

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting
July 21, 2000

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Louisiana Developmental Disability Council meeting, July 21st, 2022. I'm going to call the meeting to order. All right. Good morning, everybody. Just welcoming you. Welcoming you guys that's on the Zoom and welcoming our YouTubers watching our meeting today. If Ms. Deaville, you'll do a roll call, please.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure. Ms. Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: I am here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Present.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Bristo. Ms. Cosse. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Egle.

JILL EGLE: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Guidry. Julie Foster Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: I'm here. Y'all, it takes me a while to unmute. So just bear with me. Never mind. But I'm here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hymel. Mr. Iddins. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Present.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee. Ms. Polotzola. Ms. Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Rovira. Ms. Tarver. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. White. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Here.

AMY DEAVILLE: You have a quorum.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Amy. At this time can you please put the mission statement and the ground rules on the screen.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mission statement for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council is to increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm going to go ahead and read the ground rules so that everyone can know what they are so we can have a meeting. The council meeting shall be accessible via Zoom and live streamed on YouTube. Council and committee members will participate via Zoom and shall be considered present when displaying a live feed video of their face with their first and last name. Have microphones muted unless called upon by the chair. Electronically raise their hand to request the chair recognize them to speak. Once recognized to speak by the chair their microphone shall be turned on. After speaking the microphone shall be returned to mute. Guests may participate via Zoom or observe meetings on live, meetings live up on YouTube. Public meetings shall be recorded and may be available on the council's YouTube channel as determined appropriate by the chairperson. Public comments submitted during a meeting via any format shall be considered. During a Zoom meeting guests may electronically raise their hand to request. Upon being recognized by to speak by the chair their microphone should be turned on. After speaking the microphone should be returned to mute. Post comments relevant to the item under consideration in the chat box. Post comments during the live stream of the meeting on the YouTube, the council's YouTube channel. Public comments of a person's character will not be heard. If the comment continues after being asked to stop by the chairperson council staff may be instructed to end the meeting and the chair will notify the executive committee of this occurrence. Council chair will seek guidance to determine if it is legally appropriate to redact the shared video of the meeting

on the council's social media. All right. I think the next item is approval of the meeting summary. This is the draft of April 21st meeting that was distributed. The summary will not be read unless requested by a member. Are there any corrections to the summary? All right. Seeing none, the summary is approved as distributed. Is there any public comment? All right. Well, the next item of business-- oh, I'm sorry.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Hey Nicole, you do have a hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: It is Ms. Mary Jacob.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Jacob's, you have the floor.

MARY JACOBS: Thank you. I'm Mary Jacob. I am the executive director of Families Helping Families Greater New Orleans and I wanted to address y'all. I was going to send an email and I decided that this may be a better forum to address this. I've been watching DD Council meetings for a while, and I've voiced my opinion of some of the things that need to be changed and I'm glad to see lot of things are improving. But I still have one huge concern because I watched the executive meeting yesterday and I still believe that this council is failing on their responsibility to properly support the self-advocates on the council. And when I talk about this, I talk about it a lot. Jill Hano knows, I spoke to her this morning about this. I feel like there's a misconception that when individuals with disabilities leave high school, they graduate from their disability too. And that's not the case and the same accommodations they needed in school, they likely still need as adults. So we know we have adults on that council that have disabilities that need help supporting with scribing, with reading things, with understanding. One of the big things that always kind of--

NICOLE BANKS: Ms. Jacobs, Ms. Jacobs, I don't mean to interrupt, and we would love to hear what you're saying, but right now is not the appropriate time to discuss this topic. So when this does come up in our meeting, we would love to hear what you have to say. But right now we have to continue with the business of

the meeting at this point goes on. Okay? (Inaudible) when it does come.

MARY JACOBS: Okay. I thought this was public comment time. But okay.

NICOLE BANKS: It was public comment in regards to the minutes of the meeting.

MARY JACOBS: Okay. Well, then let me rephrase it like this. Are you confident in that the self-advocates on your council have the ability to read to comprehend and understand those minutes without being provided support?

NICOLE BANKS: And again, I do hear your question and I will answer it at the appropriate time. But right now is not the appropriate time to entertain this topic. So we're going to table this and when it comes up, which it will, we'll get back to it. Okay, Ms. Jacobs?

MARY JACOBS: Okay.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you. All right. The next item of business.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Jordan, you do have another hand raised by Ms. Kathy Dwyer.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, Ms. Dwyer, you have the floor.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, madam chair. I appreciate it. As chair of the Louisiana OCDD State Advisory Committee I think the DD Council needs to be advised that state open meeting laws require the public comment period, and it is not restricted to what is on the current agenda. It is required for any comment that the public needs to make. Public comment is required at the beginning of each meeting and at the end of each meeting.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Ms. Dwyer.

KATHY DWYER: You're welcome.

NICOLE BANKS: There is a section on our agenda that does have public comment and that is the time where you would express that.

KATHY DWYER: Is that at the beginning of the meeting and at the end of each meeting?

NICOLE BANKS: No, ma'am. It is at the end of the meeting around 3 p.m.

KATHY DWYER: Three p.m. is not the beginning of the meeting. This is the beginning of the meeting

right now. And public law requires it at the beginning of the meeting and at the end of each meeting. I'm not trying to be difficult. I just think Ms. Jacob needs to be heard as per the Louisiana open meetings law.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Dwyer. We have looked into it. We have a parliamentarian that is online, and she has advised saying that is not accurate. We have to go by up on our agenda.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. Then I'll be happy to send you the public meeting law that does require it.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

KATHY DWYER: You're welcome.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Ms. Kathy and Mary.

NICOLE BANKS: Dr. McKee, you have the floor. I think you're muted.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, madam chair, for allowing me to be recognized. I wonder if there's a space in time that I can motion to change the agenda to reflect public comments to be inclusive in the beginning of the meeting. I'm not certain if that was Ms. Jacob or Ms. Dwyer, but she's absolutely correct. Public comment is supposed to be at the beginning of the meeting, as well as the end. And I don't know at what point we stopped doing that. And I think the parliamentarian is probably adhering to the standards of the agenda that we already established, right. But I'm not sure if she has been fully aware of the requirements that we need to have on our agenda for public comment to be at the beginning and at the end. And then also public comment is offered right after we make a motion. So there's some discussion there. So again, you know, maybe the parliamentarian was not aware that we are supposed to have public comment at the beginning and at the end. So I can, you know, when it's time for the agenda I will make a motion to change the agenda to offer opportunity for public comment to be put in the beginning of this agenda.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you, Dr. McKee. Okay. So the next item of business is the chairperson's report and our Chairperson Mr. Rashad Bristo could not make it here and he will be giving his report in the October meeting. All right. The next item is the executive committee recommendations.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You have a hand raised. Dr. McKee has her hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: So let me rephrase that because I think I wasn't clear. Sometimes that happens. I want to motion to allow some changes, amendment to the agenda today to include public comment at the beginning of this agenda for today's meeting. There's a motion on the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. There's a motion on the floor.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I would like to second that motion.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Someone seconded it.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. We're going to do a roll call vote. Amy.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Cosse. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Egle.

JILL EGLE: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Guidry.

CHANEY GUIDRY: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Iddins. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Polotzola. Ms. Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Rovira. Ms. Tarver.

MARY JACOBS: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Webb

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. White. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: The yeas have it. It passes.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So the motion passes. So now I'm going to go back to Ms. Jacob. And Ms. Jacob, you have the floor.

MARY JACOBS: Thank you, madam chair. I just want to be real clear that I'm not trying to cause any problems here. I just want us to be clear that as the council, and y'all represent everybody with disabilities, that we have a huge responsibility of making sure that the very people that we are here to support is, in fact, getting the support they need to be equal members and to participate fully. And as I said, after watching the executive committee meeting yesterday it just-- my beloved Jill who was an intern for me for a year and I've known her for a while, it broke my heart. And I'm so thankful Dr. Hyacinth stepped up and made the comment that, you know, could see the anguish on her face. That people with disabilities are no different than the rest of us. Nobody wants to point out what their weaknesses are. And I know that we're supposed to be able to self-advocate for ourself and all that stuff, but we all know that there's certain limitations that people have and as the council y'all need to recognize that some of the people on your council is going to need support to be able to fully participate and have meaningful participation. And that's all I'm really trying to say is that some way or another this has been going on for years and the council is moving forward which is wonderful, but we cannot leave behind this very, very important piece. Which is the sole purpose really of the council.

I mean, you read the mission statement, building capacity. Well, how are you building capacity in the very self-advocates you have on your council if you're not providing them with the support they need. So I

don't know how that's done. I don't know what the answer is. I don't know if it's done when they're originally put on the council and through an orientation period and you ask them a lot of questions. But sometimes people are not going to step up and raise their hand and say I need this kind of help. That we're going to have to help them understand. And I understand that we can say well, in a job interview you have to do this, but this is the DD Council. This is the group of people that represents the people. So we need to do a better job with that. That's all I'm trying to really impress upon y'all. Thank you.

And let me back up a second and just say this too. And one of the times that really bugs me when it happens is when meeting agendas do change. Now, what just happened isn't a big deal, but somewhere along this meeting I promise you somebody is going to make a motion, and somebody is going to want to change it and the very people that we're talking about here, the people with developmental disabilities may not understand what's happening in changing the motions. They may need extra time. They may need it explained to them to make sure they understand. The meetings, we do have to think about every step we take and what we do how that impacts that person with that developmental disability and are we doing something that is taking away their ability to participate. Because I don't think just abstaining from a vote is good enough if they choose to do that. I think they should have the right to understand what has changed and how we can, to make sure they understand what is being changed and to give them the time to process that or do whatever is necessary to be able to still be a meaningful participant. And I'm going to go now. Thank y'all.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Jacob. We do appreciate your public comment. Ms. Jill, you have the floor.

JILL EGLE: Yes. I face this. I'm trying to get back on to do my AU term. But I have faced this same battle when I got on in 2016 when Sandee and Shawn was there because I always needed help as a self-advocate, and I felt like no one stepped up. Because when I went to try to make change on behalf of developmental

disabilities, they didn't even step up to understand and give me the big picture. And I've been disabled my whole life and I try to represent the state and the government and everything. So I just wish that people can understand and give me the benefit in self-advocates. The benefit of doubt and say this what this is all about. I faced the same battle back in 2016.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you, Jill.

JILL EGLE: I'm sorry. I'm just being honest if I sound, I was left to the side. Why can't y'all give me the big picture.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks, you do have a hand raised and a comment.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Not sure who has hand raised.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Actually, two hands now. Ms. Kathy Dwyer and Ms. Corhonda Corley.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Corley, you have the floor.

KATHY DWYER: This is Kathy Dwyer. I received a message to unmute so I'm guessing someone throw the microphone over to me. I can wait for Ms. Corley if you would like, or I can proceed?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Dwyer did have her hand raised first.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Go ahead and proceed, Ms. Dwyer.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, madam chair. Appreciate it. Mary Jacob and I have discussed this as members of the Jefferson Parish Regional Advisory Committee and when I was chair back then we arranged for a training by Sharon Delvisco who is pretty well known in training in terms of various issues for individuals with developmental disabilities. And one thing she had suggested, and I at least try to do as chair of the Regional Advisory Committee, was let our self-advocates know that if they needed support that we would provide a mentor for them of their choosing if they want. But it would be somebody on the Regional Advisory Committee that could mentor them. You know, make sure they get the materials they need. Make sure they have all the necessary accommodations they need to participate. And

even review the materials with them ahead of time to make sure they understand what's going to be discussed at the meeting. And even at the meetings they could, you know, sit next to that individual and make sure that anything new that was brought up was understandable to them and if not, explain to them. So that may be something, that's a suggestion I thought I would throw out there.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Ms. Dwyer. We appreciate your suggestion.

KATHY DWYER: You're welcome.

NICOLE BANKS: We're going to move onto Ms. Corley. Ms. Corley, you have the floor.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you, madam chair. If it pleases you, Ms. Madam chair and the council, I would like for Ms. Hano to be able to speak first since she's a self-advocate. And then I will speak afterwards.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Hano, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: I don't know if that's a very (inaudible) Ms. Corley make me cry just a wee bit. To Ms. Dwyer's point, I know this is-- well, I don't want to say uncharted territory because we've been on Zoom for years. But when we were in-person every meeting of our council the self-advocate did have staff provided to exactly what Ms. Kathy said. A staff member was sitting next to a self-advocate. Are you shaking your head, Ms. Tarver? Sorry. So again, I'm always trying to figure out a happy medium, but, I mean, we're in uncharted waters. So there really isn't a staff person who can sit by you during a Zoom call. But I do think that there needs to be a way, which I don't know, I'm good at ideas, but not have to follow through. But there needs to be a way in this format that if a person needs that extra assistance that it will be provided to them. Because like I said before, Ms. Dwyer, what Ms. Dwyer was explaining was exactly what we did in-person. So but then again, I don't know where to go from there because not everyone is in-person. All right. That's it. Just my thoughts. Thank you. And thank you again, Ms. Corley, for yielding the floor to me. Very much appreciated.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Ms. Hano. We

appreciate your comments. Ms. Corley.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you, madam chair. And no problem at all, Ms. Hano. Madam chair and DD Council, first and foremost I would like to thank y'all for having the council meeting today. But most importantly I would like to thank Dr. McKee for actually doing the motion to allow Robert Rules of Order and open meeting law to actually prevail in this matter and to actually allow the public to actually have their comment. I greatly appreciate Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Dwyer's comments. Especially Ms. Hano's because I attended executive committee yesterday and it pained me to see a self-advocate really and truly be disgruntled and dismayed. And the only person that really understood it was Dr. McKee.

Part of the federal DD Act says that we are to have individuals with disabilities employed with the DD Council. Not just sitting on our DD Council. But employed as true employees. We are under a federal decree because our DD council does not have self-advocates or individuals with disabilities employed. They do not have people employed that have family members with any type of developmental disability. And that is creating the problem or the environment for why our self-advocates cannot be understood or receive the necessary accommodations and modifications. If I'm going to go back to the previous DD Council meeting, we had Mr. Logan, another self-advocate, that requested multiple times for the motions and for the agenda to be placed on the screen. I had to then ask for it because we did not have the Zoom format. We had abruptly went to YouTube. And YouTube, no public comments were ever read into record from YouTube. And I made a slew of them and had to abruptly come into the building to actually state what Mr. Logan was stating because I myself could not see the agenda while driving. Could not see anything. Did not know where you was on the agenda. What was going on. It's a problem. And it's a problem because over and over again I'm having to state that we're not doing things according to the DD Act. And by us not doing things to the DD Act, and we have a federal decree that is over our head, we are subjecting ourselves to losing actual moneys. Moneys

that would actually allow this actual body to continue to exist.

Part of what that federal decree stated was we was supposed to have diverse individuals. Which was the reason for why we had a Diversity Equity Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee that still has not met after we went through the hoopla that the program manager gave us to actually be in full existence. That's a problem. Because we have more council members that are not here. Maybe it's because the diversity is lacking because we're not making them feel inclusive. Maybe we have not addressed considering barriers that they maybe are facing. That is the importance of Diversity Equity Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee. Because we're taking all of that into consideration.

But in addition, that is the importance of the staff. The staff is supposed to exist because they are supposed to be knowledgeable about the DD Act. And right now our staff is not knowledgeable. They do not represent the demographics of Louisiana. And they do not represent the demographics of the DD Act. And that is extremely problematic and that is why we are facing the problems that we are currently facing. I do urge that our DD Council and the executive committee make that a priority that we actually have staff that reflects what the DD Act says such as diversity, equity, inclusion. But also that we make sure that we make our self-advocates and our individuals with disabilities and systems change a priority. Because that is not the priority that we are seeing every single meeting. So Ms. Hano, I truly appreciated your comments on yesterday as well as today. Ms. Mary Jacobs, Ms. Kathy Dwyer, you were definitely on time. Dr. McKee, I can never express my gratitude for what you did yesterday and for the way that you continue to move as a council member. And madam vice chair, I know you're new and I am not fussing at you in no shape or form cause I respect you to the utmost. I just think that we failed to note that it is our actual employees' responsibility and the failure of our employees' knowledge on the DD Act is what has gotten us to this point. So I hope that you take that strongly into consideration. And if you should need to have

conversation with me at a later date or time away from the meeting, I am more than happy and able and willing to do that. Thank you so much for the ability to converse this morning.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks, I think you're muted on your end. Also--

NICOLE BANKS: Her time limit was up two minutes ago, but I'm going to ask everyone that they can be conscience because I will cut and say hey, we're at our three minutes. Because when we go over like that everyone don't get the opportunity to be recognized and for their comment to be heard. So we have to keep it at the three-minute limit. So I don't want to be rude to anyone. But at that three minute I am going to remind you hey, we have other people that do want to be heard. Because we have four more people that have to be heard right now. I just wanted to tell everyone just to keep that in consideration. Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Okay. So the motion was made. We all agree something needs to be done. Let's do it. Let's stop talking about it. So when we're in-person let's have a staff member sit next to someone if that is what a self-advocate chooses. If they're on Zoom let's have a staff person have a private chat box or a Group Me or something with that self-advocate if they choose to help them out. Let's not keep rehashing this. Let's come up with solutions and do it now.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Kim. Jill.

JILL EGLE: You know, Ms. Kim's right and Ms. Corley is right. Self-advocates should be a part of their state DD Council in times. I mean, you guys and Ms. Dwyer and Ms. Mary Jacob, you guys are (inaudible) and Jill Hano. Because you know what, when I started in 2016, sorry to say this, but Sandee and Shawn left me out. When I had to go outside to the bathroom and I'm like I need some support. I was left alone, and I don't want to be left alone. All I want to do is represent the state for the DD Council and do what's best.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Hano. Was she first?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. She is first.

JILL HANO: Again, to backtrack because Ms. Corley

did, like I appreciate, and I know how Ms. Corley noted that Dr. McKee and Mary Jacob reached out to me. But also privately Kim Basile reached out to me. So I wanted to thank her while everyone else was being acknowledged. I wanted to publicly acknowledge her as well. So thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Vivienne.

VIVIENNE WEBB: So Ms. Corley said staff were at fault. But isn't it the council members that need to be more inclusive. Especially since it's mainly up to the chair and the council members since we facilitate the meeting. Can we learn to be more inclusive, please.

NICOLE BANKS: We can. I definitely agree with what everyone is saying here. Definitely agree. In agreement to you all. Because I came on the council in 2020 and I felt the same way. I'm not a self-advocate, I'm a parent advocate. So I get it. We're going to work on that. That's why we're here today to get that solution to what Kim said. I see Brenton Andrus. You have the floor.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Thank you, Ms. Banks. I just wanted to let you know there were some statements made about staff that are incorrect. We do have members of staff that have been personally impacted within their own families as far as developmental disabilities or disabilities go. So this has come up multiple times in the meeting and I think it's inappropriate that we entertain such comments. It's up to staff to personally divulge that information if they so choose and some prefer not to for various reasons. So I think you should probably have conversations directly with staff if you want to know their personal background and if they're willing to share. But I just wanted to throw that out there. Because it does come up multiple meetings, most meetings it comes up. And so just to standup for the staff here we want to make that comment. Also, you have two comments that have not been addressed in the comment box.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Marilee, can you read those comments for us.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I can handle those comments for you. The first one is from Charles Michel. And he

asked, if this motion will be applicable to all future agendas or only this one. Those who have spoken are correct in that these times to allow public opinion are required under open meetings laws in Louisiana. And then you have a statement from Ms. Kathy Dwyer. Says Ms. Corley is correct. There are people with visual impairments that need the agendas and other items read as the meeting proceeds. And I know Dr. McKee's hand was raised, but it went down. So I don't know if she still has a comment she would like to share.

NICOLE BANKS: Dr. McKee, do you have a comment?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. Am I being recognized?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. Thank you. So I think that a lot of this dialogue, and I appreciate all individuals that's involved that's bringing up this as a concern. But I think this dialogue can also be discussed in the DEI committee meeting whenever they are reconvened or reestablished or start back. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Dr. McKee. Any other public comments, questions?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Corley does have her hand raised as well, Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: We have somebody in-person. She's going to come around. So we're going to give her the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Point of order. Do we allow people to make multiple public comments?

NICOLE BANKS: No. Just two.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Two? Okay. Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Hey, everyone. My name is Lillian DeJean. I'm a self-advocate from Broussard, Louisiana. I think this conversation is going in the right direction. We know that the DD Council meeting materials are broadly inaccessible because of the language that we have. But I would caution the council against singling out self-advocates and people with disabilities as people who don't understand. That sends a very negative message about the way that we view our people with disabilities on the council and off of the council. And the reality is, is that a lot of able body people probably wouldn't understand the

meeting materials either. So I just wanted to make that comment and caution you guys against singling out people with disabilities in that way.

KIM BASILE: You are correct. And I apologize for doing that.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes. We have one more, Ms. Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: If I can just say that it is Amy and I's intention to make sure every self-advocate is supported at all of our council meetings. Like Jill said, this is uncharted territory where we're in a hybrid situation right now. And prior to me becoming deputy director and prior to the pandemic I was assigned a self-advocate when I was a program monitor to assist them during the meetings. So that part was going on. So I apologize if any self-advocate is feeling like they're not being supported. It is our intention that every self-advocate is supported in whatever way that they choose to be supported. So that's something that Amy and I can discuss with the staff to make sure moving forward that every person is supported. Whether or not they're a self-advocate like what Lillian just brought up. For any council member that needs extra support or anything like that, we want to make sure that every person on our council is supported. So I just wanted to make sure that that was clear. That that is the intention of the staff, and we want to make sure that you all feel comfortable coming to us if you need help with anything. My door is always open. You can call me anytime or email me. So I just want to make sure that that's clear that we want to make sure that that is the purpose of this DD Council for us to support the disability community. So I just wanted to make sure that everybody was on the same page with the staff that we're here to support you all. And that's all.

