

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Committee
July 20, 2022

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Good morning, everyone. It is 10:19 and I would like to call the meeting to order. Brenton, would you mind doing the roll call?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Present.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Egle.

JILL EGLE: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Hagan. Dr. McKee. Ms. Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Tarver.

MARY TARVER: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. White. So that is five members. You do have a quorum.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Brenton. A few meeting protocols to review for this committee meeting. For those committee members who are attending virtually, remember you must have your camera on and have your first and last name showing to be counted towards a quorum. And please keep your microphones muted unless you're called upon by me. Electronically raise your hand to request to speak and wait to be called on. We have staff assisting with that. But if there's some type of problem and you're waiting a long time to get called on, just unmute yourself and let us know that. We don't want to overlook anyone. For attendees, once recognized to speak by me your microphone will be turned on. And after speaking, the microphone will be returned to mute. Also, please use the chat box to only make comments about relevant items being discussed at the time. However, please keep in mind comments sometimes do get lost in the chat depending on how active it is. So I encourage all virtual participants to raise your hand and request to speak if you have something you would like to share or ask. Staff will help me to keep track of those of you

virtually and in-person who raise your hand requesting to speak. I will then recognize you, but please be patient. As for the order, committee members in-person and virtually will be allowed to speak first. And members of the public in-person will then be called on followed by public participating virtually who have their hands raised. Comments in the chat will be addressed last. Members of the public who are here in-person, if you would like to speak, please form a line at the end of the table and wait to be called on. Which we don't have anyone here yet, but that's the protocol. Final comments about a person's character-- finally, comments about a person's character will not be allowed. Thank you, guys.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And I did want to say Dr. McKee has joined us. I think when I did roll call she was switching over to panelist.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Welcome, Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Present.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So now we will move into the approval of our April minutes. Are attached for those of you in-person, or online, or in your mail for those of you attending virtually. Okay. Are there no objections to approving the minutes? Are there any objections to approving the minutes? Okay. So they are approved by unanimous consent. And next, so the next agenda item is the Office of Aging and Adult Services Arc of Louisiana report. And Whitney Ledet will be providing that report. It's on the screen, and also online, and in the packets. Whitney.

WHITNEY LEDET: Hey. Good morning. Can y'all hear me?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

WHITNEY LEDET: Hey. My name is Whitney. I'm the new project director for state personal assistant services. This is my first time giving the report so I will do my best. If you have any questions, just let me know. If there's something I can't quite answer, Kelly will be back in the office tomorrow. I can make some quick notes if there's any questions y'all have. Or y'all can send a quick little email and let her know if y'all have any questions.

Let's see. I will go over some changes that we've

had from the third quarter going into the final quarter, fourth quarter for the year. So for this quarter we did increase the number of participants we were serving by seven. So we went from 42 to 49. We did have some change in clients between three and four, but the increase in seven was some onetime funds. And the demographics are listed below that. So we did have an increase by two in African Americans. An increase in five in Caucasian. Five male and then two female clients we served in the fourth quarter. So of those seven clients we served a total of 49. In those regions we did have an increase in region one. Region two went up by two. We lost one client in region four. One more client in region five. One more region in region seven. And then we had a decrease in clients by four in region nine.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Why did you have a decrease?

WHITNEY LEDET: I'm not sure offhand. We did have some clients close, went off the waiting list. We did have to remove them. A few had passed away. Some were no longer interested in the services. They had applied several years ago. They've had other resources since then. Or they were just no longer interested in the services.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

WHITNEY LEDET: Okay. So of the 49 participants, all of our participants received support coordination services. Thirty-eight received personal care assistance. Three are receiving rental or utility assistance. We provided six with assistance with medical supplies or equipment. And two for vehicle or a home modification. Please note some individuals may receive more than one services. So some are receiving personal care assistance, but we also assisted them with some medical supplies as well.

All right. Then this is our total expenditures for the fourth quarter. There was a significant change between the third and fourth for PCA services. That was primarily the end of the fiscal year getting some outstanding invoices from our agencies and getting that processed. There also was a significant amount of funding for medical supplies, equipment and stipends. In the third quarter we did have four participants that

left our program. One went to a nursing facility. One declined the services. Another went to a group home. And I believe one passed away. So their remaining budget was allocated towards one-time funds while we on-boarded some new participants.

All right. And then for the waiting list, I know it says 12 people came off, but we actually added six more applicants onto the waiting list. I believe that was kind of left over from the last report. We had an increase by five in region one. And one more in region four. And that's percentages. Okay. So currently on the waiting list we have about 60 people currently on our waiting list. Most are looking for PCA services. We do have a few that are looking for home modifications, medical equipment. Doesn't look like we have anybody interested in rental assistance at this time. One's interested in transportation. And two are interested in therapy. In order to provide all of these services for people currently on our waiting list it would cost 1,233,660 total. And that is an estimated amount. That's the last of the report. Do y'all have any questions?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I have a question. For the people who are on the waiting list, that last section that you just discussed, there's 51 who are waiting for PCA services. If you have those people on the waiting list, are you guys directing them to the PCA services available through Department of Health to see if they might be eligible for those services?

WHITNEY LEDET: Yes. If we feel like there's other services out there that they may qualify for we do recommend that. Whether it's waiver or maybe a local Council on Aging if they are over the age of 65. If they need something more immediate, cause right now we do have about 60 people on our waiting list. It could take a couple years before we would have some funding for them. We do go over if there's anything else we could potentially assist with. Medical supplies and stuff like that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Thank you.

WHITNEY LEDET: No problem.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any there any other questions for Whitney Ledet for the Arc of Louisiana's report?

Hearing none, we'll move onto our next agenda item. We have Office of Behavioral Health, Kristen Savicki and Dana Foster will be providing those reports.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yes. Hi. Can you hear me okay?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yes. Hi. Dr. Kristen Savicki. It will just be me today to review these fourth quarter reports. I see it looks like Brenton's already got this up on screen. This is the child report for LGE provision of this program for kids and families with behavioral health needs who qualify based on the behavioral health needs. We always, I think me and Tanya always say the same thing on these records. Which is that these won't include everything for the quarter in question. So as we know this is the quarter four report, but it is not the yearend report. There will definitely be invoices that don't show up on this cause they haven't been processed by the LGE yet at the time the report was requested.

