

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Youth Leadership Committee Meeting
August 4, 2022

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So hello, everyone. Welcome to our next YLF committee meeting. First of all, let's do some member introductions. We have some members here today that have not been here before. Hi, my name is Lillian DeJean. I am the chair of the committee.

NICOLE DEJEAN: I'm Nicole DeJean.

NICOLE FLORES: Nicole Flores.

HARLIN COWSER: Harlin Cowser.

SPEAKER: (Inaudible)

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Bambi Polotzola.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Melissa Bayham.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Vivienne, would you like to go next?

VIVIENNE WEBB: Vivienne Webb.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Maddie, are you here?

APRIL YOUNG: Hey. I'm going to be in for Maddie for a little while. She's not home from school yet. So she should be here in about an hour maybe.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Would you like to introduce yourself?

APRIL YOUNG: Yes. My name is April Young. I am the mother of Madelyn Young and she is a member of the YLF.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. Jill.

JILL HANO: I'm Jill Hano. DDC member at large.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Jill. And then last, but not least, Pam.

PAM ALLEN: Hey, everyone. I'm Pam Allen. It's great to be with everybody today.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: All right. Welcome, everyone. Thank you for joining us. The first thing that we have on the agenda is the approval of the May 26th meeting summary. Can we share that on the screen.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. Can we have a motion to approve the summary?

NICOLE FLORES: I make a motion to approve the summary.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And we need a second.

HARLIN COWSER: I will second.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Do we have any objections or abstentions? Hearing none, the motion passes. So we have approved our summary. And so the first official thing on our agenda is the recap of Oklahoma's YLF of 2022. Mom and I went to Oklahoma's YLF I think mid last month. It was a five-day program. And we learned a lot from OK YLF and what this could look like here. Amy, would you mind sharing the OK YLF (inaudible).

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. So the first thing that I wanted to discuss about OK YLF was the staffing. I highlighted a couple of things on this document that are particularly important. We noticed that OK YLF had a one-to-one ratio of staff to campers. They also had an RN and CNA, but apparently previously they had night nurses in addition to the daytime nurses. Which seemed to be really important. Because then the nurses during the day had that time to recharge and rest at night. Especially because nurses not only handle medical concerns, but also assist with things like personal hygiene as well. And we had a lot of campers that did need help with personal hygiene. And so in order to ensure that everyone has the best care possible it seems like a good idea to simply have, you know, the daytime and nighttime nurses so those responsibilities can be divvied out appropriately.

But the staff was also divided equally between alumni and teachers. And so your teachers were more likely to be your able-bodied staff and your alumni or staff previously had gone to OK YLF. The teachers were all special education teachers which was good in that they had experience in behavioral like redirection techniques. And this was useful for maybe some delegates who had some challenging behaviors. But it seemed to produce an imbalance in the roles between the staff and also the delegates. And it seemed to also stem from this hierarchy in the school system of teacher verses student. And so whenever we move forward with our YLF we need to be careful and really ensure that we have a culture of equality and acceptance. And so I think it really is just making

sure that we have enough individuals with disabilities on staff and that we have that staff training on the front end of disability culture, disability etiquette and set the tone for how to interact with each other.

NICOLE DEJEAN: And that was one of the things that I think we were a little shortsighted when we were talking about scheduling here in Louisiana. Because we talked about scheduling with the university only for the time that the campers hit the ground whereas they had two days prior to camper or delegate arrival where they did staff training. And everyone learned about the delegates that were coming. We did kind of team building exercises we talked about. And that would be our opportunity to really promote that culture of equality and disability pride and why are we really there. And then again, to learn about everybody's roles. And I think the first couple of years for us will be important to do that because we won't have alumni. We won't have anyone who's worked the event before. So that, you know, cause a lot of it you guys remember what we did last year, or you guys remember what we did, we won't have that. So those two days prior to when the leaders or delegates get there are going to be super important. So we have to remember that when we're scheduling with the university that we'll need to be there without the campers.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And while we are at that (inaudible) like in Oklahoma, we had most of the staff had been there for over five years, so they understood the drill, they understood the routine. We do have an opportunity to start with a fresh slate. So I think our pilot year is going to be pretty vital in implementing that disability culture and that culture of equality and balance, really. So I'm going to stop here. Does anyone have any questions, or comments or thoughts? I would love to hear what you're thinking.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Lillian, as you talked you mentioned the nursing staff. I mean, that's going to be based on who the delegates are. Because you may not need nursing at all. Probably could be...

NICOLE DEJEAN: One of their biggest task was med management. It was just med distribution and so they would meet-- that way the young adults are not coming

back to them. They're meeting them. That was probably the bulk of their time was just, you know, making sure that everybody had their meds when they were supposed to have them. And then that personal hygiene. There wasn't a whole lot of like medical interventions. You know, there wasn't a whole lot of that. But I think you're right. It depends.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just wondering if it is the personal care, then that doesn't necessarily need to be an RN.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Just medication delegation and might have an RN there (inaudible) could potentially be that. That was my only question. I didn't know if what you were saying was that you need to have two day time nurses and have a night nurse. You won't really know that until.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Like they had one individual she required turning every two hours. And like they had an instance where one of the leaders there was assigned that instead of a nurse and she overslept.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Not leader, delegate. Leader as in staff.

NICOLE DEJEAN: So it was like that sort of thing needs to be, like we need to make sure, but that doesn't necessarily have to be a nurse, you know, so somebody.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Somebody responsible.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Yeah. Just to make sure that happens and we have communication between those individuals who may need that assistance. Because she also dropped her phone so then she couldn't get in touch with anybody. Those were good lessons because it happens.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Like, for instance, at home she was having Alexa. Ironically enough, the most medically complex person on that campus was yours truly. But I guess that will also depend on what pool we pull from. So if we're like recruiting from hospitals, you know, maybe we'll have more medically complex leaders verses if we're recruiting from just special education systems or LRS. We may have just more of that physical.

NICOLE DEJEAN: I think that's one of the standards set by the association or the national association is that we have a (inaudible) we follow ADA definition of disability. And we have a diverse group of individuals, you know, that represents all different types of disability. So we don't, definitely don't want to be in a position where we turn somebody down. But we want to make sure that we're staffed.

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

PAM ALLEN: I just had a quick question. Could you remind me how many people in total were in Oklahoma?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Oklahoma I think they had 19 delegates.

PAM ALLEN: Okay.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And so they had about a one-to-one ratio of camper to staff.

PAM ALLEN: And that was typical, like was that smaller than pre pandemic or was that about average? Do you know? I was just curious.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think it was smaller, not because of Covid restrictions, but because of recruitment challenges.

PAM ALLEN: Got you. Thank you.

NICOLE DEJEAN: I think their largest population was 23 though. So they've never really had a ton more.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I mean, 20 doesn't sound like a lot until you get there, and they start showing up and then they keep showing up. Do we have any other comments or questions?