JILL EGGLE: Thank you, Ms. Ebony. That really means a lot to me. I can't do this by myself sometimes.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Do we have any more public comment?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. I believe Ms. Cosse has something she would like to say. And Ms. Corley's hand is raised.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Cosse, we'll recognize you.

BRENDA COSSE: Good morning. Brenda Cosse, council member, parent. I just wanted to share that we had a plan in place during meetings where self-advocates was paired with staff when I previously served. With this term it's just been virtually. But previously when I served and we were in-person, as Ms. Basile suggested, we have had that plan in place. We also had, as the council, we had mentors paired with all new council members, self-advocates, parents alike. And I found that helped as well. I was fortunate to mentor our former chairperson April Dunn. And I was mentored by a chairperson prior to becoming a vice chairman. So my final thought with the three minutes is that as a council who is mandated by federal law that as a council member, all council members are going to be taking action to ensure that all fellow council members are fully participating. Thank you, all, and God bless.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Ms. Brenda. We appreciate that. Anymore comments? I see something in the chat. Can you read the chat, Brenton.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I sure can. It was from Ms. Vivienne Webb. I do think she addressed it in her comment. But it said, I'm not quite sure the issue is the staff, but us as council members. It's up to who runs the meetings, I think.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Okay. All right. If there's not any other thing we're going to move onto the next item and that is the executive recommendations.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks, Ms. Corley's hand is raised. I don't know if you want to recognize her or not.

NICOLE BANKS: Well, she's already spoken twice so if it's not any new information I won't be able to. Can you put the motions on the screen for our recommendations. Okay. These are the two that we had on the floor up in the executive committee. So the first motion is that Erick Taylor and Maria Casserta be recommended for government appointment as self-advocate members for the DD Council. And that Brooke Stewart and Renoda Washington be recommended for government

appointment as parent advocates to the DD Council. Motion by Rashad Bristo. Seconded by Chaney Guidry. Motion passed by unanimous approval. So we're going to open discussion. If you guys received bios for Mr. Erick and Maria. Oh, just Erick and Brooke. And Ms. Renoda. We have three of their bios that they presented to us. So you guys have those and you're able to look over them. All right. Because this motion is coming from a committee it doesn't require a second. Is there any discussion for council members up on these recommendations and the motion? Oh, Dr. McKee, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thanks for being recognized. Are we still talking about the first motion or the second motion?

NICOLE BANKS: The first motion.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. I'll wait to the second. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. All right. If there's not any up on this one, we'll move onto the second motion. So this motion is the members of the ad hoc committee conduct a full committee interview with the nonprofit applications for the purposes of deciding their candidate. Following their meeting they make the final decision. Full council give approval to the membership ad hoc committee to forward that recommendation for government appointment. This was motioned by Ms. Bambi Polotzola and seconded by Rashad Bristo and passed unanimously. Okay. Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, madam chair, for being recognized. I failed to ask what the rationale was for the membership committee to do a full committee interview with the nonprofit applicant as this has not been the practice in the past nor has this practice took place for other seats on the council. So I was just wondering what the rationale was behind making such a recommendation so that I can understand it. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. And I'll go ahead and address that. So when we looked at all the applicants that applied for the nonprofit position all the applicants scored extremely high and everybody was tied across the board. And we broke it down into different teams in

the interview process, right. And not everyone got to interview every single nonprofit. So that means that not everyone would have gotten the same rating from the nonprofits. So to put a full committee interview that will give us a better insight of which one would be the better candidate to represent the DD Council. So that was the direction that we were going in. If that answers your question.

HYACINTH MCKEE: So thank you, madam chair. Just a quick response. The only concern that I have with this it seems to be inconsistent practice. And so if this is something that the membership committee is wanting to institute and practice, that needs to be in writing because what you're doing is you're saying that certain seats require full committee interview when other seats do not. If this is something that is going to be moving forward, I am very concerned that-- I apologize for bringing this up in front of the whole, I just really read this thoroughly just now. It just is inconsistent in the practice. I think that if this is something that the council wants to do we need to make sure this is either written somewhere, it's part of policy and it's done across the board. And we need to have a better rationale than just scoring perfect on the rubric. Because we've had that happen before we self-advocates, with parents, with relatives, people scoring perfect on the rubric. So I'm concerned that's the only rationale that was used to subject a seat to be interviewed by the full committee.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Dr. McKee. And just to answer that that's what we were coming up with. We literally, but we haven't got to that point because that was up in my report. But we are coming up with a written policy so that moving forward we don't run into these type of issues because we're constantly running into these issues historically. We had those issues where people were scoring them, right. So to move past that we are coming up with something as a committee in writing that we're going to propose so we have a certain policy, procedure that we're going to go by in regards to interviewing and coming up with the applicants and not just by the rubric. It's going to be, we're really going to write it out and have it

proposed where they know exactly what they have to do, what's expected, what's required and how to conduct the interview also. So we are coming up with that. But that was just up in my report. We haven't got to it yet. So if that addresses your question.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you, madam chair. It does not, but thank you again. And I know that you guys are working hard to, you know, push through the membership process. But thank you for your time.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Dr. McKee. Bambi, you have the floor.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just want to say I was on the membership committee and the issue was we were at a stalemate. If we would have made any type of vote it would have been a random drawing from the hat. There was nothing differentiating anyone. There was no one who could share with their interview that made any individual be the person that everyone could say that that's who they selected. We have some really great candidates and so that was the solution at the meeting that was entertained because of that. So if there's a better solution going forward that's fine, but that was the stalemate that we were at.

NICOLE BANKS: Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: I just want to point out if there's a written rule promulgated or whatever I'm fine with that and I understand the concern. I just want to point out that the DD Act requires representation on all of the three sister agencies of somebody from the other agencies. So for example, we have a representative from the DRLA, Jeff Row. And actually a second person who now escapes me because she hasn't participated for a little bit. And I don't believe we have a formal representative from the DD Council on the Human Development Centers Advisory Council. Would really appreciate having one. And preferably it would be Amy because she is the person who runs this agency. But it doesn't have to be. It should be that agency's designee may serve. And that is in the DD Act. So if you make a policy and let's say one day when I retire and somebody new as director of the Human Development Center, maybe that director would be, you know, the designated representative or maybe that person would

find somebody to represent the center rather than herself or himself. I don't think the council can supersede that. And it's important because we're running our own agencies, sometimes that person couldn't be, for whatever, internal reasons, wouldn't have the time or expertise or whatever. So just, please, if there's a written policy take that into consideration or we're going to be back kind of rehashing that later.

NICOLE BANKS: Right.

PHIL WILSON: Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Tarver.

MARY TARVER: Good morning. Thank you. I just wanted to say that when I was hearing what Dr. McKee was talking about and then, of course, hearing some comments that y'all had made about, you know, that you had an equal number, you know, the people that have been considered all have the same qualifications. I mean, that's unavoidable. We try to have the best people in order to have great representation on our DD Council. And so even if you have the full committee interview the person you may only have ten people that can be in the interview. So you will still not have the full committee votes if that's what you're looking for to try and not like have a tie vote. But I think there's some rules cause even when we had our election of our officers in the past and we've had tie votes there are ways to remedy that through the rules we already have set up. So if it's a tie then, you know, we can figure those things out. And I don't think that segregating the one type of person for an applicant for the nonprofit makes sense. Cause the next time it could be for a parent, or it could be for a self-advocate, or it could be for whoever. So I think that we would be going down a slippery slope. So I'm looking forward to hearing the report about kind of I guess what y'all are planning for the future. But I don't know this motion might not be, or this solution might not be the very best moving forward to set up a precedence. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Ms. Tarver. I have Ms. Hano with her hand raised. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Okay. After hearing y'all I remember,

and we weren't dealing with nonprofit per say, but I remember being on a membership committee. And Bambi you might have been with me. But we did do, for whatever reason, maybe we hit a block. But we did do a full membership committee interview. And I did like it. And also, but to Dr. McKee and Ms. Tarver's point, whatever we do has got to be across the board. And I said it once, I probably said it twice, and I'll say it again. But some like protocols for our membership committee that will stick. Because if I'm correct, which I'm not really sure how it's going to be, but every time an opening comes up a new membership committee assembles, but now my committee list says that the 2022 membership committee is made up of this, this, this, this and this. Like I don't know if that's going to be how. Cause it's not supposed to be a standing committee. So I just think that we need to do, we cannot do one membership committee one way and then the next another way. And I did personally like when we all gave the interviews. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Jill. We're going to go back to this first and we're going to go ahead and vote on this since they didn't have any public comment and any comments in the chat.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks, you do have comments in the chat.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm sorry, Brenton. I just saw they had five. Can you read those, if you don't mind.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. So we do have one comment from Ms. Corhonda Corley, and I think she was referencing earlier saying she only spoke once, not twice. And Ms. Mary Jacob has a comment. Can someone read the nonprofit requirements to make sure you are choosing an appropriate nonprofit and not a person. So the nonprofit agency should be picked and then the agency choose their representative. That was her second question.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And Ms. Hymel's hand is raised.

AMY DEAVILLE: You're not picking a nonprofit. You're picking a person that is part of the nonprofit. But you're not picking one.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Point of order. Can y'all state

that out loud because I think misinformation was just given in the chat. Cause it is not the nonprofit that we're selecting.

AMY DEAVILLE: You're not selecting a nonprofit. You're selecting a person. That person is affiliated with and represents a nonprofit or a local nongovernmental agency. But you're not selecting one organization and they just name a person. You're selecting a person.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Bambi, for clarifying that. Ms. Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. With the motion that they have on the screen I've been reading them in that. So with one on top with it is this going into play, like a play role for this year and the years to come in that with the, you know, the self-advocacy members of the DD Council with Brooke Stewart in that with is that Washington?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Is that going to the governor as well of the State of Louisiana?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am. It is.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So is it going to, is he going to sign off on that one or what on that one? That one is one. And the other one is with membership on the second one. That's my second question with...

NICOLE BANKS: Ms. Roslyn, we're going to wait for that second one. But the first one, these are the recommendations that we are bringing to the governor for appointment. And if approved and voted upon then we'll bring this, and it will be approved to be up on the council. So that's what we're about to move up on right now. That motion, just the first one in regards to Renoda Washington, Maria Casserta and Erick Taylor being appointed.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So can you really tell me what's this one about before we vote on it. Because I am a little lost in that.

NICOLE BANKS: On which one? On all of them, on Erick Taylor, Maria, Brooke and Renoda?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Uh-huh. That's the one.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Did you get the bios from all of the people?

ROSLYN HYMEL: What color sheet is that on?

NICOLE BANKS: I think it was emailed yesterday, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, okay.

NICOLE BANKS: So you probably didn't get a chance to look at it. Okay. So you want me to give you like a summary of them?

AMY DEAVILLE: The first motion, Roslyn, if everyone agrees on the council then those four names will be forwarded to the governor. And then he hopefully will appoint them. But he can still make the decision not to. That's what that motion is about.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Well, you have like five, no six names on here. Two of them it's like they have a line underneath two of them. That's what making me ask the question. Can you kind of fill me in on it. Because I'm seeing lines under two.

AMY DEAVILLE: Those red lines are just because when I typed it in the Word document Word doesn't recognize those names so it's saying they're misspelled, but they're not.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, okay. That's why I'm asking, you know, to kind of refreshing my memory because, you know, I'm a little lost in it. I would appreciate that.

NICOLE BANKS: We're going to have one of our staff members get with you, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Okay. That would work out too with me. I would appreciate it either way.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. All right. So right now we are about to vote up on the first motion recommending Erick Taylor and Maria Casserta for self-advocate members for the DD Council and Brooke Stewart and Renoda Washington for parent advocate for the DD Council. We're going to do a roll call vote, Amy. So please respond with an aye if you are in favor of the motion or a no if you are opposed to the motion.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. Barovechio.

NICOLE BANKS: Or abstain if you are not voting.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Hi. Can you repeat that again, how you vote again.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am. Please respond to aye if you are in favor of the motion, or no if you are

opposed to the motion, or abstain if you are not voting.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can I ask a question before we vote?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Why are we voting? We don't have to do roll call vote unless there's an objection to the motion, right?

NICOLE BANKS: No. It says we have a roll call vote up on here.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But why? For what reason? If everyone's in favor. If there's an objection you have to do roll call.

AMY DEAVILLE: I mean, that's true. But if you choose to do roll call.

NICOLE BANKS: It says roll call vote. But if no one's abstaining from this and no one objects from the first motion we don't have to do that.

PHIL WILSON: Abstain wouldn't.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm sorry. Not abstain. No. Sorry. Oh, I'm sorry. Vivienne, you have the floor.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Which motion are we voting on right now or are we like voting on both of them at the same time?

NICOLE BANKS: No. We're voting on the first motion. Motion one. Ms. Amy has highlighted it for us.

VIVIENNE WEBB: All right. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Do we have any objections to the motion? Okay. Any abstentions? All right. It passes. The motion passes. Now we're going to move onto the second motion.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks, you do have a comment in the chat that is related to this second motion.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Can you read those for me, please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. Ms. Mary Jacob said, the act says representatives at all times of local and nongovernmental agencies and private nonprofit groups concerned with services for individuals with DD in the state. At the membership meeting I didn't hear much conversation around the actual nonprofit organization to ensure their mission was, in fact, concerned for

people with DD. And she also says, is there assurance from the nonprofit organization that they want to be the nonprofit on the DDC. Any conversation with the nonprofit organization leadership. Any resolution required.

AMY DEAVILLE: I make sure when people apply, and they are affiliated with a nonprofit that I research that nonprofit to make sure that it is an actual nonprofit that provides services for people with developmental disabilities. I do not contact the actual nonprofits to make sure that they are giving their permission. That's for the applicant to work out with their nonprofit.

NICOLE BANKS: Ms. Jill, you have the floor.

JILL EGLE: Ms. Amy, you said sometimes you cannot connect nonprofits on behalf of IDD services, but that's a HIPPA thing, correct? Like knowing, accessing a client that gets service from the state nobody could connect cause that's a HIPPA violation.

AMY DEAVILLE: What we're talking about right now are people who work at nonprofits.

JILL EGLE: Arc of Greater New Orleans or like Arc of Baton Rouge.

AMY DEAVILLE: Or Easterseals. There are a lot of nonprofits in the state that provide some sort of a service or resources for people with developmental disabilities.

JILL EGLE: If a provider was asking a staff that said an arc based on their title, that the provider wanted to know about the client's intake or provision plan of services are they legally allowed to do that?

AMY DEAVILLE: Can you repeat the question.

JILL EGLE: If a provider was, like say there was a consumer applier that went to like a day hab state facility and they wanted a meeting or they wanted to know about a certain individual. Can somebody release certain information with services, or they can't, that's against the law?

AMY DEAVILLE: With services, no. They would have to sign releases to allow for that kind of information to be--

JILL EGLE: Released. Cause Ms. Julie, you get that a lot too. They couldn't call your office and say

what services is so and so receiving.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: That's absolutely correct. That's protected health information. We cannot share that.

JILL EGLE: That's a HIPPA. And they couldn't call LRS and say where is somebody working.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Correct.

JILL EGLE: Okay.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Is that the only other public comment? Do we have any other comments up in the chat?

BRENTON ANDRUS: There is another comment, but it is not related to this particular motion. So I can read that after you handle this motion if you prefer?

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you. Okay. So we have the motion that's up on, that's highlighted that we are about to vote up on. Do we have any abstentions? I'm sorry. Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: I object to this motion.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. We have an objection.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Webb also has her hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm sorry. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I object to this motion.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. We're just going to go ahead and do the roll call vote. Amy.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: Do you want to explain what a yes and a no.

JILL EGLE: I would like to know more.

AMY DEAVILLE: So if you vote yes, you are voting that the membership ad hoc committee can conduct another round of interviews with the nonprofit applicants for the purpose of deciding who their candidate is that they will forward to the governor for appointment.

JILL EGLE: I got you.

AMY DEAVILLE: And this motion also gives the membership ad hoc committee permission to move forward with making that recommendation to the governor instead of coming back to the full council to vote again.

CHANEY GUIDRY: I'm sorry. If this motion gets objected what happens next with the four people in question?

AMY DEAVILLE: I guess the alternative would be we can send all of the names of the nonprofit applicants to the governor's office, and he picks.

NICOLE BANKS: Dr. McKee, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thanks for being recognized. That's not the only alternative. Another alternative could be that the membership committee reconvenes itself and select and then come before the council with their recommendations and then seek approval from the council with their recommendations that they agreed upon in the membership committee meeting. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Dr. McKee. All right. So if you are in favor of the motion, you'll say aye. And if you are not in favor of the motion, say no. And if you are not voting you'll say abstain.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Cosse.

BRENDA COSSE: Ms. Cosse, nay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Egle.

JILL EGLE: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Guidry.

CHANEY GUIDRY: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Abstain.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: No.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Hymel.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Did you call me?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. I did.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Iddins. Not present. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: No.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Mr. Rovira. Ms. Tarver.

MARY TARVER: No.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: No.

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. White. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

AMY DEAVILLE: Thirteen yeses. Five noes. One abstention. The motion passes.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Amy. So our motion passes. All right. Our next item of business is the executive director report, and the chair recognizes Ms. Amy Deaville for her report.

AMY DEAVILLE: Thank you, chair. My report, I will pull it up on the screen just so everyone can see it. It is available online. I will mention a few things that are not on the report. One of those is at the last council meeting the council approved the fiscal year 23 annual work plan. Following that meeting the work plan was put out for 45-day public comment period. No comments were received. So the fiscal year 23 annual work plan will proceed as approved in the last council meeting. Yellow shirt days were a big part of legislative advocacy. Very big part of the last three months. And the five-year strategic plan for LDH was also due in this quarter. Currently also working on state plan amendments for the Administration on Community Living. So those are our federal state plan amendments. That is due in mid-August. We are also about to embark on the fiscal year 24 budget planning process already for the state. And one last thing that I wanted to mention was that our program monitor Marilee Andrews, this is her last week with us. And so I want to make sure that I recognized her and, you know, said thank you for her three years of service to the council. And, you know, anyone who is here who sees her want to give her a good luck on her next

venture. That's it for my executive director's report unless there is any questions.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I really want to wish her good luck on that because for me this was a very good journey that I was on as well. And I enjoy it.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Is there any questions or comments from the council members? Is there any public comment?

BRENTON ANDRUS: No, ma'am.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. What about the chat?

BRENTON ANDRUS: In the chat we have one comment from Katie Crows that said Marilee, best of luck to you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Well, it's about time for us to take our ten-minute break. So we're going to reconvene at 10:10.

All right. It is now 10:10. The meeting has been called back to order. Our next item of business is our budget report. Chair recognizes Ms. Amy for the report.

AMY DEAVILLE: All right, everyone. I will say we are still receiving some invoices and last-minute things towards next year. So the bottom lines will change a little bit. Will go down a little. But all and all, we did very well throughout the year. We had budget balances, salaries--

SPEAKER: They can't hear.

AMY DEAVILLE: Oh, sorry, guys. We had some balances in salaries. That's because we had some open positions this year. Travel, of course, we had unspent money. That's because there was no travel for the majority of this year. And then--

ROSLYN HYMEL: May I ask if, what paper is this one on, please?

EBONY HAVEN: Roslyn, I don't think that the budget report was complete before your packet was sent. But we can send you the link. It's on the website. So we can send you the link, so you'll have it, okay.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can you, please. I would appreciate that.

EBONY HAVEN: I sure will I'll do it right now.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Amy, before you start, just I think some people are having trouble hearing. So maybe if you could speak up. Also, just a reminder to everyone that is in-person, the mikes that are on the table are highly sensitive. So a lot of your side chatter, people can hear. So if you do have to have any sidebar conversations with someone next to you, please kind of back up from the table a little bit. And be mindful when you're shuffling your papers or moving your drinks or things around that that can be picked up on the mike and it might disrupt what folks on Zoom can hear.

ROSLYN HYMEL: And also, I'm wearing hearing aids and it's really hard for me to hear.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay. All right. So the last thing that I was going to mention was the contractual. The contracts line. Almost the last line. We currently have about 290,000-dollars in there that was at the time of this, that this report was done. But like I said, we still have some invoices that are being paid out so that line is going to go down a little bit. Money left over from contracts, again, had a lot to do with not being able to travel for a large part of this contractual year. And that concludes my budget report unless anyone has any questions.

NICOLE BANKS: Bambi, you're recognized.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: In regards to what you said in the beginning about positions being filled, I know when Courtney Ryland was in a position, what is the update on filling that position?

AMY DEAVILLE: It has not been filled so it currently, well, at the end of this week we'll have two open positions again that I'm working to fill. A program monitor and program manager position.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So they'll be posted. Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks, we do have a comment in the chat.

NICOLE BANKS: Can you read it for me, please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Corhonda Corley ask if the executive director can start her report again from the beginning because they are now able to hear.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure. It was brief. So I just drew

attention to the fact that we had some money left over in salaries that was open positions throughout the year. Travel, that was because we really were not able to travel throughout the majority of this fiscal year and we didn't have in-person council meetings. So there's some money left over there. And then the other thing that I drew attention to was the contractual line. The contracts, the total contracts down here. And there is some money that is still in there. That line item will go down a little bit. We're still receiving some invoices that are for federal year 22. I'm sorry. State fiscal year 22. And so that line will go down a little bit. There were some contracts that were not able to spend all of their money. That was due to not being able to travel and have in-person meetings.

NICOLE BANKS: Ms. Hano, you're recognized.

JILL HANO: Thank you, madam vice chair. Is this the yearend budget report or is that something different? Yes. Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Well, this budget report is, should be the yearend report.

