

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
Act 378 Subcommittee  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Morning, everyone. Welcome to the Act 378 subcommittee of the DD Council. We apologize for the delay, but we will try to make up the time and be finished by noon. We will start the meeting with welcome introductions and meeting protocols.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Do you want me to take roll first to make sure we have a quorum?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Present.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Basile.

KIM BASILE: Present.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Egle. I see her. I just can't hear her. Ms. Egle.

JILL EGLE: Yeah. Present.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Excellent. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Dr. McKee. Ms. Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Tarver. All right. You have five and a quorum.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Meeting protocols.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Meeting protocols. If you want, I can run through those really quickly.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: So just as a reminder, same meeting protocols that we have for all of our meetings. If you are a committee member and you're participating via Zoom, make sure that your camera is on, and you can unmute yourself whenever you talk. We have to have your camera on to make sure you're counted towards the quorum. Keep muted unless you're called upon by the chairperson. Electronically raise your hand to request that the chair recognizes you to speak. Once you're recognized to speak you can turn your microphone on and then turn it off once you're done. Guests that are

participating via Zoom you can raise your hand to speak, and staff will go in once you're recognized by the chair and unmute you and then you will be able to speak that way. So just electronically raise your hand and that will notify us. Comments that are relevant to the topic at hand in the chat box will also be read. However, we do encourage you if you do plan on speaking do not utilize the chat and say the same thing. Let's try to be concise since we are behind time. Either raise your hand or utilize the chat box. Public comments of a person's character will not be heard. You will be asked to stop by the chairperson. If it continues you may also be removed from the meeting. Also, if you are participating in-person, which I don't think we have any public members in-person, but if you go to the end of the table here, we can recognize you to speak. The way we'll take comments is it will be committee members first that are here in-person. Then it will be committee members that are virtual. Then we can move onto public that is in-person and then public who are not in-person. I think that about covers it.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Brenton. Next, we'll have our approval of the July meeting summary. It's in our packet. And for those that are virtual, it is online on the DD Council website. Do we have any objections to approving the minutes from the July meeting? Okay. There's no objections, so therefore we'll approve the minutes from the July Act 378 meeting by unanimous consent.

BRENTON ANDRUS: One thing real quick. I saw the comment that Vivienne was hearing overlapping voices. Not sure what that would be from, but it does remind me if you are here in-person just remember that the mike's are on the table and they're always live. So keep that in mind when you're shuffling your papers or if you're having any side chatter. Definitely if you need to have a conversation about something that's not related you want to step away from the table because we can hear it and you might not want us to. But also just keep in mind any wrappers from the candy or your papers they can pick up that. So try to be cautious when you're doing those things.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: The temptation that the DD

Council staff has put in front of us.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We're going to try to make it really difficult for you to participate in this meeting. (Inaudible), the live microphones, everything.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Brenton. Next, we will have the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities report. Tanya Murphy and Julie Hagan.

TANYA MURPHY: Good morning.

SPEAKER: Morning.

JILL EGGLE: Morning.

TANYA MURPHY: Good to see you all again. Okay. Well, we'll start with the fiscal year 22 final total expenditures. There's always quite a bit of a lot of information to show on here, but the final totals are always my favorite because there's no question about it not being the end of the quarter or, you know, there being some information we don't know. But this is it. This is the final expenditure report for the fiscal year 22 which ended June 30th, 2022. If you want to take a look at the percentage expended, you'll see that everybody met the 95 percent that is the performance indicator expectation for the individual and family support. Give you guys an opportunity to take a look at the numbers. A total of 3,499 individuals were served in the State of Louisiana with the individual and family support program. And the cumulative percent expended is 99 percent. Does anybody have any questions about the individual and family support program?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Tanya, we have at least a couple, a few new members on the DD Council who are here for the meeting, and I just wanted to share with them if you have any questions there's no questions that you can't ask or that this is a pretty complex committee I think and to be able to understand. So I ask the same question year after year so it's okay. And sometimes it's good to revisit and rethink about something that was in the past. Maybe we determined, those of us who have been around a while, but it's good to revisit and think about some of this. So I just wanted to share that with you guys. And glad that you guys are participating. Okay. Vice Chairman Banks and then

Jill Egle after Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: And thank you, Ms. Polotzola, for recognizing me. So I have a question up on the individual family support where it has the 38,453 that's in red by the NSHSD. Okay. Why are they in the red with this one? I ask this all the time.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. The red means they overspent their budget.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So with that question being answered, if they overspent their budget does that mean that they're reaching more people?

TANYA MURPHY: Well, let me describe it to you this way. You know, many of the agreements that each LGE makes with the families, like for example, if it's for personal care attendant services they'll do a contract maybe, or an agreement for the full year for like 5,000-dollars. And then the families will utilize 500 this month, 700 this month and they use it for the whole fiscal year. Many times families don't spend their full contract. And so I know that when I was supervising the individual family support when I worked at an LGE I would over-obligate the amount of money that I had available to me to make sure that I spent at least 95 percent because there were some families that would leave money on the board.

So it looks like Northwest Louisiana over-obligated, but their family spent the money, so they went over their budget. I would say what it means to me is everybody spent their agreements and they were able to help a few extra people. And the good thing about some of the LGEs funneling their money through the LFSLCS, if you look at the columns one of them says budgeted at LGE and one of them says budgeted through LFSLCS, yeah. So region seven Northwest Louisiana Human Services District budgets all their money through LFS. And that gives them a little bit of wiggle room. So LFS will pay that extra if they go a little over the budget, they paid it. So it's kind of a surprise and I'm sure the LGEs were having a little bit of a heart attack when they over-budgeted and then the people actually spent it all. But luckily LFS will cover that. I don't think they encourage them to go over their budget, but it's covered so they spent their

budget and then some.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Cool. And just like Ms. Polotzola was saying earlier, we do have new members on here, so I know we're all used to just using our acronyms and just using LRS. Can we just state the full thing just in case people that are online, you know, they don't know what that is or whatever. So just-- and I know the budget reports and the actual report just have the initials, but just for the people that's new, because we do have some new people, can y'all just state the whole acronym for the things if y'all don't mind.

TANYA MURPHY: Oh, for sure. Yeah. And I try to do that all the time, but I always find myself forgetting. But LGE stands for local governing entity. Was just another term that we use when we refer to all ten of the human service districts and authorities across the state. The first column there says LGE and then it list their actual name, Metropolitan Human Services District, Capitol Area Human Services District, etc. And then the budgeted through LFS, I believe that stands for Louisiana Family Services. And then LCS is the same company and I think Louisiana Clinical Services or. But it's the same company and it just goes by LFS with the individual and family support program, Louisiana Family Services.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And just for clarification on the LGE, if you know your LDH, Louisiana Department of Health regions the order that they're listed, while that's their names, it's region one through ten on the first column. So if you know it in that way you can look at it in that way. And then Jill.

