

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
Self-Determination and Community Inclusion  
January 18, 2023

RASHAD BRISTO: Good afternoon, everyone. The date is January 18th. The time is 1:04. We're going to call the Self-determination Community Inclusion committee to order. At this time, Mr. Andrus, will you do the roll call, please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. Ms. Airhart.

LIBBY AIRHART: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I know Dr. Barovechio is not here, but Dr. Lanor Robinson's on in her place. Ms. Basile is not here. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Egle.

JILL EGLE: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Guidry who I think is on her way. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Hymel. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Perfect. You do have a quorum.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Mr. Andrus.

JILL HANO: (Inaudible).

RASHAD BRISTO: I'm sorry?

JILL HANO: Am I the only one virtual?

BRENTON ANDRUS: For today, yeah.

RASHAD BRISTO: For today.

JILL HANO: I'm sorry, y'all.

RASHAD BRISTO: As long as you're present, you make the party complete.

JILL HANO: Okay. Yeah, I do.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. We're going to go over a few meeting protocols. For those committee members who are attending virtually, remember you must keep your camera on. Make sure your first and last name is shown. Please keep

all microphones muted until called upon by the chairperson. Please electronically raise your hand to request to speak and wait to be called on by the chairperson. For attendees, once recognized by the chair to speak turn your microphone on, but please return it back to mute. Also, please use the chat box only to make comments about relevant items being discussed. Please keep in mind sometimes we do get lost in the chat depending on how active the chat is. So I encourage all virtual participants to raise your hand and request to speak if you have something you would like to share or ask. Staff will help keep track of those virtually and in-person who raise your hand to speak and I'll recognize you. As for order, committee members in-person and virtually will be allowed to speak first. We'll do our council members, public members in-person and then followed by the public participating virtually. Members of the public who are here in-person if you would like to speak, I don't see any at the moment, please form a line at the end of the table and wait to be called on. Finally, comments about a person's character will not be allowed.

So at this point I'm going to move towards approval of the October meeting summary. Everyone should have received and reviewed the October summary that was attached to the agenda you received by email. Are there any objections to the summary? Not hearing any we can approve by unanimous consent. Are there any objections? Hearing no objection the October meeting summary has been passed by unanimous consent. At this point I'm going to yield the floor to Ms. Julie Hagan for noncontractual updates.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: All right. Good afternoon, everybody. You all should have gotten a report from me as well ahead of time. The first item on here is the Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option. During the last meeting I was asked to provide some more detailed information in terms of the children who had been approved and the children who had been denied for the TEFRA program. We tried to pull this data in lots of different ways. There's lots of different ways this could be presented so we just did our best to try to break it down in the ways that some folks had asked. So the first chart showed you a breakdown of the approvals and denials and the total. Some people withdraw so after they apply they decide they don't want to continue in the program and they withdraw. So it showed

you by our regional entities, regions one through ten and it breaks it down that way. We also looked at age groups so you could see approved, denied or closed and we broke it-- there was some question about the birth to two-year-olds. And then you guys can see we then broke it down into three to ten and 11 to 18. Eighteen is the oldest age applied for TEFRA.

We then looked at-- and these are the things that in our system that we were able to breakdown by race. I will share with you guys there's a lot more selections people can make for race, but what we included here, although I'm not sure why Native American-- what we did we pulled the ones for which someone identified as that race on their application. So if it's not listed here then it was a zero. And so we did not include it in the report because it could get lengthy if we listed everything.

The other thing that the database captures is ethnicity in terms of Hispanic, non-Hispanic or ethnicity unknown which means person chose not to. So we broke the data down that way. Again, and I should have said this at the beginning, by race and by ethnicity and by age groups, but then in terms of the approvals and the denials. And then finally we did a breakdown by gender. Male, female. Our system does have ability to say transgender or unknown, but that was zeroed out. So I guess I'll stop there and see if there's any-- you guys had asked me for that information. This is what we pulled. Does this make sense to present it this way? Are there any suggestions about how this is reported? We're happy to hear them.

RASHAD BRISTO: No comments from the council members inside the room. Do we have any comments from any council members virtually?

HANNAH JENKINS: No, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any questions or comments in the chat?

HANNAH JENKINS: No, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: They like it.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah. So we'll continue to pull this. And, you know, one of the things that I have talked to my teams about, you know, I appreciate the feedback that we get from the council when we look at this data. But whether it's this data or even, I meant to say this at the Act 378, we're going to try to do-- and sometimes it's hard

as we talked about the timing, sometimes the timing is off. But what I would like to do better is when we are presenting, so if this is something that you guys want to see, I'm going to ask my team to actually look at this data, look for some trends and patterns. Is there anything we see on our end because we have a whole business analytics team that we might be able to bring. You know, this is something we're seeing. This is what we're doing to address it. I want to make sure that if this data is important to you guys it should be important to us too. So we need to be looking at it and see does this data influence things that we might need to do differently or at least dive into. So we'll also be looking at this ahead of time so my TEFRA team can note-- and we'll work jointly. OCDD and Medicaid really work jointly on TEFRA. They have kind of a workgroup that works so they'll be reviewing this data too.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I like the breakdown for each region to kind of see if we have any hotspots, if you will. And if that's the case why, we can start asking those questions. If there's better outreach in that area. Jill.

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

JILL HANO: I just want to dot my Is. But like so let's say in Capital Area Human District, Human Service 161 were approved and 20 were denied. And then 194 missed a level of care, correct?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: No. There was 194 applications from Capital Area.

JILL HANO: Okay.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Of those 194, 161 were approved, 20 were denied and 13 chose to withdraw or ask that their case be closed.

JILL HANO: So we had in total for the year we had 1,009 people apply to TEFRA, right?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: That's correct.

JILL HANO: Okay. All right. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. Anyone else? Other council members in the room have questions?

BROOKE STEWART: One question.

RASHAD BRISTO: Go ahead. You're recognized.

BROOKE STEWART: My name is Brooke, and my question was once they are approved for the TEFRA that stays with them until they're 18 or?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: They will as long as they meet

level of care. There will be level of care redeterminations. They haven't been doing that during the public health emergency. And I'll actually have something that I want to share outside of the report about the public health emergency. But within the next year they'll go back to every year they'll do what they call a redetermination to make sure that the child still meets the level of care that got them into TEFRA. So they will have that annual redetermination process.

BROOKE STEWART: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Satisfied, Ms. Stewart?

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Hagan. Do we have any other council members with any questions?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Want me to continue with my report?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think there's one question in the chat.