JILL HANO: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: We still have a few things that, a few payments that are still hitting some of last state fiscal year budget. But there won't be any great change from the numbers that are on this budget report.

JILL HANO: Okay. But this is the fourth quarter budget report, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Right. Yes. That's right.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Basile, you have the floor.

KIM BASILE: Thank you. Going back to what Bambi asked, when was Courtney's position posted and how many interviews have there been?

AMY DEAVILLE: The program manager position was, well, I don't know if it was posted before I came. I don't know if it ever got posted. I did not post it in part because I needed, I had a lot of other things that I had to fill. And then we had moving the deputy director over. And then I had a program monitor position and I needed to get that one filled first. A

contracts (inaudible) position came open and I had to get that one filled. So most of the job tasks from the program manager position have been split in between Ebony and I since Ebony started in the deputy director position. So it was mainly just about that wasn't the highest priority. A lot of it was federal reporting and she and I have been doing all of that. But really, really need to get somebody in and teach them how to do that. But it just, timing wise, just not had the time to devote to getting someone in that position. Because I had other positions that I needed filled first.

KIM BASILE: So when will it be posted?

AMY DEAVILLE: I'm hoping within the next couple of weeks. I would like to get the program monitor and the program manager position posted very soon.

KIM BASILE: Is it a difficult task to get a position posted?

AMY DEAVILLE: Depending on when the last time it was posted you sometimes have to revise all of the job tasks lists. And she's nodding cause she knows what I'm talking about. You sometimes have to revise everything that went along with that before you can post it. And then it has to stay out for however long on the civil service website. And then we just haven't had, the last few things that I have posted for, we have not had many applicants. And I have been told that is a big, big change from the way that things used to be. And rarely am I finding people who have any skills in whatever the area is that I'm looking for. So it's a rough hiring climate right now.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I agree.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can I ask a question, Amy? Is there going to be an emphasis on finding someone that has expertise in education? I know we have a major hole right now in the expertise in the council and that is something that I hear while there's a lot of issues going on, but education is something that I think the council we need more expertise. So is that something that you're looking for, that type of expertise?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Thank you.

KIM BASILE: So do you think by the next council meeting the position will be posted and some interviews

will have been made?

AMY DEAVILLE: I think so. Yeah. Certainly my goal.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Jill, you're recognized.

JILL HANO: Y'all, this computer. So did you say you filled (inaudible) position for contract?

AMY DEAVILLE: Oh, yes. I did.

JILL HANO: Okay. Great. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you. Brenton, can you please read any public chat in the chat box.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. There was one comment from Corhonda Corley. She asks, DDC has three positions open. Where will the positions be posted. And Ms. Jenkins on staff responded to that question. We had two positions open, and it will be posted at governmentjobs.com on the civil service website.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you for that. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. All right. The next item of business is our committee reports. And our first report is from Act 378 committee and the chair recognizes Ms. Bambi Polotzola for the committee report.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Good morning. The Act 378 subcommittee met yesterday. We do not have any recommendations for the council to consider. We did spend time reviewing fiscal year 22 4th quarter data from the programs within the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health as well as Aging and Adult Services through the Arc of Louisiana. These reports can be found linked in our committee agenda on the council meetings web page if you would like to review. The subcommittee did express some concerns from some of the local governing entities, or LGEs as they're known, that had not expended all of their funds. However, it is noted that this is not the final record and all invoices for services have not been processed at the time the reports were created. We should have a better picture of the actual expenditures in October when we receive the yearend reports.

While discussing the OBH flexible family fund program members expressed concern for North Louisiana Human Service District program in particular. It was

noted they have a wait list for the program even though there were enough slots available for those on the wait list. The committee questioned what efforts that particular LGE has made to ensure the timely filling of slots and what outreaches are being conducted to ensure enough eligible applicants are located to fill all budgeted slots. OBH mentioned a corrective action plan for this LGE will be needed since they did not have at least 90 percent of their budgeted slots filled and will request the specific concerns-- I'm sorry. And will request the specific concerns of the subcommittee to be addressed in that plan. And that concludes my report.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Bambi. Are there any questions from the council members on the report? Any public comment?

BRENTON ANDRUS: There is one question from Ms. Corhonda Corley that is in relation to the topic we were talking about previously which is staffing. So I'm not sure if you want to address that now or not.

NICOLE BANKS: We can table that when we get to the public comment. Thank you. All right. Now the next item of business is the report for Self Determination Community Inclusion Committee. The chair recognizes chairperson Kim Basile of the committee report.

KIM BASILE: Thank you. So we met yesterday, and we have no recommendations to present to the council. We did receive a lot of great updates from Julie Foster Hagan with Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities for OCDD and Medicaid. A lot of the information shared is included in their agency reports and I'm sure we'll touch on these topics later today. I encourage you to review those reports. We received a legislative update regarding specific bills and resolutions passed that would impact people with disabilities. Most of the legislation discussed can be found on the council's bill tracking list which is linked on the meetings web page. We also found out that the public health emergency has been extended through mid-October. Which means appendix K exceptions for the home and community-based Medicaid waivers will remain in effect until April 2023. The timeline may change depending on if the federal government renews

the emergency order. OCDD also plans to reconvene the appendix K exception focus groups to further discuss family members serving as paid caregivers and virtual visits. We were also told the deadline to use the additional American Rescue Plan home and community-based funds was extended a year to March 2025.

We received an update on the implementation of Act 421 children's Medicaid option or TEFRA. As of July 15th we received 941 applications. Three-hundred-fifty of those have been approved. Four-hundred-ninety-one are being reviewed. Eighty-five have been denied. And 14 were withdrawn. A concern was brought up that individuals are being told that they must apply for TEFRA before a waiver to see if their needs can be met via the TEFRA program. TEFRA may not be right for some families, and this is just another delay in getting them waiver services they may desperately need. Julie mentioned the department was recently made aware of this issue and they are working with the districts and authorities on processes and trainings to ensure unnecessary delays are not happening. She will do some more work on this and bring it back before the committee at our October meeting. Finally, we discussed some of the contractual activities in goals one and two of the council's fiscal year 2022 action plan. I encourage all of you to review the status update document that we receive quarterly for specific updates on each activity and any of the documents linked in our committee agenda. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Is there-- thank you, Ms. Kim, for your report. Is there any questions from the council members? All right. Any public comment? Brenton, do we have any in the chat box?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I do not see any hands raised or any comments in the chat at this time.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Now we're going to move along to the next business up on the agenda item is the Education and Employment Committee. And chair recognizes Dr. Hyacinth McKee for the report.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Good morning. The Education and Employment Committee met yesterday and has one recommendation to present to the council. The two education issues that were on the council's 2022

advocacy agenda both passed this legislative session. Senate Bill 192 by Senator Boudreaux passed, and it was signed by the governor on July 5th. Approximately 1 million has been included in the FW23 budget for the post-secondary inclusive education fund to fund programs for students with intellectual developmental disabilities at Louisiana post-secondary institutions.

Additionally, Senate Bill 45 by Senator Foil also passed that makes changes to the current Act 456 of 2021 and was signed by the governor on July 5th. Approximately 8 million has been included in the FY23 budget to fund cameras in special education classrooms and policies must be adopted within 60 days of receipt of the funding. These policies also have to be submitted to LDOE, Louisiana Department of Education, by January 15th and must include provisions on how a parent or legal guardian may request cameras.

We received a lot of updates from the Louisiana Department of Education, including an update on cameras in the classroom. The department is creating the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, BESE, policy to be presented during the August BESE meeting in order to get funds out to the districts and expeditiously as possible. The department is also determining how to equitably allocate the funding to each district while ensuring that procedures are in place to adequately document that the funding was spent on cameras and their installation. It is important to note that the department currently cannot offer district guidance on what content should be included in their policies and will not have any oversight by reviewing the policies and providing feedback. Each district is only required to submit their policies to the department at this time.

We also discussed Louisiana Department of Education summer initiatives including the Early Childhood Conference that will be held July 22nd through the 24th in New Orleans where the department will be presenting Early Childhood Inclusion: Make Magic Happen. They also released new resources for the April Dunn Act at the Teacher Leader Summit. The April Dunn Act self-assessment guide and the April Dunn Act parent guide to understanding the law which was also

shared with Families Helping Families centers to distribute the resources to families.

The department will also be offering free reading modules for educators specifically targeting special educators, interventionists and reading specialists to help students in grade four through eight who are struggling to read. The department's IDEA grant application was approved, and they received over 24 million in funding to support initiatives which was an increase from last year's funding. We also were present, we also were present (inaudible) legislation that was passed during session including SCR31 Related Service Commission, SB98 Louisiana Commissions for the Deaf, SB176 Blind Persons Literacy, Rights and Education Act.

Lastly, the K2 alternate assessment participation decision making tool was also discussed by the committee and will identify student eligibility to participate in alternate assessments. This tool will be shared with the committee for feedback before the August BESE meeting. We also received an update from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services including information regarding the disability innovation fund grant and funds, and that funds the project STEM Up initiative. Which includes outcomes in STEM occupations for individuals in marginalized populations. The project participants will be developing a recruitment plan to recruit individuals for this project so that more individuals with disabilities have opportunities to obtain employment in the areas of STEM. And I'm sure Ms. Bayham will mention more in her report.

LRS is also working on a major project for rate setting. And they are working with Rehabilitation Service Administration to get the rates updated and approved by the federal government. They're also still working with LSU HSC and the University of South Florida on customized employment and will be recruiting vendors and learning partners this fall to begin the next phase of training. The committee discussed in great details a number of vacancies for vocational rehab counselors within LRS and the low pay within civil service. The committee felt that it was necessary to bring action, to bring issues to the civil

service's attention and therefore the motion in front of us states as follows. The motion is the Education and Employment Committee recommends the Developmental Disabilities Council write a letter to civil service expressing concerns regarding the starting pay and range for the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services staff and disability determination staff with the Department of Children and Family Services and request an increase in the starting pay and range. That is the motion that's brought before the council today for consideration from the Education and Employment Committee.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Dr. McKee. Are there any questions from the council members on the report?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Hymel has her hand raised. And Ms. Jill Hano has her hand raised as well.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Hymel, you have the floor. And this is in regards to the motion we have on the floor, right.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Actually, for what I am hearing from you, McKee, is there like a listing for the people to get jobs or is this something like different, something totally different than considering job related?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Great question, Roslyn. Are you speaking towards the comment that I made about Louisiana Rehab Services, LRS, and their counselors?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. The discussion was a huge concern having challenges with filling the vacancies for the position of counselors in LRS, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, as well as other positions, particularly the disabilities determination specialist position in the Department of Children and Family Services. So the biggest concern was we are having some huge challenges with filling these vacancies because folks are not getting paid enough. The rate is just not where, you know, where people are excited about applying to get compensated. And so the committee's recommendation was

to write this letter to civil service to say hey, you know, folks are not getting paid enough. We need to do something about this rate. Did that answer the question?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. And two, I wanted to know since you mentioned the pay rate, is that pay rate dropping?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Oh, okay. That's an awesome question. I'm sure that Ms. Bayham may be able to speak a little bit more about this in her report. But the word dropping may kind of be aligned with it may not be where it's appetizing enough for someone to even want to apply, right. Like it's at a rate where people are not even interested or not even trying to apply.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's what I'm looking for.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. And so the rate-- oh, you're asking for the exact rate. So I don't have that information in front of me for that particular position. But I'm sure there's a way that we can access that. Sometimes that's on our civil service website. But maybe we can work to see if we can get that information to you.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Also, can you kind of, you know, send me, you know, the paper up on that and, you know, give me, you know, what's, you know, I can read off on?

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. I think that will be a simple fix, so we'll work to get that information to you. So I believe your question is what's the rate, what's the starting rate. Is that correct?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. Good. I think we can get that. That's something that's very doable.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Cause I want to see it in print where I can really read it.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. All right. Well, thank you so much for that, Ms. Hymel. That concludes my report. We still have a motion on the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Jill, did you have your hand raised?

JILL HANO: Okay. I have a question about your report, but it's not about the motion so do you want me to wait?

NICOLE BANKS: If you don't mind.

JILL HANO: Not at all.

NICOLE BANKS: Wait for it after we finish the motion?

JILL HANO: Of course.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, ma'am. I sure appreciate it. Do we have any public comment?

BRENTON ANDRUS: There are no hands raised and nothing in the chat at this time.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Are there any objections to the motion that's displayed up on the board? All right. Since there is no objection, then the motion passes. All right. The next item of business is the membership committee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: No. No. No. Ms. Hano had a question for the Education and Employment Committee.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm sorry.

HYACINTH MCKEE: That's okay. I didn't want to interject, but she had a question for us.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Go ahead, Jill.

JILL HANO: I feel like I have Dr. McKee looking out for me this quarter. But way at the top of your report, Dr. McKee, you mentioned two bills that I tried to write down. And I have Senate Bill 192 and then I have another senate bill and I didn't get that number.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. So that first one was Senate Bill 192 which is now Act 682. And the second one is Senate Bill 45 which is now act 456.

JILL HANO: 456? Okay. Never mind. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Jill. All right. The report requires no more action and will be placed on file. All right. The next item of business is the report of the membership committee and I'm the chair of that. We have already discussed and have brought to the council our recommendations in regards to what we came up with at the entire meeting. Were the two recommendations for government appointment for self-advocate and two recommendations for parent advocate for government appointment. And we also had a motion that passed for the nonprofit applications to be, for us to reconvene as a committee and reinterview these to suggest the best candidate for DD Council. That concludes our reports. Is there any questions from council members? From the public? In the chat

box?

BRENTON ANDRUS: No, ma'am. Not at this time.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. The report requires no action and will be placed on file. Now our next order of business is the report of the Bureau of Health Services Finances Medicaid, and the chair recognizes Ms. Tara LeBlanc for her report.

TARA LEBLANC: Hi. Good morning, everyone. Our report for Medicaid is the blue in your packet. I just want to highlight a few things real quickly and then add a few things. The LDH business plan for fiscal year 22, we're wrapping that up. We hope to have the final results public. The focus was on improving the health and wellbeing of Louisianians with an emphasis on prevention, reshaping the LDH culture, enhancing our customer service, our partnerships and community relations, promote transparency accountability and compliance. So that's our first item.

The second item was the Act 421 which is TEFRA. Which our progress has already been stated so I'll skip over that. Dental coverage, Act 450 of the 2021 legislative session requires LDH to cover comprehensive dental for adults with intellectual developmental disabilities enrolled in a Medicaid waiver. This coverage requires CMS approval. And we submitted the waiver December of 2021 and the effective date to start these services was July 1st of 2022. And you can receive the coverage through our two managed care dental plans, MCNA and Dentaquest. We also increased dental hospital anesthesia for that dental services conducted in a hospital. We tried to entice hospitals to allow dental procedures by increasing the anesthesia rate. And that was retro back to July 1st of 2021.

We also have the American Rescue Plan act of 2021 which has already been spoke about about the rates. So I'm going to skip over that. Permanent supportive housing of the department in conjunction with our sister agencies OAAS and OCDD and Office of Behavioral Health continue to participants in transitioning to stable housing. We currently have 4,758 individuals being served and 2,854 households. Money Follows the Person, last year we transitioned 286 individuals from nursing facilities into the community. And some of

those individuals actually are able to get permanent supportive housing vouchers for stable environments.

Self-Direction, we currently have 1,984 individuals participating in Self Direction as of May 31st. You guys know what Self Direction. EVV, LDH and its contractor SRI continue to train and work with providers. I want to note that in the LDH business plan of 2023 that there will be something around EVV. I know it's just compliance for our providers so we're trying to make sure that we get the providers and more of compliance, which we'll assist. And skipping over.

And that is the last off the report that I would like to read out. I would like to add two items just for general discussion. One is the PHE, the public health emergency related to Covid for the federal government. We all know that it has been extended to October. We are hearing out of federal level it will probably be re-extended. The date that we will know if it will actually end October 23rd is August 14th, around that timeframe. The federal government, specifically President Biden's administration, has promised states that we would receive a 60-day notice of the end of the PHE. So that 60-day notice prior to the October date is around the August 14th. So we should know sooner than later that if it's going to be extended. So that's our kind of D date for right now. But again, at a federal level we are hearing the anticipation that it's going to be extended again. So what does that mean--

JILL EGLE: I'm curious what that means. I mean, Medicaid how is that run, how is that run legally in Louisiana? Like is that a challenge or? Cause I just want to know myself.

TARA LEBLANC: So this is not really related to the Covid cases, but in Louisiana we are seeing a spike. But in Medicaid the public health emergency has required Medicaid eligibility rules change. So basically anyone that was enrolled after March of 2020 when Covid first started we cannot disenroll any Medicaid member unless they've deceased, moved out of state or they voluntarily request. Even if someone mails me a letter and says I have a new job and I make 100,000-dollars I still cannot disenroll them off of

Medicaid unless they request it.

JILL EGLE: What about the special who get Medicaid that don't get a lot from the government? That's a problem in this state.

TARA LEBLANC: Yeah. And they're still on Medicaid. They'll still be enrolled in Medicaid through this time.

JILL EGLE: They turned me down, Medicaid, when Jindal used to be the governor and everything was neglected so then I had to transfer to Medicare.

TARA LEBLANC: Yeah. That is true. So besides that information about the public health emergency, what I want to bring up is one of the concerns that I have been having that keeps me up late at night is that we know for eligibility we actually interact with our members mainly through mailing of letters. We have elected as a state, because we can't disenroll anyone and to be good fiduciary members of the money, we are not mailing letters, we're not running people through, you know, mailing the renewal packets if you have to do a renewal just because we can't act upon that information. And as we see today it may be three years before the public health emergency ends. So whatever information we get is inaccurate anyway by the time the public health emergency will end. Our fear is that we know a lot of our venerable individuals on Medicaid, their housing is unstable so that they have moved quite a bit around. So we don't have contact information for our members. So when the public health emergency does end and we start mailing those letters, cause CMS is requiring us to review every person over a 12-month period, that they'll end up losing coverage because they're not receiving the letter.

So we've been doing a big push, I know some of you have received a pink letter campaign. And basically what the pink letter campaign was was in May. We mailed every Medicaid household a pink letter. And I want to explain the pink letter. It is white paper printed pink. There is a supply chain issue with any colored paper and envelope. Just let everybody know that. It's not that neon pink like here. It's not that neon pink. Because we could not get-- actually, I needed almost 2 million envelopes and I don't know, 4

million pieces of paper and we could not get that. So it is actually a white sheet of paper printed pink on there so just to let everybody know. But if you have any relationship with a managed care organization with Medicaid the managed care companies mailed it out with their logo and their call center and Medicaid mailed out the ones that were not affiliated with managed care. And the letter was very benign. All it said was basically hey, this is Medicaid. We're trying to make sure we have your correct contact information. And the public message now is if you didn't receive a pink letter, we know the mail service is having problems, but I don't want to throw them under the bus. So we're just going to assume that Medicaid doesn't have the correct contact if you haven't received that. Even though there's probably some mail where people have thrown it away. So our message is if you know anyone that receives Medicaid, please make sure their information is up to date in the Medicaid system. They can either call their MCO if they do have a relationship. Call the Medicaid number. Email them up on self-service portal or fax it in. Either way. Just as long as we get that update. And it's not just this one time. We just discussed that we're thinking maybe it's January before the PHE may end. That's a long time between today and January. That's six more months that people can move. It's continuously keeping your updated information. My goal is that we do not lose any member that is truly eligible for Medicaid.

JILL EGLE: Is it the disabled population that's always eligible for Medicaid based on what the government gives them?

TARA LEBLANC: No, ma'am. It's anybody as long as their income is a certain level.

JILL EGLE: So that doesn't impact like state cuts, or anything or budget?

TARA LEBLANC: Right. Not right now. No. And just so everybody knows, we're almost tipping over the 2 million mark. We're at like 1,989,000,000 members on Medicaid. So, you know, my goal, our fear is that we're going to lose a lot of our Medicaid members and they're still eligible just because they're not, we don't have their contact information. And the other

thing that I'm preaching, and I openly admit it, I was on the call with the governor as I was giving my spill with an organization he asked me to speak with is that I'm beyond asking, now I'm at the point of begging. Please, if you know a family member that works at a physician's office or a schoolteacher that they know they have Medicaid recipients, be sure to get the word out. Because every state we all have that fear is that we're going to lose so many members just because they're not, the contact.

PHIL WILSON: We had a similar thing yesterday in our committee. We were discussing the problems that LRS is having with hiring. And a lot of the groups said hey, just send us something. We'll send it out to our membership and put it on our social media and website. So I don't want to create the words myself, but if you send something we will post it and send it out.

TARA LEBLANC: Sure do. We have a pink letter tool kit that was issued so I can-- and it's actually on our website, but I don't know the actual website. I mean, I know it's LDH/something. But we have a pink letter tool kit.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We did it last month in our newsletter. Are you still telling people to look for it?

TARA LEBLANC: No. Right. The message now needs to be that we are updating that and coming up with our next outreach campaign is that if you haven't received a pink letter, then you need to call Medicaid, basically.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: That's in that package in our newsletter now.

PHIL WILSON: The wording is there?

TARA LEBLANC: The wording is there.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Got it.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Also too, didn't you just say August the 19th is the deadline?

TARA LEBLANC: No. No. No. August 14th would be the deadline if we know from the federal government if the public health emergency is actually going to end in October. That is the date. Cause that would be 60 days prior to the October date.

ROSLYN HYMEL: If you have two Medicare and Medicaid would that also be effective for both of them or just one?

TARA LEBLANC: Just Medicaid. You just need to make sure that Medicaid has your right mailing address so that we can mail your letters and then you need to read it and respond.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. When if the person responds, okay, in that-- I'm talking about any family. If they respond do they have the mailing address to mail it back in?