That said, you can see for the consumer care resources fund, you know, the majority of the districts have expended, you know, all or very close to all of their funding for the year. Which is exactly what we want to see. There are a couple who are low on their expenditures and have-- specifically Metropolitan has a note in the note section noting the barriers that they experienced in getting the funding out this year. There was some Covid related barriers and some, you know, kind of larger factors that resulted in them getting fewer requests this year than is typical. And I think that the other LGE that's-- let's see, we still need some more information, I think, from some of the other LGEs about the low expenditures. Which we'll make sure is included in the yearend report. But I know, for instance, Jefferson Parish noted that a couple months of invoices had not yet been processed. So that 70 percent is likely to go up a fair amount. So that's my kind of quick overview of the consumer care resources on the child side. Let me pause there. See if there's any questions.

NICOLE BANKS: I have a question.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Sure.

NICOLE BANKS: So the money that are left over in

the balance, right, like Jefferson has 53,000-dollars left over?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: At the time of reporting, yes. Correct.

NICOLE BANKS: But you said they have some more invoices that have to be paid, correct?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yeah. I don't know if you can scroll down, Brenton, but their note, I believe, noted it reflects ten months of invoices. If you can scroll over. I think I remember that they said they had ten months of invoices and they will have some more coming in. And that at the time of the next meeting is when they'll submit their yearend report. So we'll be able to see the final total for this fiscal year.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Can I just add something? I definitely, I don't know which-- S-E-L-H-A.

SPEAKER: South Central.

NICOLE BANKS: South Central. Okay. I just like how they breakdown theirs. I like how they breakdown their, like in their notes and exactly what they paid everybody for. Nobody else did it like theirs. I like that. Yeah. Maybe we should pass it along and get it like theirs. That way we can also see what's being done. What's being spent. Who was in what. Like I love that. The rest of them they say what they've done, but they break it down. So just, I mean, maybe an FYI to the other agencies so that, you know, just for public record and transparency, everybody can do that.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I would suggest that if there's a change in what's asked for-- cause right now what's asked for on the report in the note section, if you see that number one, it says a brief summary of the types of goods and services including innovated uses. So the responses are following that ask. They're pretty brief. And they tend to, you know, just be a quick summary of the kinds of things that they spent the money on. If there's a request for a change, I would suggest that the council make that request or, you know, look at if there was additional reporting requested.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, okay. Maybe it's just the way that they do it. But okay. Thank you.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Of course.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I do have a question, Kristen. Do you know if Metropolitan, I see they listed why they have such low expenditures. But do you know what they're doing to try to spend that money? I mean, are they getting themselves out there trying to get more folks understanding about this program and trying to spend what they can? I mean, I understand it seems like some of their issues they're having, I would say it's not just that region. I mean, everybody's been impacted by Covid. So I'm wondering how some of the other regions are still able to keep up their spending, but a huge area like Metropolitan is so low.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I'll be making that request. I assume that I'll be making that request to Metropolitan once they send their final report if they continue to be under that 95 percent threshold that we look for. Then I'll be requesting a corrective action plan from them on which they'll be asked to detail what they're doing, what they're going to do in this coming fiscal year to really try to get that funding connected to families. So I will, just as part of our regular process, I'll be requesting that after the final report. And I would just note their note, and this is, you know, we should probably seek more specifics from Metropolitan. But just as one thing to note, if money is going for things like school uniforms, you know, things that are relevant to in-person schooling, the Covid restrictions in New Orleans lasted a lot longer than in other regions. That is one potential difference, just to note.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Got you. And I see they listed also they were using federal assistance as well. So I know that could impact. I just was wondering if they were trying to get creative looking at things outside of related expenses. But certainly if they're not in school, other expenses from being home would creep up. And I would like to (inaudible) pivot their focus into other opportunities to use funding outside of school related expenses.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yeah. I mean, I think their note there is that families were receiving significant federal assistance.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Got you.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: During that time. And that reduced some of the need for families to reach out to Metropolitan for those kinds of supports. But yeah, I will definitely have more information from them. I imagine, because I'm just guessing based on that current spending rate, that they won't be able to, you know, get to that 95 percent with any, you know, last minute end of year invoices. So I will be requesting further detail from them about their plans for this coming fiscal year.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Great.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Any other questions or okay to move onto the flexible family fund?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: You can go ahead and move on.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Okay. So on the flexible family fund this report tends to be, you know, fairly straight forward because this is--

>> >>: Recording in progress.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: This is, you know, once families--

>> >>: Recording stopped.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I'm sorry. I'm getting notifications about the recording. I don't know if everyone else is hearing that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sorry. That was me. I hit a wrong button.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Just wanted to make sure I wasn't doing anything wrong. Yeah. So again, flexible family fund, the expenditures are pretty straight forward once families, you know, get through the wait list and get into the program. So those are pretty well expended. The one exception there is, I believe it's North Louisiana that has noted some difficulties they're having filling their slots. That a lot of folks who are kind of on their wait list have aged out and that they talked about some of their efforts to work on filling those slots. I don't know if you can go down to the note section, Brenton. But they're the only ones who are low in expenditures for the flexible family fund. Yep. So they note they're sending out letters and scheduling assessments to get the slots filled for the upcoming year.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: You said it was Northeast? No. North. Okay. But they're not the only ones cause Metropolitan as well has 9,000-dollar balance.

NICOLE BANKS: That's what I was going to ask. Okay. How long are these people being on this waiting list? And what's the protocol or maybe policy on moving them along quicker. Like why, how long have they been on there?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So I don't have that information. Certainly, the flexible family fund, you know, once kids and families are eligible then they receive that funding as long as they stay eligible and, you know, until they age out. So districts can then, you know, when they have empty slots when kids, you know, drop from eligibility or age out, then there's an empty slot that can be filled.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. It just seems like a lot of them are on a waiting list. Like 34 from Metropolitan. That's too many. Like that's way too many. That's like double everybody else. Way over than double for everybody else. Is it because they're having staffing problems or like what's the problem? What's the problem with that many people being on the waiting list? Like, I don't know how long it's been, but still. They were up on there last time too. It was on there last quarter. Looking at the report from last time and they were still up on there last time. The majority of these people have been on there since last time. Only one person in one-- wait. One, two, three. Five people out of every organization has been pulled off the waiting list since the last time we've had a meeting.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So this is a function of how many slots they have and what funding they have. So that's the LGEs have allocated funding. And so, for instance, if we're talking about Metropolitan, they have 48. They have the budget and the funding for 48 slots. Forty-eight of those are filled. So they don't have any open slots with availability to move any of those wait list kids over into open slots.