APRIL YOUNG: It's April. The med management, I like what y'all talked about that because we never talked about that last time, but that is huge. That would limit a lot of staff if it's just med management. And the age group in Oklahoma, was it the same age group we were talking about last time?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It will be similar to the age group we will have, yes. And having a nurse also was really great for emotional support as well because a lot of the, for a lot of the delegates this was the first time away from home. First time spending the night away from home without having the normal home supports. And so there were a lot of unexplainable

ailments that had no seeming cause. And so, like for instance, I mean, there was one camper who had continued complaints about pain in his foot for no explainable reason. And so you could send them to the nurse and say, okay, you know, Nurse Rachel can give you some Tylenol and they just may need a little bit more (inaudible) and specific medical attention that's not necessarily from your normal staff, but isn't a nurse. And so you can have that extra reassurance and have that extra support there in the form of a nurse.

APRIL YOUNG: Lillian, too, for Lions Camp when Maddie went this summer, they had pharmacy interns that helped give out medications. They had about, they had the nurse and then they prepackaged all the campers' medication which saved so much other people. So like it was pharmacy interns and they had a blast. So that might be something that may be free, you know. They may need a certain amount of hours.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It may be that you have a pharmacy intern, RNA.

HARLIN COWSER: There is a pharmacy program at UL Monroe. Might be a good resource to consider.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Well, if anyone knows a pharmacy intern, send them our way. So our next section is about staff training.

AMY DEAVILLE: I think Jill has her hand raised.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill, sorry.

JILL HANO: We might want to reach out to Xavier University for the pharmacy interns because that's a big pharmacy school.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Writing all this down. Thank you, Jill.

JILL HANO: You're welcome.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Any other questions, comments? So with this staff training at OK YLF staff arrived two days prior to the delegates. At first, I know when mom and I saw they were holding a staff training it felt overkill until we started going through the staff training. And it really allowed for team building, a thorough review of policies in the week ahead. A review of like the specific needs of the delegates. And also rapport building between the staff. Because with a camp like this communication needs to be

impactful. Staff needs to work like a well-oiled machine in order to take care of everyone in the fashion that they need to be taken care of and supported so they can be as independent as possible as well. So I think it's important that like we mentioned earlier that we schedule at least one full, very full day of staff training on the front end so we can be prepared for our first YLF and so we can implement that culture and that knowledge.

NICOLE DEJEAN: I'm going to suggest two days. Because if we just went to a program that's been running 19 years and they still need two days of staff training. It also allowed for them to get prepared doing things like they had a dance and a talent show. So it was the staff's responsibility to paint signs, you know. Just like these motivational kind of like we're so excited you're here and the dance signs. It was just this really cool buildup to the people of the hour. And they just kept saying we're so excited, we can't wait till they get here. This was repeated over and over. So there's this huge buildup for when these young adults get there and it's like the celebrities show up. When they hit that door, it really felt like a red-carpet event where it was like you're here. And the kids and the parents walked into just this huge fanfare. And it wasn't hey, it was like this two-day buildup of this is the big event. And the energy and everything that went into it. But at that time everyone had developed a rapport amongst themselves. And I think what I was not prepared for was the social emotional aspect on us. And managing some of the things that they come to camp with and some of their experiences and some of, you know, the challenges that present in the setting because they are away from home for the first time.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I have a question. And I'm sorry I missed the last meeting so this may be an obvious question. Where are the staff going to come from? I was just curious. I don't know if you're going to look for volunteers. Because I'll volunteer. But I think you'll have a lot of people probably will want to.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. The UL Life Program has offered like mentors and their program which will be

phenomenal individuals who are experienced with disabilities, especially adults with disabilities. But as far as the staff. (inaudible).

MELISSA BAYHAM: I was just curious if I had missed that because I know I missed the last meeting.

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

JILL HANO: Ms. Nicole, you said that this is their 19th YLF. Then if they needed two days and this is our inaugural YLF, would maybe like three days or two and a half days?

NICOLE DEJEAN: I mean, that will be up to everybody. I think that we don't want to-- I guess the challenge would be that we don't want to, cause we're going to be running on volunteers initially.

JILL HANO: That's true.

NICOLE DEJEAN: How much time, what's the time burden on the volunteer verses the offset of okay, we're fully prepared, you know. Like we have this rapport. We're fully prepared. I think it's worth a conversation, Jill, totally. Cause this is just my opinion from what we saw over there, that I don't think we should shortchange ourself on staff training. And maybe it's a thing where we buildup to we don't have to do all the training right there on the ground, we do a--

JILL HANO: Yeah.

NICOLE DEJEAN: You know, a week before or something. Have some little intercessions leading up to it. I don't know.

JILL HANO: Especially since it's the first time. Like there's going to be some like staff orientation and icebreakers like get to know each other. And some stuff we're going to have to pay more attention to details simply because it's the first one.

NICOLE DEJEAN: I agree, Jill. Hundred percent.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Any other thoughts, questions, comments? Good jokes? And we have a mock schedule to review later in our committee meeting which includes a staff training.

JILL HANO: Yeah. We're going to talk about your little mock session.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill's got some comments coming up. Jill, I feel like I should be worried.

JILL HANO: You should.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I'm glad you're on Zoom so I don't have to hide in the parking lot.

JILL HANO: I don't know who would win.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Did Sharon Delvisco raise her hand?

AMY DEAVILLE: I saw it, then it went down. Not sure if it was a mistake.

APRIL YOUNG: We're getting some really bad weather in our area so we may get kicked off.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So anymore comments, questions excluding from Jill? So the next thing that we have is about the delegates or what we'll call leaders. Which will be definitely something that we need to actively discuss. Because this year OK YLF had about 20 delegates in attendance. They have been running their forum for 20 years, 19, 20 years. We projected accepting 15 leaders or delegates into our program for our pilot year. I would actually suggest shrinking that number. Because even Oklahoma forum I believe three delegates had to leave for family reasons during the forum and even 17, 18 was a lot for the staff. Even with a one-to-one ratio and it being 19 to 20. So I would love to hear y'all's thoughts on that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So I guess just like devil's advocate, the DD Council is giving 30,000-dollars for three days. You divide it as 10,000-dollars a day. If it's what, 15 people, I don't know if my amount is right, 666 a day per person is what the cost that we're investing would shrink down to the 10. That's a thousand dollars per day per delegate. And so I think that probably my math isn't right, like I'm not looking at the other costs, so I think that needs to be explained to the council of what the startup cost. I think there will be start up things that you may have this first or second year that you might not have some developments of training and that type of thing.

NICOLE DEJEAN: And wouldn't that cost be distributed too because you're going to have your staff there for your staff training. So you're going to have, potentially two front end days.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: What I'm saying is what you're getting off of it for the leaders is three days. Like

you can have people there for a month. Like but that's all your costs of what you're actually giving their cost of what they're getting for three days is what I'm saying. So now unless there's other things going to be happening afterwards, which we did talk about that. So maybe the 30,000 is going to go to monthly activities. I don't know. But I think that that needs, it's not just three days with ten people and it's costing a thousand dollars a day per person.

NICOLE FLORES: Development, the materials, putting it all together, the marketing, getting the startup and then the surveys after. You know, those initial startup costs.

NICOLE DEJEAN: So are you saying we should leave the number at 15?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: No. I'm saying there needs to be a better explanation.