TARA LEBLANC: Yes, ma'am. It's on the letter when you get the letter from Medicaid it tells you how you can send it back. You can mail it. You can call. You can fax it. You can email it. Yeah. All of that is on the letter.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Okay. I'm just making sure, you know, I'm understanding right where you're going.

TARA LEBLANC: Okay. Thank you. The last thing with that is I know our message is update your contact information. The next piece is not only update it, but check your mail, read your mail and respond. That's going to be the next campaign because we do get a lot of members that do not, they may get it, but then they don't respond. So we're just trying to make sure that we don't lose our members that are truly eligible. That is the goal. And that is all I have. If anybody else has any questions on that.

AMY DEAVILLE: There are some questions.

NICOLE BANKS: Dr. McKee, you're recognized.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you. So if the individual does not respond and it's assumed that we can't find them and that their Medicaid will be discontinued, is that correct?

TARA LEBLANC: Correct. So typically the response times is every year by the, federal regulations we are to review every individuals Medicaid eligibility every 12 months. So we will send them a renewal packet on some individuals. If they don't respond with that within 60 days, they will lose their coverage. But we have a lot of electronic data sources from the federal government, it's called the hub, that we receive. And if throughout the year something comes in that says,

hey, it's different than what we have on file we send what we call a request for information and the individual has ten days to respond. And if they do not respond then we actually close them at the end of the next month. So yes, that's how that process works.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Where and who can an individual contact? Is there a number or website that an individual can contact to check whether or not they still have Medicaid and to inform Medicaid that hey, I didn't get the letter or, you know, I just want to let y'all know that I am still, you know, wanting my services.

TARA LEBLANC: Yes. There is and I will get that to the board, the ways to contact Medicaid. I don't have it. I don't want to give you the wrong number. I have four 800 numbers and I can't remember which one is the right one. I will send that information to the board, and they can disseminate to everyone.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. I was going to ask can you put it somewhere as soon as possible because I think we may have listeners that may be in that situation. Their ten days has probably gone by or their 60 days or whatever.

TARA LEBLANC: So we have not mailed that information right now. That's the worry about the contact information. We have not been doing that during the public health emergency because we can't actually act on that information. So they have not received a renewal packet nor a request for information right now.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Not yet. Okay. All right. Thank you.

TARA LEBLANC: That's why my big concern is that we haven't been communicating that way with our members so once the public health emergency does end, you know, where are our members and do we have the right information to contact them.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. Thank you.

EBONY HAVEN: I do want to just mention that there was an LADDC news with the Medicaid pink letter campaign that we sent out on June 15th. So I'll put that link in the chat. And there's a website, the phone number and all the ways that you can get in contact

with Medicaid if you didn't receive your letter.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thanks. I don't see it in the chat. That's something else. I think the chat is slow. There it is. Thank you so much. I think I just saw it. Thank you so much.

TARA LEBLANC: Any other questions?

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Dwyer, you have the floor.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, madam chair. I have one or two questions and then if I may, I would like to add a little information about the dental program for adults with IDD since I am chair of that committee, that task force. Questions for Tara. I had shared the pink letter campaign on the Louisiana Emergency Resources for Individuals with Disabilities page on Facebook and got several questions. Several families did not receive the pink letter, however when they went into the portal their information was up to date. So should they assume that everything is okay or still call Medicaid? And then the second question is, I received a pink letter, but if I remember correctly, it says if I received it my information is up to date so I did not have to do anything. Was there still something I was supposed to do? Because if there was, I didn't.

TARA LEBLANC: So to answer the first question, if for someone reason they didn't receive the pink letter and they looked in Medicaid and their contact information is accurate they do not need to do anything. And you're right, the pink letter says if you receive it you don't need to respond because that means we have your updated contact information or your current contact information. And again, I do know that several members have reached out and said, yeah, I remember seeing that, but I think I threw it away and never really opened it after we started kind of showing them what the letter looked like. And again, we know the mail service these days may be hit or miss in some of the areas of the state. But there's nothing we can do about that piece of it. We just would rather be careful now than someone lose their coverage later.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. Great. Thank you. So if I may as chair of the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with IDD, I wanted to add some information that

Tara, thank you, for presenting. The task force has worked for about three years on this issue and got Act 450 passed as well as HB55 and I don't know the act corresponding with that bill. But anyway. In addition to additional moneys being appropriated for anesthesia and hospital facility fees in order to get hospitals to open up more ORs for those individuals that may need general anesthesia, even for just a simple dental examine cleaning. We have also worked with Medicaid to add an additional code for dentists to bill for the additional time that they will need to spend with an individual with a disability. Particularly if they have sensory issues, aversion issues or some kind of chronic medical issue that requires more lengthy time than a typical patient would. And we're still working with Medicaid on improving that system.

We're working with the Dental Association, OCDD. Dr. Denton, in particular, I don't know if any of you have seen a video I shared on social media of Dr. Denton working with my daughter. He was exceptional and used a lot of positive behavior intervention support techniques which he learned as a parent of a young man with autism. We're working with the Dental Association, OCDD and others to train all dental practitioners. We're also working with the Arc of Louisiana and the provider association to train DSWs and all other caregivers. And I'm working specifically with Dr. Denton in sending a proposal to Louisiana Dental Association for continuing education for all general dentistry. And we're hoping to make that mandatory every so many years or at least that they complete the CE within a certain period of time and maybe repeat it so many years later. So if there are any issues that any families may experience that the plan is not addressing their needs, I would appreciate hearing from you.

PHIL WILSON: Kathy, could you just repeat the name of the organization that you are working with.

KATHY DWYER: Yeah. It's Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with IDD. It was formed by the state advisory committee. It started three years ago when Mary Kay Cohen, a family member was on the (Inaudible) and kept bringing up concerns she had about one of her

family members receiving or being unable to find appropriate dental services for her brother who has significant disabilities. Typically some sensory or aversion issues. And when I joined, I had the same challenges with my daughter who has some sensory and aversion issues. So I made a motion for us to start a task force. So it's really a task force. We, Mary Kay and I were the ones who formed the task force. We invited quite a few people and it's a mix of people. We have family members. We have dentists. We have hygienists. We have the Arc of Louisiana is a member. Karen Scallon is a member. We have some of what they call the dental benefit plan managers, Dentaquest. Healthy Blue is a member. The insurance providers are members. So we have everybody providing input.

What we did was identified what all the needs and barriers were, and they came up with solutions to those barriers and how to address the needs. Wrote a final report that we submitted to OCDD and the DD Council. I believe it's on the DD Council's website somewhere. That was submitted about two years ago. And then since that report we made contact with Representative Butler who jumped on carrying the bill because she was having trouble getting dental services for her son who has autism. So that's when she submitted HB172 which I helped write. It passed unanimously. We are very thankful and grateful for that. The next year we passed HB55 which included residents of ICFDD facilities and group homes. Act 450 only addressed individuals with developmental disabilities on the NOW, ROW and supports waiver because OCDD and Medicaid did not have enough time to come up with a fiscal cost for what it would be for the ICFDD residents because their reimbursement formula is a little more complicated. They had to first conduct the study and then that's why we submitted the bill next year to cover those residents. We're very proud of what we accomplished, and we haven't stopped. We're going to keep working on this until we get it all right.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Ms. Dwyer.

KATHY DWYER: You're welcome.

ROSLYN HYMEL: And also for Kathy Dwyer. I have seen, Kathy, I have seen that video that you posted

with your daughter. I think that is the right way of going with it, what you're doing. That is the very best, the very best way to do it.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You know.

KATHY DWYER: Yeah. Our goal is to try to make sure our loved ones get the service they need sort of in the least restrictive environment. Sedation and general anesthesia isn't always the answer. Those can cause problems itself. So we feel if we can get the dentists to learn a few simple techniques to make our loved ones feel comfortable and be able to do some of the basics, preventive, it would keep them from having to go in the hospital for anything more serious or even having to go into the hospital just for dental cleaning and exam. It would be a cost saving measure as well.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Now we have Ms. Jill Hano that is recognized by the chair.

JILL HANO: Okay, Ms. Kathy. I did have that act number for you. But now I seem to have lost it.

SPEAKER: 366.

JILL HANO: Yes. 366.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you so much. I'm getting a few more gray hairs, so I don't remember the numbers as easily as I used to. Appreciate it.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I'm with you.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Roslyn.

NICOLE BANKS: All right.

JILL HANO: So confused. Ms. Amy-- oh, I'm sorry.

NICOLE BANKS: You have the floor, Jill.

JILL HANO: Ms. Amy, if you have a minute can you call me?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes, ma'am.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. The report requires no action and will be placed on file.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks, you do have a couple of comments in the chat.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Go ahead. Can you read those for me?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. The first comment is from Ms. Liz Gary. Says, Tara, how long is the TEFRA process taking from application to approval. Has

anyone received TEFRA then been transferred to a waiver. How long is that taking.

TARA LEBLANC: Hold on one second.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I'll go ahead and read the other comment while Ms. LeBlanc is getting that information. The other is just from Dr. McKee. She just wanted to clarify if you receive the letter and did not respond it is assumed that your contact information is correct. I just want to be sure our families know this information clearly. And that's regarding the pink letter campaign that Ms. LeBlanc talked about earlier.

TARA LEBLANC: That is an accurate statement. Unless they move again and change addresses before the public health emergency ends. Yeah.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Sorry. We're trying to read an excel spread sheet on a phone. So maybe what we can do, if it pleases the council, is we do have a lot of things that we track. It's kind of hard to look at here. Even if we sent this it may be difficult. We are trying to track where there's gaps. What is the length of time. I mean, I can tell you guys what we're tracking. What we're tracking is how long is it taking to do the level of care, average time to complete level of care determinations. Average time to complete the medical eligibility determination. The average time for us to be able to get, for documents returned and uploaded into LAmeds. The average pending time from application. The average pending time from the level of care mailing. So we are tracking all of that and we're looking at the report weekly so that we can take a look at that. And then if we do see hey, this seems to be taking a lot of time, getting our team back to the drawing board so we can say hey, what might we need to do to address that.

Again, we track that by week. It's just kind of hard to give information. I don't know if there's been anyone who's gone from TEFRA to waiver since January, but we can, we have-- so with TEFRA we have some team members from OCDD and team members with Medicaid that work together as part of a team. We can ask them to add that to the data that they're tracking or looking at to see, I guess both ways cause people could do either. They could be on TEFRA and shift to a waiver.

Or we have had some people who've been on waiver but don't really receive waiver services so they've actually asked could they just get TEFRA instead of being on waiver. So you have the ability to go either way. I don't know that anyone's done that yet. But we can ask them to add that to the data tracking.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Angela, you're recognized by the chair.

ANGELA HARMON: Thank you, Ms. Banks. For me I actually applied to TEFRA January when the first application went out. It took approximately about six months from just receiving information. I got the TEFRA then I was told that I finally got approved for the children's choice. So before all this happened or by the time I got some information it was about six months. And so I'm still getting paperwork, so everything's still not really finalized, but I did get some information. So for me it was about six months.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you. All right. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. All right. Our next item of business is the report of the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Julie Foster Hagan for the report.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: All right. You guys all have my report. I'll hit a couple of highlights from the report and then I'm happy to take any questions. So some of the, just to some of the data that you guys see we modified a few reports ago the data that we presented, hopefully, trying to be a little more helpful. We are near the end. Because of when we submit our report, we still don't have June. But I do like for folks to be able to kind of look how things have played out for the year. So in the data table that you see the first data table tells you the number of people who receive waiver services. You can see that for the last three years by month. And then you can also I like to take a total number to be able to just look from year to year how many people we have that are receiving waiver services. And so we do have more people receiving waiver services this fiscal year and we will need to add, that number may go up once we add our June data. So you can see over the last three years in that first table that's just a straight number

of people who receive services.

And then on the next table on page two that chart waiver service payments. Of those total from people who receive waiver in the first table what you see here is the amount of money that is spent on those waiver participants. Again, by month and then trying to look at a total. This is really important. I know it's been important to the DD Council when we shifted to a prioritized system where people with a SUN score of three or four receive a waiver offer. We used to have a certain number of slots so just kind of here's the number of people who can receive or be in the waiver. When we shifted to that prioritized system, we really look at not just, not a number of slots, but here's the budget we have allocated to waiver. And so as long as we have the budget to support it, we can continue to give waiver offers to people who have threes or fours. And so this is why we now really closely watch the budget as opposed to kind of what the slot count is now in the waiver. So again, you can see the amount of money and that's comparative again. The number that you see there, the 542 million-dollars will go up because we don't have our expenditures for the last month. So in the report in October that we submit you'll be able to see what the full spend was for state fiscal year 22.

And the last chart that you see and the reason why it's important for us to look at the average cost of our waiver is because as we start to build our budget or look at our budgeting, so like we started right now developing our budget that will be the budget that's presented for next fiscal year. And so the average cost of waiver helps us to be able to know what that budget is. So the way that we get that information it's not as simple, but it is just kind of this is the number of people that we support. This is the amount that we spent and then we can tell on average how much are we, is the average amount that we spend per waiver participant. And as you can see in state fiscal year 20 and 21 the average cost was about 44,000 per year per waiver participant. It does look like that number may go up a little in state fiscal year 22, but we won't know for sure until we get that June number so

that we can do that comparison. The next, moving along. I guess, any questions? Do you want me to go through my whole thing?

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. Do the whole thing and afterwards we'll get the questions.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: On page three there is information about the screening for urgency of need. During, and I apologize that I had to step out, so I wasn't here when we went over the self-determination meeting. But there were some questions in that meeting about the SUN process how, especially as it relates to the TEFRA, kind of the combination as I said earlier, people being able to move and kind of the process of saying if somebody is newly eligible for OCDD services and they say that they need support, do they go through the TEFRA process and/or the SUN process to see if they need a waiver and which comes first. We're working on tweaking that process a bit to make sure that it is as efficient as it needs to be. And I'll share at the self-determination committee meeting in October, I will share with folks during that meeting sort of what process changes we make. I'm just not really able to talk about them right now cause we've been told there's issues and concerns and we're in the process of looking at what we need to do to potentially change that process now. We're also dedicating some additional resources for the SUN screening, and we've also heard some concerns from families so we're updating training for the people who do provide those SUN screenings for folks. So I'll be happy to share a more, and we'll include it in the report, but I'll also have much more to report on next quarter on that. And what we heard, what we modified, and what our new processes are at this point.

On the fourth page of the report it talks a lot about employment. One of the things I wanted to just sort of highlight for folks is the information on the home and community-based settings rule. So CMS put out what they call a home and community-based settings rule several years ago. There's been several extensions. The philosophy behind the home and community-based settings rule is that people with disabilities should be in integrated settings and a part of their

community. And that our service systems, if they get Medicaid funding, should be able to support that. So we have certain requirements that we look at for settings. We have two main areas in OCDD that we had to pay close attention to. If you live in a home and community-based waiver and your provider owns the place that you live, instead of you having your own lease or owning your own apartment, then that needed to have extra scrutiny. So we've now visited anybody who's in waiver and the provider owns to make sure certain criteria are met.

And then we had a lot of work to do around employment in our day programs in terms of helping make sure that they are integrated and that they are part of the community. So CMS has said there will be no more extensions. March of 2023 is the deadline for states to be in compliance. If we're not, then we start to lose federal funding for the programs that are not in compliance. So we're doing a lot of work with those ADC providers. In October we will know for sure all of the providers who's in compliance, who's not. Now about a month or two ago CMS came out and said even though we're not giving you extensions states can ask for a corrective action plan. For example, if a provider can say we're moving to be integrated, but we've not been able to open all the way back up yet because of Covid or because of the staffing shortage. It takes more staff to get folks in the community than to have everybody at a facility and this is impacting our ability to fully implement our plan. Then you can ask for a corrective action. So we're wrapping our minds around CMS just telling us that last month. And we just did a survey with those providers so we can gather some additional information. But again, that's first and foremost on our minds. We want to do everything we can to help make sure that all providers are able to stay open, but that they're doing it in a way that is in line with the intent what the settings rule is. So we're doing a lot of work around that.

Tara touched on the public health emergency. So we do have some additional information in our report about that. And I don't know if folks, just want to highlight quickly. Our Early Steps Program, there were

several Early Steps providers who advocated during the legislative session and were able to get funding for a rate increase. They had not had a rate increase since, I believe, 2010. So there's now the services, all Early Steps services provided through OCDD and as part of Medicaid state plan got a 30 percent rate increase. And then case management for Early Steps it was about a 40 percent increase so they can have 169-dollars a month. It's a flat billing that they will be able to do.

JILL EGLE: Why is the rate increase with the legislators since 2007, just in general? Like when I say rate increase, the people that support IDD. Like a personal care attendant, providers, DSP. Because it's been like that with the Arc of GNO since 2007 and they're always had to arise from above.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: There's been a lot of rate increases that happened in the last couple of years.

JILL EGLE: Meaning higher?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Going up.

JILL EGLE: So I know the legislative session is over. The Arc of GNO, that doesn't take into effect until October this year?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: No. October 1st of 2021 there was a \$2.50 per hour rate increase. The Arc of GNO doing the day programs and stuff, it's a little, it's not exactly, works out exactly, but it equates to a \$2.50 an hour because they get paid kind of for the day instead of--

JILL EGLE: So from last year it's not going to end October of this year, it's going to continue?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: It's going to continue. And just the last thing that I'll highlight. We include a lot about our OCDD resource center. And so just wanted to highlight we did, we found that we had, one of the issues we found is we seem to be getting a lot more what we call referrals for crisis placement. So people who live in the community and might be in jeopardy of having to go into an institution. So we noticed that about six months ago, so we revamped some of the way that we do things cause what we found is our resource center includes psychologists, social workers, allied health professionals, nurses. And when we can go in

and get our resource center team in early on, then we can typically be able to help 95 to 98 percent of the time, somebody staying living in the community. When there's a delay in that, because there was some delays we found in getting those folks in there quickly. We found that, unfortunately, our numbers, kind of referrals for admissions to Pinecrest and what were starting to creep up and we were really worried about that. We did some changes. We worked with our local governing entities to be able to revamp how we do things to get those folks in there. And we're starting to see already that that's no longer the case. And so we were able to address that. And so some of the data that you see in our report does share with you kind of where most of those crisis referrals come in. And the information that we track and what we do. But again, we are really proud, when the resource center gets involved, again, 95 to 98 percent of the time we're able to help people resolve whatever the issue may be so that they can then continue to stay in the community. That's my report, but happy to take any other questions.

NICOLE BANKS: Do we have any questions from the council? Any public questions?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Jill just covered all my questions that I had.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. And I see they do have some comments in the chat. Brenton, can you read those for me, please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: From Ms. Kathy Dwyer. Said, great job, Julie. Ms. Liz Gary said, the resources center is fabulous. You do have a hand raised as well from Ms. Melinda Elliot.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Elliot, you're recognized.

MELINDA ELLIOT: Thank you. I don't remember if it was the past DDC meeting or maybe a DDC meeting before that. I had asked for some information about the DSW workforce. Specifically the numbers of people working as DSWs that were, I think at the time I didn't have good language, that were family members. Now I can refine that even more cause I learned a few things. I'm curious how many DSWs are family members and how

many DSWs that are currently employed are the responsible party. Once the pandemic is going to end, and y'all please tell me it's going to end at some point, once the pandemic ends, I'm really concerned about the DSW workforce.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So we don't have data that we track to be able to know if the DSW is a family member or not. Because if you were in a traditional provider agency then the provider agency hired them. And so they're working as the direct support professional, and we haven't done anything to kind of flag them as a family member. Same in self-direction, you know. If you were hired through the fiscal intermediary, we didn't do anything necessarily to flag that. We did early on in the pandemic do a survey to try to gather some information to be able to get that. But we do not, we don't currently have a way that we would be able to know, to be able to give the data on that, the number of family members that are currently employed and whether those family members are the responsible party. I'm blanking on the terminology there.

MELINDA ELLIOT: Can I still unmute and speak?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am.

MELINDA ELLIOT: Oh, yeah. I did unmute, right. Thank you, Ms. Banks. So I'm just concerned that this is an important piece of information that is going to be even more important once the pandemic ends how much of that workforce, how that workforce is going to change. And in what ways it's going to change. And if we don't have data to know if we're talking about a substantial number or not, then we can't have a further discussion about what could or couldn't be done. Again, just my opinion.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Jill, you have your hand raised.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You have the floor, Jill.

NICOLE BANKS: It takes her a minute to unmute it. Just give her some time.

JILL HANO: Thank you. Oh, God. Now I'm going to cry again. Y'all are all so nice.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Just hang in there, Jill.

JILL HANO: As I'm raising my hand questions keep coming up. And I really thought I was going to be

quiet, but I love you so much.

SPEAKER: I love you too.

JILL HANO: Okay. Whoever talked about old age was spot on because I have no idea what. Okay. So again, you said that all this you, just to reiterate, confirmed this Early Steps budget was included in House Bill 1, right?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: That is correct. There was an increase in House Bill 1 for-- so Early Steps is confusing because you have children in Early Steps who are not Medicaid eligible.

JILL HANO: Okay.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So that money to pay for that comes out of the OCDD budget. Then you have kids in Early Steps who are Medicaid eligible and so part of their services come out of Medicaid. There are seven services in Early Steps that are Medicaid, approved Medicaid services. But we also have other services in Medicaid that are not part of Medicaid. So those services are also paid for the Medicaid eligible kids. The non-Medicaid services are also paid for through the OCDD budget. So it gets really confusing, but that's why when we talk about it, you'll see increases in OCDD and increases in Medicaid.

JILL HANO: Okay. And then the goal is-- if it's okay with you, I have like two or three more questions.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I think we have time. I'll defer to Nicole. Yes. Go ahead, Jill.

JILL HANO: About approved funding. These words cannot go on your website and find out like what exactly the start is and what exactly is value-based payment. And I know that you talked yesterday, I don't know even know the word, bonus something. But is there any way I can go online and read about what these things are?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Not right now, but we can make that happen.