JILL EGLE: So Ms. Tanya Murphy, what is individual family support mean? Just curious.

TANYA MURPHY: So in the Act 378 program there are two different programs that spend that money, that Act 378 money. One is the individual and family support program and the other is the flexible family fund program.

JILL EGLE: There's services for the Office of Citizens of Developmental Disabilities, services for the special need population every year?

TANYA MURPHY: That's correct.

JILL EGLE: I just wondered like in the near future, next year or the year after based on the new governor, are we going to be stabilized with the legislative after 24 with passing rates for providers and DSPs? Cause I'm on the board for the Arc of GNO and I represent the DD Council, but are things ever going to level out? Cause I pray to God, and I hope that miracle happens.

TANYA MURPHY: Thanks for your statement, Jill. I hope it does as well. I don't really have the answer for you about that.

JILL EGLE: Cause I know that with the end of Covid the turnout with the Arc of GNO is like insane. You know, it's like hard to find honest staff and staffing are leaving, and groups are not coming back. I'm trying to make the change and lord knows when things will ever level out with the funding in the country and the State of Louisiana. But I appreciate you telling me what it means and thank you.

TANYA MURPHY: Sure.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Jill, any other questions about the individual family support funds? By council members or any other questions.

TANYA MURPHY: Okay. Well, we can move onto the flexible family fund section of the report then. The flexible family fund is a monthly stipend that we provide to families who have children in their home who have severe disabilities. If they meet the severity criteria, they get 258-dollars per month which comes out to 3,096-dollars a year. This program is a lot easier to budget out because you know exactly how much is going out every month and exactly how much the families are going to get. And as long as you got your slots all filled you generally spend a hundred percent. Which you can see all but one of the LGEs did. And the only reason that one hit 99 percent is because they weren't able to get that one slot filled. And so some of the money didn't go out. But I know that they are working to fill all the slots. Any questions about the flexible family fund?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And Tanya, just to recap a discussion that we've had at previous meetings when we

discuss about, you know, why not having all of the slots filled that sometimes there's a processing issue to determine, you know, there is an empty slot and getting the people processed to make they're still qualified and they can reach out to the next person on the list. And sometimes they go through the process of reaching out to several people going down the list and that takes some time.

TANYA MURPHY: That's right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So just remember that. But it looked like they're not really having that problem. Or at least have it during this past fiscal year.

TANYA MURPHY: Right. They worked very hard to make sure that they anticipate when a slot is going to come open and that happens when a child reaches age 18 so they know when a child is going to reach 18. They know when those slots are going to come open and so they start sending out the letters to the next people on the list and try to make sure that they get somebody determined to meet the criteria so that they can serve their agreement right when the other person ages out. They do a really, really good job of that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thanks, Tanya. Any other questions on this?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I have a question. I don't know, might be more of a question for Julie, Tanya. So the 258 a month, I mean, that's a really old number. It's based on some really old data. Has the department over the years ever thought about trying to increase that amount to be a little bit more relevant to what folks are getting today? I don't know if you need to go into the historical of how you came up with the 258. But it's a very old number so I was just wondering if the department's ever considered trying to get more money for this program.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: No. This is Julie. That's not anything that's come up during budget or anything. I don't know that it may be that if we were asked to, you know, we could consider it. I think we would definitely though need to have additional funds tied to that because my concern is if you go up on the amount, but then there's no additional funds then you're serving fewer people. And so in my mind you would have

to have the commensurate budget ask to be able to give to the LGEs to be able to make that change.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Good to know. Thank you.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Not opposed. Just saying we would need, you know.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. I had in my head if there was more money available. More money could be requested or if that ever was a conversation. I know the council has talked about doing some work around it years ago and then it just kind of fell off. Just curious. A few people have brought it up prior to this meeting so I just wanted to put that out there in the realm of advocacy.

EBONY HAVEN: Bambi, one of our new council members has his hand up.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Oh, I'm sorry. Erick Taylor

ERICK TAYLOR: A question. Does that affect if a person have the SSI?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: The stipend? The 258-dollars?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes, ma'am.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I don't know. Tanya, do you know the answer to that? Does that get counted as an asset or something that would potentially impact SSI? I don't think so but.

TANYA MURPHY: No. The 258-dollars is considered a cost reimbursement for the extraordinary cost of having a child in the home with a severe disability and so it's not considered income.

ERICK TAYLOR: I have one more question. If you know somebody, how do they sign up for it?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: You go through the local governing entity or the agency, so it depends on where you live. We have ten. And you can find it, I can send folks a link. There's a link on our web page for the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disability depending on what parish you're in. You know, each, all but one serve multiple parishes and so you would go apply through that local governing entity in your region.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: But it is for children 18 and under.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And I believe typically if



someone, because this is for children, typically if someone qualifies, goes through that human service district they should be asked, you know, they want to be put on the waiver list and then they'll get the SUN screen and see if they get a waiver. But they also should be asked if they want to be put on this list for flexible family funds. I think that's typically the process, right. Yeah. So that's usually the way people enter and get on that list. And then when a slot becomes available that person would, you know, that child, the family would receive that fund each month once that slot becomes available. Any other questions about the flexible family funds?

TANYA MURPHY: All right. The total final expenditures for Act 73.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sorry about that part. One second.

TANYA MURPHY: Page two. There it is. In this report I combine the first column shows the total amount of state general funds that have been, that has been given to each of the LGEs for that fiscal year. The second column does the math and lets you know what 9 percent of that total state general fund is. And then each LGE has been required by Act 73 to budget 9 percent of their state general funds towards Act 73 or towards Act 378 funding or services for people with developmental disabilities. So I combine however much they tell me that they budget for their IFS and FFF programs combined which needs to equal that 9 percent. And then the next column shows how much they actually did spend totally in a combined IFS, FFF number. And then the final column does the math for you and lets you know how much of the 9 percent was spent. So they are supposed to spend 98 percent. And you can see by the list there many of the LGEs exceed the 9 percent. Statewide they spend 120 percent of the 9 percent. There's a couple of LGEs that were close, 98 and 99 percent. But everybody spent what was required. Are there any questions about the Act 73?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you, chair. Okay. So the first region, the MSHD-- SD. I'm sorry. That's at 93 percent, right?

TANYA MURPHY: No. It's 100 percent.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, okay. Wait. I'm sorry. I was looking at the other one from the last time. Okay. Okay. Never mind. I'm sorry. I was looking at the wrong report.