NICOLE BANKS: And then they don't have the budget to increase the number of slots that's being filled. Is that correct?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: That would be a question for the individual LGEs given that they manage their budget and allocation for this program.

NICOLE BANKS: Well, can that be brought up? Because they have a balance. They have funding they haven't used. And then they have people that's on a waiting list. It looks like to me they can open up some slots. And they can afford some more people to be up on something. Especially with all of these-- I know we haven't got the whole report from the fourth quarter. I get it. But still, I feel like some kind of budgeting should be going on where it should raise this up some more. Especially if they haven't been used yet. It should have been used already. If all the slots already used up, all the people are already filled it should be very close to being, you know, used.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Well, what could have happened though, is if they might have had 48 filled, somebody got off and by the time they got the next person on, there were some months, or it could have been five people. Like there could have been some months where they weren't at their full capacity of 48 and that created some excess. The other thing that I know, not Regarding Office of Behavioral Health, but historically when we're talking about OCDD family flexible funds, sometimes those regions that have a long waiting list is because they're doing more outreach. So it's not maybe a function of them not doing. It could be the other regions aren't doing outreach. You know, you don't know how to gauge it. So that's another thing just to consider. Am I correct on that, Dr. Savicki?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: That sounds accurate to me. Yeah. Those numbers on the wait list, there's no way to see. So, for instance, those 34 kids on the wait list, I don't know if those are the same 34. It could be that they moved kids through, and they continue to build their wait list. So correct. The wait list is, you know, a function of how many slots they have, how many kids have aged out and opened up a slot. And it's also a function of how much outreach they've done to really connect families to this resource even if they don't have an open slot now, but to be kind of ready

and waiting for when they do have an open slot.

JILL EGLE: Can I say something? Hi. I'm Jill. And I'm an activist. I go to the Arc of GNO Uptown Community Center. But this is my biggest fear, why do people with developmental disabilities have to be on a wait list for a lifelong just to get a job or to be who they are. I mean, is it because of the country's funding? Is it Louisiana's funding? Is there not enough providers? I mean, these people want to get back and just to wait forever is kind of like what do you do. I mean, why is this happening in our state. Cause it's touching to me. I don't work, but archivist through the Arc of GNO and I'm on the DD Council and I'm representing anything I can. Why is this currently, why is this happening?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So Jill, I think like that question is a question, since it's about DD, maybe with OCDD and their employment outreach and maybe LRS. So like our meetings, either the two committee meetings might have an opportunity for that. Now, it could be like our people with behavioral health, there could be some people who have both DD and behavioral health. And that's a very important issue to think about as well. Like how are we looking at employment.

JILL EGLE: Cause, you know, you might say a job, job, but when are they actually going to have a career. Cause I think people with disabilities can go get a degree in college and make a career and be activists with the state. I mean, when I wanted to do LRS they turned me down (inaudible). And I just said, you know what, I'm moving on, and I am the person who I am today.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Brenton, you have a comment in the chat.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Are there anyone's hands raised?

MARILEE ANDREWS: I don't see-- can you guys hear me?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes. We can.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Okay. I don't see any hands raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So can you read the comment?

MARILEE ANDREWS: Yes. Ms. Melinda Elliot says, if

there is a waiting list it would definitely be interesting to know why it takes so long to fill the slot. When there is funding available, filling the slots should be a priority. And there's another comment. I'm not able to read the person commenting. Their name is Samsung. And the comment is, from my understanding the behavioral health are done separately from flexible family fund.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So behavioral health has a flexible family fund as well as OCDD has flexible family funds. Sometimes that's confusing, but right now we're talking about Office of Behavioral Health flexible family funds. This is for children. Both of them are for children. But they're two different programs in both of those offices.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: And actually, sorry, if I could, just to clarify further. We at OBH are providing this aggregated report from the districts, but it's actually not OBH funding. So questions about individual district decision making about how much funding, that's really a question for the individual district. About how much funding they're allocating for this particular program. And on the filling slots question, that's absolutely correct that there needs to be a priority in place on filling the slots. There's really just one district right now that's reporting difficulty filling their slots and they've reported on some of the efforts they're making to get those slots filled. So we'll be looking for an update soon about how they're doing to get those slots filled.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Dr. Savicki, when you talk about the North Louisiana Human Service District, that's the one you're talking about they have 23 budgeted slots, 16 filled slots. So that's seven vacant seats and six on the waiting list. I'm sorry if I missed it. But where, is it in their comments?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: It's in their comments.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So letters have already been sent out and assessments are being scheduled to have the slots filled for the coming year. But that doesn't answer why.

NICOLE BANKS: Doesn't answer why the slots haven't been filled, correct, Bambi?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah.

NICOLE BANKS: Like they have the people on the waiting list that can be put onto be served and yet they're still not. And then last month there wasn't either. The last report that they have, they still had spots that needed to be filled on there and they still had people on the waiting list. So I'm not sure what's going on with the region or where the breakdown comes in at where these people cannot be moved and being served. They shouldn't even be on a waiting list. They shouldn't have a waiting list at all. Because they have the spots. The slots available budgeted to fill and then they have the people on the waiting list that's available. That should not even be looking like that right there at all. Then there's no explanation on why they're not being served. Like why haven't they been moved over. There's no reason.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Well, it says the assessments are being scheduled. But my thing is that they're saying they ended up not filling all their slots because people aged out. Like that's something they can predict. They know the child is turning 18 at a certain time so they should be able to fill it. Now if it would have been just people exiting the system, you know--

NICOLE BANKS: Just by choice.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Right. That could be something they can't predict, but this is predictable.