JILL HANO: Perfect. Okay. And I should be done.

NICOLE BANKS: All right.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. The report requires no more action and will be placed on file.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks, you do have one more

comment in the chat from Ms. Kathy Dwyer and it's in relation to the concern that Ms. Elliot had brought up. Ms. Dwyer says, we probably should start generating that data, so we know how bad the DSW shortage is and able to address the negative impact on families.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I'm sorry. I have made a note. I have to figure out how we get it. The other thing I do just want to make sure folks know is that when the public health emergency ends, we have made changes to our waiver where family members will be able to continue to be paid caregivers. There are some exceptions there and guidelines or guardrails that we had to put in place, but it doesn't mean when the public health emergency ends that family members that are paid caregivers are no longer able to be paid caregivers. So that's the other thing. As I made the note, I'm trying to wrap my mind around how do we get the data. But then how do we use the data in a way, you know, there's some exceptions that it can't be more than 40 hours per week and I'm blanking on there's a couple of other things. But yeah, I have that down as a note. I'll take that back and figure out if there's a way that we can get it and get it in a meaningful way based on the changes that we make in our waiver that does still allow family members to be paid caregivers.

NICOLE BANKS: Brenton, there's also another public comment by Ms. Dwyer. There's still a question about continuing tutorship through--- were you finishing your comment, Ms. Dwyer, because it ends after that?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I can comment on that if you want me to.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So we had several items with family as paid caregiver that we did not finalize and within this quarter we plan to get our focus groups back that was looking at defining what extraordinary care. So if you are a legally responsible relative, I think that's the right word, then you have to be able to show that you're being paid to do something that's extraordinary care. We have to define criteria and guidelines for defining extraordinary care.

We also have to show that if a family member is a

paid caregiver that that is in the best interest of the individual and to be able to use self-determination for adults to be able to comfortably say if they don't want their family member to be their paid caregiver and we need to have mechanisms in place that allow for self-determination for individuals to be able to say that. All of that will have to be documented in the person's plan of care. So we were coming back to that group. Another thing was in the definition of legally responsible relative CMS says that there should be a state definition of what that is. We've not been able to find that state definition, so it may be that we also have to put some things in statute. But that group was going to kind of come back and take a look at all of those things. So we are, we will be getting that focus group back together within this quarter so that we can start to define those things. I think that's what she was talking about.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. If there's no more further discussion-- oh, she does. All right. I'm sorry. Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. Brenton, didn't we, refresh my memory, cause it was either April or January in our committee agenda, didn't we have a link about with all the data as it pertains to support coordination rates?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I would have to go back and check. I'm not sure if we had that information on a form. It may have come up in a meeting, but I don't know if there was something linked. I would have to go back and check.

JILL HANO: I'll go back. All right. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. All right. We're going to move on. Give me a minute, y'all. The next item of business is the Office of Public Health, and the chair recognizes Ms. Patti. I'm sorry. I don't know how to pronouns your name correctly. Barovechio. Okay. For the report.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Good afternoon or good morning.

JILL HANO: I still can't pronounce it.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: So my report is this bright orange or yellow report. Rather lengthy. I work for the Bureau of Family Health, and we administer many initiatives and programs that touch families in the

state. And so if you have any questions for some of the programs that I'm not close to, I'll be happy to bring your questions back to them. But most interest is Children Special Health Services. This program continues to provide subspecialty services for families of children and youth with special healthcare needs in provider shortage areas. So these subspecialty clinics are available to those who meet the definition or eligibility criteria set in the rules as well as financial eligibility. And for more information I realize that I don't see the website. If you want any more information on these programs, you can find it at LDH.la.gov/CSHS. And all that information is available there for those subspecialty clinics.

Also, we have a family resource center. Our focus of late has been really aligning this work within the bureau to provide those family supportive services for all the families that we engage with through our various programs. We recently launched Cohort One with our Louisiana Birth Defects Monitoring Network program where we did direct outreach to families who are identified through surveillance activities and offered the services of resource and referral to these families. And next report we will have an analysis of that first cohort. Internally I've seen the preliminary data and we feel very confident that we are offering an improved service to these families. We also work with our Families Helping Families partners around ensuring that families in the community have access to resource and referral services so that expanding that reach to all children and youth with special healthcare needs in our state. We continue with a transportation assistance program. So if families that are eligible for children special health services need assistance with transportation to medical appointments, treatments, surgical procedures. And that the Medicaid transportation is not, does not meet the need of the family, they may be eligible for this transportation stipend. So they can reach out to the family resource center around this if they need any assistance with filing that application. Other than that, the remaining information in the report, I'm happy to take any questions.

NICOLE BANKS: Do we have any questions from the council? From the public? Brenton, is there any in the chat box?

BRENTON ANDRUS: No, ma'am. No hands raised or no chats.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. This report requires no action and will be placed up on file. All right. Our next item of business is the standing council member reports. Our first report is coming from the Office of Aging and Adult Services. And the chair yields the floor to the agency representative presenting the report.

AMY DEAVILLE: They sent a report. I don't think anybody's here. There was someone from the agency on the call earlier, but I don't see her now.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: They were scheduled for after lunch.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. She might come later.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. We'll table that and wait till after lunch. All right. The next item of business is the report from the Department of Education. The department yields the floor to Ms. Meredith Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Absolutely. Thank you. And we had a lot of really detailed discussion yesterday that Dr. McKee shared earlier from our committee meeting. So I'll kind of go through my report, what are some of those high-level key activities and supports since our last council meeting. And so you all know that our division stays extremely busy. We support across the department. We are that voice for our students with disabilities in all offices. Our high school experience office, college and career readiness, early childhood. So you'll see we've been very busy supporting and providing professional development. Presenting at various conferences. We held a foundational charter school day where we presented on best practice for students with disabilities, best instructional practice. Compliance monitoring was a part of that. And you'll also see coming up, actually tomorrow, one of our key activities here on the report we are, the department's hosting our very first early childhood conference. The theme is Powering Up Early

Childhood. Our division is going to be presenting a session there really focusing on inclusive practices for students with disabilities in our early childcare centers in PreK. So again, just kind of that cross-office collaboration that we're doing so much in and staying very busy this summer doing. That presentation is titled Making Magic Happen where we are really going to give our childcare centers a checklist to where they feel like they are prepared to take students with disabilities when those families come and say I want my child involved in early childcare and those supports there. So that childcare centers feel, they feel equip and they know the tools, they know the environment. The communication and the environment set up supports that have to be there in order to be ready to properly support those students. So we're happy to be supporting that conference this weekend. We've also been in several school systems presenting at summer professional development around their special education symposiums. Various special education departments around the state that have asked us as a department to come in and provide professional--

ROSLYN HYMEL: What packet are you reading from?

MEREDITH JORDAN: The Louisiana Department of Education report, Jill. It's pink.

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. It's me, Roslyn.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Roslyn. I'm sorry.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Is that a color paper? What color is it?

MEREDITH JORDAN: A light pink. And it's probably not helping that I'm not going in order. I'll make that correction. I'll stop jumping all over the place.

ROSLYN HYMEL: A dark pink?

NICOLE BANKS: A light pink.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Did you find it?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Because I am lost again.

MEREDITH JORDAN: So I'll start back at the top and go in order. It's probably helpful if I do that. So I did want to follow up and let you all know that our IDEA set aside grant application, that we involved this group in that process, received a lot of stakeholder and community input. I truly believe as part of the communication here that all of you as stakeholders help

us get out that word and those public surveys and public comment periods. So our award was approved. Our total IDEA set aside award amount is 24,231,350-dollars. That is a slight increase from past years. So that is a great step moving forward I think signaling from the federal government that they want to provide additional funding for students with disabilities and to support education for our students. I linked, again to our application. We have linked to those in the past, but just wanted to include that. Again, you have our final approved application there linked as well as our project descriptors. If you're really, if you haven't looked at it yet those project descriptors will give you much more detail about what are some of those activities that we are doing. That the application doesn't necessarily detail out, but something we definitely want to keep open and transparent and provide to you all as stakeholders are what are those activities look like.

The next piece on my report talks about some new April Dunn Act resources that we released in May at our teacher leader summit. We released two new resources. We have a set of resources around April Dunn Act implementation already on our website. The two newest released resources, one is a parent guide. We work very closely with our Families Helping Families centers really diving into the April Dunn Act implementation. I know they support families who have a lot of questions around that and how that opportunity can increase the high school experience for our students with disabilities and lead them to success if that opportunity is needed. So we have a new parent resource there that we will be also providing some additional development on.

The other tool that we released that is new around April Dunn Act is an implementation tool for school systems. So we have this opportunity, previously Act 833. We've had this opportunity for several years now with students with disabilities, but you all know as staff overturn, we have to continue this opportunity moving forward. We have to continue the development, continue the communication so that we have that consistency and that we know this opportunity is being

used to support students. So we have an implementation tool that we released. We'll be doing some additional development with school system level leaders in order to take a look. Use this tool and self assess as a school system, am I implementing this opportunity to the fullest extent. Am I implementing this opportunity appropriately for my students with disabilities for all of those who need that opportunity. So we felt like that was a real next step resource that was needed and will be providing ongoing support for both of these tools moving forward.

The next update that I wanted to go through on my report is around some new releases. You know, at the department literacy has been a huge initiative for us. As Dr. Brumley came on there was a real shift, a real focus on literacy. So I wanted to provide you all some updates around some specific tools that will impact our students with disabilities and educators who are supporting them. And those students who we know continue to struggle to read on time. And so one of those we're calling our lift kit. Our foundational literacy intervention tool kit. This tool kit was released this summer. There are a set of activities. There are diagnostic assessments there readymade for educators to diagnose what is that specific reading issue that a student is having and then connects them with some specific activities for educators to help support and help intervene. And so it includes those activities, those interventions.

We also are releasing what we're calling extensions because we can't forget those students who are exceptional or are gifted and who are on level and need an extension to keep continue to push those students. So we're releasing some extension activities. We have guidance documents, again, providing support to teachers around how to annotate text. How to support students to read independent. How to use partner reading. How to use rubrics and models to support students and really guide them and scaffold them into reading on grade level. So we're going to be providing additional documents. This is again, like a first release of this literacy intervention toolkit. We are having regional literacy

professional development this month. You may have seen some of that being communicated on our social media page. Of course, I am always that voice and always encouraging our school systems to have their special educators attend these training as well. Have your interventionist attend these trainings as well. Often those are the individuals, our special educators and our interventionists are the ones who are often supporting our students with disabilities in reading. And so we need those individuals understanding and having access to these tools as well.

And the next update and piece I wanted to bring to you all is closely tied to that. So another thing that we hear very often is, you know, yes, we're focusing a lot on literacy in the early elementary grades, but we also know, especially some of our students with disabilities have some of those reading challenges in middle school, sometimes in high school, unfortunately. But so what we are doing in our office we are going to use some of our state professional development grant money to provide free access to literacy training modules for our special educators, interventionists in grades four through eight. So kind of bringing that literacy focus up and providing some development to those middle school educators as well who we hear hey, we have students who are struggling in science and reading trainings as well. So we're going to have that opportunity. We are already gaining interest. We hope to start releasing modules very soon. I'd like for them to be released yesterday, but there are process and state procedures that have to happen. But we're going to release them as soon as possible. And our educators are going to have access to these modules all throughout this year. Our thinking there is that this training takes some time. If you hear or if you know educators in school systems in our elementary schools who are going through science and reading, it is very intensive training. There are numerous hours. There are some specifics that I really like around dyslexia and so there's some supports there and how to identify that. And so what we want in providing this year-long access for educators is that way school systems can work this. It's there. Once I register, I'm

registered. I'll have access to all of them. But I can work it into a plan throughout this year and it gives them time with other required trainings that they go through. We don't want it to feel like something else that they have to do. We want them to be encouraged and feel like okay, I can work this into a yearlong plan. I don't have to box it in and do many hours of training, you know, in a short amount of time. So we tried to give them enough time to complete all of that training and work it into a current plan.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes. I wanted to ask since the fourth through eighth grades are having this training, would it be possible if like some of our, like for me instance, we get many ninth graders for us to the higher-- I teach one of the self-contained, but they're with me all day, but they come in at like a first grade reading level. But they could be so much higher because they were never taught the necessary skills and that we're having to do a lot of this extra, you know, reading skill information, teaching it to them. And do you think it would be okay for like some of the ninth-grade teachers to keep, you know, to attend this so that we can have the same training that they're getting in fourth through eighth because we don't want to stop it. Just to keep the carryover. Because we have some once they get to ninth grade, you know, we don't want to lose it.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Right. Christi, as long as we have enough spots in that range of teachers that we're looking at, and we have a set number of seats, which we have thousands that we're going to fund, certainly we wouldn't turn down anyone if we don't have to, for sure. Really good question though. We definitely see that high school need as well. So we're excited about all of the literacy initiatives that are being launched at the department. And the collaboration that my office is having with that team to say our special educators have to be in this training. Our interventionists have to be in this training. We know the vast majority of students who are referred for special education often that initial reason is reading struggles and they haven't learned to read. So we're excited about these opportunities.

I've covered the early childhood conference. And I'll end with kind of future shifts of where we're going in terms of responsiveness to legislative session. We talked quite a bit yesterday around our SPED camera law and those revisions. And what we are doing for August BESE is we are expeditiously taking that legislation, that language and we're going to codify that into our own BESE policy. We're going to be amending and updating bulletin 741, which is our BESE policy for school administrators. And so it was important to us to take that language. Yes, it's long, but now we're going to place it into state bulletin as well. So we're working on that as quickly as possible to get that to August BESE.

We are also moving forward working in response to Resolution 31 that creates the Related Service Commission. So we are reaching out to those partners listed in the legislation to get their appointed members so that we have that commission formed per legislation by mid-August and then we will hold our first organizational meeting by mid-September. And so we're excited about that. The purpose of that commission will be to study, look at policy around and make changes to the way related services are provided in our school systems. And so we know there is some policy updates that are needed there to match national averages around related service providers in our school systems. I think the challenge for school systems is finding. We've heard that for almost everyone here. Recruiting and finding those highly qualified individuals to fill some of those roles. But we certainly are excited to work alongside those partners on that commission.

Moving forward as well with Senate Bill 98 with some updates to the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and so we're working with them on some administrative code specifically that pertains to the department around supporting educational interpreters. So we're going to work with them moving forward on those supports for educational interpreters in our state. Also, moving forward in response to Senate Bill 176 look at any updates to policy that may be needed around the legislation that updated the definition of

blindness. Some of the assessments that are required. Some of those are already in our policy. That legislation was a little older and needed some updates. But if we have any response, we're working with that VI coalition that we work very closely with to look at our policy and make sure that everything is reflected. And that moving forward we are providing a legislative update in response to all of this to our special education leaders and what steps they need to take and what professional development needs to happen around some of these new requirements and any supports. Like, for example, some of the CVI assessments, cortical vision impairment assessments that are required. Do we need to partner and have some trainings around some of those to update our school system.

And I will, I didn't put it in my report, but I know many folks here are always interested, just to kind of let you all know, our SPED advisory panel meetings are posted on our website for next year. Our first one was supposed to be September 21st, but there is a national state SPED director conference at that time so we're going to be putting out an update to our September meeting date. But you can tentatively mark your calendars for September 27th is the date we're looking to move our first very meeting. But you can find the other dates. If anyone has any questions about those, I'm happy to give those out if you can't find them. And that concludes my report, chair.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I would like those dates if you can.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Our first one, tentatively, September the 27th. We have a November the 16th meeting. A January 25th meeting. February 25th, 2023. A March 22nd.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. You're saying September the 11th?

MEREDITH JORDAN: September 27th.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, 27th.

MEREDITH JORDAN: That one's tentative, Roslyn. That one is a tentative date. I'll confirm it.

ROSLYN HYMEL: What's the other ones besides that one?

MEREDITH JORDAN: November 16th.

JILL EGLE: Are these in New Orleans?

MEREDITH JORDAN: They're in Baton Rouge.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Sixteenth. And what else would be there?

MEREDITH JORDAN: January 25th.

ROSLYN HYMEL: January? Of 2023?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes, ma'am.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Wait a minute. What was the numbers again?

MEREDITH JORDAN: I can email them. I could send them out, Roslyn, if that's easier.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I'm understanding you. I'm trying to use my hearing aid. Sometimes I can't hear with the hearing aid.

MEREDITH JORDAN: January 25th. March 22nd. And June 21st.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Was that all your questions, Roslyn?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. It is.

NICOLE BANKS: All right, Dr. McKee, you have the floor.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Yeah. I just wanted to ask for the purposes of adhering to the agenda and staying on time, is there a possibility that the Department of Education could remain after lunch for questions? Because I don't want to seem like her report is being rushed through. Seems like it was kind of being rushed. And also, I want to ask if we can allow for questions for her report to happen after lunch time. Because I do know we're already ten minutes into some people's lunch time. Thank you, chair.

NICOLE BANKS: Will you be here?

MEREDITH JORDAN: I'll be here.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. We can hold off for council and public comment until after lunch. So if there's no objection we're going to break for an hour. So the time right now is 12:12. Then we'll be back at 1:12.

KIM BASILE: All right. Good afternoon, everybody. I'm sorry we were a little late coming back. We had a little hiccup here and I need a motion from the floor to have me step in as the chair pro tem. Does anyone make that motion?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I can make that motion.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'll second it.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Roslyn Hymel makes a motion, and it was seconded by Bambi Polotzola. So do we need to do a roll call?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. Ebony, can you do roll call, please.

KIM BASILE: Okay. If there's no opposition for the motion on the floor it can pass. Are there any objections? Any abstentions? All right. Motion passes. We're going to continue where we left off. I believe Meredith was answering questions from the public and the council and chat. So Brenton, can you take over?

EBONY HAVEN: So Rekeesha is going to be your staff person for the second half.

KIM BASILE: I'm sorry. Rekeesha.

RAKEESHA BRANCH: Yes. Good afternoon. We have Dr. McKee, she has her hand raised.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Thank you for being recognized. I had a quick question for Ms. Jordan. Who is responsible in your department for section 504? Does that fall under diverse learners now or is that under another department? Cause I know there's been some shift in the organizational chart. So that would be question number one. And so can you answer that and then I have a follow-up question.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes, Dr. McKee. Policy relative to 504, that falls on our team now, yes.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Okay. Great. And so is there some type of oversight that will be happening from diverse learners to ensure that our students when they are identified for services that schools are just not throwing them or shifting them into 504, but in fact actually going thorough MDEs and working to place them appropriately or to assess whether or not they actually need an IEP? And I ask that question because there are times when school districts will label a child as having section 504 services to curtail or avoid the process of doing a full MDE to give them access to actually an IEP or services in that area. So my question is, you know, who's like taking the lead on section 504 in diverse learners right now? Is that

someone that can also speak to those concerns that have been brought by parents as well? You know, just to ensure that students are actually being afforded a full evaluation for IEP services. It just seems like sometimes it's a barrier to the actual services that a child needs. Thank you.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Sure. So we do have current guidance on those decisions, those students' concerns. Always originate with that school building level committee. We do know, Dr. McKee, there hasn't been a whole lot of guidance or support in recent years from the department released on 504. I think to your point, you know, some of the previous vacancies on the team. But our policy lead Ashley Augustine can certainly, as well as myself, can field any questions, any support that parents have they can reach out to us. Specialeducation@la.gov for sure. Now oversight in terms of complaint management for 504, that always goes through, it goes through currently OCR. So the Office of Civil Rights. But certainly if parents reach out to us with concerns we can connect them, direct them in the right, answer their questions and get them to, you know, if they're looking for a complaint process, if that is a step needed, we can certainly help them get to the right place to do that. But I do think now that our team is staffed, now that we are getting to that place I agree with you, we need additional guidance on the provisions of 504. We also know there was public comment released by federal, by OSEP. They're planning to do a lot of significant updates to the 504 Act. So certainly when those things come out, we will absolutely have to update our guidance, communicate that, relate that. We actually have a team member going soon. We're partnering with some school systems to attend a 504-symposium coming up in Lafayette and an Administrators Association Conference where we're going to sit down with these practitioners and leaders in the field and come up with, Dr. McKee-- our 504 forms haven't been updated for years. So to really look at those and see what needs to happen, what updates are needed, what is the field experiencing and how we can make those services for students better. So I think a short answer is I certainly agree with your concerns.

And we're going to be taking some steps in the near future to provide some support on this. And certainly our contact email for anything that parents have we want to hear it. I mean, we want to hear the concerns. That's the only way we can address it is if we hear the concern.

KIM BASILE: Rekeesha?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes. We have Ms. Kathy Dwyer with her hand raised as well.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Ms. Kathy, the floor is yours.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you so much. Hold on one second. I had to shut off my microwave cause it's beeping letting me know it's ready. Question, at our State Advisory Committee meeting we had a parent express a concern about there wasn't a complaint process for abuse and neglect if the abuse or neglect was done by a school staff person. Naturally it didn't fall under the OCDD umbrella, but we were wanting to find out, you know, what is that process or if there isn't, where does a parent go? Because right now we're reviewing all the processes for abuse and neglect complaints with health standards, child protection, so forth. And it was reported that none of those agencies would handle a complaint of school system personnel doing the abuse or neglect. So is there something at LDE, a process?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yeah. I had this discussion here a couple of times at previous meetings last year as well. For sure, Kathy, you know, DCFS, law enforcement, you know, I mean, we know that we have to get these agencies, we have to report it, we have to get those agencies involved. If we at the department would receive complaints about, heaven forbid, a teacher abusing a child, that is what, those are the appropriate steps. Our educators are mandatory reporters. They go through training. They have to report these instances. Kathy, we do have a state, we do have the dispute resolution process. I am working, I know that I heard concerns around the response, that kind of thing. So I'm working with our team around that. We do have a dispute resolution process. We do have a process by which parents can start in the least adversarial way in trying to work with their school systems and then they, you know, we recommend, you

know, you work up that complaint process to filing a formal complaint with us at the department if necessary. And so we do have that place, that process in place. If you go to our website, you can search dispute resolution and all of those options will come up for parents. But when we talk about abuse and neglect, we have to involve the right agencies to stop that, to address it immediately. I hope that answered, Kathy, if you have anything else, I'm happy to.