TANYA MURPHY: Okay.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions about the Act 73 compliance report?

HANNAH JENKINS: There are no chats or hands raised.

TANYA MURPHY: Okay. Quarter one. So in October we also report the first quarter expenditures for fiscal year, the next fiscal year which is now fiscal year 23. What we expect to see is maybe around 25 percent because it's divided into quarters and so you would think that it would be 25 and then 50 and then 75 and then 100. Keep in mind that this report is not showing all of the expenditures for the first quarter because the report is requested prior to them receiving all of the expenditures. So the total statewide is 14 percent. And each time I give one of these reports I always say I know it looks a little low in some of the regions or some of the LGEs, but they have obligated the money and they are assisting individuals and they will spend all of it. It's just a little bit low for this first quarter report because, you know, they haven't gotten all of their invoices yet for the first quarter and they're just getting started making these agreements. So it looks a little low, but I have no doubt they will spend all the money. Any questions?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Thank you, chair. So I'm just looking at it whole totality. Served we have 1800 people being served, round about. But we have 2,000 on the waiting list. How, I mean, I know it's just the first quarter, but how do we get that number down, the ones that's on the waiting list? Does funding have to increase or?

TANYA MURPHY: Where is the 2000 waiting list that you're seeing?

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, okay. I'm sorry. We haven't got to that part yet.

TANYA MURPHY: It must be over on flexible family

fund.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. I'm sorry. I went ahead. I'm sorry.

TANYA MURPHY: That's okay. I just want to make sure I'm not missing anything.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. So do I just ask that later?

TANYA MURPHY: Oh, I can answer it now. You know, they have individuals on the waiting list, and they have certain number of slots that they keep filled and so they can't get to those names on the waiting list until they have slots that open up. There is a lot of individuals that are on the waiting list that have a qualifying condition to get on the waiting list, but then once their name is reached on the list might not necessarily meet the severity screening, so they have to go through quite a few. I mean, I don't know, I guess there would have to be more money from the legislature to get rid of the whole waiting list. But they do work through that waiting list pretty quickly.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. I was just wondering like what was the process. Cause right now, you know, we have the amount served verses the amount on the waiting list. It's just significant to me, that's all. And then you're saying that they probably need more money then, okay. Would they need more money in a specific category or just more money in the family flexible funds? I'm sorry. Flexible family funds.

TANYA MURPHY: No. That's okay. I understand what you're saying. I guess the LGEs would have to receive more state general funds so that they could put more towards the family flexible fund.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: You want me to expand on that?

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. Can you? Thank you.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah. And this is Julie. You know, the last report Tanya gave the LGEs do get a certain amount of state general fund. It is up to them in their budget to kind of determine how much they'll allocate towards the family flexible fund and the individual and family support dollars. And so that's why a few years ago the DD Council advocated for and got the requirement that you take their total budget, the total state general funds they get and at least 9

percent of those has to be budgeted to these two programs. So the report kind of shows that.

So because they're meeting that in order to serve more people through that program, they would either have to find their own state general fund dollars within their budget that would go beyond the 9 percent to dedicate to that, or which might be difficult, I mean, would be difficult, you know, asking to kind of find that money. Or we would have to go to the legislature and say that we would like to have additional state general fund dollars allocated to the LGEs. And when you have the budget, you can do certain things we call line items. Which means that it's not like we're giving you money and saying here, do what you want with it. You can potentially have a line item in the budget, and it says we're going to give whatever-- we can calculate how much it would cost us additional state general fund dollars to give all of the people on the waiting list the stipends or the flexible family fund. So you would have to go to the legislature and say we need this much more money in state general fund because that's what pays for this program is our state general fund dollars. And that you would allocate it to LGEs, but say hey, LGE, you have to use it for this program. So there is the ability to put that specifically in the budget, but really to, you know, that would be I think to ask them to find it in their budget might be difficult because they've got other, you know, things that they have to cover. So I would think in order to really address it we would have to go ask for that additional state general fund so we could support them. But then to make sure that it went to that you could potentially ask for that in the budget. Does that help explain it a little better?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes, ma'am. It does clear it up to, you know, just to know the process of what has to happen and, you know, where we are currently in the process. So yeah, it does clear it up a little bit better. Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions?

TANYA MURPHY: There's one in the chat.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes, from Brooks Stewart.

They're still working on severing 2019 applicants. What is the average time on the waiting list for flexible family fund?

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. And each LGE handles their own waiting list so it's anywhere between one and three years.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No, ma'am. Not in the chat.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. We can move on.

TANYA MURPHY: So just to talk a little bit more about flexible family fund you can see that the expended year to date across the board is 25 percent. And I think I mentioned that before in the final report that because it's a set amount they can meet that 25, 50, 75, 100 percent almost exactly.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

TANYA MURPHY: So Act 73 first quarter. So this is where we find out for this fiscal year now, fiscal year 23, the total state general fund. It's going to be similar to what it was for last year. You can compare the amounts might be a little bit different. And then the 9 percent that they need to budget. How much they've actually budgeted towards these two programs. And for the first quarter how much they've spent combined. And if we're looking for that 25 percent, we're very close to the 9 percent being spent. A 25 percent of the 9 percent, sorry. But again, they haven't gotten all of their invoices yet for the full first quarter. So this is missing about a month of how much they will actually have spent for the first quarter.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So Tanya, South Central Louisiana Human Service Authority and Acadiana Area Human Service Authority and Florida Parishes doesn't seem they've budgeted the 9 percent. So what happens there?

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. Typically I would look and see how much they budgeted once I get this information and I just send them a message and just say, you know, you haven't budgeted your 9 percent. And then see that they alter the amount that they budget. It's up to the LGEs to do that and I do remind them.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But it's not really up to them because by law they're required to do it.

TANYA MURPHY: Right. It's up to them to comply.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And so I guess my concern is looking at these three regions, which Acadiana exceeded for the fiscal year 2022, but South Central and Florida Parishes both were below spending the 9 percent even though it was, you know, for Florida Parishes I think for 22 was 10,000. But like South Central was 30 or something thousand below spending the 9 percent goal. And so now we see this again and so that kind of throws up some red flags for me.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. I will be reaching out to those LGEs and notifying them that their state general fund amount changed, that their 9 percent is this amount, that they need to be budgeting at least that much. And I usually also throw in there that I recommend that they actually budget more so that they can reach-- because the goal is to spend 100 percent of the 9 percent amount of money. So they really should be budgeting a little bit more. But and I will be notifying them about this.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Thank you. Julie.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So this is Julie. Tanya, can you please ask those three regions for the January Act 378 subcommittee meeting to provide you with specific information that can be shared with the committee since that was noted.