HANNAH JENKINS: No live family would like for their case to be withdrawn.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: The antidotal data that I've asked-- I have asked that question. So when you apply for TEFRA or actually when you apply for any kind of a Medicaid program there is a requirement that some personal and financial information be shared even though TEFRA waives the family income it's still a federal requirement that there are certain pieces of information that we have to gather which means there's some sharing of personal information. From what I can gather, and again, this is antidotal, I don't have data. But when I've asked that question the majority of the times families were not comfortable sharing some of the personal information that's required and so they've asked to withdraw so that they don't have to provide that information. Other reasons are maybe situations change. But I think primarily that's been the feedback we've gotten when I've asked about that is that folks don't really aren't comfortable sharing that information. But I can ask that they drill down and see if there's any more info about the why withdraw.

RASHAD BRISTO: I can see that. Do we have any other questions in the chat?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes. Christy Curtis said here in region four I'm hearing financial information.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. So the financial information is

probably one of the reasons. Thank you for that. Do we have any other questions or comments in the chat? Okay. Moving forward. Ms. Hagan, you have the floor.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Okay. In the report I just shared updates from things that we've talked about before. In terms of the budget the only thing that we really still have outstanding in our budget is the transportation rate increases. We went to being able for providers to bill a 20-dollar fee for transportation. In the New Opportunities Waiver and the Residential Options Waiver that started January 1st that they could bill the higher rate. We are going to do a retroactive payment from July to December. There's some programming that has to happen so providers will get kind of one lump sum recycled. In the Supports Waiver transportation isn't a separate billable service so we're having to add it as a service into our waiver. And so that's actually out for public comment now and we'll have to get CMS approval to add it as a service. So as soon as we get the approval for that then providers will then be able to bill separately for transportation.

We do have several reports that are in process of being reviewed by our LDH management team. And I typically share those reports with you guys, but we've been kind of updating. House Concurrent Resolution 38 asked us to study the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health disorders. House Concurrent Resolution 39 asked us to study some specific things about barriers to hiring direct support professionals. And then House Concurrent Resolution 40 asked us to study the cost of nursing services in our home and community based waivers. Those reports have, again, been finalized, but are under our final review. They're due to the legislature in February. So I'll be happy to share those reports with the council when we have them.

We are also actively working towards getting-- there was money in the budget last year to add comprehensive dental services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our ICF facilities. And so that required a new plan amendment. That is actually going through the process of CMS review and approval right now. And if any of you don't know, if you are an adult and in our OCDD home and community based waivers you have access

to comprehensive dental services through the dental plans. And your support coordinator should have told you that. Should be working with you to be able to access that. But that started on July 1st. I understand there's still a lot of people who don't know that that service is available so we are working on different talking points and fact sheets and information so that people do know where they can go to make sure they understand that they can access that service.

A biggie happened with the public health emergency in the last couple of months. I will try to explain this as best I can. I'll be honest, some of it still complicates-- I don't understand. I'll do the best I can to explain it. But there's been different pots of money that we've gotten during Covid associated with Covid. One of those started way back fairly early on in the beginning of Covid. You might have heard it called the CARES Act dollars. And what it did it gave states an additional 6.2 percentage. So additional federal was able to be drawn down during the public health emergency. But as a condition of receiving that money states could not take anyone off of Medicaid during the time that they were receiving those CARE Act dollars. So that was a condition.

And basically, they said before December they said you continue to get that enhanced match and you would continue to not be able to let anybody off Medicaid until the public health emergency ended. Well, in December, it's called the Omnibus Bill or the budget bill that got passed, the federal government actually separated those things. So they said that starting April 1st and going through December 31st of this year they're going to take that 6.2 percent and they're going to start to decrease it incrementally by quarters until we get to December and then in December there won't be funding. That's good and bad. Before that it was like it was all just going to go away as soon as it ended. But now they're trying to give states a little bit of time because they know it's going to take a whole year to do what we call unwind. Which is go through-- we have about 2 million people on Medicaid in Louisiana and those folks are all going to have to go through redetermination for Medicaid eligibility again. So that can't be done quickly. So that we know is going to take us a year. So the reduction in that money allows us to help knowing that we're going to have extra people

on the roles.

So because that money's going to start to reduce they said okay, states, starting April 1st you can start to remove people from Medicaid who are no longer eligible for Medicaid. So beginning May 1st, and I will have a lot more information about this because we're just kind of learning about it, but beginning May 1st people will start to get letters saying this is what you need to do to be redetermined. And they'll take that 2 million and break it out 1/12, 1/12. Do it 12 each month. So throughout the year if you are currently Medicaid eligible or know anyone who's Medicaid eligible then you will likely be receiving. There are a few people who would be automatic, but I don't really know who that is yet. So for the time being pretend it's everybody who's Medicaid eligible will get a letter and that letter will tell you what it is you need to do to be able to-- what information you need to provide so that you can continue your Medicaid eligibility.

And the other thing that they changed in December and nobody knew it was coming in December is they said states cannot, and if you receive Medicaid or know anyone who does you know we do a lot by mail, snail mail now. So what they said is is that a state cannot disenroll somebody from Medicaid just because they didn't respond to a letter through the mail. You have to have a second contact either by email or telephone. And so we're also now having to do a lot of messaging because we're going to be asking anyone-- before you didn't have to put an email address or telephone number in there and, you know, it was just your physical address. But the messaging will also be to anyone to please go into the portal, make sure you have your correct mailing address, but also please add an email and/or a telephone number because that will be a secondary means. So we'll have to kind of go through two steps before someone is disenrolled. So it won't just happen if you happen to miss your letter. I don't know. I didn't know this. I just heard this the other day that pink letter campaign we did several months ago somebody said people thought there were checks in there and they found pink letters like strewn across the road because people were stealing mail and opening and throwing them. I mean, it's a protection to make sure that, you know, if you're still qualified for Medicaid that you can continue to get it.

So we are going to be doing everything we can and



Secretary Phillips has asked all of us-- so any ideas you guys have. Like how do we make sure that the messaging, and I don't have the exact messaging yet, but how do we make sure that anybody and everybody who needs this information gets that information. They're planning town halls. They're planning to put it on buses. They're planning to put in on benches. We're trying to get it in all libraries. But, you know, we're trying to make sure we get the message out. And I know a lot of times feedback we get is make sure we have it in multiple languages so I've shared that. So we're thinking, but if anybody has any ideas, please feel free to-- I think everybody has my email address. But [julie.hagan@la.gov](mailto:julie.hagan@la.gov). Share it with me because we really are within the next two to three weeks going to be doing a lot of planning at the Department of Health, all of us together. Like how do we make sure that we have messaging that we always send to GODA, we always send to DD Council to blast. Of course, we'll do those things like we normally do. But that still doesn't reach everybody. And so we got to figure out how do we really, really make sure everybody's got the information in the system so that we can go through that determination. And I'll keep going, but Jill, I see you have your hand raised.