KATHY DWYER: Yeah. And I agree. I mean, child protection and your local law enforcement agency needs to be notified right away. And I understand about school employees being mandated reporters. But if it's a school employee doing the abuse and neglect, there's got to be some way for administration to seriously address it. And while I understand you have to get the law enforcement agency involved, there's concerns, I am definitely concerned and other parents are, that at least in Jefferson Parish, I'm not sure about other school systems, Jefferson Parish contracts with Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office for school resource officers. So it seems like then that would be a conflict of interest. Even to get the school resource officer involved because they're technically paid by the school system. So there's got to be a better way that parents know that their concerns are going to be heard and addressed, especially when it comes to neglect and abuse. So I think that's something that maybe the DD Council Education Committee could start looking into. That would be just a suggestion on my part. We need to make sure there's a clear process that does not present any conflict with any of the agencies that should be handling the investigation.

KIM BASILE: Thank you, Kathy. Rekeesha, any more questions?

REKEESHA BRANCH: We do have a few questions in the chat. The first question is, will the-- and this is from Ms. Corhonda Corley. Will the conference registration open back up or will seats be made available for self-advocates, et cetera?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Is that in reference to the Early Childhood Conference this weekend?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes, ma'am. I believe so.

MEREDITH JORDAN: So it's currently full. I hear there is a waiting list. But right now it's not, I don't believe registration will be opened back up for this weekend.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Okay. This question is also from Ms. Corhonda Corley. When was the information about the conference disseminated to the families of individuals with developmental disabilities and to the DD Council, et cetera?

MEREDITH JORDAN: So our early childhood team has been advertising the Early Childhood Conference for quite some time. I'm not real sure. I can get back with you on when they started those communications around that.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Corley would also like to know if the purpose of SEAP is to advise BESE regarding IDEA, then please explain the reasoning for the SEAP meetings taking place post the BESE meetings and not reconvening on pertinent matters that impact and effect individuals with disabilities.

MEREDITH JORDAN: I mean, SEAP can certainly, our cochairs can certainly always ask to reconvene. We try our absolute best when making, when taking SPED, BESE bulletins to BESE to always address, take that to our SEAP. The only reason that our 741 is not, that we don't have another SEAP meeting prior to August BESE. But we feel very passionate that we want to take that SPED camera legislation and codify that in policy at the start of this school year. What I plan to do is do some soft coms with my SEAP members to let them know. Let them take a look at that policy. But we don't have another SEAP meeting prior to August BESE, and we are finalizing some of our final SEAP interviews to actually codify our new members before September.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Okay. Another question is, is the symposium in Lafayette open to the public. If so, can you please provide the link.

MEREDITH JORDAN: I believe that one, the audience is the Louisiana Administrators Conference. So the audience for that is not, let me look it up, it's not my conference or symposium, but let me check. I think the audience there is for school administrators though.

REKEESHA BRANCH: All right. And Ms. Jody Rollins

stated, yes, and someone ask me how well that works. Dispute resolutions need a complete overhaul that is more focused on actual helping parents solve issues. And we do have a few more comments in the chat, but I do see we have two hands raised. Ms. Roslyn and Ms. Jill. Would you like to address them, or would you like for me to continue with the chat?

KIM BASILE: We'll go with the council members. Go ahead, Jill.

JILL HANO: At the beginning of your report you said one of y'all's projects you were working on was charter something. And I didn't write down, I didn't get to write down like literally the second word you said.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Got ya. Yeah. Jill, that was when I was talking about our foundational charter day where we brought in-- charter day. Yeah. We brought in new charter leaders and provided them some development sessions to help them kind of get started. And, of course, we focused on instructional practice, inclusive practice for students with disabilities.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

KIM BASILE: Okay. And Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. I wanted to really know because I wanted with Kathy what she was saying about what, you know, what she was talking about, how many schools were you talking about Kathy or in Jefferson? Cause for me I am in Jefferson in that is there any other schools that really need for their students in that for what I was reading from your report in that. Is that any other schools besides Jefferson?

KIM BASILE: Roslyn, I think because Kathy lives in Jefferson Parish, she was speaking specifically about the parish she lives in. But if you like, we can get somebody with you offline and they can help you understand that.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Well, that's just one of my questions. Also, if I'm not reading right, in your report about libraries, something with an L, like L-I-T-E libraries. Is that like for the grades or is that, what is that?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Absolutely. It's a suite of resources, Jill, a collection of assessments and

activities that educators can use with students to support reading with students. And especially students with disabilities who have reading goals in their IEPs.

ROSLYN HYMEL: It's also with the guidance. Like the first six guidance. Something else with the teachers. What is that one about with it?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Which one are you asking me about, again? I'm sorry.

ROSLYN HYMEL: It's with the same line with the library. The first six.

MEREDITH JORDAN: So those are guidance documents included in that library.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Is that with the teachers or?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes. Those are for educators and teachers. Yes.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. So how does that go about with the students, or with the clients, with the teachers in that library? They attend the work for this first six.

MEREDITH JORDAN: So the literacy library that's linked there, Roslyn, it's talking about an online set of resources, not a physical building library. I think that may be some of our confusing terminology there. So it's a set of resources on our website. That's what's linked there, that literacy library is where you can go and click and find all of these activities and resources that are available for educators.

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

MEREDITH JORDAN: Sorry for that confusion.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you.

KIM BASILE: Rekeesha, are there any more questions in the chat?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Kathy Dwyer has her hand up and we also have about 11 messages in the chat.

KIM BASILE: Oh, my. Okay. Ms. Kathy, you have the floor, but remember you've already spoken once.

KATHY DWYER: Right. Thank you so much. Just one other question about the reports you receive on restraint and seclusion. I'm not super familiar with the law, but I know families have come to me and I've seen some of the reports where it shows some parishes report no restraints or seclusion which to me is very

suspicious. Does LDE do any follow-up with the districts about the number of restraint and seclusion incidences reported and do you also follow-up on those that report none since that doesn't seem possible?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Let me follow up with my team, Kathy, to see if we do any additional outreach. I know that that is self-reported, and we wouldn't know if that happened without that information coming from them. But let me see if we have anything, any additional outreach that we do when we have school systems, and we have several, that say no, we haven't used any seclusion or restraint. I'll find out that answer, Kathy.

KATHY DWYER: Thanks. And I would like to suggest, Kim, if the Education Committee might want to look into this as well.

KIM BASILE: That would be Dr. McKee.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. Thank you.

KIM BASILE: And she has her hand raised, Dr. McKee.

HYACINTH MCKEE: Hi. Thank you. This will be the last time I speak, madam chair, right now. Thank you for recognizing. I just want to say kudos to the public for giving a lot of assignments to the Education and Employment Committee. And I'm actually taking notes on that and I'm certain that one of our education employment staff member, they are probably jotting down as fast as well. So I am taking notes and the intention is to pull them together and get it out to the committee and see if we can have some discussion to address the issues that were noted during the meeting. And thank you, again, for being recognized.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Rekeesha, that just leaves the chat box?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes, ma'am.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Let's go.

REKEESHA BRANCH: All right. Melinda Elliot stated, how does dispute resolution help with abuse by school personnel? Maybe I don't understand.

MEREDITH JORDAN: So the purpose of our dispute resolution process is, and those are required by federal law, is that we have a process in place to receive complaints. I am not saying that that is going

to solve an abuse issue.

REKEESHA BRANCH: All right. And Jody Rollins responded to that by saying they do not, but in daycares the LDOE is all over it. Corhonda Corley had a comment. This topic should be sent to the DEI ad hoc committee to be addressed in addition to the school to prison pipeline, etc. She also had a question. Are the current SEAP chair and cochairs SEAP members?

MEREDITH JORDAN: One of our cochairs is a BESE member. The other cochair whose term just ended we'll have to elect another one. The other cochair is a member.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Okay. The next question from Ms. Corley. Let's see. It says, are those same charter trainings being offered to private school leaders and traditional public-school leaders?

MEREDITH JORDAN: We did similar trainings at Teacher Leader Summit. That particular foundational charter day was for our public charters.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And Ms. Kathy Dwyer made a statement to Roslyn. Sorry, Roslyn. I don't know how many schools are in the Jefferson Parish. Corhonda Corley stated, Jefferson Parish has 81 schools and more than 50,000 students. Kathy Dwyer stated, thank you, Corhonda. Corhonda Corley stated, no problem at all, Kathy. And I anticipate working with you regarding dental services for children with disabilities. Jody Rollins stated, if someone reports zero isn't that a trigger to the LDOE to go and ask for them what's up. To go ask them what's up. Okay. I'm sorry about that, Ms. Jody.

MEREDITH JORDAN: That's what I'm going to find out. Does anyone on our team collecting that data go back and ask them hey, why did you report a zero.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And that was all the questions.

KIM BASILE: All right. Thank you, Rekeesha. Thank you, everyone, for the wonderful chats and questions. This report requires no action and will be placed on file.

NICOLE BANKS: The next item of business is the standing council reports, and we are going to the Office of Aging and Adult Services. And Ms. Sheryl Sullivan is here to give her report.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Banks, you also have a hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm sorry. I didn't see it.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Corhonda Corley has her hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: Ms. Corley, you have the floor.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you so much chair and council. First and foremost, I would like to clear up something that is being misconstrued on whether or not LDOE can actually address children with disabilities being abused. Being a parent and an advocate of a child with disability that has been abused in the school system legally they can address it. Everybody need to know that when it comes to dispute resolution the parents have the process of actually filing that in their due process complaint as far as in pursuing litigation. And then the ALJ will actually tell them that that is not the appropriate court and then they will be recommended to go to further legal process. Now that can be a financial burden on a lot of our parents of children with disabilities which allows this to go unserved and unaddressed. That's where the problem comes about. Additionally, we do have a lot of children with disabilities that are being propelled in a school to prison pipeline. I know that our former deputy director, Mr. Shawn Fleming, and many other council members actually were on a documentary regarding individuals with disabilities being disproportionately propelled into the school to prison pipeline and that has yet to be addressed. I know as an advocate I am constantly in juvenile detention, and we did have bills recently that went before legislative session that was going to further hurt individuals with disabilities if they would have went into a juvenile setting. One of those bills was authored by Senator Jackson. Senator Katrina Jackson if you would like to go back and review it. I did speak on record in regards to how it would impact our individuals with disabilities. I do believe that what we have to look at is one, the definition of what a mandated reporter is. Two, making sure that all of the systems understand that each and every last one of them is supposed to actually address, address the issue. Not

continue to move the issue along into other entities and constantly have the families playing ring around the rosy.

The federal government (inaudible) new information in regards to children with disabilities dealing with SROs as well as abuse and the actual protections that we are (inaudible) so that they are not constantly being retaliated against. That information was disseminated out on the 18th of this month. So I do think that we need to actually address that because right now East Baton Rouge Parish School System will have a school board meeting today in regards to having more armed officers in the school setting. And I am very much aware of the shooting that take place in Uvalde, Texas. But I think that everyone need to read that information that the feds just disseminated out and look at these policies that the school systems are about to try to push and put in place that would have a negative impact on our children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are in the school arena from the age of three to 21. Three to 21. And if that child with a disability receives a charge at the age of 18, they are then legally charged as an adult. Although they may be, you know, in high school setting. So I do think that is something that our DD Council needs to look at as a whole and stop thinking that we are going to get assistance or help from some of these agencies. We as the DD Council really need to truly address this issue. Thank you so much, madam.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Ms. Corley. We appreciate your comments. Sorry. Next item of business is the Office of Aging and Adult Services with Ms. Sherlyn Sullivan to read her report. You have the floor.

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: Okay. Hello, everybody. I am Sherlyn Sullivan. We have a new assistant secretary, Melinda Richard, but she wasn't able to make y'all's meeting today so she asked me to sit in for her. I've been to a couple meetings in the past so those of you who have been here for a while have seen me, heard me in the past. But for the new ones, welcome. So for our report the main thing I want to point out on our report is our wait list for our CCW is extremely low

compared to probably the last time y'all received a report from us. We're down to only 1600 people waiting for service that don't have any service. Now we have 6,000 still on the registry for those services that are receiving some other form of home and community-based service. But for those of you who've been around a while a few years ago we had 30,000 people on our waiting list. So this is extremely exciting news for us.

And then for traumatic head and spinal cord injuries, those numbers haven't moved a lot lately because we weren't able to open cases during Covid. So we had to stop that. And mainly because our collections were down with people not writing tickets or not holding court, one or the other. We are working on that, our funding source. But in the meantime, we were granted some additional state general funds through the legislature this year that has allowed us to start opening those cases. So we're working on getting those lists out to our support coordination agencies now. We'll start seeing those numbers move in the near future. And then for adult protective services not a lot has changed over the last couple years. Cause now we have two full years that we're comparing for you guys. And over the past two years it's been approximately 1600 cases that were accepted. In that bottom box you can see about 27, 26 to 2700 of those were investigated. That's where we are. Y'all have any questions?

NICOLE BANKS: All right. You're recognized.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Ms. Sherlyn, this is Bambi Polotzola. Can you give us an update on the rates for the Office of Aging Services?

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: Honestly, I'm not probably in the best position to do that, but I can certainly get that information and get it back to you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. I think this is very important because it was a big concern of ours whenever the OCDD waiver rates were increased that we were concerned about the disparity that the aging waiver services having a lower rate and just the concern would be is that causing, is the concern we see that's actually causing some problems with accessing service

for our age population.

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: Right. So Julie has her hand up cause she's been on all those calls with Office of Aging, so she actually probably knows the answer for you. So there she is.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah. Happy to help out. So through the American Rescue Plan Act one of the requests was to have the Office of Aging and Adult Services, community choices, personal care attendant service that's similar to the services in the OCDD waivers provided by personal care attendants/direct support workers/direct support professionals, to have their rates brought to the same level as OCDD. So that would be approximately \$18.50 per hour. That has been approved through the American Rescue Plan Act. We have, even though it's approved in the American Rescue Plan Act, we still have to do waiver amendments. So OAAS has done an appendix K waiver amendment that has gotten approved. We are nearly finished with doing an emergency rule because we also have to have a rule to make that change. And we're in the process once that emergency rule goes through, then we'll have to get it into our billing system. But it will be effective immediately, but it will also include some retroactive payments. I believe Elizabeth said yesterday in a meeting we were in back to October 1.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Of last year?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So that 18.50 when it does go into effect providers or?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes. They'll have a retroactive payment and that will be in place moving forward until March of 2025 when the American Rescue Plan Act ends or until we run out of money.

JILL EGLE: Ms. Julie, is that for providers Arc of GNO?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I don't believe Arc of GNO does Office of Aging and Adult Services.

JILL EGLE: They do strictly through you.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Right. And so what this does, what I'm saying now is the services through Office of Aging and Adult Services and the services through Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities we

will make them the same.

JILL EGLE: What's the difference?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So in order to receive services through OCDD then you have to have a disability that began before the age of 21. If your services, if you have a disability that happens after-- well, I'm sorry. Up to 22 years old or later then that's called adult-onset disability.

JILL EGLE: Okay.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Or after a certain age, I don't even know what that age is anymore, Sherlyn may know that, you're considered elderly, and you can get services through Office of Aging. So either adult-- that's why it's called Office of Aging and Adult Services. Adult-onset disability or the elderly population. So that's sort of what's different about. But a lot of the services we have are similar so and they have home and community-based waiver services in the same way we have home and community-based services. So but, yes. It will be retroactive and then it will go forward. Now, I have been asked for all of the things in American Rescue Plan Act, cause they're temporary, we will be making requests from the legislature once that funding is gone to be able to continue some of those things. So that will just be dependent on if we can get the additional funds that we need to be able to continue them once the American Rescue Plan Act dollars under section 9817 are done cause there's lots of different American Rescue Plan. So the ones I'm talking about are specific to home and community-based services.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just to follow up on that. So it's great that it will be retroactive, but, and I know this is not any fault of the Department of Health because y'all have been dealing with a lot of things to get this through the process, but the providers will be paid this additional, I forgot how much community choice waivers are now, but significantly less. So providers will get this windfall of money. Which they need a catch-up because they haven't been paid enough for a long time. But I don't think any of them have been paying their workers more because they didn't know when this was coming. They couldn't front it for this

period of time. So I think the impact on the clients and the workers won't be that great for this one-year period. Maybe in some way.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Let me verify. That part I do need to verify with Elizabeth, Sherlyn. I just believe she said there is some retroactivity.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm not qualifying that that is a good or bad thing because that might help make providers whole and they can do some creative things and that type of thing. It's just that I imagine that no providers have been paying it, they couldn't do that for a year's time, to be paying an enhanced rate while they're waiting for this rate increase.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: There is also with the rate increase there will be some language and it's in the rule and I don't want to try to bungle their rule. But there will be some requirements for money to go to the direct support workers, you know, in their emergency rule tied to their rate increase as well. But I don't know how the retro activity then impacts that. If it's moving forward or what that looks like.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I have one other question for Sherlyn. In regards, you talked about how the waiting list is reduced, and that's wonderful. That is tremendous that that has happened. But when you look at the current recipients, and I'm sure we can go back and look at all the past DD Council reports over several years. I would like to see like some type, maybe on next quarter report, some type of graph that shows the increase in people being served as well as like something showing the decrease in our waiting list. I think that would just be something visually that people can see. And also favorable towards all the work Office of Aging has done and LDH to address this issue.

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: Yeah, Bambi, we can definitely get that to you guys. I think we already have the data somewhere. Probably not compiled in a report, but I'm sure it would be easy to slap it into a report for you guys, but we can do that. Now one thing y'all will have to remember though is that you may not see a huge increase for in how many people were served for various reasons. We have a lot of attrition that happens as

we're opening cases. And, of course, we still have more slots to fill because another thing that happened in the legislature that I forgot to mention is we got another 250 slots. So we're trying to get those filled as well this fiscal year. But we have attrition that happens too. And people, unfortunately, pass away, they move out of state. Different things happen. But we can definitely get that information to you guys.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you.

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: You're welcome.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Banks, we have two hands raised. Ms. Jill Hano was raised first.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Hano, you're recognized.

JILL HANO: Actually, can I excuse myself and Roslyn go first and then I'll go?

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. That's fine. Roslyn, you have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. Now from what I'm understanding for what you were really saying in that, how many cases with the money is there going to be in tha? Is that going to be decreased or is it going to build straight up for everybody in that kind of report that you just gave?

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: All right. I'm trying to make sure I understand the question. Are you asking me if the same money we are already receiving if we're going to be able to assist more clients or the same clients. Was that the question?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Like to have it, you know, both ways. Are y'all going to add more clients?

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: Yes. We are actively opening cases. It's just that in some cases you're going to find some attrition happening at the same time. Sometimes even at the same rate. But hopefully, to Bambi's point, you'll be able to see where the number of clients we're serving is increasing, even as the wait list is decreasing. That's what we should be able to see on that graph.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Even with the-- what is it that you mentioned? I can't get the word out.

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: The new slots, the 250 new slots. Yes, those are going to be added to our total

number of slots we can have. Because that's been a huge barrier in the past.

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. I mean, with the diet plan, if I heard you plan. I can't even say it. Is there something else with that?

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: I'm thinking maybe you misunderstood me. I said we had 200 new slots. But I said with attrition some people are passing away during the same time.

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's the word. That's what I'm trying to say. I couldn't say it.

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: That's fine. Did I answer your question?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. That was it.

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: Good deal.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Roslyn. Jill, you have the floor.

REKEESHA BRANCH: I don't believe she's back yet, Ms. Banks. But we do have a comment and a question in the chat. The comment came from Ms. Kathleen Canino in reference to the education portion. She stated, that for schools a report for abuse can be filed to LDOE under disability harassment. Corhonda Corley, she asked a question, can you address if individuals with disabilities can change the waiver they qualify to receive if that waiver does not meet their needs. Please explain the process.

SHERLYN SULLIVAN: If I'm understanding that question correctly, and Julie help me out here, I believe the way you would change a waiver if it doesn't meet your needs is you would go back through our process of being reevaluated through our long-term care access program. I think other than that we do do reassessments I think yearly. Again, don't quote me on that. But you can contact your support coordinator. Your person can help you get that done if it needs to be done. Now when we assess, maybe we say yes, we agree with you, maybe we don't. I don't know. It's all depending on what happens in the assessment process. Julie, you have anything to add there?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: There's an annual plan of care for the Office of Aging and Adult Services waiver similar to the Office for Citizens with Developmental

Disabilities waivers. They have an annual plan of care at which time, you know, they look at whether folks needs are being met or do they need additional services. And that's all highlighted in the person's plan of care.

NICOLE BANKS: All right.

AMY DEAVILLE: I don't see any further hands or comment.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. We're going to move right along to the next item of business and that is the--

REKEESHA BRANCH: I'm sorry, Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

REKEESHA BRANCH: I'm sorry, Ms. Banks. Ms. Jill came back. She would like to speak.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, okay. I'm sorry, Jill. I didn't see you. Go ahead. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Sorry. Just following up. Any news on when we plan to appoint a member from OAAS?

AMY DEAVILLE: Ms. Melinda Richard was just appointed. But she was unable to attend today. That's why Ms. Sullivan is here in her place.

JILL HANO: Okay. All right. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you. All right. The next item of business is the report of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affair. Recognize Cheri Crain for their report.