TANYA MURPHY: Absolutely.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Is there a hand, did I see someone's hand raised?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes. Ms. Kathy Dwyer has her hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Kathy, you can be recognized.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Bambi. In terms of the LGEs complying with Act 73, what are the consequences if they don't?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Tanya, can you answer that?

TANYA MURPHY: I think we've spoken before about possibly requiring a corrective action plan.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. And so like when you notify them, I'm assuming then they'll go back to applications they've received and fund more or do you know what they

typically do to bring their amount up to the minimum 9 percent required?

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. This has happened a couple of times in the past and whenever I let the executive director and the DD director know they always just put more money into the budget so that they reach that 9 percent. Up to this point once I've notified them that they aren't in compliance with the Act 73 they've all come into compliance after I've notified them.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. So you do monitor to see when they do come into compliance?

TANYA MURPHY: Yes.

KATHY DWYER: And is there a certain amount of timeframe that they have to do that or that really hasn't been an issue because they've been pretty responsive?

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. By the time I get the quarter two report it's usually, it's always been corrected.

KATHY DWYER: Okay. And just by chance, not that there ever will be, but just by chance let's say somewhere down the road an LGE doesn't comply. When there's a corrective action plan-- never mind. Forget that question. Thanks.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So this is Julie again. So, you know, if we're what ifing then what we would need to do Tanya and I would work together to present that to the department and we would run that through, you know, budget and we would identify with budget and with legal what the appropriate actions are based on the requirements in law. So we haven't had to do that before, but if we did then that would be upon the department to escalate it to review with our legal team to determine what the appropriate actions would be. And I just don't remember Act 73 enough to know if there were specific fines or sanctions or things like that that were included or not. So we would need to pull that legislation, look for that and then, you know, if it's not in there then there are some other avenues. So we would have to look at what the appropriate action would be. Normally we do, as Tanya said, before we take any fines or sanctions, we do typically offer an opportunity to correct it through a corrective action plan. And then, you know, from there

you then take a look at well, does it continue or did it repair. That would be incumbent upon the department since that is the state general dollars run through the department to be able to take a look at that and determine the appropriate actions.

KATHY DWYER: Right. That was very helpful. Thank you, Julie. You read my mind.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. Thanks, Julie. I was thinking the same thing. I couldn't remember the specific wording of Act 73 to find out. But then we would have to look it up. So yeah.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And I saw Melinda Elliot has her hand raised. You're recognized.

MELINDA ELLIOT: Thank you, Bambi. So if I understand the discussion correctly, and of course I might not, last year they either didn't allocate 9 percent, some of them either didn't allocate 9 percent or didn't spend 9 percent. But there would have been no corrective action plan this year because it's a new year. I mean, last year if they had allocated under the 9 percent last year then of course I'm assuming that you told them and that they corrected it, but they still spent less. So I guess I'm a little confused.

TANYA MURPHY: On the final report they spent, all of the LGEs spent what was required. I believe 98 percent is the required goal for them to spend. We want them to spend 100 of it, but they're held to 98 percent.

MELINDA ELLIOT: Can I follow-up?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, ma'am.

MELINDA ELLIOT: So I thought I understood that not all of the LGEs had spent the 9 percent. Did I misunderstand that?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So there's two reports in relation to the 9 percent that are included. There's one that is the final for fiscal year 22 which runs July 1st of 2021 through June 30th of 2022. So at the end of the fiscal year all of them did spend at least 98 percent of the 9 percent state general funds. Then there's a second report in relation to the compliance for this quarter that takes a look at just the first quarter. And so in that report what we're saying is that at this point there are looks like three LGEs that



have not indicated in their budget the full 9 percent is allocated. So because we're in October right now there's a chance for them to correct that in their budget and then spend because they have until June 30th of 2023 to be able to spend that money. So the report we're talking about now is just looking at what happened in the first quarter which would have been July, August and September. And so what we'll do is go say to them those three from the report it's not budgeted and that way they will have time to correct it and have time to then spend it because the report we look at is did they actually not just budget it, but did they actually spend the full 9 percent at the end of the year. Does that help make it clearer?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Melinda, what I was referencing is is the two at the end of the fiscal year 22 that did not reach the 9 percent goal. So they got 98 percent. Whereas some of the other LGEs were extremely over 9 percent. For instance, South Central they spent about 29,000-dollars less than the 9 percent. And then Florida Parishes about 10,000-dollars less than the 9 percent goal. And so they were lower even though they met the 98 percent. And then if you look at this year's report, they also currently don't have budgeted 9 percent. So what I was saying is, so that made me think, you know, there's a trend there that they're the lowest LGEs on the final report last year and the current budget this year. So I said it's a red flag that needs to be addressed and Tanya said she was going to address it.

MELINDA ELLIOT: Thank y'all so much. I got mixed up in the last year, the this year. Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions about this Act 73 report for the first quarter of this fiscal year? Comments in the chat, any relevant chats?

HANNAH JENKINS: No, ma'am.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Tanya, next.

TANYA MURPHY: So another report that I send into DD Council at the end of each fiscal year, which is reported in October, is a pretty big report that Brenton helps me put together. And it shows for the individual and family support program it breaks out every LGE total requests received, the requests

reviewed, the requests that are fully funded, partially funded. It just breaks all of the information down so that you guys can look at the priority level, how many requests were received, how many were funded and the total of all the agreements in each quarter, I think.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I actually made the report even longer this year, Tanya.

TANYA MURPHY: Fantastic.

BRENTON ANDRUS: What I did was normally this page here where it breaks down the particular services that are received and the contracts encumbered spent you send one over for each LGE. So all I did this year was just compile everything for all of them into one sheet so you can see the total that was spent by the end of the year for everyone. So you'll see their end of year. And so I guess this is page three of that particular report. You'll see all of their end of the year here and then on that next page you'll see the actual totals. So for all services through your LGEs there were over 5,000 contracts done for over 8.5-million in state general funds. So it just totals up everything that follows the rest of that page. If you're only interested in the actual totals and then you can go and look at your particular LGE if you're interested in specific. Hopefully that will make it a little bit easier to navigate.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So I just have a question. Whenever you look at each one of them on the second, I guess actually the third column cause the first column is the region and the priorities. The requests and then you go over, then it puts the priorities and then requests fully funded and requests partially funded. And so I guess the difference between that if you look at it like the difference between what was reviewed you have what was fully funded plus what was partially funded the difference is what-- okay. Then you look at the requests denied. So all of that should total up, is that correct? Can y'all kind of guide on that.

TANYA MURPHY: Right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So if you would just go across and add up requests fully funded, partially funded, approval pending, all of those columns all the way down to waiting you add up all of those that would

equal up to your requests reviewed or should?