JILL EGGLE: So why is Louisiana poorly underfunded with all this? I'm just curious.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I don't know that everybody feels like we're poorly underfunded.

JILL EGGLE: No. But you say Medicaid end in December. I'm just a little confused. Because I don't get Medicaid. I get Medicare Humana. But my Medicaid was screwed up years back a long time ago with the Jindal administration.

RASHAD BRISTO: We're kind of on two different beasts. Medicare is federal. Medicaid is state.

JILL EGGLE: Yeah. I get Medicare Humana. So they're federal and state, two separate?

RASHAD BRISTO: Yes. When you get Medicare that's going to be the federal government. And then when you get Medicaid that's going to be the state. So Ms. Hagan really doesn't have (inaudible) on the Medicare side. She can only talk on the Medicaid side. So that is really out of her scope of...

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: And, I mean, some of that extra money we got, Jill, is because there's hundreds of thousands more people on Medicaid because we weren't able

to take them off the roles. So since we started getting the CARES Act money, and I don't remember exactly when it was, but it was at some point in 2020 we've not been able to disenroll anyone from Medicaid. Where normally you have a lot of people who come off. So part of that money, not all of it, but part of that money was used to be able to pay to continue to have those people on Medicaid. And then there were some other things that were needed in the system, you know, in response to Covid that we needed to use those dollars.

JILL EGLE: Yeah. I heard anyone that got SSI disability it went up a little bit. Like this month. I mean, so it's enrollment. At the end of December of every year your government insurance and state changes?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah.

JILL EGLE: Wow.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any other questions for Ms. Hagan from council members?

ERICK TAYLOR: I heard you speaking about (inaudible) on that. What are they doing with this? Can you speak more on that.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Sure. So any adult that has a home and community-based waiver now and then they're assuming probably around April adults who live in intermediate care facilities will be able to have access to comprehensive dental services which is more, it's your cleanings. There's six or eight different services that are included in that comprehensive dental package. And everyone that's in Medicaid already is enrolled with a dental. There's two dental managed care organizations. DentaQuest and somebody else that I forget. But there's two. So everybody's already enrolled. But before you can just get like dentures or very minimal dental services. So starting in July you are able to get more services, but all that goes through those two dental managed care organizations.

ERICK TAYLOR: (Inaudible).

RASHAD BRISTO: Let me interject for just a minute cause I work for an MCO. What I find it to be a managed care organization, Medicaid organization, I find it to be resourceful where if you call, whoever you call (inaudible) whoever you're with call the customer service number on the back and let them know your ZIP code and let them know that you're requesting dental care. That way they can sift through because it's only so many providers that enroll

with DentaQuest and the other provider. So it's not a blanket of all dentists are honoring the contracts. So call the member service number. And then we can talk about it offline as well. But that's going to be the best route is for you to call member services, whoever your Medicaid company provider is. But don't call the (inaudible). Sorry, Ms. Hagan. I just wanted to give insight.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: No. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any other questions? I saw we had something in the chat.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I see social media. And thank you. Yes. LDH I know has a Facebook page and then I know there's several others who have. So we'll share, there's information that we have that we can definitely blast out that way.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think you have to get into the communities.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Like you were saying to go into, what was it, the portal. I was thinking there are people who don't know what portal is. So like getting into faith based communities, the radio stations that certain communities listen to, like those type of things.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: And there's a phone number you can call too for the portal.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other questions or comments in regards to what Ms. Hagan has presented thus far from the council members in the room? I don't see Ms. Hano's hand up. Do we have any other comments or questions in the chat? Ms. Hano, you have the floor.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: The final thing I'll talk about is--

RASHAD BRISTO: I mean Ms. Hagan. I apologize.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: That's okay. The final thing I'll talk about is the other thing that happened just last week is that they did extend the federal public health emergency again which we assume is another 90-days. They did not give an end date for the public health emergency. Health and Human Services continues to say that they will give a 60-day notice. And so I think folks we're all just, not that we want the federal public health emergency to end, it would be nice to know more information about what that end date is because some of the things are tied to it. We do still plan, though, OCDD, and I will make sure that

everybody has the dates of these. We're in the process of planning it now. But in middle to late February we're going to be going to all ten regions and having town hall meetings about what's going on with our waivers. You know, what's been in place during Covid. What was after Covid. We've already made all the changes in our waivers so we know what will be in place after the public health emergency ends. And so we'll be trying to get into communities, Bambi, like you said, and really have-- we will have a couple of webinars in addition to that, but we'll have in-person meetings and webinars available. Of course, at those we'll talk about the Medicaid online, but, you know, but more focused really on our OCDD waivers so that we can make sure people have the information to really start planning for what will happen when the public health emergency ends. So I'll definitely be sharing that with everybody and hope you guys can try to attend some of those meetings.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Julie, in regards to that, I guess a previous statement about getting the message out. Like when people go to their provider, couldn't the providers gather that information?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Oh, yeah. Providers and support coordinators, that's one of the things we'll be doing is working. Honestly, I'm not really worried about our waiver population very much.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm thinking about the broader population.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: But even the broader. Yeah. But we'll definitely make sure that they all have that messaging. And Secretary Phillips in a meeting, we met with the Provider Association executive directors just yesterday and some of their board members and that's what she was saying. It's not for providers-- I mean, you're in the house and maybe that person is receiving Medicaid, but we need to make sure the whole family knows. If there's anybody else in the family, you know, it doesn't just need to be our waiver population. Any other folks that you run across and we need to make sure that messaging gets out that way.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: What I'm saying is if I have Medicaid and I go to my doctor if my doctor gets that information from me and somehow submit that or have some way to have me submit it right there. Hey, we need you to do this

update. Asking for the phone number and email addresses. If they're saying if they can't reach somebody by letter, the mail and they need to get those other points of contact when you go to your provider.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: You meant like go to your doctor?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Uh-huh.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I can ask that question.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other questions from council members in the room in regards to what Ms. Hagan? Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: What if some people don't have an email or access to internet and if they can't get the necessary paperwork?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I know that they have telephone numbers and I know they have many, many places across Louisiana that are what you call Medicaid application centers where people can bring their information to. So yeah, that's a good point though. We probably need to-- I don't know where they all are. So we probably need to make sure the messaging includes at least where can I go, where can I bring that. And I think they tell you that if you can get to that 1-800 number I think they can tell you where the nearest Medicaid.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other questions or comments from council members in the room? Not seeing any. Ms. Hano, your hand is raised. I see you. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Thank you. So Julie, is this Medicaid letter we're going to get, like you were talking, and I assumed it's the steps that I as a recipient have to take are going to be very similar to the pink letter campaign. Like I'm a Medicaid recipient and I still use my services, correct?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah. So what the pink letter campaign did was try to say if you are a Medicaid person we've now mailed out a pink letter to everybody that receives Medicaid. If you didn't get a pink letter, then we don't have your correct information. So you need to call this number or go. And so that was what the pink letter did. But what this is is this is really going to be us having more information. It's just going to be really critical that we have the contact information so that when it is time for you to go through your renewal that you know that and you understand what all you have to send. And some of that's hard to explain because there's so many

different types. They call them eligibility groups. So there's lots of different ways you can become eligible in Medicaid. And so depending on what group you're in is going to depend on the type of information you have to provide. So it's not the same for everyone. So that's why it's important that they have your contact information so you get that letter and it will tell you exactly what it is that you need to send in based on why you're eligible for Medicaid. Does that make sense, Jill?