NICOLE BANKS: But not only that though, Bambi, they still have the people on the waiting list. And I know when you're on a waiting list, you already went through some type of assessment. So what are they talking about they need more assessments for these people when they already have had an assessment. I'm just asking. Do they have an assessment already when these people are on the waiting list? Cause usually you have to fill out some type of paperwork, some application. You have to go through something to be put on the waiting list to know that you qualify for it. So my thing is they still haven't been moved off. They have the assessments. If that's how they do it. That's my question. Is that how they do it? Like once they're on this waiting list, do they, is the

assessment already done?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So there is a process outlined in the flexible family fund manual for entry onto the wait list. I think the situation that North Louisiana has reported in the past is that they had a large group of kids, I think, kind of filling their slots for a long time such that the people on their wait list had been on their wait list for a while. And so when North Louisiana-- and this is in comments from previous reports. Cause they have had some of these issues in the past. That they would then reach out to folks who are on their waist list, but the (inaudible) the assessments from those kids on the wait list could be a couple years old. And so there was a need to get that stuff updated. But, if the council is interested in a larger level of detail from North Louisiana about their flexible family fund program, then I would suggest outlining those questions and getting those to North Louisiana. For our part at OBH we will be requesting a corrective action plan on this situation because they are below the threshold of slots filled that we want to see. We want to see 90 percent of slots filled in a given quarter and obviously this is below that. So we'll be getting their corrective action plan on this situation. But certainly if the council has additional questions, you can certainly make that request to North Louisiana.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Dr. Savicki, so definitely don't want to duplicate, you know, duplicate the work. So are they, that corrective action plan, is that something that you can, not necessarily share the whole corrective action plan, but be able to share with us at the next quarterly meeting what they reported?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yeah. I will request that. I'll clear that with them and make sure because that is a kind of internal OBH to district reporting process. But I can certainly ask that there be a version of that that can be shared with the council.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Which region is that? Northwest?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: North Louisiana. Region seven.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: But if the council has specific questions that you would like to be sure are answered, I would suggest that you provide those--

NICOLE BANKS: I do.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: In case, you know, those-- just to be sure that those specific questions get asked and answered.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So I'm just reading their notes from the last report that we had and this report. So in the last report they were saying they didn't get new applications in. So my question is to them, have they been going out and reaching out to different people, agencies? Wherever they go to get their clients from, have they been doing that, for one, because that's up in their notes that they're not getting any out. They said they sent messages to the partners to see if they have any applications that, for people to participate up in here. So I want to know what that is also. Like how many people reached out. Did they give them new applicants, you know, in regards to filling these slots. And also, when the correction action, I guess whenever you guys do the corrective action in regards to that, can we see a result? Like, you know, I guess make them produce a result into all the questions that we asked.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We would have to do that. So the things that you're saying. What she's saying is what they can do, OBH, since it's not OBH funding, they can't ask the corrective action because they're not at that 90 percent threshold, 90 or 95 percent threshold. But what she's saying is, if we want something more than that then the questions need to come from the council. So what I heard you say was two different issues though. One of the issues is that they actually have the slots, and they have the people on the waiting list and those aren't filled. But the other issue you were just bringing up from the previous report was that outreach to get more applicants.

NICOLE BANKS: Right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So that's two separate, like they have applicants. They have waiting list. They're not even filling the slots for those. But then also the issue of outreach to get more people--

NICOLE BANKS: Involved.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. To just know about the program if they need it.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I mean, one of the things is is under the corrective action plan they may actually address what their outreaches are. So I am wondering if a lot of the questions you have might be addressed in their corrective action plan. I also would recommend tabling the discussion of what questions you may have until you get the final report because a lot of this outlook may change. They may have filled those slots and you're just catching that snapshot of a moment in time where they didn't. But at the end of the year when you get that end of the year report, it may be filled.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I mean, that would just be my recommendation. Cause once you get the yearend report, then you can accurately look at everything over that timeframe for a year. And then figure out what questions.

NICOLE BANKS: So we won't get that till October.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That will be the October report.

NICOLE BANKS: And then after that, we'll have to answer it up in the January meeting, right? That's the timeline, right?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Right. Yeah. I mean, cause you meet quarterly to do business. So you're going to get the information quarterly. It will be addressed. Now if you get information prior to that, we can send it out to committee members, but you can't really discuss it or conduct any business based on those results.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But if we know the questions that we wanted answered, if we can decide that here, and then if they will address it in their report then that will be, we'll report that out at our October meeting. But if those questions aren't answered and we get them beforehand, then we can have something that triggers the council staff to reach out and say, can you provide the answers to this. So wouldn't be initially triggered. It would be triggered at the point that that information is received by council staff.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I mean, we have to go through you to reach out because you're the chair.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: But yeah. I mean, you can develop your questions cause we're not going to see this result. Well, actually, I don't even know if we're going to see the corrective action. I think what Kristen was saying was she's going to request if they would be okay with sharing some sort of information about what they're doing or what was included in the corrective action. So what you're saying is once we get that, if the questions that we develop today are not asked, then we will send something out. I'm just trying to make sure I understood. And we would also have to develop specific questions that you are going to want to ask.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So I think what I heard is what we want to know is what, for me, how are they addressing whenever they know that someone, a person is aging out, are they being, you know, at what point does it trigger them to start the process of getting the next person that's on the waiting list. Their timeline. Seems like that timeline could be pushed up. They could start it earlier so as soon as that person ages out, that other person has gone through that assessment process and ready to get on. Filling that gap in the number there. And then the other point that Nicole brought up was that there was something in the previous quarterly report in regards to their outreach. Because even if they had all six on the waiting list receiving services, they still would only have 22 and they budgeted for 23 people. So outreach. Some question asking them how are they addressing the lack of applicants for services or outreach to the community. The funds exist.

MARILEE ANDREWS: There is a comment in the chat.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Marilee, can you read that?

MARILEE ANDREWS: Melinda Elliot says, if OBH is requiring a corrective action plan, don't they have oversight over the funding? Her second comment reads, so the flexible family fund program at each LGE had no other oversight than themselves. I am sorry, something doesn't sound right.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So I don't know if the council folks want to answer that or? I mean, I can just say

for OBH, it's an odd situation in which OBH is asked to collect data and provide some level of monitoring and oversight over the operation of the program. But we do not have oversight over the funding. The funding is a part of each LGEs' budget that LGEs make their own decisions about how much to allocate to the program. In terms of how they operate it, there are some policies and manuals. And we, at some point, were able to add some deliverables in the contract between LDH and the districts to set a couple of performance metrics. So, for instance, those are the metrics that we're talking about. One of the metrics is expenditure of 95 percent of the CCR funds by the end of the year. And another one is having 90 percent of those slots filled at any given time. Now the LGEs have full control of their budgets. And so a response that an LGE can make if they're not able to expend their allocated CCR funds, is they can change their budget. And OBH does not have control over those budgetary choices.

NICOLE BANKS: And I have one more question. When it says cumulative served, is that everybody being served in the program since existence or just this year?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: That's for just this year.

NICOLE BANKS: The fiscal year. Okay. So some, looks like some regions are booming with the people that they're serving, and other ones are seriously struggling. Like they had two to me that's just struggling. That would be North Louisiana and Central Louisiana. Everybody else is up in like the 40s and 50s. They are the only ones that's in like the 20s.