TANYA MURPHY: I think it's good. I'm thinking there might be some. Let's see.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. I mean, so your fully funded, your partly funded, your denials, that should add up to the requests reviewed. Received could potentially be off from what was actually reviewed. We've seen that sometimes. And you can see it here. But the other columns that look at things that were deferred or denied or closed or waiting or things like that may not actually add up across the whole line. Cause those might just be a fraction of some of the things that were in there.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And so when I look at, just looking at the requests reviewed it seems like it's pretty close to the reviewed. Most of the regions have reviewed what the requests that they received. I do see a big gap in South Central. They received 511, but only reviewed 436. And the rest of them seem to be within zero and 20, but that one seems to be a larger number. That's about what, 75, that was received, but wasn't reviewed. Is there a reason for that?

BRENTON ANDRUS: That would be under the open requests column. Probably your difference there.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But why aren't they?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Oh, I don't know why they're open.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah. Okay. That would make sense. But again, why weren't they reviewed?

TANYA MURPHY: I would like to contact them so that they can speak for themselves about that, but I can give you an idea of why sometimes when I was doing IFS why there were some not reviewed. And that would be because perhaps we only had enough money to pay for priority ones and twos and threes and we weren't even looking at priority fours. But like we had talked about before, South Central did have some money left so I would like to contact them to get that reason why.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah. And this is Julie. They also were so impacted by Ida it may be that people asked and then weren't able to find them if we still have people evacuated and things like that. So you can find out too since it does look so different that might also play a factor there.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But if it said requests reviewed and it puts the priorities then you go over to open requests and that means how is it put into priorities if it wasn't even reviewed yet.

TANYA MURPHY: The requests come in with priority numbers already attributed to them. So when they review it, they might look at the information, but it's not officially reviewed until it goes to the IFS committee.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So who puts a priority on it?

TANYA MURPHY: A support coordinator will put a priority on it if they get their requests from a support coordinator or the community service professional at the LGE who puts the packet together works with the family, determines the priority. So it comes to the committee with a priority already established.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And what does the committee do?

TANYA MURPHY: The committee makes a recommendation of once they decide to review it, once it is brought to the committee, the committee can recommend change of priority, they can recommend to fund it, partially fund it, deny it. They can make recommendations for all of the outcomes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. I see Kathy Dwyer has her hand raised.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Bambi. You're saying it's supposed to be prioritized before going to the committee? Because I'm on the committee in region ten and there are a few that we get that are not prioritized and I'll point it out to them, but I don't get responses. That sometimes is important. Sometimes we can tell by what the request is as to how important or the priority. But I will note that we get some that aren't prioritized. And we get a lot that don't have complete information. So if there's some way to make sure they review that all the information is correct because it would speed up the approval process instead of having to constantly send it back for more information.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you for that input, Kathy. Do we have any other questions about this report?

HANNAH JENKINS: There are no hands raised or

comments in the chat.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you. You can go to your next report.

TANYA MURPHY: I mean, I think that's it for me.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: What about the services, we didn't look at that part of it. I was thinking that was another, but there's another section of it. Reports by service.

TANYA MURPHY: Right. Right. I like this report. It breaks it down by what was actually, what service was actually purchased for individuals. This is a report that I worked on a lot with the DD Council because we used to have a lot in other. I'm looking at Metropolitan and they have 569 in other so I'm going to have to go back to them and find out what's going on because we tried to make sure we added individual items that were descriptive enough so that we didn't have to have so many in other so we can really get a good idea of what was purchased. But I'm going to make a note of that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. Because we still have over 1,000, well over 1,200 really that are listed as other.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And so I remembered this discussion and it led to, last year, and it led to questioning about why some regions had really high cost in some areas and some that didn't. And so like first one that caught my eye was the diapers, disposable undergarments and incontinent supplies which is recommended as an advocacy item from our executive committee. So I think that's important to everyone. But if you look across you can see where many of our districts over 100 to 200,000-dollars in providing for those supplies, but then you have a region like Acadiana that only has 2,000. We had talked about last time to see from these regions where we saw a discrepancy, not discrepancies in a bad way, but just differences to figure out what they're doing to have those differences.

TANYA MURPHY: Right. And I met with all the LGEs last year to have a discussion across the board to find out why some were different and then I reported back to the council that like Acadiana for example has a resource in their region that donates. And when--

donates the diapers. And so that resource was shared with all the other LGEs so that they could maybe try to find that in their region as well. And that's quite typical of why the different LGEs spend on different things. It's the specific need in their LGE and the specific requests for services that they receive that the people in their region need. So that's why we created LGEs in the first place was so that they could tailor their services for their region in their specific need. And so Acadiana has found a resource in their area and that's why their diapers specifically requested lower than the others.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. I remember last year our conversation also was a concern was that sometimes a potential issue is that the requests are kind of like pushed like this is what we do and so you will get more requests about certain things in one region. And just to make sure that there wasn't like in certain regions that people weren't able to access certain types of services because it was just like maybe thought by the public that that's not something that's offered or there was some type of way of diverting those requests to certain things or not to certain things. And so I remember there was a lot of dialogue about that. And one of them was about vocational and employment services. And so when I look across there, I can see like there's some substantial amounts in some of our regions. And you can look at EMCAL has zero. Central Louisiana only has 10,000. Talking about the encumbered amount. And so do we have any information about that?

TANYA MURPHY: About the vocational specifically?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yeah.

TANYA MURPHY: I mean, it's what's available in each region is what they-- I don't think that the LGEs are putting the word out that, you know, we're only going to fund this or this so that's all you should request. I would have to ask each. I don't know, I'm trying to explain it in a way that makes sense because it makes sense to me, and it doesn't seem like there's anything nefarious or anything going on that needs to be changed. I guess I'm trying to find out from you what you're seeing that's concerning.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So, I mean, does nobody in region five need employment services or the opposite end of it is that or in other regions are we diverting people to employment services which I understand it to be typically sheltered employment. And so or is EMCAL doing a great job putting people in competitive integrated employment and not having to use these services and our other regions are still heavily dependent on the sheltered environments. Or is EMCAL, their citizens there, are they just not getting any employment service. I don't know what to make of it. But I know that our people aren't that different, you know, across the state. I realize there's different resources and that type of thing so I guess I would just, you know, want to know like what is happening in those regions.

TANYA MURPHY: I mean, I could ask Imperial Calcasieu, but I can venture to guess that their vocational workshops were closed because of the hurricane damage and that might have a lot to do with why they didn't fund anything for this fiscal year.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Melinda. Melinda Elliot has her hand raised.