NICOLE DEJEAN: The distribution of funds. Got you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Of why are you spending a thousand dollars a day per person. You need to explain well, it's not really that. We had to do this, this and this. And afterwards we're going to do follow-up and development and that type of thing. I think that's an important, I think the council would ask those type of questions.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So the other thing as well is with the YLF in order to get good quality speakers I think we'll definitely put in some money for that. Public speaking fees, as a lot of us know, are pretty hefty and there's some individuals who may want to fly in for our YLF so we can have that good, quality, impactful YLF. Do we need to be paying 10,000-dollars for speaker for one hour, no. But I definitely think we will have those costs in order to have a good forum. Including those pre and post surveys like you mentioned, speakers, lodging and meals for staff. A lot of little pieces here and there.

NICOLE DEJEAN: It's going to be three days?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Three days with campers.

NICOLE DEJEAN: And how many hours per day?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: 500.

NICOLE DEJEAN: They hit the lobby at 7:30 and

didn't leave the lobby until 10, 10:30. It was full.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It was a very full day.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm just trying to figure out, typically we pay 50-dollars for preemployment transition services. So I was going to multiply the number of hours by the fifty and plus we can pay the room and board for the, you know,

SPEAKER: And we can review Lillian's little mock schedule.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: You're still not going to Baton Rouge so one day's going to Baton Rouge so there's only going to be like two days.

SPEAKER: Yes.

NICOLE DEJEAN: So you have transportation costs as well.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And the way they did it too, like, for instance, for capitol day they did have some sessions at the capitol. So like their AT session, which is hosted at, you know, a capitol meeting. So it doesn't necessarily have to be all capitol day events on capitol day. We can also do some YLF things just while we're here. Especially if we're planning on hosting our YLF outside of session that will give us that opportunity.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Yeah. They did a thing where everybody ate. So they got on the bus, they ate breakfast on the bus. We got there, we had a room where they kind of work on their mock bill, their argument cause they brought them to the floor to argue a mock bill and vote and do all that stuff. So we had a pro side and a con side to the mock bill they had sent ahead of time. But like Lillian said, in that room one of the guest speakers came and presented about assistive technology. So it wasn't a capitol or a legislative type session. It was just YLF kind of stuff. Then from there they went to the floor. We actually ate lunch in that room. We went to the floor, they argued and, you know, their bill and voted and did that. And once that was done, we left the capitol and we went to their state library, state museum library because their DD Council funded a history of disability community in Oklahoma. Like full exhibit. So we got to go. That was a very full day. And that evening we

came back and did like smores and, you know, stuff like that. Every day was very, very full.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I know this is probably like Jill's kind of suspicious about my schedule being as full as it is. However, there actually was a purpose of having such a full schedule outside of getting everything done. Because this was the first time many of the delegates or leaders were away from home, like mom and I have mentioned in passing, there was a huge socio-emotional aspect to this. So having such a busy schedule also helped prevent some home sickness and some of those socio-emotional repercussions from being away from home. So our delegates could have the most productive fruitful time there it was important to see about that socio-emotional aspect, but part of seeing about that socio-emotional aspect was having that busy schedule so it wasn't like oh, my God, I'm away from home. But I'm away from home and I get to do these really cool things with new friends. And have all these new experiences without kind of starting to think about I'm away from mom, I'm alone, it's a new place, right. Cause that is a reality for our delegates. But that busy schedule, it didn't prevent all the issues by any stretch, but it did help.

NICOLE DEJEAN: It really did.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And no one got up in the middle of the night and snuck out because everyone was too exhausted.

NICOLE DEJEAN: A lot of summer camps are designed that way because they typically are very busy and they're too tired to do anything bad.

APRIL YOUNG: Yeah. Lillian, that's what Maddie was saying at the last meeting. The Lions Camp is like 7:30 in the morning till 10:00 at night. And I asked her if she missed home at all that week. She said, no, cause they didn't have time to miss home. Even when they went to bed, they were so exhausted that you got up and you did it again. And they don't want to leave, pretty much.

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

LYNETTE'S MOM: Can you hear?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes.

LYNETTE'S MOM: Okay. She said that she would be glad to go talk for free.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: We would love to have you.

LYNETTE'S MOM: She said yes.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: One of the coolest parts about YLF is that all the speakers should be people with disabilities. That's in the national standard. So we definitely need people with disabilities to help speak.

LYNETTE'S MOM: Oh, yeah. She's done it many times before for different camps and retreats and stuff. She said she did it for this before too. More than once.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Lynette been around for a while.

LYNETTE'S MOM: This is telling her age. Not only hers, but her mom as well.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Lynette. Do we have any other comments, questions, thoughts?

AMY DEAVILLE: I would suggest that, you suggested lowering the number of delegates down for 15. Would you make that a concrete number moving forward with?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you for reminding about that because I completely forgot that that was something we needed to do. So what is everyone's thoughts about shrinking the number of our leaders for our pilot year?

NICOLE DEJEAN: I'll say this, at the very least we need to have an even number because of the way dorm rooms are set up so we don't have a leader that's by themselves. We want them to have that companionship and that friendship even when they go back to their room at night or in the morning.

NICOLE FLORES: And it made sense to shrink the number a little bit, especially for the pilot year as we try everything out.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Here's my other concern about possibly taking on our previously proposed 15 delegates, or leaders as we're going to be calling them, is we need our first year to go smooth. Simply is our pilot year, people will be watching, and we want to bring good news back to our funding sources and say we did a really good thing, and it was really successful and hopefully we can move forward with subsequent years. So I would almost prefer it to be safer than sorry with a smaller number of delegates so we can make sure everyone is supported in a way that

they need with staff that doesn't have prior experience with YLF.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I agree, Lillian, but I do want to say, and I'm glad you're preparing so much. It's not going to be perfect, and I don't think your funding sources are going to be upset about that. I mean, I think everyone here sees what a great job you're doing with leading this. There are going to be hiccups and it's okay.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Oklahoma's suggestion to us was that we end the week with the same number of delegates we started with. That should be your only standard. We're going to try to shoot a little higher than that. They were just kind of like it's rough.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I just don't want you to think if they have some problems that occur, that, you know, no. It's going to happen.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And really, I mean, the goal is to start with the same number of delegates in the beginning all the way to the end. I just think that maybe shrinking the number of delegates will help accomplish that goal.

PAM ALLEN: So quick question. Did they have a waiting list? Like say we say we're going to have 14 delegates or whatever our ultimate number is. Did they keep a waiting list in case, I know sometimes things happen or did they just once the number was selected they, you know, if two people couldn't come for some reason they didn't fill those spots. Is there any? Cause if there's a medical issue, or things happen last minute, or sometimes I just wondered if when we set our final number would we try to fill it with alternates if that was an option or would we just say stick with what we got?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That's a good point. Mom just brought up that they said, the staff at OK YLF said they don't have a waiting list. I do know in other YLFs across the country they are more selective about the delegates that they take on. I'm just using the term delegates because that's the most common terminology across the country for YLFs. Because they do have those qualifications from the national association for YLFs for okay, they need to be able to

demonstrate leadership abilities and a couple of other, you know, qualifications. So sometimes some YLFs do select a specific group of delegates and just stick with that. And then there are some applicants that are necessarily selected for YLF, but for Oklahoma they don't turn anyone away. Just depends on the state.

PAM ALLEN: Okay. Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Lynette, was your hand raised from earlier or do you have a new comment? Lynette?

LYNETTE'S MOM: I think less, she said.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Lynette.