MARILEE ANDREWS: There's another comment.

NICOLE BANKS: I mean, I know everybody have different regions and different where they're going to, but those two, well might be three, that's in the 20s is like, you know, everybody else are serving way more people. So their outreach needs to be a little bit more better.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I'm sorry. Are you referencing the number of slots?

NICOLE BANKS: No. No. I was looking at the cumulative served. I didn't look at the number of

slots because the number of slots and then the slots that's filled. And then it has a cumulative number, right? That's the people that have been served, you said, for this whole fiscal year. You can look at these numbers and, you know, some people are 40 in and 50 in. And, you know, they're up there. But the ones that's like in the 20s, why were their efforts not as great as the other ones? Like more people were being served. That's just my question.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Can I offer-- actually, that's not the way to interpret those numbers. Can I offer some help in what those numbers mean?

SPEAKER: Sure.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: The budgeted slots, those are really the number of slots that this district has budgeted for. That's the amount of money they have for the amount of people that can be served. The number of slots for the year. So Metropolitan has 48 slots. They have 48 of those slots filled. They have served 48 people during this year. So what that tells you is the same 48 kids have filled those slots for the full year. Because they have those slots filled and those kids didn't age out. Those kids didn't drop their eligibility. So those same 48 kids just continue to fill those same 48 slots for the whole year. Which is fine. That's, you know, a good, you know, that's good service to those 48 families. And you only see kind of turnover in slots if the kids lost their eligibility or aged out. So I'm trying to think of-- I can't, sorry. I can't see that. Might be Northeast Delta. They have 28 slots. Twenty-eight are currently filled. They're saying that they've served 31 kids over the course of the year. So what that means is that a couple kids, you know, aged out and they put some other kid in that spot. So that's just saying that there was some turnover in slots. Does that help at all?

NICOLE BANKS: Right. Yeah. No. I get that part. I just, you know, some people have more people that they're serving than others.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: True. Some districts have more funding allocated to budget for more slots. So Metropolitan has budgeted for 48 slots. Whereas some of this, you know, kind of other LGEs have budgeted, in

part due to population, some have budgeted for a smaller number of slots.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. That's why maybe my question, because are these where they have lower populations? Okay. I'm not quite sure what all the regions are just yet.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think your question, one of them was Central. So that's going to be like Alexandria.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Yeah.

KIM BASILE: SCHSA is you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. South Central is your region.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. We have a lot of people down in my region.

BRENTON ANDRUS: So I did want to clarify two questions that you wanted asked, that that's addressing the filling of slots when you know someone is aging out, kind of sort of what's the timeline to making sure that there's swift movement from the waiting list to the slot when they age out. And then outreaches that are being conducted. And both of these are directed to North Louisiana Human Services District. And the outreaches is stemming from they have slots budgeted, they have people on the waiting list, but they don't have all their slots filled. The question I had, if those are the questions you had, my question is, did we figure out when y'all wanted to send this? Are you sending it now or you're trying to see what's going to be included in the action plan?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So since we have to send it and OBH isn't sending it, so that would just kind of trigger, I don't know, maybe like more confusion. Almost like just to get Dr. Savicki to see if she can share with us as soon as she gets that corrective action report, share with the staff. And staff can review it and see if it answers these questions. If it doesn't answer these questions, then you can contact me as the chairperson and say--

BRENTON ANDRUS: Then we can send--

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: The questions weren't answered, so that triggers us to contact them directly. This LGE.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Got you. Is that something we

could do, Kristen? What's their timeline or what is the department's timeline for getting corrective action?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So we typically request those after the yearend report. And I believe there's 30 day turnaround.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Okay.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I can go back and look. But I think we give 30 days for a response.

BRENTON ANDRUS: So we're still looking at like October timeframe before you're sending them something like hey, we need your corrective action plan.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yeah. That's our timeline. You know, I can certainly be in contact with North Louisiana and certainly give them a heads-up about the concerns and questions from the council and see if they have the ability to look into it sooner. I just don't know about their timeline.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Okay. Got you.

MARILEE ANDREWS: There is a comment in the chat.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can you read it, Marilee?

MARILEE ANDREWS: Yes. It's a question from Ms. Melinda. She says, so the percentage of funding through Act 378 does not apply to the LGEs?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I mean, I can start with the response, but I believe that's a reference to is it Act 73 that has the percentage of-- I believe that question is about the recent legislation about percentage of LGE funding for developmental disabilities services.

MARILEE ANDREWS: I don't see her responding to your question.

BRENTON ANDRUS: She has her hand raised, Marilee.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Oh, okay. I'm going to allow her to talk. There we go.

MELINDA ELLIOT: At some point it's just easier to use words than to try and type it. Thank you. So my understanding was the Act 378 percentage of funding applied to the OBH flexible family fund and OBH consumer care resources as well. But if the LGEs are the ones making the decisions how much they spend there, then that means the percentage of funding doesn't apply?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So I'm going to need some help

from my colleagues in OCDD because I believe this is referencing legislation that applies to funding specifically for individuals with DD needs. And does not apply to this particular set of funding that is for kids and families who are eligible based on behavioral health needs. But please, somebody in the room, let me know if I'm misspeaking cause this is a little out of my scope.

BRENTON ANDRUS: No. You're correct, Kristen. It's Act 73 of 2017. So it does put that 9 percent. The equivalent of the LGE's state general fund has to go to DD services. But yeah, it does not apply to OBH. It is just DD services.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And there's no requirement in Act 378 as far as a budget requirement. There's other requirements in the requirement for us and for these agencies to work together. And that's what this committee is here for. We have somewhat of the authority to be able to ask some questions and expect that the agencies will work in fulfilling that law. But there's not a percentage requirement. Is that correct?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. Correct.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't know if that addresses your question or not, Melinda. I'm hoping we interpreted your question correctly.

MELINDA ELLIOT: No. It doesn't. But I'll take it up separately later.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Melinda. Okay. So where are we at?

BRENTON ANDRUS: We have the two questions. I think Kristen was going to share those concerns with North Louisiana and see if maybe that's something they can address in their corrective action plan or at least somewhere. And also, it won't be anytime soon because their corrective action plan is going to be requested usually around the time of the end of the year report which is October. And she thinks possibly 30 days they have to submit that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So we really don't need a motion. We're just going to say that we made the request.

BRENTON ANDRUS: It's a decision, basically. Yeah.