MELINDA ELLIOT: Thank you, Bambi. I was just talking. I didn't have the microphone to click on. So I think in this instance Tanya is correct. I don't think we've had any workshop type arrangement open up. None. Zero. So there's not a whole lot going on. I am still concerned that it seems like EMCAL has such a low number of requests in general compared to the other regions cause there are certainly people here needing. And I even know cause I'm on the RAC that our EMCAL put money into IFS to keep up with the need. So maybe they are helping deeply with some people and that's why there are not as many requests, I don't know. That's my 2 cents.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions? Thank you, Melinda. Any other questions about this report?

ERICK TAYLOR: What happened, I don't know if this got something to do, what happened if they don't use this funding and y'all asking them to use the funding or what happened if the funding stay there?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Tanya or Julie, do y'all want to

talk about, answer that question?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: If the funding is not...

ERICK TAYLOR: Used.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: By the individual or by the LGE?

ERICK TAYLOR: By the LGE.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So right now the report is showing that they are, they're spending most of what they budget for.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes, ma'am.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: But that amount that's not, then they, I mean the majority of them are using it. I think even the amounts of the 98 percent and the 99 percent are minimal. They may use it in other areas within the LGE for that small amount. But in state government we don't usually spend the exact amount that we budget. There's usually some give and take in there and I think that's why they kind of put it at the 98 percent. We would like for them to spend over, but there's usually (inaudible). I don't know that we ever land exactly. Like unless it's a program kind of more like the flexible family fund where it's more predictable, but most things are not. So it may be used in other parts of the LGE.

But in general if for state government if we have money that's allocated to us that's not used it goes kind of back into just a pot of money. Cause you have to spend, your budget goes just every year. So if you don't spend it all then it goes kind of-- we jokingly call it the greater good. It just kind of goes into some big pot. All state agencies, you know, if there's money left over. So we try hard to get it as close as we can, but we also have to be careful to make sure we don't go over. Because we're in much bigger trouble if we go over. So it either it used potentially that small amount within the LGE or it would be given back to go back to the treasury because whatever's left goes back to the treasury at the end of the year. Does that answer your question?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes, ma'am. So y'all don't transfer it to somebody else that needs it?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So I think that's part of why the council looks at this kind of throughout the year and through the quarter. And so do each of the LGEs.



Yes, if somebody maybe needed something and then they didn't use it then there's always kind of a list of folks who need things and so then they look at how they might. So the individual and family support is not a stipend. That's just kind of there's a bucket of money and this report shows all the different things that it's spent on based on the report. So for example, we have a lot of folks who maybe ask for home modifications or help with modifying their home if they need like maybe a bath or something. Well, the cost of that, you might ask for one amount and that amount might be more or less. And so then you have to constantly kind of adjust within the budget that way. But yes, absolutely they take a look at what money is left to be able to look at helping as many people as they can within that pot of money, and they adjust that throughout the year based on what's been spent.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We're short on time. I know we're over schedule. I just want to say my questions are not any indication of anything that I think that's not going right with our DD offices, our LGEs. The contrary. They are always very supportive of any of the LGEs. And I feel confident as we have Kathy and Melinda expressing that they serve on those review committees, and I know there are other great people that serve on those review committees. And maybe my concerns are unwarranted. I just wanted to, you know, I want to see that we're having equity and accessibility of all the things that are needed for all our people across the state. So that's where that line of questioning comes from. And do we have someone who had their hand raised? I thought I might have seen that on the screen. Oh, two participants with their hands raised.

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes. Ms. Kathy Dwyer and Corhonda Corley.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Kathy and then Corhonda.

KATHY DWYER: Thank you, Bambi. If I can make one suggestion to OCDD that maybe they could share with the LGEs something I had made a suggestion to our LGE, but if other LGEs are doing the same thing it might help with their budgeting. Especially when they get closer to the end of the year. I know we get requests every

now and then from PCA services, particularly when a family is in the process of applying for a waiver. And typically, at least with our LGE, they do a contract with the family for those hours for a year. What typically, correct me if I'm wrong, I don't think it takes a year for a waiver to be approved. I would say six months might be a fair timeline, if not less.

SPEAKER: Right.

KATHY DWYER: So I would suggest instead of the LGEs obligating a full year's worth of PCA funds, so to speak, to a family they do contracts for six months. That way they have other funds freed up for other needs. You know, if OCCD feels it could be less than, you know, y'all can make a judgment call on that. But often we would see requests come in for a full year, especially when the request is submitted at the beginning of the fiscal year. And we know they're not going to be using those PCA services for that long, but it's tying up that funds in the projected budget, so to speak. So that's just the suggestion I would suggest across the board if others are operating the same way.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And Kathy, I think that's a good point. I look at Acadiana Human Service District and it looks like they have 61 contracts for PCA, is that right? And they're spending or encumbered 626,000. I mean, that's 100,000-dollars per person. Like why aren't those people getting waivers when we're spending 100,000-dollars. That's more than a waiver. And so those are the type of questions that I would ask. Like should these people be getting waivers. Is it a short term, you know, six months because the caregiver's in the hospital or something, that's one thing. But if it's this amount, that's questionable.

KATHY DWYER: Well, and I don't know about the other LGEs, I can only respond to what we do on our review committee. The first thing we ask for is whether or not they started the waiver application process. On the request form itself it's supposed to be checked off as to whether or not they have a waiver. And sometimes it's not checked off at all so that's my first question, do they have a waiver. If not, where are they in the application process, you know. And sometimes we will then fund it or just say, you know,

we'll go ahead and approve the PCA request with the condition that they apply for a waiver. You know, cause you don't want to tie up those funds, you know. And we do that condition because we know they're going to need those PCA services, and we know it's going to take a few months to get the waiver in place if they do meet the requirements and get the SUN score four or five. Three or four, sorry. There are some cases when they don't have a waiver. Even with the SUNs we might suggest they request a review or reassessment for the SUNs if they are needing that much PCA. Or sometimes they're waiting for like an EPDST application to be approved through Medicaid, you know, where they would receive some of those hours. But at least that's what happens with region ten.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Kathy. And I just want to correct my poor math. It's not 100,000. It would be 10,000 per person. But still, that's a lot per person and maybe some people were getting more than 10,000. So that's just something to look at. Okay. I think we had, who am I supposed to go to first? Do I go to our council members first?

BRENTON ANDRUS: It would be the committee first.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Jill and then I think did Corhonda have her? Yeah, she did. Okay. So Jill, go head.