JILL HANO: Yes. It does.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any questions or comments in the chat?

JILL HANO: Thank you.

HANNAH JENKINS: Julie Folsie said region 3 FHF would love to help with the town hall meetings in their region.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any hands? Do we have any other comments in regards to what has just been presented by Ms. Hagan? In the chat?

HANNAH JENKINS: No, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Hagan, does that conclude your report.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: That concludes my report.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you, Ms. Hagan. Moving forward.

JILL HANO: Nicole Flores said that region 4 FHF would help with the town meetings as well.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that. We'll make sure with Ms. Hagan (inaudible) due diligence when it comes through. All right. Ms. Jenkins.

HANNAH JENKINS: All right. Partners in Policymaking update. We had 28 applications received for the 2023 Partners class. On October 12th the selection committee met (inaudible) of five Partners graduates, one council member and a previous Partners coordinator. Of the 28 applications two were ineligible leaving 26 eligible applicants. There's a little typo on the status report.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Stop you real quick. There's no handout for the Partners. If you're on the agenda I'll put it up on the screen if there is an attachment. But everything you can find in the status of planned activities document which is in your big council meeting folder that you get on Thursday.

HANNAH JENKINS: Thank you for that. Thank you for

that update, Mr. Andrus. But yes, on the status report when you get it tomorrow or if you already looked online, there's just little typos. Only two are ineligible. And just FYI, because we did have people ask, Partners is only for parents of children with developmental disabilities and self-advocates. So by ineligible they were neither of those.

Of the 28 applications or of the 26 eligible we had two self-advocates, 23 parents and one that was a self-advocate and parent. We selected 20. Fifteen of the 20 were able to commit to attending. Of those we had three self-advocates and 12 parents. And Partners also hired a new coordinator, Rebecca Fruge who was a 2019 Partners graduate. So she started back in November. She's doing a great job. That's Partners. Any questions?

RASHAD BRISTO: Any questions in regards to the presentation? Council members in the room? Do we have any in the chat?

BRENTON ANDRUS: We do not.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. You may continue.

HANNAH JENKINS: All right. For the videos, as y'all know we're using O'Neill Communications. They have produced and released the final two videos in November. The Covid 19 pandemic impact video and the assistive technology video. All of the videos they produced can be found on the Facebook page, our YouTube and our website. Pretty easy to find. If you can't find them, let me know.

The council contracted with O'Neill again for 2023 to produce and disseminate more videos and other visual materials featuring information on individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The staff, we met with them back in November to discuss new ideas. They started working, processing, outlining storyboards and topics. And we'll be meeting next week to talk about what this year is going to look like. If you do happen to have ideas of videos, things you think would be helpful, send the ideas to me. They're all appreciated. That's videos for you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any questions in regards to what Ms. Jenkins has presented in regards to video? None from the council members and in the chat. I don't see anything. You may continue.

HANNAH JENKINS: All right. YLF, Youth Leadership Forum. The council contracted with Families Helping

Families of Acadiana. So they are going to be coordinating and implementing the YLF program. That's going to be starting this year. FHF of Acadiana, they've so far met with the university--

JILL HANO: What activity is this, Hannah?

RASHAD BRISTO: Activity 1.1.9.

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

HANNAH JENKINS: I think it's like the second or third page.

JILL HANO: Page six, but thanks.

HANNAH JENKINS: Oh, the packets that got mailed, the one that you have, Jill, may be missing a few pages. We're sending you out a new one.

JILL HANO: Oh, cool. Thank you.

HANNAH JENKINS: Yeah. We just wanted to make it a little more complicated for you.

JILL HANO: Y'all know I don't have a problem with complicated.

HANNAH JENKINS: You're a pro at it. Trying to keep you on your toes. But you'll be getting the corrected one sent to you, Jill.

JILL HANO: All right. And can I ask a non-related question?

RASHAD BRISTO: You have the floor. You can.

JILL HANO: Is GODA and DRLA reports in the packets?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes.

JILL HANO: And would you mail them?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes. Yeah, we received those after we mailed your packet, but Ann's right here listening so we'll send those both to you with the updated status report.

JILL HANO: Okay. Cool.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thanks for calling me out, Jill.

JILL HANO: You're so welcome.

SPEAKER: Sorry. Tory's right there next to you.

JILL HANO: You only pick on the ones you love the most.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I know.

JILL HANO: I just never met Tory in-person so that would be bullying.

RASHAD BRISTO: That we don't want.

HANNAH JENKINS: So yeah. So YLF, FHF of Acadiana met with University Louisiana Lafayette in October to discuss them hosting the event this coming July 2023. So they're waiting on the proposal for that. They should be getting



it sometime this month. In November they met with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, LRS and the Department of Education to discuss additional funding. The Department of Education is presenting a funding request of 15,000-dollar for YLF at the March BESE meeting. And LRS's funding will depend on the delegates selected to participate in YLF. So we won't know that exact number until they've selected the delegates.

FHF also applied for an additional grant through Embridge, but won't know the results for a little while. And lastly, they advertised for the YLF coordinator in November. They received 37 applications. They did interviews in December and they selected a coordinator who should be starting this month if not already started. That's YLF brought to you by Hannah Jenkins.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any questions in regards to the YLF presentation from Ms. Jenkins? Ms. Hano, you have your hand up. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Do I annoy y'all as much as I annoy myself with these questions? Like my God. It's not that funny, y'all. Oh, when do we think delegate selection will take place?

HANNAH JENKINS: That is a great question. I'm going to pass that ball to Nicole who is here to answer any further questions cause that's all I got for you, Jill. But Nicole, are you on? Can you answer a couple questions for us? If she's not on, then we will get that information to you.

JILL HANO: I know she was.

BRENTON ANDRUS: She's unmuted if she's able to speak.