You don't necessarily need a motion. You can save a motion if there's some sort of action that you need to take based on any responses that you get. But I think for right now, you can just try to get clarifying statements.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Kristen, would it be helpful if I like email you the questions?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: That would be helpful, Brenton. I took notes, but I certainly want to capture that accurately.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That's fine. I'll send you something one of these days after this meeting.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Do we have any other questions about this report for the children, OBH report on children services? Or Dr. Savicki, do you have anything else to share?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I think that's good. We can switch over to the adult report.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Which is significantly shorter and has just one, I think, issue similar to what the council has been concerned about, was concerned about in the child report. Which is that Central is significantly underspent for this particular bucket of funding. And they have some information that they provided in the notes below about some difficulties they've had, some barriers they faced based on a transition between the agency that they contract with to administer these fundings is undergoing-- oh, somehow that's not showing. If you scroll down, is it on the next page? There we go.

NICOLE BANKS: What are the agencies missing?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: They report that VOA is their administrator for this funding is how they get this family, I'm sorry, this funding connected to families and that agency, they're undergoing a transition in sort of the administrative location and head of that organization and that's been a barrier. And they do think that amount will go up when they finish processing yearend reports, but they do anticipate being underspent for this fiscal year and getting back on track for the next fiscal year.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So looks like one of the LGEs is missing from the last quarter to this quarter. The IMCAL. What is that?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Imperial Calcasieu.

NICOLE BANKS: So is that the same? Okay. I was just making sure. It just looked different.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And they are a recent addition. They haven't traditionally been on this report for the last (inaudible).

NICOLE BANKS: Well, they're doing good. I mean, from last report to this report there was cumulative served 40 people and now their cumulative have served 83. So whatever they doing, take notes. Not saying that everybody else is not doing. Let me not discredit any other agency. Let me clear that up right now. But the numbers don't lie. That's all I have to say.

MARILEE ANDREWS: There is another comment.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm sorry. Go ahead, Marilee. Please read.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Hyacinth McKee says, she actually says I have a hard stop at 11:30. I believe that the committee will still have a quorum in my absence.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. We will.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions about the OBH reports? Okay. Thank you, Dr. Savicki.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Thank you, Council.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So next item on the agenda is Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. Is Tanya available.

TANYA MURPHY: Yes. I'm on. Are you able to hear me?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes. Hi.

TANYA MURPHY: Dr. Julie Foster Hagan wanted me to let y'all know that she had another meeting that was scheduled the same time as this and that's why she's not here. So I just wanted to let y'all know why she's not here. Okay. So we'll go ahead and get started with the OCDD report. And this report's compiled by information that each LGE sent individually and put together on this report. We'll start with individual and family support funds. And just as Dr. Savicki said, these figures, although they are from the fourth

quarter, they are missing invoices from the month of June. So it's not an end of the year total expenditure report. And I was actually thinking maybe this would be a good time for the DD Council to take into consideration the possibility of shifting meetings so that perhaps we could get each quarters' full accounting if it was moved a month. But that's something y'all can discuss on your own. Okay. I'm just like going to like throw that out there again.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That's why we have end of the year reports to capture what is missing.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. Okay. So the individual and family support, you know, the statewide they spent 92 percent. Even though like the one LGE that's-- there's two LGEs that are low. Capital Area and Imperial Calcasieu are at 88 percent. Capital Area's comment says the individual and family support balance does not reflect June spending. They do anticipate spending at least 95 percent. And if we scroll down Imperial Calcasieu, it looks like they had no comment. So this is something we'll have to reach out to them to find out. I think previously they have mentioned the fact that people are still not back living there. But I don't want to speak for them as to why they're spending is a little low. But I do anticipate when we get the end of the year total amounts it will equal the 95 percent.

NICOLE BANKS: Question. Whenever the agencies haven't reached their total amount of spending, let's say by the fourth quarter, how many times can it happen before like, like the other one-- what's the lady that we just finished, Dr. Savicki, with her agency, they're going to do a corrective action, right? How many times does that has to happen with an agency like keeps going underbudget or not getting everything? We don't really get the full report because we are like kind of like a couple months behind, you know. So how--

KRISTEN SAVICKI: They are required to spend 95 percent and then if they don't, then we do a corrective action plan.

NICOLE BANKS: Every single time?

TANYA MURPHY: Every single time.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, okay. That was my question.

Every quarter.

TANYA MURPHY: By the end of the fiscal year.
Yeah.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. Because, you know, the spending fluctuates throughout the year, and they like to make sure that they have enough money to make it till the end of the fiscal year. So they have to play that game serving individuals that are needing it, not spending all of their money, stretching out to the end. And so they have to do some calculations. And we always wait until we get the final expenditure report. We usually get it in August, or it's available to us in August because we also have an accountability plan report that they have to report to OCDD. And so we have that information and if they don't meet that 95 percent then they have to do a corrective action plan.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. All right. Thank you.

TANYA MURPHY: Sure.

NICOLE BANKS: But it looks like the Imperial Calcasieu, they didn't have anything to say the last time either why they didn't meet what they needed to meet up on the last, or they didn't have anything. They didn't write any notes on the last one either. So from this quarter to from last quarter we don't know. We just have to speculate, and we really don't want to do that because we want to give them the opportunity to, you know, speak on why things that have been done or why (inaudible) always been.

TANYA MURPHY: You have access to the last report in front of you. What's the percentage of expended Imperial Calcasieu for last quarter?

NICOLE BANKS: For last quarter, that would be for the, which one, for the IFS, right?

TANYA MURPHY: Uh-huh.

NICOLE BANKS: Fifty-two.

TANYA MURPHY: So they went from 52 to 88 percent in one quarter?

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. I have no doubt they'll reach the 95 by the end.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. They'll probably get it done.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. Any questions on IFS?

NICOLE BANKS: The ones that does have the balance up on this last report that has a balance of total budgeted or whatever, those are the funds that's going to be put back into the general funds, right? Like they have, let's see, one, two, three, four, five, six of them that either went over or under their budget or their balance. Their balance is the same as total obligated, right?

TANYA MURPHY: Right.

NICOLE BANKS: So the extra money, or if they have extra money on that report, because we just could go off of what we have right now. That goes back into the general fund?

TANYA MURPHY: Yes.