LYNETTE'S MOM: Is she on now?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes. We can hear you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: For clarification you said they don't turn anyone away. So that means they had 19, so that's how many people applied. If they have 27, they accept everybody?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think they originally had like 21 and then one person backed out before the forum, and I think two left during the quorum due to family issues that they needed to go home for. But otherwise, I think they accepted everyone.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: You could have 40 people apply.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Lynette?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think she's agreeing.

NICOLE DEJEAN: A fear about having a waiting list because there will be some attrition before you even get there.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: At a certain point maybe, but after a certain point then you can't plan for changes.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Now they did an interview process too where they applied, they're recommended. There's got to be a letter of recommendation demonstrating that they have shown some leadership skills. And then there's an interview with the delegate and the parents. So at least that's how Oklahoma does it. They've vetted the delegates fairly well. But I think you're right, I think we can't just open up the floodgates.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It was good too to have those pre-interviews as well because once the delegates got there, they were able to identify the staff members that they had met previously.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Corhonda, your hand is raised?

CORHONDA CORLEY: Great afternoon. I was inquiring on what is going to be the rubric or criteria in regards to selecting the actual delegates that would be attending? Number two, how would we be disseminating information out because even as I'm watching this meeting, I'm noticing that it's not very diverse as it relates to culture, race, ethnicity. But in addition to that, will we be ensuring information such as the Brandy Melissa Act will be taught to the individuals that will be attending considering that's a new law that just got signed in today by our governor? So I'm asking that question. And last, but definitely not least, can we please have the chat disabled so that members of the public can actually put their questions in the chat. Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So from what I'm hearing there was three questions and that comment. One was pertaining to recruitment. Recruitment is a step that we have not taken yet because we're not there in the planning process. But my projection for recruitment would probably be through the school systems, and LRS, and DOE and our various state agencies who have that children with disability community and perhaps your FHF centers across the state. I am speaking for agencies that I am not a part of so that's not concrete, but that would be the idea as that's how other YLFs across the country handle it.

Dissemination of information, how you get the word out would likely be similarly through the various agencies who have a pulse on the disability community. And as far as the schedule of what will be taught at the YLF, we'll probably be pulling ideas from other YLFs across the country as they have been doing this for years now. There will be a legislative, you know, legislative session since we will have capitol day at YLFs. And so we will be going over, you know, pertinent laws in the disability community so our delegates would be prepared. As far as the chat, that will be up to the DD Council staff.

HARLIN COWSER: If I can say too, also what I've seen all of the YLF programs seem to stress diversity as imperative.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill, I see you have your hand

raised.

JILL HANO: Ms. Corhonda, what law just got passed?

CORHONDA CORLEY: Yes. That's the Brandy Melissa Act. As everyone know Brandy Melissa is a part of our DD community and she is a self-advocate, and the law is named after her. It is in regards to individuals with eating disorders to actually have the information disseminated out and educating individuals regardless of disability or ability in regards to different eating disorders and how to actually get help and treatment. So it's a great day for individuals with disabilities for us to have a law signed today by one of our very own self advocates.

JILL HANO: Do you know the specific act number?

CORHONDA CORLEY: Yeah. I can put it for you in the chat if the chat is disabled. As soon as they disable the chat, I'll put it in there for you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Lynette, is your hand raised from earlier or do you have a new comment?

LYNETTE'S MOM: Sorry. We didn't hear.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Is your hand raised from earlier or do you have a new comment?

LYNETTE'S MOM: She said it's okay.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Awesome. Thanks, Lynette. So what do you guys think about maybe shrinking our delegate number to something like 12 so it's kind of a happy medium. We do have a quorum, so would someone want to make a motion to?

APRIL YOUNG: I don't know if I can do it for Maddie or not, but I think 12 is good.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I don't think you can make a motion, but I appreciate it. Would anyone be willing to make that motion?

NICOLE FLORES: I make a motion to change the number of initial delegates to 12.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Do we have a second?

NICOLE FLORES: Jill's raising her hand online.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill seconds the motion. Correct, Jill? You're seconding?

JILL HANO: Yes, ma'am.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. Do we have any objections or abstentions to the motion? Hearing none, the motion carries. So the next--

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Can we go back? I just wanted to reiterate a point that Corhonda Corley made in regards to like racial representation. We have to do, like set the culture better than just what our committee is. I'm looking at I don't think there's any person of color. I think that our delegates need to represent the culture of our state which is at least a third African American. And that's not even counting other minorities. And so I don't think we can do that if we don't have people making the decision on the front end, we're not going to be successful. I think that really needs to be like a charge for this committee going forward is that we recruit people of color. And also, we need to have more self-advocates engaged in this. So that's my recommendation for the committee.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think those are excellent points. I think the biggest barrier that we've had is recruiting members for the YLF committee to actively participate and come to meetings. Because some of the barriers that we've had historically behind this meeting with this committee is not reaching quorum because we had some members who didn't show up. And so that impacts our ability to function as a committee whenever we don't have that quorum because we can't make those motions. So moving forward, absolutely we need more self-advocates and people of color.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But self-advocates, they can get an ADA accommodation and participate virtually.

APRIL YOUNG: I have a suggestion. Now that school just started, can you guys maybe reach out to the school counselors or the special ed teachers and send them an email to recruit self-advocates?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: We absolutely could do that. If we could have some members of the committee that would be willing to do some of that work on their end that would be phenomenal. I'm a little overloaded with YLF work right now and other responsibilities. But I think that's a phenomenal idea.

APRIL YOUNG: Because I know a lot of, especially the 15th on up age, that's our transition age, and they do meet with the counselors to start talking about college or technical school and maybe that's something that can also be incorporated and say, hey, look, this

is a great idea. So on and so forth. And, you know, just a thought.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Absolutely. So if I can lean on you guys as a committee to maybe keep your eyes peeled for any self-advocates, specifically people of color. Or even reaching out to those counselors at schools that would be phenomenal. Cause this is something that I think would best be accomplished if we worked together on. I think Charlie had his hand raised, right?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Charlie. I think you're muted yourself.

AMY DEAVILLE: I might have muted him. Sorry.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Did y'all hear any of that?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: No.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Okay. Somebody muted. Okay. What I was saying is because y'all are in such a critical juncture with all the work and trying to get all this off the ground, if y'all could narrow down to one task and just do some sort of informational flier or brochure or something that says you're looking for membership that include people, with preference given to people of color, self-advocates. If you sent that to the Families Helping Families directors, we could send it out to the special ed directors in our region, ask them to share it with the counselors, and the administrators, and teachers and whomever they would, then we would probably be able to field some of those questions for you. And if we get a question we can't answer, then we can refer those people to y'all. Maybe cut some of that off of your plate.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That would be phenomenal.

APRIL YOUNG: Great idea.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Thank you. Worth muting me twice for. Good job. All right. Thanks a lot. Appreciate it. Oh, yeah. While I'm unmuted, let me ask you this. I just got onto the meeting so y'all may have covered this already. But because this is a youth leadership forum and it's going to involve youth and someone just mentioned school's just started, have y'all considered moving the meetings later so that students didn't have to miss school for it?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: We definitely need to start thinking about that.

JILL HANO: I was thinking that too.

APRIL YOUNG: I was going to mention it too.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Cause with the SEAP time requirements for credits most of your membership that's from the school system would be in high school and SEAP time is mandatory for those credits. While this is a very valuable tool and a very valuable activity, looks good on a resume, it's going to make big differences for people, I don't think we want to jeopardize their diploma for it.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you, Charlie. I see Jill, you have your hand raised.