NICOLE FLORES: This is Nicole. Can you hear me?

JILL HANO: Yes, ma'am.

NICOLE FLORES: Hey. I'm sorry. Can you repeat the question. I was trying to get on. It was hard to hear.

JILL HANO: Do we know round about when delegate selection will take place? Like can you maybe explain the process a little.

NICOLE FLORES: Well, we should have the delegate application ready towards the end of next week so we can start sharing it across the state and with all our community partners. Let me see if I have that schedule up. Because the selection process as we start doing marketing and everything would happen throughout the spring and then we

don't have the dates exactly down yet for final delegate selection, but we are looking to have the Youth Leadership Forum in July at UL.

JILL HANO: Right. Okay. Cool.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other comments?

JILL HANO: Thank you, Ms. Nicole.

NICOLE FLORES: Thanks, Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: You're welcome.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Ms. Jenkins, you can proceed with LaCAN.

HANNAH JENKINS: I'm going to throw that ball to someone who knows more than me.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Branch.

REKEESHA BRANCH: All right. This is LaCAN information everyone. As of December 2022 LaCAN has over 6,000 individuals registered for the council and LaCAN list serve to receive information and action alerts related to home and community-based services, employment, education and early intervention. Since October 1st, 2022 there have been no LaCAN action alerts or yellow shirt days. LaCAN continues to host two LaCAN leader conference calls per month which includes updates on current concerns or issues and the development of strategies to better educate, maintain, support LaCAN members.

Region nine currently has a LaCAN leader position available. This position has been advertised and those interested are definitely encouraged to apply. LaCAN leaders are in the process of planning for regional legislative roundtables in collaboration with their Families Helping Families centers. Round tables will be held virtually prior to the start of legislative session. Once all documents pertaining to the council's advocacy agenda are finalized by staff the roundtables schedule will be shared which will include information on how to register and participate. LaCAN leaders are also in the process of planning for our formal legislative visits with key committee members to discuss this year's advocacy agenda. The legislative visits will begin once all documents pertaining to the council's advocacy agenda has been finalized by staff. These visits will continue throughout the legislative session which begins April.

Let's see. In the near future information about legislative visit teams will be sent out to the council members. This list the parents and self-advocate council

members from each region, the LaCAN leader and FHF director with everyone's contact information included. It also list regional delegation and those on the key committees. Just a reminder to follow-up with your LaCAN leader about making visits. They will be contacting you pretty soon about that. Our goal is to have all key legislators seen first.

Also, be on the lookout for LaCAN member meetings. Typically once the agenda is set and fact sheets are completed LaCAN leaders will start posting meetings to educate members on the agenda and activities. Also, they will be scheduling virtual roundtables which will occur across the state beginning early February through mid-March. And that's it for LaCAN. Any questions?

RASHAD BRISTO: Anyone have any questions for Ms. Branch in regards to LaCAN? Not seeing any hands in the room. Do we have any council members with their hands up? Not seeing any. Do we have any comments or questions in the chat with regards to it?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes. Brenton Andrus said if you live in region nine North Shore area and are interested in the LaCAN leader position you can find out more here with this link.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you for making that available, Mr. Andrus. (Inaudible) those who live in region nine. Are there any other comments in the chat? Okay.

REKEESHA BRANCH: All right. Next, we have Families Helping Families. A summary about them. Since October the 1st--

BRENTON ANDRUS: You do have that in your packet.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes. It can be found on page three. Should be page three in your packet. Centers have assisted 3,863 individuals with disabilities and families with information, referral, peer to peer and other supports. There have been over 7,140 units of information and referrals completed with 89 trainings conducted with 1,974 individuals in attendance. Just a reminder that not all second quarter data was available at the time this report was completed. A fact sheet about the need for additional funding for Families Helping Families resource center will be developed, posted on the council's website and distributed to council members, LaCAN leaders and FHF centers and directors once the required data has been obtained. This sheet will be used in legislative visits

and member meetings prior to the start of the 2023 legislative session.

All centers participated in an audit by receiving desk reviews for fiscal year 2022. Let's see. The centers that failed to meet their deliverables submitted a corrective action plan to address how they plan to ensure all deliverables will be met for fiscal year 23. FHF centers follows the state fiscal year which started on July 1st. So based on the second quarter data the centers are pacing themselves appropriately and they seem to be on track to have all their deliverables met. Any questions?

RASHAD BRISTO: Mr. Andrus.

BRENTON ANDRUS: It's not a question. It's more of an explanation because I know some of you that are new on this committee were also in Act 378. So kind of a similar concept with this report as with our Act 378 reports. Whenever the centers have to submit their second quarter data-- well, whenever they submit their monthly data it's usually done by the tenth of the following month. So anything that they did in January we'll get a report in on what they did in February, right. So by the time we're filling out this information we haven't received their full second quarter data yet. We would still be missing a lot of December info. So that's why this information Rekeesha had said is not necessarily completely up to date. And so usually you never have a complete picture of all the work they've done until the October meeting because that's when we have all of the yearly information in. Similar to what we do in Act 378 we give you an annual document that recaps everything so there is always that delay. So I don't see any concerns here as far as stuff that's not being achieved, but that's why you're going to see some discrepancies in some of the data.

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

JILL HANO: Sorry, Brenton. Cursive was throwing me off. I have three questions. Sorry, y'all. What centers submitted or were required to submit corrective action plans?

REKEESHA BRANCH: That was any center that didn't meet the deliverables by the end of the fiscal year last year. Off the top of my head I know it was region one, region nine. And I don't want to say anyone, but I know for a fact it was those two. But they have submitted their corrective

action plans and it was mainly to make sure that the visits were made with the legislative, the legislative visits were made.

JILL HANO: That's NOLA and North Shore, right, y'all?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes.

JILL HANO: Okay. And then I think I can answer my own question, but just so we can explain this in detail and have it on record. Can you tell me-- I don't want to ask this because I'm going to feel dumb.

RASHAD BRISTO: There's no wrong question to ask.

JILL HANO: Like why-- I feel so dumb. Why does status report in the performance reports? The individual FHF sheets we get always so different. It's because one's state and one's federal. Sorry.

RASHAD BRISTO: There's no wrong question to ask. The question you're asking someone probably has the same question as well. But you're the one brave enough to ask the question.

JILL HANO: Yeah. Why is the federal report so different from the status report numbers?

BRENTON ANDRUS: So we give you more of a breakdown in this committee than we do on the status report. The status report is just a general overall picture of what they've done through the federal fiscal year. In this particular committee we give you more information about what they've done through the state fiscal year because they work off of their contract is working off of that state fiscal year. Because that is our state fiscal year dollars. But our status report is a federal fiscal year document. So we have to kind of adjust how we report out data on the status of planned activities report compared to how we report it out in this committee. It confuses us too sometimes. It's not fun mixing federal and state dollars.