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

TANYA MURPHY: All right. Flexible family fund. I did ask Metropolitan about their flexible family fund report. It was a little confusing to me. If they had 128 slots and they had 128 filled, why do they have 6,000-dollars left over. And they provided the information that they had some of the flexible family fund there are certain situations throughout the year where the families maybe aren't providing information that they need to and there's some reason why they have to put their payments on hold and then put it back once they get the information. So although the slots are filled, there was a little bit of money left over.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So they currently have three organizations that has slots open and people on the waiting list. Let me make sure. Okay. It doesn't say why these slots have not been filled. And this is from-- okay. South Central. Central Louisiana. And then the last one is Jefferson Parish.

TANYA MURPHY: So I'm going to tell you just from my experience about filling flexible family fund slots, the people on the waiting list are not necessarily eligible for the program. They've met the first couple of steps of criteria to be on the waiting list, but then once they send in their information and an assessment is done, they don't meet the severity criteria. So then they have to go to the next person on the list. And maybe the family doesn't respond, or they didn't keep their information up to date as to

where they are. So then they can't find them, so they have to go to the next person on the list. And while they're going down the list trying to find somebody who does actually meet criteria, time is going by. And so that's one of the reasons why it's sometimes difficult to timely fill a slot. Even though they know individuals are aging out and they have a pretty good timeline, there are sometimes when people go off of the program for reasons other than aging out. And so it's an unexpected opening of a slot and then in order to fill it they have to go to the waiting list and start going down the list and trying to contact people, assessing them and seeing if they meet severity criteria. So there are times when a slot it just can't be filled as quickly as you might imagine.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. I mean, they used to have a lot of people on these waiting lists, and they have slots that need to be filled. So can they give us a timeline of maybe when? And I know you said they go down the list, but these people it's like hundreds.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Well, there's not a lot.

NICOLE BANKS: No. It's not a lot. That's what I'm saying. It's not a lot of vacancies. Like it's not. So I feel like it should be filled because it's not a lot.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So you're looking at the largest discrepancy would be South Central. That's six vacancies at the moment. But the other two is just one and three. And that could be attributed, I would say that low number based on the total number of slots, like that could be attributed to that thing that Tanya talked about. Just that process.

NICOLE BANKS: Process taking so long or whatever.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Uh-huh. Yes. Do we have any other comments from committee members or from the--? So next in the process would be for people in-person, correct? Earlier I said that we didn't have any guests, but I do have someone sitting next to me.

SPEAKER: So on the discrepancy with the filled slots I just wanted to say like for the South Central, they've already spent all their budget so they can't fill those slots.

NICOLE BANKS: I know.

SPEAKER: So they don't have the money.

NICOLE BANKS: So they didn't really allocate it correctly.

SPEAKER: Because as you see like they served 152 and they budgeted for 146. So I think they had unexpected turnovers and so that's why they have the discrepancy. I don't think it's like potentially, like it was unexpected turnover. And so then they don't have the budget now like to refill the slots.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. They're about the only ones that's like that. But everybody else could potentially have already, maybe, in the process have filled those spots. So that is a good point. They don't have the money. They don't. So they can maybe be off the hook. But the other ones that do have the money, that hasn't been done. It's only one and it's only three. So that's not a big number or whatever to get fixed or to get done, you know.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And so for just for time sake, do we have any other questions or comments around the flexible family funds? Okay.

MARILEE ANDREWS: There is a comment in the chat.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can you read it, Marilee?

MARILEE ANDREWS: Yes. Some of the families are left on the waiting list due to the list not being monitored. Many of the issues exist due to a lack of staffing in the human districts. The families are left in the dark just like the Developmental Disabilities Council.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Who is that from?

MARILEE ANDREWS: I'm not sure. It says Samsung. So this participant is logged in on their cell phone and that's how their name is saved.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Samsung, can you please type--

NICOLE BANKS: That's Corhonda.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Oh, Corhonda. Okay. Got it. And so...

TANYA MURPHY: I would be happy to speak to that. There is in the policy every year everybody on the waiting list receives a letter and they are required to submit documentation every year confirming that they still meet the criteria to be on that waiting list. So it is monitored every year to make sure that the people

on the waiting list at least meet the criteria to be on that waiting list.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Tanya, I'm getting confused because I've been doing this for so long. I thought we changed that. I remember a discussion about making people prove they're still eligible every year when they may have to wait 5, 10 years before they become eligible for it. Did that not change?

TANYA MURPHY: We don't do the severity criteria. We don't do the full eligibility determination for flexible family fund to get on the wait list. They just have to show that they've got one of the qualifying conditions or they have a statement from a physician that says they have the qualifying condition. And that gets them on the waiting list. But they have to at least show that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And every year they're on the waiting list for ten years these families have to show that every year until they get-- I thought we addressed that cause that was just problematic.

TANYA MURPHY: But nobody has a waiting list of ten years. It's like one to four. I think one to three years max at all the LGEs.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Kim is saying she's having to do it every year. I just thought-- do you remember, I know you do, whenever we had the kind of some of the-- we're not logged out are we? We had something crazy happen on our screen. Yeah. I don't know if things just kind of get convoluted in my brain. But I remember that being some discussion. But I guess there was a reason why. I know we're not just making people do something because. Like there's a reason why that needs to continue to happen.

TANYA MURPHY: Well, yeah. I mean, we can't just let anybody, everybody on the waiting list or otherwise we would have thousands of people on the waiting list that weren't even slightly meeting criteria. You know, so we have to do some kind of screening for the waiting list. Because we have to look at it both ways. Do you want to be on the waiting list for a long time and never get it, or do you want to have to be asked every year if you still meet that criteria. You know, we had to kind of like figure out a way to hit the middle

ground there.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But initially for somebody to get on the list they have to qualify at the time. They've qualified as having a developmental disability at the time in order to be on the waiting list for the flexible funds for OCDD.

TANYA MURPHY: They've always had to meet some kind of specific criteria. We did lessen it a little bit when we revamped the policy. We opened it up a little wider to allow individuals with mild intellectual disabilities as long as they had a behavior plan or a health plan. You know, there were some things that we opened up to let people on the waiting list. But we never have done the severity screening prior to them actually having an option and a slot.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So they're not certified as being DD eligible before getting on that list?