JILL EGLE: Yeah. What I don't understand is I'm IDD and I get services through MHSD, but why do you have to be on a waiting list just to get services? Is it because of the funding. I mean.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So Jill, you shouldn't be on a waiting list. We've changed the system. Like if you're looking for a Medicaid waiver you should go through the SUN assessment, SUN screening as Kathy just talked about and based on what number you get on there it means whether you'll get an offer at that time or have to wait. So it's based on the needs.

JILL EGLE: Yeah. Because, Bambi, I've been knowing you forever. You're a great asset working for the State of Louisiana and everything. It's just like cause being on the Arc of GNO board serving this and doing boards and DD council and Special Olympics, you know. Let me ask you this, with the way the funding is

in the country people with disabilities next year is the services going to ever change, can it ever be different stuff? Cause at the Arc of GNO we can't hardly do stuff. We can only do certain outings. We can't really go to a lot.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Things can change, yes. Cause we have a new budget every year. And also each provider has to determine how they want to spend their money within the requirements of their program.

JILL EGLE: For all the providers they get their state or government revenue from where Ms. Julie Hagan works and Ms. Tanya Murphy works, correct?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Probably a lot of them that do the DD services get funding through OCDD, yes. Okay. Thank you, Jill. Now we have a hand raised from Ms. Corhonda Corley.

CORHONDA CORLEY: Great morning, madam chair, Ms. Polotzola. Good morning, Mr. Chair for the DD Council. And good morning, everyone else on the committee. I want to piggyback off of what Ms.-- first and foremost, Ms. Polotzola, your comments and stuff are definitely on point. I don't think that you're out of line for the questions that you raised. And what Kathy Dwyer stated is actually correct. In region two we are still posed with a lot of individuals not even knowing that they can actually get a waiver and how to even get a waiver. Which is a problem. And I'm talking about the outlying parishes that are really rural. East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee and some parts of Livingston Parish. Those individuals do not know how to get waivers. Don't know that our DD Council exist.

But also, we have a staffing issue where we don't have enough staff in our human district to actually deal with the individuals with disabilities right now in which we are serving as well as the companies that provide the case management. They are not able to receive the staffing as well. And so I just really hope that this committee would take into consideration how we can actually attract staff to both the human district centers as well as to the case managing companies and look at boosting the pay rate for those staff members so that we can actually be able to

disseminate out more information to the individuals in our community so that they could actually receive these meaningful services. Because that is a lot of the problems. And I just wanted to make sure that you knew that. That that is something that I'm seeing and even the school systems are not knowing the information about these resources to actually disseminate out to our families as well. And I'm so sorry I don't have much of a voice, but I am trying to project as loud as I can so that y'all can actually hear me.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Ms. Corley. We heard you. Any other comments?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No other comments. Ms. Jill Egle has her hand raised again.

JILL EGLE: Why is there such a low turnout with DSPs? Cause it's like they say the rate passed, but people at the Arc of GNO are leaving cause there's not enough revenue. I don't understand, Ms. Bambi. You were in Baton Rouge with the governor and all that. But why is it the turnout is so down.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So Bambi looked at Julie. Jill, I think if any of us could figure that out we could be millionaires because it is really, it's a crisis across the nation. And there are a lot of people right now trying to figure out why there is such a shortage and why so many people are leaving. And what can we, we, and by we, I mean collectively we, like all of us, what can all of us do to really address what we know is a huge problem. There's recently been some articles that have come out. We in Louisiana do participate in something called the staff stability survey. There's actually a national survey now that's trying to take a look at things like do we offer benefits, or what are packages, what is the average salary to be able to kind of compare across states. So they're starting to try to pull together information like that that will help give us research.

I know at the federal level, and I'll be in DC next month and I know that this is a big topic at the conference I'm going to. They're looking at changes we need to make at the federal level and then the states need to look at changes we need to make at the state level. But to answer the question as to why I think

there's a lot of people trying to, we need to know the why so we can know what we need to do to change it. And I think because the rates were low, and the pay was low that is one factor. But now that we've got the, you know, pay is up, that's not the only thing. And I've been saying that for a long time. We definitely need to get the pay up, but I think that that alone isn't going to help us have a qualified, adequate number of direct support professionals. And so I think that there's a lot of things we have to do. And if we could get at the why or the root cause of it then I think it would help us. I think right now we're just all kind of trying to throw darts at the wall. Maybe it's this. Let's do this. So we have a lot of work to do to really figure out how do we do that.

JILL EGLE: And Ms. Julie, I appreciate your leadership. Even the Arc of GNO's executive director. And like Arc of Louisiana, Arc of Baton Rouge where Ms. Kelly works. Everybody's trying to embrace this in a calm way and pray to God because when you look at people with disabilities who aren't working and who just get under, I don't know, 700 SSI they can't even buy stuff. They can't even go on a trip. I mean, we got to change the way society thinks about the DD Council and all the people that they represent. It's so disheartening to me. I try to make change, but it's like what can we do.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thanks, Jill. I see Kelly Monroe has her hand raised. Next, she'll be up on the agenda, so we'll just move right into her report after she makes her comment about this.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah. I just wanted to add that, you know, I really, it's really not about the money and the rate of pay. We have a local chapter that I was talking to yesterday who was saying that she pays her DSP 16-dollars an hour and she can't keep them. And it's, you know, a lot of businesses are paying 15 to 17-dollars an hour. And this job is hard. It's not easy. You know, and you can't, people have to love what they do to be a DSP. You can't just say I need a job and go get a job being a DSP. It's a hard job. It's very difficult. And we haven't figured out how, you know, because we do have chapters that are paying

everywhere between 12.50 an hour to 16-dollars an hour and we can't hold onto any staff. We hire ten and we lose ten. It's the strangest thing. I think a lot of it has to do a lot of the baby boomers are retiring and there's a lot more positions to be filled than what we thought there were, you know, also. So there's not as many people in the workforce that was in the workforce before and that's a big deal too. Anyway, for what it's worth.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Kelly. And I was going to move on, but Nicole Banks if you can make a quick comment because we're really behind schedule.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. I'll just make a real quick comment. The DSP workers has always been a high turnover rate because of the kind of job that it is. You're right, Kelly, a person would have to love what they do when they go into that field because of the intensity in everything that goes along with it. So and it's very hard. We already did a rate increase. And I know, it's a little hard to combat that whole, the turnover rate with the DSP workers. Even with raising the pay.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thanks, Nicole. Thanks, Tanya, for the OCDD report. And we will now move onto our Office of Aging and Adult Service report by the Arc of Louisiana.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Bambi, we do have one comment from Ms. Kathy Dwyer. Would you like for me to read it? Okay. Regarding DSP staff shortages I think we have to remember that hundreds of thousands of people died from Covid, the baby boomer generation is retiring, and businesses have continued with virtual office making those jobs attractive. And, of course, the DSP pay is not competitive. National average is 14-dollars plus an hour. Plus many DSP jobs don't have fringe benefits.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Kathy. All good points. Appreciate it. Now we'll have Kelly do the Arc of Louisiana report.