CHERI CRAIN: Good afternoon, everybody. As of March services have been restored to our senior centers. They were able to open, our Council on Aging have opened. The only problem is is that we still have sporadic closures due to exposure. So we've had Livingston closed for a couple weeks. We've had Caldwell closed for a couple weeks. So there is still some numbers going up and exposures going on. But for the most part all the services have been restored with still some, you know, changes as far as congregate meals are not happening as much, but they are still doing your grab and go meals, that kind of thing so they are still getting those meals. Couldn't really give you any numbers because we are in the process of closing out the year and so those numbers come a little bit later at the end of the year, not until August that

they have to report those. So don't really have a lot of numbers yet to finish out the whole year.

Ombudsman, they have finally been able to go back into those nursing facilities and, you know, be that mediator between facility and the constituent as needed. They did receive some American Rescue dollars. So we have really drummed up our volunteer program. We did a media campaign for that. We did activity books and (inaudible) that issue to get the word out of that need to get volunteers involved in that.

The next is elderly protective services. I was able to get some numbers for them, but they're not all the way up to June 30th. So as of last year July 1st, 2021, this report was done last month so they currently opened 4,963 cases. Of those cases, 429 cases were classified as high priority and 3,008 were classified as medium. So since Covid we have seen an uptick in the numbers as far as high and medium cases. And really depends on what area and, you know, other factors in there. So kind of broke down the types of reports that we received. Two-hundred-ninety-seven were due to caregiver neglect. Hundred-twenty-four emotional abuse. Forty-eight extortion. Financial exploitation, 216. Fiscal abuse, 101. Self-neglect, 438. Which is the highest. Sexual abuse, 11. And then seven fell into other category. So they also, Elderly Protective Service also received two grants funding with the American Rescue Plan. So they have upped their training. Not only for the investigators, but also for police officers, those police juries, some attorneys to get them all in the same room and just kind of bounce ideas off of each other to try and see, you know, what they can do to help in those, especially those self-neglect cases. Where, you know, they don't want to report, they don't want anybody in the house until a neighbor calls and makes a report and then they go out and find out that, you know, self-neglect.

The next program is our aging and disability resource center. Not too much has changed there. Except the number of calls have increased for those resources. Kind of picking up prescriptions, transportation, doctor visits, stuff like that has increased. But other than that they're still just

moving along with their normal day to day process. MIPPA, our MIPPA program we just closed out the 2020 grant because we did get a 12-month extension. We just did a 12-month extension for the 2021 grant which will now end June 30th of 2023. And we just submitted the grant proposal for the new grant that starts October of this year to go to next year. So we still will have two grants running concurrently to help those seniors in the councils enroll in Medicare and for open enrollment and during the session. Which usually starts October 15th and ends December 7th. Those days fluctuate depending on what day of the week those days fall on. And other than that, that is about it for the report. Any questions?

NICOLE BANKS: Any questions from the council?
From the public?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No questions.

NICOLE BANKS: Any in the chat?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No, ma'am.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. Next item of business is the report of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. The chair recognizes Ms. Melissa Bayham for her report.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you. Good afternoon. My report's on the brightest sheet of paper that you have. You were tired, now you're awake now. The first section of the report is on preemployment transition services. Which are services for students with disabilities. We're currently serving 3,051 students statewide. And we currently have 14 active third party cooperative arrangements. Which those arrangements are arrangements that we have directly with school districts to provide the preemployment transition services. In the other districts these services were typically provided by one of our community rehabilitation programs.

The next section is just some numbers on our vocational rehabilitation program, which is the primary program within Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. And that gives you our quarterly numbers. So for the quarter we served 8,508 in vocational rehabilitation and 2,448 in just preemployment transition services.

The next chart I will show you the council has asked for numbers on the number of DD open VR cases per region. So that will give you your regional numbers of the number of individuals that we're serving throughout the state. Then you will have the numbers for individuals for closed rehabilitated. So for the quarter we closed 82 individuals. And that means that they had been working for a minimum of 90 days in competitive integrated employment.

The next set of numbers you will see are for our REDS which is our rehabilitation employment development specialists. The council has also asked for these numbers. The REDS is basically in-house job developers. So we primarily use community rehabilitation programs to do job placement, but we do have these job developers on staff. So you will see per region the number of individuals that they are serving. We currently have a REDS in each region now except for Houma and Lafayette. We just lost our Lafayette REDS. So we will be trying to replace those.

Our advisory council is the Louisiana Rehabilitation Council, and we will be meeting August the third. And actually it says on here the location is still to be determined. It will be at the Courtyard Marriott which is off of Siegen Lane. Which is where our in-person meetings have been if you're ever attended a Louisiana Rehab Council meeting. We will be having a statewide disability inclusion job fair. It will be a virtual job fair that we will be holding in collaboration with Healthy Blue who has sponsored this event. And it will be on October 12th, and I will provide more information as that becomes available.

Also wanted to give a couple of other updates. For customized employment we will begin the next phase of training in the fall. LSU HDC staff are working with the University of South Florida to become certified customized employment trainers. So in the fall we will be recruiting community rehab programs and learning partners for the next phase of that particular training. Also, and this was addressed by Dr. McKee in her report, but we are working on our rate setting procedures with the Rehabilitation Services Administration which is our federal partner. We will

be submitting at the end of the month for approval our rate setting procedures. And we've sent it to them before and they've come back with some comments and so we're sending it to them again. So hopefully it will get approved with this quarterly report. And that's just the methodology in which we establish rates. We have lots of rates in Louisiana Rehabilitation Services because we have a lot of services that we provide. So we are also considering using a consulting company to conduct a rate study to be able to get our rates where they need to be.

And the last update I will give I shared with you all before that LRS received a grant through the Disability Innovation Fund. And it is called project Stem Up and it's in conjunction with Southern University of Baton Rouge, Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Michigan State University. And so we are working to assist individuals in marginalized populations to either obtain or advance in employment and in STEM occupations. And that will be done with a lot of different intensive services. But one thing that will be unique is that they will be using, when I say they, Southern University will be hiring career pathway coordinators and they will be using social cognitive career theory to assist these consumers in helping them to obtain and maintain employment in that particular field.

We recently had our first community advisory board meeting for that particular grant. And so services will begin soon. With state government, you know, it takes a minute to get contracts approved and things like that. So we're waiting to get the contract approved for Southern University so that they can hire the career pathway coordinators. They will be working in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Monroe and Lafayette to do the intensive services. But also the intention of the grant is to train our rehabilitation counselors in social cognitive career theory so that it could be used statewide with our consumers. So that concludes my report, but I'm happy to take any questions.

NICOLE BANKS: Dr. Phil, you're recognized.

PHIL WILSON: I'm just curious, do you envision being able to, I mean, obviously, LRS serves a larger

population than just individuals with developmental disabilities. Do you know if there's going to be any way to look at the extent of involvement of individuals with developmental disabilities in the STEM Up project? I mean, how much is it going to touch this community?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I am not sure. And we can definitely figure out that information, you know. But yeah, I'll definitely bring that up.

PHIL WILSON: And just as a quick follow up to that then. I'm not really, my memory is not that great for names, but Operation Spark. Are you familiar with Operation Spark in New Orleans and Families Helping Families?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Just briefly.

PHIL WILSON: But they are focusing on primarily autism, but other developmental disabilities as well. A nice connection if there's resources, whether it's just PD kind of stuff for them and making other.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Roslyn, you have your hand raised. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you. Now in your report that's saying in that is for you wanted to see-- wait a minute. Because like for the regions you only have up to eight and I was reading that. So what happened to like nine and ten? Those two regions.

MELISSA BAYHAM: That's a good question, Roslyn. So we use the Department of Labor regions which are different from, I don't know if this is Department of Health regions, I know it's the ones y'all use. I guess it's the Department of Health regions. So I think nine, what's in region nine?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: St. Tammany.

MELISSA BAYHAM: So region nine I believe is primarily going to be region one for us. There might be some region two in there a little bit. And then region ten is Jefferson, correct?

ROSLYN HYMEL: That's where I'm at because for me when I didn't see that, and I'm like, wait a minute, like why there is no nine and no ten and I'm like.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I don't know why our government, we have to have different regions, but for some reason we do. But region ten is going to be our region one.

ROSLYN HYMEL: And also there is some zeros to six

and eight. So that means y'all didn't get your report from them?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm sorry. Where are you looking? At the rehabilitation employment development specialist report?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah.

MELISSA BAYHAM: The job training contracts.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. Zeros up to like six. And then you have 46. And then you have another zero on eight.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. So yeah, I don't want zeros either. Now the zeros that you see the most of in that column, that's for on-the-job training. Which is a service that we can obviously provide, but it's not one that's utilized as much as it should be. But as you can see the REDS in region seven in Shreveport does a great job with on-the-job training. Which is why he was just promoted to a supervisor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Well, yeah. That one's a good one.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Could the other ones kind of step up?

MELISSA BAYHAM: And actually, we use him a lot to train the REDS. But like in region six, that's Alexandria. That's a brand-new REDS. So she's in training. We just were able to hire our REDS in that particular region. And then region eight, she's a relatively new REDS as well. And actually region eight, what I've also been told is that they have very strong community rehabilitation programs there and so our REDS isn't utilized as much for job placement as in other regions.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Oh, okay. I was just wondering why. When I read it, it was like okay. It was ding, little light came in my head for this question.

MELISSA BAYHAM: No problem.

ROSLYN HYMEL: So is there going to be any more for Jefferson Parish?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Any more what?

ROSLYN HYMEL: Training for them to get jobs.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. I mean, we try to do that in all of our regions throughout the state. I'm not sure what specific kind of training you're referring

to. But we provide job readiness training throughout the state.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I mean, I know Jefferson is pretty large. It's a lot.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right.

ROSLYN HYMEL: You know. I don't know if it's really big. I don't know if I can use that word or that term big.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. Jefferson definitely is large. New Orleans region is one of our largest regions. And we have probably, actually, right now probably most of our counselors they have the most number of counselors in New Orleans, but they need more. So we try to reach the population as best as we can.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yeah. That's what I wanted to know in that if we are going to really step up some more, you know, to meet up.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. Right. I'm hoping to step up everywhere. I know I didn't discuss this in my report, but we discussed it earlier. We're having trouble recruiting and retraining employees because of the pay which we discussed earlier in the meeting. So hopefully when some of those things can be addressed, because I have over 20 vacancies for rehabilitation counselors and that's what causes us to be not as effective as I would like us to be.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you. That's what I wanted to know right there.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Do we have any comments from the public?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes. Ms. Melinda Elliot stated, well, actually a question. Do you ever have the LRC meeting virtually?

MELISSA BAYHAM: We did during the pandemic, but our understanding from our legal department is we have to have our meetings completely in-person.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And those are all the questions from the chat.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. There's no other comments, this report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is report of Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and the chair

recognizes Bambi Polotzola for the report.

REKEESHA BRANCH: I'm sorry. Ms. Bambi, I'm so sorry. Ms. Corhonda Corley, just a moment ago she just wanted to know reasoning. She questions reason. Her question is reasoning.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm sorry. Reasoning for what in particular?

REKEESHA BRANCH: The LRC meeting virtually.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Our department has stated that our meetings have to be in-person. That's their interpretation. I'm not sure.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And Ms. Melinda Elliot stated, so LRC doesn't need to have accommodations like GODA and DDC?

MELISSA BAYHAM: That would be a discussion I would have to have with legal.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Kathy Dwyer stated the national health emergency is still in effect and it would be an ADA accommodation.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. I will bring that back.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And we also have a hand raised. Ms. Kathy Monroe.

NICOLE BANKS: Ms. Kelly Monroe.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Kelly Monroe. Thank you. Sorry.

KELLY MONROE: Hey, guys.

NICOLE BANKS: We can hear you.

KELLY MONROE: Okay. Can y'all hear me now?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am.

KELLY MONROE: Okay. So I'm wondering if the HCR that was passed this year would work in this situation, the one that Representative Amedee, passed where it-- I mean, it didn't require people to be able to have the meetings in-person, I mean, virtually. But it did say that if you could do it both ways and allow the public, and families, and individuals to participate, that they could. Is there any way that you can check on that one, Melissa, maybe and do like both?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Sure. Can you send me that particular bill number or whatever it is?

KELLY MONROE: Yep. I'll send you the bill.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you.

KELLY MONROE: Okay.

NICOLE BANKS: All right.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Corhonda also, the next question is, the meetings, considering they serve the individuals with disabilities, wouldn't they fall under the same qualifications as any other agency?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I will certainly check into this. We just defaulted back to the requirements prior to the pandemic. But I can certainly get with the legal department about the concerns.

NICOLE BANKS: All right.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Kathy Dwyer stated I think we should make every effort to make all DD agency meetings as accessible as possible. Ms. Corhonda has another question. Does the DDC have results on the AG opinion on this topic?

AMY DEAVILLE: The AG declined to give an opinion. I was able to speak to, I mean, they do that fairly regularly. I was able to speak with one of the attorneys on staff who when I told her what it was that we were doing and how we were doing it, she said that was fine, offering the ADA accommodations for our community members who requested that. Which is what we're continuing to do, which is why we're in this hybrid model. And public attending via Zoom was fine in that unofficial AG opinion that I got as well.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Do we have any more questions?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No, ma'am.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. All right. The next item of business. Go ahead, Ms. Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi, everyone. My paper is on the, I don't know what this is, greenish color paper. Mint paper. And first I want to talk about our conference that's going to be next week. If I can have the staff to put the link to our schedule in the chat, on the YouTube streaming so people can register as I'm talking about it. And also look at our schedule. We will be having the annual GODA conference next week, Monday through Thursday. Basically it's nine to four every day. I think Wednesday's schedule might be a little bit different than that. But basically between those timeframes. If you haven't seen the schedule of sessions, you should because it is very diverse. Very, I think it's going to be really great. We have some

exciting panels. We have some exciting speakers. And really appreciate-- this year we did request for proposal so most of the sessions, the presentations are from people who submitted proposals. Our panels are based on our ideas of really looking at intersectionality of disabilities and other groups of people. And so it's going to be really exciting. So please look at that and register. And if you register, even if you can't attend, you can receive the recording to watch it later. And once you receive the link it will be the same link for every session throughout the week so there's no confusion. One Zoom link for the entire conference.

We have also just a little bit about GACDA. We are working on drafting a document outlining best practices. Have an error on here. But it's best practices for the Special Ed Advisory Council. And then also FAQ sheet in regards to cameras in the classroom. We're also working on some things around transportation and looking at trying to engage the Department of Transportation regarding gaps in transportation services in rural areas. Then I will skip over. In regards to emergency management there are some links in the report that give access to some information. It's a Google doc, but basically update that very regularly and there are a lot of opportunities for information if you are interested in helping to either for yourself or for your organization in regards to being more proactive, with being proactive in regards to disasters and people with disabilities.

Also, accessible voting. So Lillian DeJean served on the Voting System Commission and did an incredible job representing people with disabilities. I think that maybe a few times she stalled the process by being a, bringing up the issues that are very real issues for people with disabilities that many people would have never thought about. The commission was supposed to make recommendations to be 100 percent hand ballot and that is not what came out of the commission, and I attribute a lot of that to Lillian's participation on that commission. So just wanted to recognize her for that.

Also, this legislative session in regards to voting there's House Concurrent Resolution 14. Which is creating a task force for voting rights for people with disabilities. And many of us who are here helped to craft that resolution which we'll have at least a majority of the people will be people with disabilities by design. The organizations are required to appoint people to that task force that have disabilities. So we're really excited to lead by example that we should have majority of people with disabilities on a legislative task force.

And then last on the report, William Romero, who's sitting over there kind of by Lillian. He's in the audience. We're glad to have him working in our office this summer. He is a governor's fellow in which is 11 college students that are very high performing college students who are selected, and they are assigned to cabinet level offices in the state and working besides people. And although I am not a cabinet level position, William chose us and we're so glad and we're going to miss him when he's gone in about a week or two. And he really helped a lot with our legislation towards the end of the session as well as he's been helping with developing our conference. And so, and also, just a note, William was the 2019 youth of the year gold award recipient. Not to be confused with the 2017 youth of the year who is Lillian DeJean. Thank you. That's my report.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Do we have any questions from the council? Okay. Jill, you have the floor.

JILL HANO: Okay. So Bambi, if I register for this GODA conference I can watch any session at my leisure?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any session you want. Yep. With the same link.

JILL HANO: So at leisure, right?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, ma'am. And you also get that link that you see that has at the end GODA conference 22 schedule, that will be updated and hyperlinked with recordings once the recordings of the session-- so keep that link will get you back a month or two months from now. That will have everything compiled at that one link.

JILL HANO: The link that's on the paper that's on

the copy of paper?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. It's hyperlinked on the website. It's bit.lee/godacon22schedule. It's on that picture. I tried to make the link shorter. I did the best I could with shortening the link.

JILL HANO: Okay. Good job, friend.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you. I'm very proud.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can you send the link again because I lost the link?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

ROSLYN HYMEL: And I'm trying to look for it and I can't find it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm trying to send it to you right now, Roslyn.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Thank you. I appreciate it. I couldn't get two of them.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Do we have any public comment? I see that we have some comments up in the chat.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Okay. We have one comment from Kelly-- sorry. From Corhonda Corley. It says, super awesome, Kelly. Let's discuss the way to disseminate this information throughout the DD community. Especially the areas that do not have access to Wi-Fi.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. It was two comments, correct, or just one?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes. They were kind of talking back and forth. I can go over those comments too if you would like?

NICOLE BANKS: No. That's okay. All right. If no more questions, then--

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Jill has her hand up again.

NICOLE BANKS: Sorry. I just saw that. Go ahead, Jill. You have the floor.

HANNAH JENKINS: Jill, you're muted.

JILL HANO: Can you email this registration link to me because I thought I could email it to myself, but I am definitely not that computer savvy.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. I'll do that right now.

JILL HANO: All right. Thank you.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And Ms. Banks, we have two more comments in the chat. Ms. Kathy Dwyer stated, Kelly, did that resolution pass? And she said, yes. And Dr.

McKee stated, I will be signing off at 2:40 p.m.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, Dr. McKee. All right. If there's nothing else, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. Our next item of business is the report from the Office of Disability Rights of Louisiana and the chair recognizes Mr. Tony Rocca for the report.

TORY ROCCA: Thank you. My report is on, I think, the lavenderish paper and I will get to the high points. During the most recent report our Client Assistance Program which provides information and referrals as well as general advocacy (inaudible) LRS eligible clients through the vocational rehabilitation process. Also includes (inaudible) services and transition services offered by LRS between February 1st and June 1st of this year. That program opened with 13 new cases during that period and closed 13 cases. I will try and talk more loudly. Our community living ombudsman program, in that program trained advocates known as ombudsman advocate for people with developmental disabilities who live in state licensed privately run group homes across the state. And between February 1st and June 1st that program filed 11 complaints with health standards and those complaints included reports and observations in ICFDDs. During this period two allegations of possible physical assault of staff. Four allegations of severe understaffing. Four allegations of neglect of resident health. One allegation of lack of access to medical care. One allegation of lack of access to dental care. One allegation of disclosing resident medical information. (Inaudible) allegations of improper behavior planning. One allegation of not providing medication as prescribed. One allegation of unsanitary building conditions. And one allegation of abuse by staff.

Our supported independent living advocacy program serves individuals with developmental disabilities who are receiving OCDD waiver services and supports. And in order to live in their homes in the community this program provides free services to people residing in supported independent living environments. (Inaudible) and the human services districts 1, 2 and ten which

encompass the Greater New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. That program received 11 new clients and currently updates for (inaudible) of the clients consistently.

Our WIPAA program helps social security disability beneficiaries to understand how earnings from work can affect their benefits, including healthcare and all their public benefit programs. WIPAA assist beneficiaries in accessing employment supports, ABLE accounts and community resources. WIPAA also provides technical assistance to other programs in our organization regarding social security, Medicaid and other public benefit program policies. During the third quarter WIPAA received 103 referrals from the social security ticket to work helpline. It now has 329 beneficiaries enrolled in this fiscal year and 58 percent of all referrals have completed initial services and are either working or actively pursuing employment. WIPAA also assisted 34 percent of program participants with wage reporting to social security and assisted 24 percent to apply for vocational rehabilitation services with the state VR agency or employment networks. That's a summary from my report. We do have one announcement. We are looking for clients right now. And the criteria that we are looking for are people who are between three to 20 years old. So under 21. Lives in Louisiana. On Medicaid. Has a developmental disability. Does not have a waiver, but is on the waiting list for a waiver, including those with SUN scores of zero, one and two. And if so, and not having all their medical, therapeutic or AT needs met. Our (inaudible) of advocacy would want them to call our office and mention Chisholm. We are looking for new clients to meet those criteria. That's a lot. I can send somebody an email that maybe can be sent out to people. But we are trying to do outreach to new clients. And that's it.

NICOLE BANKS: Jill, I see your hand raised.

JILL HANO: Can I talk?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am.

JILL HANO: Okay. I think I just answered my own question. Is this project new?

TORY ROCCA: Which project is that, Jill?

EBONY HAVEN: NOLAC project.

TORY ROCCA: Let's see.

JILL HANO: It says 2020.

TORY ROCCA: That has been around since 2020. So that project is a collaborative process we're working on that's been around since 2020. I don't have a lot of updates or any updates on actual results yet on that. I think we're still working with our partners on that to try and get it in more condition that we want it to be in. Honestly, I was talking to a person in my organization who works on that project and we're still trying to sort of get our partners and all together and operating towards an objective on that. So nothing to report on actual results from that program, but it has been going on since 2020. I do suspect that a lot of the pandemic shutdown sort of interrupted some people's ability to take part in this.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Roslyn, you have your hand raised. You have the floor.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Yes. For the clients in that in all, for what group homes are you really talking about?