TANYA MURPHY: For the flexible family fund having a statement of approval is not a requirement. But part of the severity screening does make sure that they have a developmental disability. There's a DD screening checklist that they have to meet.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

MARILEE ANDREWS: There are some comments.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay, Marilee. Please read the comments.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Ms. Corley says a lot of the families are not receiving those letters. Susan Reim says, we always encourage families to check-in with their service coordinator at their HSA to update them on their address and phone changes, etc. Corhonda Corley comments, the reason for the families not receiving those letters is not due to the families failure to respond. Many of the families can't get in touch with staff because the human districts may have only two employees trying to do everything for the DD families. That's a part of the problem. I am more than happy to elaborate away from this meeting. And I believe that's all the comments. I don't see any hands up.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So we have this waiting list, but you have a little bit of a criteria that they have

to meet before they can get on the waiting list. So the ones that's currently on the waiting list, would they be able to qualify right now if their name came up? Like if their name got called and like hey, it's your next time, you're up to receive funding, are they good to go? Because there's no need for them to be on the waiting list if they are not going to be good to go when we call them.

TANYA MURPHY: They still have to meet the severity criteria before they can actually get the stipend.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

TANYA MURPHY: So there are people on the waiting list that may not qualify.

NICOLE BANKS: Well, why are they on the waiting list?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. I see Carlos Amos has his hand raised. Maybe he's going to-- Mr. Amos.

MARILEE ANDREWS: Okay, Mr. Amos.

CARLOS AMOS: Can you hear me now?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes. We can hear you.

CARLOS AMOS: I just wanted to kind of explain it because those assessments that they have to do to determine if they meet the criteria are lengthy and for the number that they have on that waiting list, if they had to do that for every single person it would take forever. So they do a small scale of it to just see if some are qualified to keep them on the waiting list. But once those slots are available, they have to do a complete assessment to find out if they qualify for that severity review. So that's why. You know, we don't know for certain once they come up off that waiting list if they will qualify. But, you know, if they are-- cause y'all had some good questions, there are some measures that we could take to kind of predict and to, you know, to start those assessments early. So like if you have three slots open, we shouldn't send it in to the next person on the waiting list. We should send it to the next three. You see, so there are ways that you could do things to make sure you don't have people waiting for a long time. Or if they're not eligible you already have some assessments out.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Mr. Amos. Appreciate that.

TANYA MURPHY: You know, I also wanted to comment like I'm trying to look at it from both sides, and I know that we did this when we were trying to revamp the manual before. If we did the full severity screening for everybody that was placed on the waiting list so that we knew that at the time they went on the waiting list they meet the criteria and then they had to wait one or two years to get the slot, then when we pick their name off the waiting list we would again have to do the severity screening because it had been too long from the last one. So the families would have to go through that twice and they would still maybe, not necessarily, meet criteria. And so we felt it was a better use of everyone's time to do like a mini screening to make sure the people on the list had a good shot at being eligible. But then wait until we actually had a slot available to do the full severity screening so that we only had to do it one time for each family as opposed to doing it every single year with every single person on the waiting list for everybody who applies.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. How long have most of these people been on the waiting list? Have they been on here more than three years?

TANYA MURPHY: I mean, I feel like the average for the 10 LGEs is anywhere from six months to about three years is the max. It used to be a lot longer. I'm sorry?

NICOLE BANKS: I said, so no one's been on there longer than three years?

TANYA MURPHY: I don't think so. I think three's the max.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

KIM BASILE: We're not on the waiting list. She has it, but I have to recertify every year.

MARILEE ANDREWS: There is another comment.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Can you read it?

MARILEE ANDREWS: Yes. Ms. Corley says, they will meet the requirements and remain on the waiting list due to the human districts not being properly staffed.

NICOLE BANKS: Is that the issue?

TANYA MURPHY: So I'm hearing that as a reoccurring theme that some of the human service districts and

authorities, perhaps the commenter is saying that there just aren't enough staff. So there must be some specific LGE or human service district and authority that this commenter is referring to and so I would be happy to hear about that outside of this meeting to find out which LGE specifically. Because I don't think that's an issue everywhere.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. I just find it interesting your comment about the waiting list for the flexible family funds is only three years. So that means, basically, it has to turnover, people are aging out, like a third of the list is aging out every year or leaving for some reason. Leaving the program. Cause that's the only way that that would be happening.

TANYA MURPHY: Right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Cause once somebody gets in, they're eight years old they potentially, that person has that slot for ten years.

TANYA MURPHY: That's right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So it's that, or is it that when people finally get the slot, they're older so their stent on receiving the flexible family funds is just shorter? Is that the case?

TANYA MURPHY: There's a million different reasons for it, but I would tell you that it's because there's several people on that waiting list that just don't meet criteria, or they don't respond, or like the commenter said that for some reason-- well, I mean, I have to represent my LGEs. So there's a quick turnover, even though it doesn't seem like there would be, because the waiting list is much longer than there are actual eligible names on it. Like they move down that list.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. That makes sense. Thank you. Okay. So I think you can now move onto the Act 73 compliance report.

TANYA MURPHY: Okay. So for Act 73 all the LGEs were given the requirement of spending 9 percent of their state general funds towards DD services. This report shows you the total state general funds that each LGE was given. How much equals 9 percent of that. How much the LGEs actually budgeted towards DD services. And then the fourth column shows for at this

point in the fourth quarter the total expended. And then that last column shows the percentage of the 9 percent that's been spent. So I think you can see that many of the LGEs actually budgeted over 9 percent and have already (inaudible). And I have no doubt will meet that criteria for the end of the fiscal year expenditure report.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Any questions about that report? Okay. So it seems like that legislation that the DD Council advocated for is working. So that's good.

TANYA MURPHY: Yep.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. And then is the next thing on the agenda the FFF program eligibility determinations?

BRENTON ANDRUS: That was something that I think Julie had requested speaking about, but she is not here so I don't know if that's something you're able to lead that discussion, Tanya, or not. I want to say maybe there was some conversations about, I guess, discrepancies in eligibility maybe.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. I do remember what this was about. It can be taken off for this meeting. Because we were going to meet-- we had suggested that as something to be met at this meeting, but the individual preferred to have a one-on-one conversation as opposed to discussing it at this DD Council meeting. So we can take that off.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Got you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Any other questions for OCDD? Okay. Announcements. Do we have any announcements?

BRENTON ANDRUS: No. Other than at 1:00 we will have the self-determination community inclusion meeting. And at 3:00 is the education meeting today. The council meeting is tomorrow at 8:30. Similar setup to today. We have an in-person and hybrid option. You can go to the council's website LADDC.org to register for those meetings if you have not done so yet.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So thank you, all. We'll see you guys at 1:00 for those attending the self-determination committee meeting. Are there any objections to adjourning? Okay. Seeing no objection, unanimous

consent. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you, guys.