KELLY MONROE: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. I was just going to say before you started, Kelly, just for committee members and public to know we've got ten minutes to cover about

an hour's worth of agenda. So please make sure that your comments are germane to what we're talking about and are relevant. Please make them clear and concise if you do have comments.

KELLY MONROE: I'll be super quick. It's all good stuff. And we already gave our end of the year report last time so we're just going to focus on this first quarter so it shouldn't take too long. But again, this year we started working with 41 individuals. Some of those have changed so some of the demographics are going to be a little bit different than they were last time. So of the 41 people there were 13 people who identified as being African American, 27 as Caucasian and one as Hispanic. Those included 29 males and 12 females. When you're looking at the age range, they range now between the ages of 30 and 91. And within the nine regions we have four of them in region one. Nine of them in region two. Three in region three. One in region four. Four in region five. Two in region six. Ten in region seven. One in eight. And then seven in nine. And then they'll show you the breakdown in the pie chart below. Of the 41 people everybody receives support coordination. Thirty-nine of those individuals receive personal care assistance and three of them receive utility or rental assistance. No one this quarter received any type of medical stipends, equipment or supplies or had any vehicle or home modifications.

So, so far of the direct service amount that we have allocated is and budgeted is 907,525- dollars. I mean 528. We spent a total of 150,859.26 in personal care assistance, 1509 in rental and utility assistance. And like I said before, none in medical or home modifications or medical stipends. So, so far this quarter we've spent \$152,369.14. Go to the next page.

So on the waiting list we have 65 individuals who have been placed on the waiting list. The majority of the people reside in region one. And that's at 18 people in region one. Eight in region two. Four in region three. Twelve in region four. Two in region five. One in six. Four in seven. Two in eight. And 14 in nine. That's a total of 65 people. And of those 65 people 28 of those are African American.



Twenty-three are Caucasian. One is Hispanic. One is Asian Caucasian. And there were 12 unknown who completed the application but did not complete that part. So we're still reaching out to them because they didn't fill out the application completely.

And so of those 65, 31 of them were male and 34 of them were female. Fifty-six of those applicants are looking for personal care services. And then seven of them were looking for home modifications. Five were looking for medical equipment and supplies. One was looking for transportation. Two, some type of therapy whether it physical, speech or occupational. So what we would need if we wanted to fund all of these, what's estimated we would need would be roughly about \$1.2 million-dollars. And that is all. Does anybody have any questions about anything? I know I went through it pretty quick. But I'm open to answering any questions you may have.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any hands raised for chat. So thank you.

KELLY MONROE: You're welcome.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Appreciate it.

KELLY MONROE: That was easy.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes. So next we have our Office of Behavioral Health report from Dr. Savicki and Dana Foster.

KRISTIN SAVICKI: So I will go ahead and go through those nice and quickly as soon as Brenton gets them on the screen. Okay. So starting with the end of the year report. Again, this is, you know, the behavioral health version of what Tanya presented. So the consumer care resources is the funding where folks can make individual requests to cover, you know, needs. And then the flexible family funds is, again, the kind of monthly subsidy program. So for consumer care resources we had, and again, our performance threshold is to have 95 percent of the allocated funds spent by the end of the year. Only one of the LGEs did not meet that. That's Metropolitan and they have been reporting struggling based on a lot of Covid related factors in connecting clients to this funding. They have been, we've requested a corrective action plan from them for this particular metric. And I will note that you'll see

on the quarter one report that you'll see next they're actually already on track for this current fiscal year. And so they seem to have-- I'm waiting to get their corrective action plan. But whatever they're doing it seems to be working well given that for the current fiscal year they're showing already being on track and allocating that funding. And I think that they, just in informal conversations I've had with them, I think a lot of that is connected to resumption of a lot of in-person activities in the New Orleans area. For instance, a lot of kids needing school uniforms. And so they've really been able to connect needed funding to families this time around.

On the flexible family funds, you know, much as Tanya said, this tends to be once you get kids into these slots this tends to be pretty easy for LGEs to get out because it is a regular monthly stipend. There was a lot of concern in the last council meeting talking about North Louisiana and that they were really struggling to fill some of their slots. In this end of the year report they're still showing, you know, at the end of the last fiscal year they still had quite a few slots that were empty because they had been working through the waiting list and a lot of folks on the wait list had already aged out or were no longer eligible. And so they kind of went through their wait list and, you know, had to then reach out and recruit additional families to connect to the program. And again, so they, again, they will be on a corrective action plan. We've requested that from them. But also, similarly, they have already sort of fixed this that you'll see in the quarter one report. For this fiscal year they have worked, they worked through the whole wait list, connected the folks who were eligible to the program and then recruited additional families because they had already gone through, and they sort of zeroed out their wait list. And so now they're reporting in their quarter one report that they do now have all of those slots filled. So that is a quick summary of the yearend report. Any questions?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't think I see any. You want to do the adult?

KRISTIN SAVICKI: Sure. Why don't we do the

yearend. Stick to the same year. So again, this is-- yes, similarly yearend report. This is funding that they use for adults similarly. You know, most of these funds were expended and the Metropolitan is under, slightly under on the adult funding and so they'll be reporting out to us as well on their plans for use of this funding for the current year.

So now we get to the current fiscal year, the quarter end report. And to reiterate what Tanya mentioned as well, these are typically not at 25 percent because LGEs are reporting out before the whole quarter is over before they've actually gotten all of the, you know, receipts and invoices for spending. And there's also a couple of LGEs who use different, who use some federal block grant funding for the same purpose. They have to spend that first so there are a couple LGEs you're probably familiar with who show zero spent for this fund for a little while into the year while they're using that other funding source. And only later do they start showing expenditure of this particular pot of funding. And then you'll see-- so yeah, just to note Metropolitan is already at 23 percent. So that's really showing that they've, you know, really increased their expenditures in this first quarter. And then you'll see on the flexible family fund side that North Louisiana has gotten all of their slots filled. By the end of the quarter they had gotten all of their slots filled. If there's no questions, we can just do the adult one. And this is just showing the expenditures so far in not quite all of quarter one.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any questions? Was that it?

BRENTON ANDRUS: That is it if we don't have any questions.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Great. Announcements. Do we have any?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Self-determination committee will meet at 1 p.m. And then education committee will meet at 3 p.m. And full council meeting tomorrow at 8:30.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thanks to everyone who presented. We appreciate it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: If you have no objections.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: No objections, we will adjourn.

Thank you.