TORY ROCCA: You mean, specific names of group homes?

ROSLYN HYMEL: I'm from the group home in that so and I have an ombudsman as well.

TORY ROCCA: In terms of names of group homes I would have to ask the person who runs that department in my organization to know which ones. And if we're allowed to disclose those right now. We may be able to, but I would have to check. If you like, I can get back with you. We can exchange emails or numbers and I can try and find out the details from the person who runs that program. But in terms of more details on which group homes, I don't have that in front of me right now.

ROSLYN HYMEL: All right. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Do we have any public comments in regards to Mr. Rocca's report?

REKEESHA BRANCH: We have a hand raised, Ms. Kathy Dwyer.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Dwyer, you have the floor.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you so much, madam chairwoman.

I was wondering when ombudsmen go to visit ICFDD facilities, including group homes, and observe anything that's of concern, what is the process other than just reporting it to DRLA? Is there something DRLA does with that information? Do they investigate further? Do they file any kind of legal action either for an individual or when there's a large group at a facility that's experiencing problems? How does that work?

TORY ROCCA: It varies on a case-by-case basis. We do have people who the ombudsman will report to their superior and discuss in a meeting of that department to decide if there are things we can do about that. And what to do and if legal action is merited that involves our legal department. See if they are going to commit resources to it or the attorneys feel they have something to do. Actually, we are planning on having a webinar on our intake procedures on this in August. I don't have an exact date right now. But this is actually in part in response to an issue that you raised, Kathy, at I think the OCDD SAC meeting about wanting to know more about the procedures, how we handle complaints. I did talk to our assistant legal director and the community advocacy director on this. And they do intend, in August is the current tentative schedule, to have a webinar on this that everyone can attend to learn more about our intake procedures on this. And unfortunately, I don't have an exact date right now, but that is coming up. We'll publicize that as much as possible when we set an exact date on it.

KATHY DWYER: Great. I still would like y'all to present at the SAC meeting at some point in the future if that's possible. But thank you so much. That was helpful.

TORY ROCCA: Thanks.

NICOLE BANKS: All right.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can I please be excused in that because I will lose y'all?

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you, Roslyn, for letting us know. Is there anything in the chat?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes. We have one comment from Ms. Angela Harmon. What are the requirements for the client, I think you called Chisholm.

TORY ROCCA: Oh, sure. I can read those again.

Sorry, it's a bit of a long list. The client is between three and 20 years old inclusive. So under 21. Lives in Louisiana. Is on Medicaid. Has a developmental disability. Does not have a waiver, but is on the waiting list for a waiver including those with SUN scores of zero, one, and two. And if they are not having their medical, therapeutic or AT needs met, please have them call us. So under 21, lives in Louisiana, has a developmental disability, doesn't have a waiver but is on the waiting list, SUN score of zero, one and two.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Did you get what he said, or do we have to put it in the chat so you can have all the information, Ms. Angela?

ANGELA HARMON: I'm sorry. I got it. Thank you so much.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

TORY ROCCA: Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Are there any more questions or comments?

REKEESHA BRANCH: And Ms. Kathy Dwyer has her hand raised again.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay, Ms. Dwyer, you have the floor. Ms. Dwyer.

KATHY DWYER: Sorry. Can you hear me now?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. If there's a lot of background noise I'm driving in the rain. I'm curious as to why it's limited to age 20. There could be adults with developmental disabilities whose disabilities were diagnosed before 22 that had never been on the waiver and scored low. Is there some reason you're limiting the age group for that group?

TORY ROCCA: I honestly do not know. Bambi knows more than I know about this. It's because it's the Chisholm class, actually. So that's why. Thank you.

KATHY DWYER: Is there any way to expand it?

TORY ROCCA: These are the parameters set by our director-- also this is what directly our director of this department asked me to ask for. But that is the class. Thanks, Bambi.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. If you would just bring to their attention that they might be leaving out a group

of adults who truly have a developmental disability and had never been on a waiver before whose needs are not being met.

TORY ROCCA: Okay.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. I recognize you, Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just to respond to what Kathy said. I think, Kathy, probably the strategy is that this is a particular lawsuit, so they are able to leverage that law of the Chisholm class that that age group falls into that lawsuit. So not that other people I'm sure can call Disability Rights Louisiana and they'll address it that way. But this is a particular class. And also, I was going to ask before saying that, I get a lot of calls around needs for education, K12 education for students with disabilities. Like legal assistance to ensure that IDEA is being followed. And I don't see anything in your report around that. So can you talk about what Disability Rights is doing to address those education issues.

TORY ROCCA: So we do have an attorney on staff who does that kind of work. So we do take claims like that. I sit in all our legal department, not all, but at least one legal department meeting per week when we discuss intakes. And a lot of times we have people calling me with intake questions. So a lot of people may not understand that we have an attorney there to take that. We haven't had anything in the last couple of years. We're ramping up our social media quite a bit, but part of it (inaudible) more outreach on our part because sometimes we don't have many calls on that. People may not just know to call us. At some point our marketing budget is somewhat limited. But we do have an attorney who actually takes that. We do work with people who have IEPs that are not being met.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And so I know in regards to what Disability Rights does, you can't necessarily work on every individual case, that you often look at more systemic type issues. And so if people call and y'all are able to have data to show we continue to get a call about these issues, even if you can't work on individual issues, that y'all use that data to then be able to decide how you would maybe address that in a

more systemic type way.

TORY ROCCA: So in terms of update on how many cases, a lot of it does come down to just not getting the calls in the first place. (Inaudible) if we don't know about it, nobody contacts us. In terms of...

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Like the number of calls you're getting about there's an issue and perhaps you can't address that as a singular issue, but you see you're getting a dozen calls a month from all over the state about a particular issue, then that would be how you make decisions?

TORY ROCCA: That might would be something that we need to have more systemic piece of litigation depending on whether or not we thought we had a legal basis for it and the resources to do it. But yes, we have a lot of people calling me about the same complaint we might actually take more action than just an individual case. But we do a lot of individual cases too. We do some large systemic stuff under litigation against Department of Corrections. Going on for five years. A lot of resources. But we also, our attorneys have lots of individual cases. A lot of that is subject to how many calls we actually get from people who are interested (inaudible).

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Do we have any more comments?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Kathleen Canino, she has her hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Kathleen, you have the floor.

KATHLEEN CANINO: Hi. I just wanted to follow up on what Bambi just asked. And so is that Disability Rights Louisiana?

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

KATHLEEN CANINO: Because I have parents and I have called, and they said they're only on emergency basis taking people. They don't have enough attorneys. And I have one mom who's been waiting a month to hear back from the attorney. So I was under the impression that y'all, there wasn't enough attorneys to go around, basically.

TORY ROCCA: That has been an issue in recent

months. We have had some turnover in the legal department, so we had to restaff some of our attorneys recently. So I'm not sure what the exact issue is. Can certainly handle those, just not an attorney (inaudible) who has the expertise right now. We have in recent months had turnover within the department like a lot of people it's hard to find staff and challenging to find qualified staff to bring in. It's actually surprisingly challenging to find people who have experience in disability law to come and work with us. That is a challenge. But we are actually taking in. We are doing intakes and taking individual cases subject we have the attorney to actually do the work.

KATHLEEN CANINO: Okay. So are y'all still on emergency basis currently?

TORY ROCCA: That, I don't know. I have not heard anybody say that in most recent meetings of our legal department that I have been in. So I don't know if we're operating on emergency basis or that's even a term that our legal department is using or has used. We definitely had to replace attorneys recently. So I don't know if we're on it. I can get your contact, or you can get mine and you can call me, and I can see what's going on with or see exactly what the status is.

KATHLEEN CANINO: Okay. I don't know what's easier. I can put my email in the chat.

TORY ROCCA: If somebody can get that to me because I don't have the meeting on my screen because I'm here in-person so I don't have the actual screen. But yeah, if somebody can get me that email, it would be helpful.

KATHLEEN CANINO: Okay. Thank you.

TORY ROCCA: Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right.

ROSLYN HYMEL: I made it back.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Roslyn. If there's no other questions or comments, this report requires no action and will be placed our file. Our next item of business is a report...

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Melinda stated in the chat can we get a report back at the next DDC meeting about the emergency status.

TORY ROCCA: Sure.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Can anybody fill me in for what I

have missed?

HANNAH JENKINS: I can message you, Roslyn.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And we also have a hand raised, Ms. Corhonda Corley.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Ms. Corley, you have the floor.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you, vice chair and council. My first question would be what is DRLA considering pursuing considering the case that we just had recently that the Arc actually spoke about publicly on the news relating an individual with disability had parents as the caregivers that had great financial means, but they allowed, they neglected and abused that person to the extreme to the point that her body melted into the couch. I know I sent an email in regards to that to the actual council ahead of time, but I never received the response as well as I've contacted DRLA myself and I still have yet to receive a response. And I'm just asking what would be considered because that was negligence and abuse to the extreme. The family did not go to jail immediately. They stayed out of jail for months before they finally were arrested. And now they are back out. They were back out the very next day. So I'm just wondering what will we do because we cannot talk about abuse and not address all types of abuse. And negligence as it related to medical care, not feeding this individual, not allowing this person to go to a bathroom, not giving this person a bath, practicing hygiene, that's a problem. And this person died, is deceased. That's my first question.

TORY ROCCA: In terms of what we're doing, I honestly do not know if our (inaudible) is taking any action on that at all. I have no idea if they're planning on doing anything with that case or (inaudible) issue at all.

CORHONDA CORLEY: My second question. I'm sorry, vice chair. My second question because that does not suffice. But the second question that I do have is when will enough be enough before DRLA actually represent our communities. I'm aware of the many families in our community, we have over 200,000 kids with disabilities that are enrolled into our school systems whose parents are having problems getting

access to legal expertise, but also what about those families that are having problems with getting access to medical expertise. I know DRLA is supposed to cover many things including those children that are propelled in the school to prison pipeline, those that are expelled, those that are not receiving access to assistive technology, et cetera. And I'm just wondering exactly when will DRLA be able give us a more definitive answer in regards to serving our community.

TORY ROCCA: So it's kind of a broad question. Are there specifics? We have people working in those areas. We have approximately fifty staff statewide. (Inaudible) some of the attorneys in our organization do specific tasks. We have two or three right now that are on certain grants (inaudible) don't do general work. But in terms of the stuff we do, we handle things in those areas. But with the staff we have we can't do everything across the whole state. We have about fifty people total work in the organization, and we do what we can with fifty people. People have issues they can call us. But we do what we can with the resources we have (inaudible).

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Thank you, Ms. Corley, for your comment.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you, vice chair. And I just really ask and urge that our council will actually consider finding more funding and helping to provide more attorneys to help DRLA to better represent our families because we should not ever be by the wayside and not receiving services like this woman did that died. Thank you.

NICOLE BANKS: All right. Our next item of business is the report from the LSU HDC which that is Human Development Center. The chair recognizes Dr. Phil Wilson for his report.

PHIL WILSON: Thank you. Cause I'm last, I should go quickly and all that stuff, right. So just really quick, you know, the Human Development Center, this five-year period, which is coming to an end at the end of this current state fiscal year. Our major overall goals are to enhance collaboration and to increase access to quality services and to promote use of evidence-based practices. All those things related to

individuals with developmental disabilities and families. Okay. So I'm just going to give you one example of each and hopefully those of you who are able to read the report and take the information out of it you can see some other examples that are in there. And I think, as has been mentioned earlier, I guess we need, in the future we will put a statement on our report saying if you need help understanding any of this information, we will figure out an individual that you can contact who will help you to digest this information, you know, in advance of the meeting. Or after the meeting for that matter.

So I just want to give one example of how we increase access, how we in the last quarter that we're reporting on, increased access to quality services. We're doing a lot of work in early childhood in the childcare space right now. We work with really almost the entire metro and New Orleans area childcare programs. So these are the private childcares and trying to get those programs to provide quality services for everyone, including kids with disabilities. Which I'm sure as many of you may be personally have become aware of in your journeys, you know, private childcare does not have to accept a child into childcare. This state has created incentives for that to happen. And so we are trying to increase access to those quality services.

One of the projects Maria Blanco has been working with NOEEN, which I know is a big acronym there, New Orleans Early Education Network. Which is sort of a regional training support policy organization associated with agenda for children which is a broader organization. But we have, Maria's been doing a lot of work with them for quality improvement. And City Seats is a program in New Orleans that was recently yea. Passed a village in New Orleans so it's increased funding by quite a bit for kids, families that have kids that are in preschool age. And the great thing is they increased the number of seats. There's an expectation that there would be representation among those new seats, if you will. And I don't know why they call them seats cause we all know the little children don't sit in seats. They run around, right.

But last year there were two kids out of, and I don't really know the total, I believe it may say here in the report. But if not, in my mind I'm thinking it was 400 seats. Two out of 400, that's pretty shabby. That's not very good representation. But to a lot of the hard work that Maria and her team have done I think we are now well over 40 seats and climbing. I think people are starting to get the message. And they do provide a lot of training and technical assistance and support to childcare centers in the greater New Orleans area. So that's just one example of how HDC attempts to increase access to quality services.

As far as the use of evidence-based programs which is, you know, one of our other goals I'll just give an example of one of our projects which is-- happy to give kudos to Department of Ed. I mean, we were all scared to death, and I came here and asked you guys before, hey, put some word out for us. But we were scared to death because we have a contract with the Department of Ed for quite a few years, what we call LASRD. Which really is one of those things it no longer means what it did when it started. But the acronym stands for Louisiana Autism Spectrum Related Disabilities Program. But actually LASRD now people know that name, so we didn't change it. But it really is much broader than that and it addresses the primary goals and objectives the Department of Ed has for improvement in K12 programs. Julie Riley is the director of that initiative area for us. And I think last count was 34 yesterday. We are working in 34 different school districts all over the State of Louisiana providing mentoring and coaching, community practice, trainings of all sorts. It's really quite a nice program. And the reason we know it's a nice program, people like it. They like it with their pocketbook because they come back and contract with us. The contracts, you know, are just growing by leaps and bounds. We are doing something in the area of promoting evidence-based practices. And also if you look in here, you'll see examples of multiple trainings and presentations like the National Down Syndrome Conference and Teacher Leader Conference. And I think the conference coming up this weekend, is that right, Meredith?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Right.

PHIL WILSON: Really more a younger group, but between Julie's group and Maria's group they will be represented there as well as doing a lot of training and also learning at that conference. And then the last thing was I guess collaboration. And I guess I'm not going to say this is something that's a done deal, but I'm thrilled to death we have a possibility of a project that would take to scale or take to a larger scale, anyhow, replicate something that LRS has been assisting us to try to get going for years now. Which is the Paycheck Program which is a youth transition program that leads to employment. And the program that Sue Killam is the director of that program area. It ends when a young person has a job, basically. Not like they're ready to go get a job, but they have a job before their time in Paycheck ends, right. So we're hoping to, we'll see, maybe next spring or so we'll have a larger collaboration that will include not only the Department of Ed and LRS, but, you know, we would intend to include other partners like Families Helping Families around the communities and school districts that we will be hopefully working in. Maybe the LGEs would have a role. What we know about transition is by in large people think if you're in the K12 system and you're in the adult, or somebody else in the adult service system, the way transition has been working is K12 takes you this far, public education. And then there's something that happens, you get to know a few names or see a flier or two, but basically, you're kind of handed off. And while currently LRS counselors do participate in IEPs, there's not the same sort of active role that we hope we can create. And then bringing families into this process in a much bigger way is going to be the actual really icing on the cake. Because all of us, whether we have a disability or not, you know, our families are really what helped us get from childhood to being, you know, functioning as an adult in the community. So we're real excited about that. I hope, our October meeting might still be too soon, but January we should know if this is going or not going. So those are some of the things that I wanted to share with folks.

CHRISTI GONZALES: In the high school system we have a vocational program and once they leave us, that's it. So I think that would be a great program. But it would be good to ask the department that does our vocational, that would be a track too.

PHIL WILSON: Looks like Meredith has a comment.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yeah, I was just going to say I'm really excited about this partnership. And what we know, we did a session at Jump Start back in January and the outreach and interest in building these inclusive programs that start in high school around true transition that changes the day after high school for students with disabilities. And that's inclusive of all the different possibilities, right. We talk about enrolling in community college. We have LAPIE options that are growing, which is great. And we talk about that career and professional space. And sometimes that is what is success for some students. And so I'm really, really excited about it. It's a need. It's a response that we have heard, especially since our session in January, where we started talking about this and how to create inclusive programs, CTE programs that are inclusive of students with disabilities. Even students with the most significant disabilities. And what does the day after high school look like. What connections we are making for them. So I'm excited about it.

PHIL WILSON: I guess the only other thing I didn't mention about that particular, hopefully, thing will be launched this spring is that we really want to target kids that are on alternate assessments or the kids, the young people that are truly have the most significant disabilities are the folks that sometimes get left behind in the transition process. Not that they're not getting anything, but it's not as effective when they become an adult, you know. That's all I got.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This is Bambi. I just wanted to say if anybody wants to learn more about Paycheck, they're one of our sessions at the conference.

PHIL WILSON: People that have been through Paycheck, I believe, aren't they on the panel?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Uh-huh.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. I see we have some comments

in the chat.

REKEESHA BRANCH: We have also an attendee with her hand raised, Ms. Melinda Elliot.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Ms. Elliot, you have the floor.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm so sorry. It was a mistake.

NICOLE BANKS: That's okay. All right. You can get the ones in the chat for me, please.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Okay. Ms. Candice did place a comment in the box, but she stated that she-- well, she's sorry. She sent the message before finishing. So I'm just waiting to see if she would like to have it still read. All right. Christy Curtis just sent a message agreeing with Dr. Phil about young adults with more severe disabilities.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. All right. Do we have anymore comments? Any more questions?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No, ma'am. Not at this time.

NICOLE BANKS: This report requires no action and will be placed on file. If there is no other objection, we will conduct a recess for ten minutes.

REKEESHA BRANCH: I'm sorry. Ms. Jill has her hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Well, never mind. We're in agreement that we're not going to break. We're just going to continue to go. So at this point we're going to open up.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Jill had her hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, yeah, for comments. I'm sorry, Jill. Go ahead. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: It's 3:19. I don't think people want a recess right now.

NICOLE BANKS: I know. We got it. Thank you, Jill.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Let's continue because it's after three.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Candice has her hand raised.

NICOLE BANKS: Candice, you have the floor. Was that a mistake?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No, ma'am. She is unmuted.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

REKEESHA BRANCH: She would prefer to, her voice is not working at this time, she would prefer to type her

concern. She's still typing her comment at this time. I'm still waiting to receive her comment.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. If anyone else has comment, the floor is open.

REKEESHA BRANCH: No other comments.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Well, while we're waiting for Ms. Candice to continue to type her comment, I want to make the announcement that our next council quarterly business meeting is October 19th through 20th. So that's, again, our next quarterly meeting is from the 19th through 20th.

JILL EGLE: It is here?

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, no. It's going to be here.

AMY DEAVILLE: I actually don't know for sure yet.

JILL EGLE: That's not until three months out. The end of September you'll be notifying members. Thursday and Friday.

SPEAKER: Wednesday and Thursday.

ROSLYN HYMEL: Jill, you have to realize it's always on a Wednesday and a Thursday. We never do our meetings on Thursday and Friday.

JILL EGLE: Okay.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. If there's no more comments, we were waiting for you Ms. Candice, but if there's no more comments and there's no more concerns I'm going to go ahead and adjourn the meeting. If there's no more objection?

PHIL WILSON: No objection.

NICOLE BANKS: No more further business, we can adjourn the meeting?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Wait, the comment just came through.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, wait. Wait. Wait.

REKEESHA BRANCH: She was just in time. All right. It says, I'm a full-time single mother of a severely delayed autistic 16-year-old son. I work as a teacher so I can have the same schedule as my son. Considering I'm the only one who cares for him. I have had very little help or success in finding staff for respite. Both through agencies and through self-direction due to the rate of pay not being sufficient for my son's level of care needs. In April 2022 I made a request to Acadiana OCDD office for assistance to have windows and

walls repaired in my home where my son has punched through sheetrock and glass with bare hands during aggressive meltdowns. I have paid for these repairs three times prior, so I requested-- sorry. She just put something again. So I requested that his walls be covered with paneling and windows with lexicon to prevent this from happening again. Contractor quotes were 12 to 19,000 for the repair and all contractors want commitment for the entire job. I was told to wait for the new fiscal year. On July 2 p.m.--no. She said July 20 I received an email stating it did not meet a priority level of funding and was denied.

NICOLE BANKS: Ms. Julie.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So OCDD falls under me and that sounds like something that you might would want to file a formal complaint about that we would investigate. So, I'm sorry, I don't remember our formal complaint email address so I'm happy if you send it to me. My email is julie.hagan@la.gov and I will make sure that it gets forwarded to our complaint department that will look into your concern. Thank you.

REKEESHA BRANCH: She stated it is my belief that health and safety are the highest level of priority so I would like to know what determines the priority levels for funding.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: And I'm sorry, I don't know that off the top of my head to be able to respond. I do know it is laid out in our policy and our procedure, I just don't have that memorized. I can provide that information. But again, sometimes individual circumstances are different and so we would need to be able to investigate the full, to be able to have all of the information to be able to look into it. But when we receive a complaint, we assign someone to look into that complaint.

NICOLE BANKS: Did that answer your question, Ms. Candice? We also have Ms. Julie's email so you can reach out to her so y'all can further discuss this outside of the council meeting. All right. Now do we have any other questions or comments?

ROSLYN HYMEL: No. That's about it. But I could say this, I could make a motion to end the meeting.

NICOLE BANKS: We don't need a motion. We're just going to adjourn the meeting. If there's no objections, the meeting is adjourned.