and they were the only ones that bid

for it. Was that correct, right?

RASHAD BRISTO: That's correct. That's what was stated. Let me say it like that.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. There could be others out there. I'm not saying what's broke don't fix it. Because if it's going good it is. But we know there is some things that does need to be addressed and some things that is not quite working out. And we've been talking about, I know for the last few years since I've been on it and other people have been talking about other things too that all ties into this. I just hope that everybody just consider that. I'm not saying that these people are not doing their thing. They are doing an awesome job at what they're doing. But to consider other things and just to have an open mind. We're not saying we're going to replace anybody. Just have an open mind about it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that. Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized.

JILL HANO: My bad.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. No problem. Mr. Iddins.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, sir. Is there a policy that says an RFP should go out every so many years or at the end of the contract with the current fiscal agent?

AMY DEAVILLE: No. There is no policy like that.

MITCH IDDINS: Okay. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any more questions? Not seeing any in the room. Do we have any more on the chat? So we have a motion on the floor to recap. The DD Council put out a request for information for the Partners in Policymaking and LaCAN contracts. Motioned by Ms. Kim Basile and seconded by Vice Chair Nicole Banks. So at this time-- I see a hand. Ms. Hymel, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. Ms. Hymel. Maybe an oversight. Any other hands? All right. Due to the nature and the concern of this vote I'm going to go ahead and move forward with a roll call vote. That way we know exactly where this stands. So we're getting ready to go to a roll call vote. I'm going to ask that Ms. Ebony conduct the vote.

EBONY HAVEN: I'll explain. So a yes would be to put the LaCAN and Partners in Policymaking contracts out for a request for information. And a no vote would

be not to put those contracts out for RFI. So Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Basile, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, no. Ms. Cosse.

BRENDA COSSE: Ms. Cosse, no.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Cosse, no. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, no. Mr. Davis.

LOGAN DAVIS: I abstain.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Davis abstains. Ms. Egle. Ms. Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Gonzales, no. Ms. Guidry.

CHANEY GUIDRY: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Guidry, no. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon, no. Ms. Hogan.

KIMONA HOGAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hogan, yes. Ms. Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hymel, yes. Mr. Iddins.

MITCH IDDINS: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Iddins, no. Ms. Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Polotzola, no. Ms. Tarver.

MARY TARVER: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Tarver, no. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, no. You have five yeas, ten nays and one abstention.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So the motion does not pass. Okay. Thank you very much for your participation in that. Mr. Davis, I know you've been chomping at the bit to present something. Is this a new agenda item or something for discussion?

LOGAN DAVIS: It's new business. Or I don't know how to define that.

RASHAD BRISTO: Let me ask you this question. Is

it something that's inevitably going to require a vote?

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So with that being said, do I have unanimous consent by the council to present another agenda item? Okay. Mr. Davis, you can proceed.

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes. I know some of us it was mentioned that it was easier to do a hybrid version or just to go all remote. I don't know if that's legally allowed. But I would like for the legal department to at least, you know, look at it somehow. I don't know. But I make a-- you're going to have to help me out with this Rashad.

RASHAD BRISTO: Hold on one second. We already have an answer for you. I think I know where you're going with this one.

AMY DEAVILLE: Before you make a motion, a couple things I just want you to know. One is I have talked to the legal department, and they have told me multiple times that we need to be in-person.

LOGAN DAVIS: Perfect. All right. Never mind. I'm done.

AMY DEAVILLE: But also there was a motion that happened earlier today that came out of the education committee that we're going to seek an opinion from the attorney general as well.

LOGAN DAVIS: I remember that. I remember that.

AMY DEAVILLE: And that's about this issue. So we'll be seeking that opinion too.

LOGAN DAVIS: Okay. Well, then that case then...

AMY DEAVILLE: No need for a motion.

LOGAN DAVIS: Has been answered.

AMY DEAVILLE: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: It's 3:30. I want to recognize Mr. Mitch Iddins. This is Mr. Mitch Iddins' last council meeting.

SPEAKER: No.

RASHAD BRISTO: And I just want to say personally I've known Mr. Iddins for many years. He is a great advocate. He's a good friend. He's one who I know is definitely on the front lines. He does not mind shaking the bushes. He does not mind who he offends because he knows that the face in front of him is going to give him the results he wants and (inaudible). So

Mr. Iddins, I want to say thank so much for the contribution to the DD Council. I'm going to yield the floor for you to make any kind of comments you want to make.

MITCH IDDINS: I'll tell you, I really enjoyed being on the council. Thank you, guys. And I've learned so much from everybody. I think what I'll take away from this is you guys have made me a better advocate and I'm grateful for that. And you've shown me how to really just stand up and express your opinions and not be afraid to do that. And work with a group of people to accomplish some things. I was really proud of some of the things we've been able to accomplish and that I got to be a little bit a part of those things. And look, in the future if you guys would entertain having me back on the council and I'm eligible to do that, I'd certainly entertain that. So thank everybody. And you guys are great. And just keep up the good work. And you guys are doing some great work. Like Rashad said, it's okay to disagree sometimes. We don't always have to agree with each other. But we all have the same mission. We're all working towards the same goals. We all are advocates for ourselves and our family members and people with disabilities. Just keep up the good work. And I appreciate everything you guys are doing. And just thank you for letting me be a part of it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Mitch. And look, don't get amnesia when it's time for you to be able to come back to the council. Also, I want to make sure that we do recognize that even though they're not in attendance, this will be Crystal White's last meeting. She's rolling off. And also Mr. Matt Rovira. He's rolling off as well. So with that being said, we definitely want our council members to make sure they look at some other people. Ms. Hano, I see your hand. Let me just make some quick announcements real quick. Next quarterly meeting is going to be July 20th, 21st. Hopefully we will have a lot of hiccups that we had today, for this session, ironed out. Again, thank you for your patience. Ms. Hano. You're muted, Jill.

JILL HANO: My computer is wonky, but I just wanted to give a shoutout to Mitch. You've taught me so much and I'm sad to see you go. But I am very sad not to

see you and Jessica at the next in-person meeting because it's coming around the corner. But please, thank you for all your knowledge dropped upon us and give our best to Jess.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Jill.

RASHAD BRISTO: Did I see Ms. Cosse's hand?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. It did go down.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. All right. I don't see any other hands. Do we have any other announcements besides the--

BRENDA COSSE: Hello.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Cosse, I'm sorry. You have the floor. I saw your hand.

BRENDA COSSE: Yes, chairman. I apologize, but I was getting clarification from the parliamentarian. I needed to abstain from that motion, and I don't know how we do that. I don't think we even have a quorum. The motion where they were talking about customized employment and Ms. Bayham. There was a motion.

AMY DEAVILLE: Oh, that was in education.

BRENDA COSSE: I apologize. I need to have that abstain, so I won't have a perceived conflict of interest. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Will you document that?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. It will be documented. All right. The time is 3:35. If there's no further business and if there's no objection, we'll adjourn the meeting.

LOGAN DAVIS: Thank you for your service, Mitch. And see you around.

MITCH IDDINS: Thank you, Logan. Appreciate you.

LOGAN DAVIS: Yes, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: We are now adjourned.