JILL HANO: What about if we sent an LADDC newsletter to specifically recruit for this committee, Amy?

AMY DEAVILLE: Was that to me?

JILL HANO: I think so.

AMY DEAVILLE: As soon as the committee gets that information together, we can send it out.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you.

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

CORHONDA CORLEY: Thank you. I would like to piggyback off of what Ms. Hano and Dr. Michel both stated. I think one, if we have a definitive date and time that would make it easy for our self-advocates because a lot of them depend, like consistency. So giving them a consistent date with the consistent time would actually be beneficial. But also besides using our Families Helping Families and doing a newsletter like GODA does, we can also use our human service districts as well as the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. We do know that each and every last one of them disseminate information out in a major way to our individuals with disabilities. So let's use them.

Also, I know groups that are not normally used is the Latino Commission as well as the NAACP that actually deal with other diverse communities that would actually allow individuals with disabilities themselves to actually be able to try to sit on this committee.

And last, but definitely not least, because the chat wasn't disabled, I wanted to give Ms. Hano and everyone the act number which is Act 626. Which is now the Brandy Melissa Act. But it's act number 626.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. Lynette, do you have your hand raised?

LYNETTE'S MOM: She said I can say it. Can I be on the committee officially?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Yeah, I'll make that happen, Lynette. So our next section, now that we have shrunk our number of delegates to 12 officially, can I run through these a little bit quickly because I know we're halfway through our allotted meeting time. So one thing that was really useful during the OK YLF forum was the shirt colors, actually. They had a binary color shirt system where the delegates were "yellow shirts and staff members were gray shirts". These colors were used to indicate a role for supervision. Because like, for instance, if a delegate needed to go back to the dorms or something they needed to have a staff member with them. So no one really had to remember staff members' names. The delegates could just be like I need a gray shirt to go with me to the dorms or make sure you have a gray shirt with you if you go back to the dorms. Actually a really functional system which we probably should replicate during our LA YLF. But we don't necessarily need a motion.

APRIL YOUNG: I agree with that, Lillian, because I'm going to refer back to Lions Camp. Those people knew that if you had that shirt that was the nurse. So that was this one or that one. You know, they all had the same picture on the shirt. They, I don't know, a lion. But the shirt was a different color.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. It was really, really useful. Made everything super clear as far as who was who and who needed to be with who as well.

APRIL YOUNG: Exactly. And they also had little nametags, little lanyards with their nametag too. But that worked really well because it's like a personal thing if you just need to go talk to one person. Not everybody-- and people don't remember names. So if they have a gray shirt then I know you're the nurse or you're this or that.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I can't remember anyone's name. So it was nice to be able to just be like hey, you need a gray shirt with you.

APRIL YOUNG: Yes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Did they wear like badges?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: They did, but sometimes the badges were flipped around or something like that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Because that like kind of visuals are important too.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Absolutely. And it was nice because every delegate had a backpack as well that had a luggage tag affixed to it that said, okay, this is so and so's backpack. So everyone had things like hand sanitizer and tissues which were a wildly important item that we underestimated the usefulness of. A notebook and even a jump drive. These things were carried around in a backpack. Also personal items and comfort items that they may have needed throughout the day. They didn't have to go back to the dorms or carry it around in their hands. Backpacks were pretty great. The last thing on our takeaway-- Charlie.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Can you hear me now?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yes.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Okay. And this may seem a little petty, but I like the idea of the staff and the campers wearing different, I say campers, wearing different color shirts cause it's a great visual representation, but I would prefer seeing as part of the orientation for everyone the recognition that the gray shirt is a staffer. And then rather than referring to make sure you have a gray shirt with you, make sure you have a staffer with you. Because I find, it just seems to dehumanize the staff members. And it's not offensive to me, I just don't know that that's necessarily a great model of behavior. That's just my thought. But I like the idea of the two different colors, but just make it part of the orientation so they know what the difference is.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That's fair. There was no, it just kind of happened in Oklahoma, but I think that's a great point. So we'll definitely make sure to include that as a programming note. So thank you.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Brenda Cosse. Brenda, I think you're muted.

BRENDA COSSE: Good afternoon.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Good afternoon.

BRENDA COSSE: Thank you so much. Brenda Cosse, parent, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. When you mentioned the backpacks, I also wanted to highlight the sensory needs of some of the potential attendees. And sensory meaning when you attend national conferences, they in advance in their advertisement they ask individuals not to wear perfume, colognes and lotions as much as possible. They're also sensitive, they may have something that says if you're looking at the screen be mindful for anyone who may have epileptic conditions. If we could include some advance information for sensory processing.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you for bringing that up. And even (inaudible) sensory issue. There are some people who can't tolerate perfumes due to allergy. So one thing that was really great was they actually gave out free widgets and that was really useful for the campers. So anytime campers were provided with any sort of like fidget that was really beneficial to get those on the front end as well.

NICOLE DEJEAN: And Oklahoma provided noise canceling headphones. They were available in all settings for the individuals who felt like the activity, the noise level was too much for them. They had the option to either request it or staff would recognize it and offer if they felt like it was something that they could utilize they'd offer it to them. That was wildly important to a lot of kids.

NICOLE FLORES: I was going to mention like a lot of these things the national YLF has it set up where they have examples of like in the application like what are, you know, special things you might need that might be helpful to you. And going back to the whole like recruitment. Going back and looking at the national example is helpful too.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Are we on an action item or can I say something? Did you or your mom develop this?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Mom did.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I was going to say I think we

have a new format. I like this format.

APRIL YOUNG: Are we going to get a copy of that for the delegates to read?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: A copy of this document?

APRIL YOUNG: Yes.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Yeah. We can definitely send it out. I think this was kind of a last-minute sort of decision to put this on the screen specifically. But yeah, huge kudos to mom for developing this. It was like a week after the forum, and she was like we really need to get our thoughts down before we forget them, and I was dead from the forum.

APRIL YOUNG: I'm going get Maddie off the bus, guys.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But that wasn't what I wanted to say. That was just my, you said joke, so that was my. I was just looking through our Partners in Policymaking Facebook group and we have incredible graduates who are people with disabilities. You start seeing the names of the people, they are people that I think would be great speakers and that would probably be something they want to give back. Including Jill Hano, I heard her say. Right. So yeah.

JILL HANO: If you've read the schedule, apparently my name is already on there.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. So here's the deal about that schedule. I knew you were going to give me some crud about this. These are proposed speakers, okay. Just ideas. It's brainstorming. It's a working document. And if I remember correctly, you were pretty enthusiastic about YLF starting again.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Jill's like one of the only YLF alumni.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you. But it's a compliment.

JILL HANO: (Inaudible) my mom. Can you erase that from the transcript please. I was kidding.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill, I brought my mom to YLF.

JILL HANO: You're like two decades younger than me.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I mean, look. We're lucky to have mamas so.

APRIL YOUNG: And they like to be needed when you

get older.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Bring your mama, Jill.

JILL HANO: My mama is a nurse, actually. So I was going to talk to y'all and like plant an idea in her head. But like my mama is, I mean by the time we have the YLF she'll hopefully be a retired nurse. But when y'all were talking I was going to actually mention all this to her tonight to see if that's something that sounds interesting to her.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Tell your mama to call me. Does anyone else have any questions, comments, thoughts?