JILL HANO: Okay. So federal starts 1/1 and then state starts June 1?

BRENTON ANDRUS: No. State is going to start July 1. And federal is going to start October 1.

JILL HANO: I knew that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Close. You were off just by a little bit.

RASHAD BRISTO: I guarantee you-- see I'm glad you asked that question because we have new council members, Jill, and sometimes they're just observing. But it's good that you ask questions. So thank you for that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And a follow-up to one of your other questions, Jill. I pulled up from our October meeting the information that we provided. So for the centers that submitted corrective actions it was New Orleans, which is region one, it was Bayou Land which is region three, Southwest which is region five, Shreveport Northwest area that is region seven and then North Shore region nine area.

JILL HANO: So is that five?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. Correct.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. Do we have any more questions from council members for Ms. Branch in regards to her report? Do we have any questions in the chat? Proceed to supported decision.

REKEESHA BRANCH: All right. So supported decision making, the council contracted with the Arc of Louisiana on this initiative. Training opportunities were offered statewide to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to increase their understanding of supported decision making. Also known as the Dustin Gary Act of 2020 Louisiana legislative session. And other legal options available in Louisiana. Supported decision making will partner with People First of Louisiana to host ten trainings with different People First chapters. As of December 2022 new training materials have been developed. A meeting was held with People First to review new training documents. A training was held with People First of NOLA on yesterday with a total of 16 attendees. That's 14 individuals with disabilities, one parent and one professional. A training has also been scheduled for February 9th at the Southwest Louisiana Independent Center. The training schedule will be shared with all FHF centers. People First of Louisiana and Disability Rights Centers as well, the Arc of Louisiana and the Developmental Disability Council through the website and social media are providing promotion and-- sorry. Providing promotion of the scheduled events. As far as mentorship participants they have two so far remaining in the program. And they are continuing to receive monitoring and that's on a monthly basis. A new participant has shown interest in the program and will begin the mentoring process. And that's it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Branch. Do we have any questions from the council members in the room with regards

to the report on supported decision-making training? Not seeing any hands. Not seeing Ms. Hano's hand. Do we have any comments in the chat or questions in the chat in regards to the report? Okay. Thank you, Ms. Branch. Mr. Andrus, you can give us an update, please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. So first up is going to be our first responder training. That's activity 2.2.1. If you are looking at that status of planned activities report that is page nine. Included in your packet is actually information from fiscal year 2022 which is a no-no because I'm supposed to be giving you first quarter information. But I didn't have this information available at the October meeting so I wanted to give it to you now just so you can have it in case you were interested in kind of the overall information or a snapshot from that year. It's coming up on the screen now. All of this was presented to you over the course of the last few meetings. Just kind of puts everything into one document for you guys to look at. And it breaks it up based on people that actually provided information. So not everybody takes the surveys. Not everybody provides their demographics. In fact, a lot of people don't provide any information and that's typical on most of our initiatives. So it is not a very good reflection of who actually participated as far as if you're interested in those demographic information because not many people provide that.

But what we do have is kind of the feedback that was provided to us from those trainings that happened last year and overwhelmingly everyone either agreed strongly or agreed that these trainings were successful and were really helpful as far as the information they received to be able to help and understand more as far as their interaction with people with disabilities. They found the content very valuable.

In addition to that is this letter that you got from Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office. And so that is something that did happen this year. So a little bit more about this initiative for those that are new on the committee or new to this in general. This is an initiative that we contracted with Interaction Advisory Group. It's a group out of Alabama. And so the intent is for them to train our first responders. So that's inclusive of law enforcement officers, fire and rescue, EMTs. Pretty much anyone that will be considered a first responder and those

sort of similar professions. So basically go through this training with the idea of looking at their own internal policies to identify where they can make changes and where they can implement within their own departments these policies and protocols, how to appropriately address individuals with developmental disabilities and how they interact with the disability community. And hopes that this is going to reduce arrests and other physical escalations.

And this is our second year, I think, contracting. This is their second year, I think. I should know this, but I'm pretty sure it's their second year. And so the only training that they have had this year so far, it happened in October right around the time that we were doing our meeting, it was in Plaquemines Parish. And so the entirety of Plaquemines Sheriff's Office was trained. I think it was 266 first responders that were trained there. They also hosted a community event which is more so to get the community involved as far as interacting with the department themselves, but it's also a training component for them. They talk about things like how to deal with (inaudible), situations like that. Just bringing general overall awareness of the disability community to the community at large. And so there were 36 people that attended that training.

And so this letter that we provided for you is just something that came from Plaquemine Parish Sheriff's Office just talking about the training in particular and how valuable they found that training to be. I certainly won't read it cause it is in your packet. It's a page. It's quite detailed. And so I just thought it was a really nice letter that they sent just to the trainer just to show how impactful they felt that training was. And in fact, they are going back to Plaquemines Parish in July, I believe, because they're going to train the fire department there. And it's going to be a total whole agency training. They're also in May going to go to I think Terrebonne Sheriff's Office. And they are working with St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office right now. They haven't scheduled it yet. But all three of those have committed to do whole agency training. So it's not just kind of what we saw last year where you might have a few from each department. This is them coming in driving in for a few days at a time to be able to work with the schedules for the entire department



to be trained.

Outside of October we didn't see a whole lot of trainings in November or December. And you probably won't see any this month as well. That's kind of historical. We've seen it in the years that they've done these trainings in the past. With the holidays they don't get a whole lot of people that commit. So generally-- Dustin is his name. He's the guy that does the training. He spends a lot of the holiday time kind of networking, try to get some of these agencies on board. And like last year we saw a lot of their trainings focused in North Louisiana. This year they're bringing some more down South Louisiana which is nice. So yeah, that's what you have to look forward to as far as these trainings that are coming up. Any questions about that particular initiative? Bambi.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And I don't know if you said this. First off, the letter's great. If you haven't read it, it's a really great letter. And the number of people that they trained is wonderful. The contacts, is the contacts, are we seeing like sheriffs talking to other sheriffs. Is that how they're getting-- cause I imagine it's kind of hard to get, you know, into these areas. Oh, yeah, you can train our entire sheriff's department. Like they have to believe in it. And so I'm thinking like some peer to peer. Like are other sheriffs allow them, talking to the other sheriffs?