APRIL YOUNG: You know who else is a good speaker, Rashad.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So I also put him.

JILL HANO: His name was on there too.

APRIL YOUNG: He's a really good speaker and the kids would love him.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It's not a volun-told sort of thing. It's great mentors and individuals to speak.

APRIL YOUNG: He is a good one.

SPEAKER: Yes.

JILL HANO: Yes. Love him.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So the last thing on our takeaway list is also our next agenda, part of our next agenda item. Which is discussion about a paid coordinator for our pilot year of YLF and beyond. OK YLF has a paid coordinator who handles the bulk of planning and scheduling for the YLF. It was, we discussed, you know, YLF in depth with him and he stated that it took at least seven, not seven, six months of full-time work to bring YLF to life. And so we discussed with their YLF coordinator and OK DDC executive director about what it would look like if we didn't verses did hire a coordinator. And they strongly felt that it would be almost impossible to safely, respectfully and meaningfully bring our YLF to fruition without a paid coordinator. So the thing about having a paid coordinator is it doesn't seem like we can really have a successful YLF without a paid coordinator because if you think about we have scheduling of speakers, ordering of things like backpacks and shirts and et cetera, lodging, food, scheduling transportation, staffing, interviews for delegates, pre, post surveys,

scheduling with universities for research. It's just a lot that I'm not sure we can get accomplished within a committee. So the thing about having a coordinator is we can't have a coordinator without a fiscal agent. Amy, I'm going to put you on the spot. Would you mind kind of explaining how this could work if this is what we decide to do.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure. So either paid coordinator or no paid coordinator, you'll still need a fiscal agent. Because you're going to have multiple funding sources that are all going to need to go to one entity and then pay the YLF bills. So you'll still need a fiscal agent either way. You can, if I'm just thinking about the \$30,000 that the DDC is giving to YLF, putting towards YLF, you could turn around and say that 30,000-dollars is going to be earmarked for a salary for a paid coordinator who works, you know, and then you figure out is it a part-time position or it is part-time, you know, these months, it's full time these months or however you work that out. We will put out a solicitation for proposals for that fiscal agent. But we need to know how you intend to spend the 30,000-dollars that the council has allocated to this project. And that's what goes into our solicitation of proposals. So then your fiscal agent would be responsible in that you have a paid coordinator. Your fiscal agent will be the one that's responsible for hiring that person, for paying that person, for making sure that all of your invoicing is accurate through your different streams of funding. So like if preETS has certain rules that DD Council money does not you have to make sure that you're billing in the right ways to the right entities. Let's see what I'm missing.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So the DD Council will put out a solicitation for proposal and put that information out, like the DD Council has 30,000-dollars, but is giving 30,000-dollars to this program, but there's other streams of money potentially and that the person who's, I mean the entity that's receiving that money has to do X, Y and Z.

AMY DEAVILLE: Right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But does the DD Council, do we ever say what the salary is for someone? Like say for

partners, do we say what the salary is for the partners' coordinator?

AMY DEAVILLE: Well, yeah. I mean, it isn't part of the, we do work it out with the fiscal agent what that salary will be because they invoice it back to us. But we solely fund partners. There aren't other entities doing that. So this situation is different. There are other entities funding. So if you can take two different streams of funding together to make a salary for your coordinator, then that would be fine as long as your fiscal agent has that worked out. It's not necessarily necessary that our money is what goes to the coordinator salary or that our money is the only thing that goes to the coordinator's salary if that makes sense.

MELISSA BAYHAM: And just so that everybody understands, so any funds that you get from preETS are going to have to be after the service is provided. So it's going to have to be after the actual event. Does that make sense?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. So it will be a reimbursed cost. And that is how DD Council funding works too for partners. That is the fiscal agent has to pay for things upfront and then they invoice us, and we reimburse. Most money that's filtered from the state is going to work that way.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So is it dollar for dollar? Because you have to have some type of fee that those fiscal agents are receiving.

AMY DEAVILLE: Every vendor that contracts with us, well, the state requires an 8 percent administrative fee. That fee goes to the fiscal agent or the vendor.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I wanted to clarify cause Amy mentioned earlier about where we had that solicitation proposal for potential fiscal agents, we need to determine how we're going to distribute the 30K from the DD Council. Whether that's to coordinator, or transportation, lodging, et cetera.

NICOLE DEJEAN: How detailed does that have to be, Amy? Like does it have to be like a line budget kind of thing, or does it need to be just kind of like a generic like the 30,000 will be utilized for, like Bambi was saying, okay, these three days on the ground

with the delegates in addition to a paid coordinator. Like how specific does it have to be?

AMY DEAVILLE: So when we receive solicitations of proposals from different entities, they have to include a budget. For this purpose the only thing you have to budget out is that 30,000. Because that's all the money that the DD Council has allocated. So that person's basically just saying here's how we're going to spend the 30,000-dollars the DD Council has given.

NICOLE DEJEAN: This committee has to say before you guys can put out the RFP.

AMY DEAVILLE: Solicitation of proposal.

NICOLE DEJEAN: This committee has to determine how the 30,000 is being spent to include that in the solicitation of proposal?

AMY DEAVILLE: It would be easiest because otherwise then you would leave it up to whoever is applying to be the fiscal agent to determine how the money is spent.

MELISSA BAYHAM: And you probably want the fiscal agent, or in the solicitation, to kind of explain-- it's going to cost more than 30,000s dollars to do this. So your best-case scenario is if we have a fiscal agent that has a lot of capital, just to be honest with you. Because like, for example, with other federal grants that, you know, we have several federal grants in VR under LRS and sometimes we have to, like for independent living, sometimes the bills come in before the grant comes in, but we already have other funds to stick in there and then we replace it and all that good stuff. So hopefully you can find a fiscal agent who might be able to, for lack of a better way of saying it, upfront the money and they'll know that they get reimbursed for it. But they'll need to know your budget really isn't going to be 30,000. It's 30,000 for DDC, but you really need to figure out what is your total YLF budget. If that makes sense.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Everyone's looking at me, but I don't know what to do. Jill, I see your hand raised.

JILL HANO: Melissa kind of prefaced what I was getting at. Before we talk about fiscal agent, we need to talk about definitely a budget, and then who are our other contributors and like how much do they want to

give. Like if it's 90,000 to do this first YLF, then we already have 30,000. Before we can line up this fiscal agent we need to figure out where are we getting the other 60,000 from. And then before we even do that, we need to have a concrete budget and how much money definitely do we need. Like I know that we talked about cause we had Melissa, Julie and-- oh, my God. What's her name.

MELISSA BAYHAM: What does she do?

AMY DEAVILLE: Meredith.

JILL HANO: Thank you. In February. I think we need to have more concrete information on budgetary issues.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think really a huge barrier that we face is, you know, this is the first time we're having an LA YLF in over 15 years and other YLFs will not look like our YLF. So we can't just pull Oklahoma's budget and say this is what it's going to look like. And so it's difficult because it's like we need a budget for our funders, but our funders also need a budget. So it's like where does the original budget come from is the question. The other issue too about pushing back the solicitation of proposals until we have like a solid budget is that the solicitation of proposals will take some time and so will the hiring of a coordinator. So we will probably need a coordinator by the beginning of next year in order to have a good group for YLF in order to make this happen in a meaningful way. And this solicitation of proposals and a hiring process could take until the end of this year. So we're in a bit of a pickle. Bambi, I see you have your hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So I don't think this is really for the committee. Like a committee is that this is what we want and then it's up to the staff to go back and say this is what the committee said they want, figure out how they best, I don't know, how to leverage the federal dollars, how do you leverage all the entities, talk to the entities that are potential funders then develop this solicitation for proposals. I know I've been on the DD Council for over a decade, and we've never got into the details. I don't know what a partners' coordinator makes. I know what we

pay, and I know what the outcome is that we want. I know what we pay for the LaCAN, and I know what the outcome is that we want. But we don't really get into the details of all the ends and outs of it. So I think that that's what we need to do is like the council needs to move forward. Does that make sense, Amy, am I saying that right?

AMY DEAVILLE: The issue is that we're not the sole funder. All those other things we're the sole funder for so we can make those plans and move forward. But I don't have any authority to work with other entities for them to fund this. Your fiscal agent will have that, but it's not solely a DDC project.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Can that be because where we stand right now you guys are the sole funders? Because I don't know, because I'm completely ignorant about this process, can that be included in that SOP that there is the potential because you're saying that the fiscal agent would have that relationship with the additional, with all the funders? So right now as the sole funder would you guys be able to do that SOP and then in that say there is the potential for additional funders that the fiscal agent would work with. Then that becomes, once the fiscal agent is identified, then that becomes their issue. Is that possible?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes.

NICOLE DEJEAN: Okay.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Not just as a possibility, that the DD Council expects whoever the fiscal agent is to develop that funding.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. To build relationships with other funders to seek out the funding needed to be able to put the forum on.

NICOLE DEJEAN: So that sounds like the workaround.

MELISSA BAYHAM: And y'all might not know the answer to this, but do y'all anticipate people responding to the solicitation? I've been in government for a while, usually you kind of know who might potentially respond. I didn't know if y'all knew of people who were interested. Because that will be another hurdle. That's the only reason why I said you might want to have some of the details hashed out because some of them may not respond (inaudible).

NICOLE DEJEAN: Could that be a thing also where in the SOP, and again, because I'm ignorant about this, that you could that last time to maybe mockup some sort of like potential, like just kind of a generic broad budget, like as okay, we've kind of gone through some of these things, do a broad budget. And if that potential fiscal agent would have those questions, that could be available on request. I don't know.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: I think we're grasping straws here. So I guess my question to you, Amy, is what do we absolutely need in order to start the SOP process? Like what's the concrete things that we need that we can't like shake off?

AMY DEAVILLE: Can I give you the easiest answer?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Sure. You know I love easy answers.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Please.

AMY DEAVILLE: The easiest answer would be because you have this funding and you know that it exist and is there and you know, I'm presuming, that you want to hire a coordinator that you say that this 30,000 will be allocated towards a coordinator's salary. And then we will also write in the information about there should be additional funders. The fiscal agent will be responsible for coordinating with those additional funders and understanding those funding sources and bringing that money in and making sure it's invoiced correctly. Not just for us, but for Melissa, for Meredith, for whomever else is there.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So here's my follow-up question. If we say the 30K will be allocated towards a coordinator, are we locked into that or can that be, if later on we decide that we're going to allocate it a different way, are we going to get in trouble?

AMY DEAVILLE: You're locked into, yeah, you'd be locked into it. That 30,000 would have to go towards your coordinator.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So I don't think we--

MELISSA BAYHAM: You don't want to do that because your fiscal agent is going to have (inaudible) costs. What we call indirect costs.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: This is a stupid question, but can we be vague and say this funding needs to go to the

running of a YLF and payment of a YLF coordinator?

NICOLE DEJEAN: Yeah. Do you have to commit to?

NICOLE FLORES: And like including costs associated with speakers, you know, like things that would be included?

AMY DEAVILLE: Whoever answers the solicitation of proposals will have to say this is what we plan on spending that 30,000-dollars on.

SPEAKER: Okay.

MELISSA BAYHAM: So once you have the person, let's just say you have the solicitation, you pick the person. So at that point do they contract with the DDC for the 30,000, or they just billing you?

AMY DEAVILLE: Say it again.

MELISSA BAYHAM: So once the fiscal agent is chosen, how do they get paid? Do they have a contract with you?

AMY DEAVILLE: Uh-huh.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. So that's when you need to know how the 30,000 is going to be spent, is when you're doing the contract.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Expect who you select that they have a plan. That's going to be part of who you select. They have done the work to get the other funding. So if John Doe then says that they have, you know, they know they can get, how LRS intends to pay for it, and the rates they're going to pay for different things, and they have a nice calculation on that, and they talk to Department of Education and they have a nice calculation on what the Department of Education can pay for and what they can't, then they can say so this is how we're going to need to spend the DD Council funding. Cause I think the most restricted funding's going to be your funding. So if they've done their job, then they should be able to know what type of umbrella do they need to leave for that 30,000-dollar funding is my thoughts on it.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I know what you're saying, Bambi, and y'all, I'm not a difficult person, but the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: It's not Melissa.

MELISSA BAYHAM: But with something like this though, because it's this program we'll say, a lot of

it will be almost your proposal to us telling us what, and we talked about the different things that are applicable to preemployment transition services, and as long as it's reasonable, it should be okay. But we have to know the cost ahead of time to approve costs to make sure it's in line with what we pay for other things.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So going back to my original question, can we be vague and just say this goes towards speakers, coordinator?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I think what Bambi's saying, which is a great idea, is basically you tell them the idea of what you're asking for the solicitation for, and you can let them know that there's 30,000-dollars of DDC funding. But then part of their proposal is going to be, you know, we anticipate this much in VR funding, this much in Department of Education funding and that's their plan and then you get to look at their plans and see who has the best laid out plan.

SPEAKER: Right.

NICOLE DEJEAN: In that scenario that takes the legwork off of...

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

JILL HANO: Okay. Just to put this in prospective, so for Partners in Policymaking Jim Sprinkle's center is the fiscal agent, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: That's right.

JILL HANO: Okay. And Melissa, not to put you on the spot.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Happens every day. It's fine.

JILL HANO: But cause I know you said this is a preETS program and then, or this sounds like a preETS program, what were you ballparking in the transcript, what were you ballparking that preETS could cover?

MELISSA BAYHAM: So that's why I was asking what the schedule was going to be. If I estimate it's going to be 30 hours total, just as an example, and you have 15 participants-- hold on. Let's do 30 hours times 50-dollars an hour times 15. That's 22,500. But that's just for I'll call the instruction. You can also in preETS pay for transportation, you can pay for room and board. But those are things, a cost that I

would have to know and just make sure they're in line with what we pay for other services.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Could preETS instruction funds be used for speakers?

MELISSA BAYHAM: So in VR, and this is good and bad. It makes it simple, but then it depends on how much your speakers cost. So it's a free service. Meaning we pay 50-dollars a session. So with the math I just did it would be approximately 22,000-dollars. The question is how much did that actually take you to operate. It's a really big budget. Like a really complicated budget.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: When you say instruction, that instruction is your schedule?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Correct.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So in that schedule you have your speakers lined up so that's part of your...