BRENTON ANDRUS: It's my understanding it's a combination. So Dustin Chandler who is at Interaction Advisory Group and he also does the trainings, he reaches out. I mean, he'll just cold call people. And other connections that he has because he's former law enforcement, so he has connections various places. So he'll reach out directly. But also, there were other, like I know one of the trainings, for instance, St. Charles Parish is something they were working on. They were supposed to do it before the hurricanes came through last year. But I know there were some people from that agency, I believe, that participated in some of the virtual trainings. And so it's just kind of word of mouth that way. But there are connections being made between the different agencies recommending them to other areas.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And this contract is just for this year. What exactly are the deliverables on it?

BRENTON ANDRUS: This year I think is...

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Now I'm putting you on the spot.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I know you are. Trying to think. I think it's 12, maybe. Cause I think we accounted for like one a month. I know he's working in some virtual trainings as well this year. And it may have been-- let's see if my connection is good enough on this computer.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: It's not 12, like he came here for three days of training.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. So like in Plaquemines Parish he was here for three days. But he just counted it as one thing.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: One training event. But this year the good thing about this year is he's actually doing in-person things. So he's actually coming to the state and spending time here. Last year was mostly virtual. He did one in-kind training last year for Bossier Sheriff's Office that he came in-person for. But that was an in-kind training.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: This was a test, and it wasn't an open book test, Brenton.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. I think it's 12. He's trying to do 12 live in-person. And trying to do eight virtual.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: There were a couple virtual that he did try to have, but there wasn't attendees looking for the virtual.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other questions from council members in the room? Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I'm sorry. I'm like five steps behind y'all. This little breakdown sheet. These numbers, these are total training numbers in total and total attendees for FY22, right?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. Based on those participants that chose to answer questions.

JILL HANO: Perfect. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Anymore questions in regards to the report presented? Not seeing any hands.

BROOKE STEWART: My name is Brooke. My question is will we be able to see a list of what parishes participated in trainings or which ones that you have scheduled?

BRENTON ANDRUS: That should be in the status of planned activities. It's not in that packet, but it's in the big

packet. Whenever they tell me, or whenever I do my update for that document, they tell me what parishes they went to I provide a breakdown of how many people participated in that parish training. And then if I know at that time any that they're planning to go to or that they even want to try to I'll include that information as well. And then I'll mention it in this committee.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Is that like you mean by updating it, you're updating it on the website?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. The status of planned activities is also on our website, our council meeting's page. All the documents that we share at our meeting are linked to that website. Or that particular page on our website.

BROOKE STEWART: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any questions in the chat or any comments in the chat in regards to what has been presented?

SPEAKER: No, sir.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. No other questions in regard to what has been presented? Moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Andrus.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Oh, wait. I got one more. Sorry. Let's see. Next up is emergency preparedness and response training. So that is activity 2.2.2. And that if you are looking at that status of planned activity document it's on page nine. Oh, no. We established you got the wrong one. Don't worry about it, Jill. Oh, it's an odd page so you do have it. Page nine.

JILL HANO: What are y'all talking about?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I didn't think you had the right document. I thought you were looking at the status of planned activities and then I thought Hannah had mentioned the document you got was incorrect. So don't worry about it. In your packet similar to the ID information it's just information from FY22. So this was not available for October meeting. That's why I'm providing it to you. All of this I went over in October so I'm not going to go over it again. It's just in paper form for you to have at this time. It's just a breakdown of the two in-person trainings that they did last year. Those people that did fill out the surveys at the end of each training. This is sort of a snapshot of the information that they provided for those trainings. And it breaks it down on the first page if they

participated in the two-day full training. The second page was for those that participated in the one-day training.

But this particular initiative is through Niagara University. We've been contracting with them. This is our third year. And with hopes of establishing a training program on emergency preparedness and response here in Louisiana. So they target or they try to target individuals with responsibility in emergency planning, preparedness and response as well as recovery specifically as it pertains to people with disabilities and their families. And so far in this I think we've contracted with them to do up to four in-person trainings this year. And so we've already had one that was held here in Baton Rouge in November. There were 29 individuals that trained or that participated in the full two-day training with Dave. He is the guy, the project director and actually developed this FEMA approved training. There were six additional people that joined for the half day training. So if you think about it, the two-day training that's kind of the full course. You get a manual and all the information you need to be able to go back to your department and use this information to try to make sure that your processes and your plans are inclusive of people with disabilities. The second day if you go for that half day it's more kind of a crash course, just a brief introduction with the hopes that you might make some connections with some of the emergency managers that may be in attendance.

They were hoping to cover the Monroe and Shreveport areas. So that would be two additional trainings in February. But it's my understanding I guess something was delayed in Shreveport. I guess everything was squared away to happen in Monroe. But the way I understand it is the contact in Shreveport was not super responsive so they couldn't get that online. But to make it cost effective as far as travel in how much we're giving them he needs to do those two trainings at one time. So I think they're looking at a May date now to handle that. I know there's some folks in Central Louisiana. So last year one in-person training they did was in Pineville so they had some connections that they made there that are going to help them with connections in Shreveport to make sure they get space available for those two trainings.

So as soon as we have information set about

registration for those trainings we'll push that information out. I know at one point in time they were talking about trying to get a training looking at maybe the Houma area. In their report-- now that was whenever I talked to them when they came in for the Baton Rouge training. Their report this month didn't mention anything about that, so I don't know if that's something they're still working on. But we did provide them with areas that they could target which would be the Lafayette and Lake Charles area. Houma area as well. They've already done a New Orleans training. They've covered Central Louisiana in Pineville and they've got Baton Rouge. And they have plans to go up to Shreveport and Monroe. I think that is it for the most part.

Oh, whenever I did reach out to the contract the positives they gave to us was not only whenever they go and do these trainings they find that participation is very good, information is well received. But I was told that the response and participation that we have in our state has been unmatched in the other states they work in. I don't want to pretend that I know all the states they're in. I know they've done some work in the Dakotas. I know they've done some work up in the Northeast. I think they go to Nebraska a lot. Other councils that have contracted with them to do this same training. But apparently the response that we get here is just outstanding compared to those areas. Probably because a lot of the information that they talk about we get impacted-- I mean, I don't know if it's a factual statement, but based on where we're situated I think we probably get impacted more by some of these things than some of these other states that are participating in this.

They do want to see more people from the disability community participate as well. Again, you do not have to be just an emergency manager. You do not have to be involved by any way. You can be a part of the disability community and you're just interested as well. Or you might want to volunteer to take part and help some of your emergency managers in your area. Certainly you're welcome to attend. It's free of charge. Doesn't cost anything to attend these trainings. But they do also want to get more of the emergency managers involved as well. So that's kind of their target areas that they're looking at now. But in general we've had really good feedback and participation

in the trainings that they have had. And they do keep the classes a little smaller. There's usually I think like a 35 to 40 minimum just so it can be a little more intimate, if you will.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any questions?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm just interested in like the Shreveport area. Like that's unfortunate because I know we have a lot of contacts in the Shreveport area that would probably be engaged. Do you know if they remedied that issue about having the contact in that area?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think they're working on remedying that issue.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I'm not going to throw any names out, but there is a particular person that just did not go through with what they were supposed to do in order for Dave to secure a place to do the training. That's my understanding.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other questions in regards to what's been reported? Not seeing any hands virtually (Inaudible).