AMY DEAVILLE: That's your speakers, that's your supplies for those classes. That's everything.

SPEAKER: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sharon Delvisco has her hand raised.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Okay. Sharon.

SHARON DELVISCO: Hi. Just FYI, the chat still isn't working. So as you guys have been talking, I sent notes in an email to Lillian. I think that it might be feasible or a good idea for you guys to maybe have a smaller group, a subcommittee meet to discuss about the line items in your budget and how to figure that out. And then it will give you an idea of a bottom-line amount at a minimum that you're going to need in order to pull off the first youth leadership forum or the rebirth of the youth leadership forum. It seems like you're spinning in circles right now about we have to do this, we have to do that, we have to do this, but we can't do that until we do this first. So I think if you had a smaller group of people come together and do, try to determine maybe the line items for your budget, like amount to cover sleeping rooms, amount to cover speakers, amount to cover printing, postage, recruitment, whatever. And then that smaller group can come up with something for your big group to review and it will give you an idea of what you're going to tell the DD Council you're going to use their

30,000-dollars for. And how much you think you're going to be able to bill LRS for preemployment transition services. I hope that makes sense to you guys.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It makes sense, I think.

SHARON DELVISCO: I can't hear you anymore.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Definitely makes sense. I appreciate your input and I just found your email with the very thorough suggestions. So thank you.

AMY DEAVILLE: Charlie has his hand raised and so does Jill.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Charlie.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Without belaboring the point, a couple of things that you might want to keep in mind. The solicitation's probably going to be the hardest part of this whole process. Because I would caution against being too vague. Because if you're too vague you don't know where everybody's going to go. The other thing is, when you do that if we're going to have people coming up with a plan, which is a great idea, there needs to be a rubric that is going to accompany the solicitation so that people kind of know what at least they're going to be scored on. That's one of the things.

The other thing is, and I don't know, I'm kind of confused on the funding. I know there's 30 from DD Council, there might be some from state department of ed, some from-- oh, God.

MELISSA BAYHAM: VR.

CHARLIE MICHEL: VR. I'm losing it. But the thing is there needs to be a definitive amount or at least a range of an amount in there. Because being a fiscal agent for a 30,000-dollar grant might appeal to some people, but being a fiscal agent for 100,000-dollar grant might not appeal to them. And then the other thing is you want to build into that something about the, not the reputation, but the qualifications of the people applying because there's a problem that nobody would apply. That's always an issue. But there's a bigger problem if the wrong people apply and they look really good on paper, but they don't have any experience with any of the facets that we're looking at. Or worse, they do have experience and it's bad.

So we want to make sure, in my opinion, that we have something built in there that would allow y'all to disqualify anyone because they don't meet this certain criteria. That's just some thoughts cause I'm telling you the solicitation is probably going to be the most important part of the process because it is a bear to write those things and to get them correct. And there's a fine line between being vague and being ineffective. So you just really want to be very careful.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you.

CHARLIE MICHEL: Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Jill.

JILL HANO: Can Lillian and Amy work on another draft budget and like we send it out to like the committee members that like met Wednesday, or some day or I don't know.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So let me just clarify something. So you're complaining that I volun-told you to do speaking earlier and now you're just telling me that I have to do the budget.

JILL HANO: Wait what? No. I was just making sure. I'm cool with speaking. Like of course people love to hear me talk.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: That's the truest statement that anyone has made throughout this entire committee meeting.

JILL HANO: Yeah, right.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: It's true. I have never met anyone who does not love Jill Hano and that is a fact.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Lillian, can we get a copy of the Oklahoma budget because even though it's not going to be your budget, it's good to know everything that you need in your budget. And I can tell you if you can give me that I can tell you what we can pay for.

AMY DEAVILLE: I can forward that to you right now.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Cause like in preETS if you keep it within people who are eligible for preETS I can pay for books, tools, training materials necessary to participate. I can pay for any of the ADA accommodations that a person would need to participate.

SPEAKER: That's a big one.

JILL HANO: Send that to me too, Amy.

SPEAKER: Yes.

JILL HANO: And where are you finding all these people that love them some Jill Hano? I can't find anyone to love me.

SPEAKER: You have a room full of people that love you right here.

JILL HANO: Can I ask Melissa a question?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Sure.

JILL HANO: Is there a link on your website like just all about preETS?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. I'm on it right now.

JILL HANO: Can you send me the link?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

JILL HANO: Okay. Y'all know I love to read. And my job just closed down so.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

MADELYN YOUNG: I'm here.

JILL HANO: What?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Hey, Maddie. It's good to see you.

JILL HANO: Hey, Maddie. Thank y'all so much.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: So it seems like we have a lot of work to do, and we still have one other agenda item. We only have 17 minutes and since it already seems to be a pretentious topic we may want to-- so here's what I'm thinking. We schedule another YLF committee meeting for maybe next month to finalize the schedule and in the meantime, Amy, I apologize for volun-tolding you in present tense, maybe you and I can get together and kind of draft the budget.

AMY DEAVILLE: Okay.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And then at the next meeting we can finalize schedule, look at the budget and since we'll have a budget, we'll have an idea where that (inaudible) can come from and then we can get that process started so we can possibly have a fiscal agent and coordinator by the end of the year so we can have YLF for summer of 2023. Does that sound like a solid plan to everyone? Okay. We have three hands raised.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. Sharon and Charlie, I'm not sure if their hands were just still up. They both went down. So Corhonda Corley.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Corhonda.

SPEAKER: Y'all know when the meeting is next month?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Not yet. We just decided that two seconds ago so that's to be determined. Corhonda, I see your hand raised.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Yes. If my memory recalls we're supposed to have a budget committee for the DD Council so if you're trying to iron out issues as it relates to a budget for YLF it would go to the budget committee. And if our DD Council don't have a budget committee, then it would be prudent of us to actually get a budget committee ASAP. I think that that's something that we may need to look at. Our DD could look at that along with the chairperson, but that would be my recommendation. Thank you.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you for the suggestion. In the meantime I think we really need to get a budget pulled together for YLF so we can start the SOP process. I think we can stick to the plan of perhaps getting the draft budget drafted before the next committee meeting and then having it before the YLF committee. And then we'll talk about finalizing the schedule, looking at the budget and the SOP process. Thumbs up, thumbs down? Maddie thumbs up, thumbs down? Awesome. Cool.

NICOLE FLORES: Seeing about getting additional members on our committee.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Yeah. So as mentioned earlier, probably need more diversity on our committee as far as self-advocates and people of color. I know some of our committee members weren't in the room at the time. So we had discussed perhaps our YLF committee keeping their eyes and ears out for any potential committee members that would be a good fit for our committee. So if you guys can do that in the next couple of months that would be phenomenal. Any other questions, comments, concerns or really good jokes? Awesome. Jill, please tell your mama to call me. Public comment? The last thing on the agenda before adjournment.

AMY DEAVILLE: No hands are raised.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Awesome. Can we have a motion to adjourn our meeting?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I motion. Bambi.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Do we have a second?

SPEAKER: I will second.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: And then any objections or abstentions? Thank goodness. All right. Thank you, guys. No objections, abstentions. Our motion to adjourn passes. Thank you all for your hard work. We will see you guys very soon.