BRENTON ANDRUS: That's it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Thank you for that. Now moving forward, recommendations for the FY24 planning committee. Next on the agenda is an opportunity for us to consider activities to recommend to the council to be included in our fiscal action plan which will begin on October 1st. Attached to the agenda the council's action plan, goals and objectives the council's trying to work on in its five-year plan. Keeping in mind this committee is responsible for goals one and two. (Inaudible) must be in line. Also, (inaudible) recommendations, should the council agree on the recommendations, planning ad hoc committee members will determine what items will be brought forth for the council to vote (inaudible). You will also have an opportunity at the full meeting tomorrow to share any additional ideas you may have. That being said, I would like to open the floor to our committee members who would like to recommend any activities they may have. Do we have any recommendations?

BRENTON ANDRUS: If I may, before y'all get your discussion going. Just remind you of what the goals are, that this committee is responsible for. So any recommendations you make would be aligned with these goals

like previously said. Goal one deals with self-advocacy and the advocacy leadership. This action plan is our current action plan and was included in your packet just as reference for you so you can kind of see what we're working on now. Cause you can also make recommendations to continue any particular activities that are in there, to remove activities that are in there or come up with new things.

But the first goal that we concentrate on is individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have access to information and supports to become effective leaders of their communities and advocate for systems change on behalf of themselves and other individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And goal two is dealing with community living and supports. So to be fully participating members of the community individuals with intellectual and development disabilities, including those with the most challenging needs and their families, will have access to quality supports and services inclusive of affordable healthcare resources across various service delivery systems and shall be treated equally by all members of the community. Now keep in mind your goals are not up for debate. Those are already set in our five-year plan. You're just looking at the activities which would be considered kind of what we've been talking about today when you see activities in the plan, something that we're actively doing to reach that goal.

RASHAD BRISTO: The floor is open.

JILL EGLE: I have-- my bad. I'm out of order.

RASHAD BRISTO: No. Go ahead. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: Okay. I don't know any logistics. I just have a suggestion. I think we need some trainings on voting.

RASHAD BRISTO: When you say training on voting, what exactly do you have in mind? Talking about training in the community for individuals who have disabilities?

JILL HANO: Yes. But that's all I got for you, Rashad, is voting training. Or voting awareness. Or something. I don't know specifically like what people. In my personal research there's really a lack of information on how voting works for people with disabilities. And I was thinking maybe add some like legislative process that includes voting for people with disabilities. And please don't

make me repeat that, y'all. I can't.

RASHAD BRISTO: No. You don't have to repeat it.

JILL HANO: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: So basically voting awareness training specifically for people with developmental disabilities just kind of sums it up.

JILL HANO: Sure. That sounds real nice.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Do we have any other recommendations from the committee?

JILL EGLE: Yeah. In terms of voting, to be honest as a leader I have a hard time voting. Especially this year for governor because, you know, I don't, based on my decision I just wanted to support IDD and it's hard because everybody has a different opinion and I don't where to start. I mean, I have lots of people do that how I feel. So I don't know where to start with this.

RASHAD BRISTO: That sounds like you're in support also in regards to what has been presented. Thank you for that, Ms. Egle. Do we have any other committee members with recommendations? Do we have any questions or comments in the chat? Does that keep us in line with goals one and two? Ms. Hano, you're recognized by the chair. You have the floor.

JILL HANO: I'm so confused. I don't know if this is appropriate, but I definitely want to keep the videos and maybe tweak the topics. Like again, like voting. Well, it says on the 2023 action plan voting rights, accessible options. So, I mean, just keep that at the forefront. But I definitely-- y'all voting is my jam. Civics was my favorite subject in high school. Didn't care for the teacher, but none the less. So like I'm just a big-- like I really want this video contract has done for our council and just like making sure the accessible options are at the forefront.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Everyone see that to the forefront.

BRENTON ANDRUS: So continue the video initiative and ensure videos specific to voting accessibility are included.

JILL HANO: Correct.

RASHAD BRISTO: Do we have any other comments?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Just a comment. And I don't know that we've had a lot of conversations about objective 2.3, activity 2.3.1 which talks about collaborating with LDH to



address accessible educational materials on women's health topics. So I'm not sure if everyone's aware, the legislature started a new office in the Louisiana Department of Health this year so we now have what's called the Office of Women's health. Similar to Office of OCDD and Office of Aging, Office of Behavioral Health has its own assistant secretary and staff. She actually just got hired and started within the last couple of weeks. So we may need to give her time to get situated in her new role as assistant secretary. But if there's anything I can do to help maybe facilitate discussions potentially with our office and that office to talk about women with disabilities and if there's any partnership we need to have there. We wanted to add anything around that I'm happy to help with that conversation.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Great. Thank you. Yeah, I know on that activity we've kind of been waiting for that department to get up and going.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: She just started maybe three weeks ago.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think that one's been on Amy's radar.

RASHAD BRISTO: Not seeing any comments or questions in the chat. So are we only just going to have the recommendation that has just been presented? Are there any other recommendations? Mr. Andrus, can we reread the recommendation.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I'll pull it up in just a second. So if this is a motion you would like to present, basically it's going to be for the planning ad hoc committee to consider the following initiatives, which were discussed, and you're, again, going to send this to the full council tomorrow. First would be voting awareness training specifically for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and continue the video initiative and ensure videos specific to voting and accessibility are included.

RASHAD BRISTO: Again, to reemphasize what Mr. Andrus said. This recommendation will be presented to the council on tomorrow. So if there's no additional recommendations we're ready to entertain a motion. Before that I think-- make sure I see Ms. Hano's hand. Let me ask this question real quick before Ms. Hano. When it does come down to a vote they would both be voted for individually or just one collective motion?

BRENTON ANDRUS: It's going to go to them as one collective motion, but they can determine-- I mean, we can do it as two if you want to do it as two. I generally just send them all.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. It would be suggested to make it collective when we get to that point. Ms. Hano, you have the floor. You're recognized by the chair.

JILL HANO: Y'all, I'm very rusty at this, but I do think it's important to continue. And Brenton (inaudible), I would love to hear it, but I would like to continue the SDM first responder and emergency preparedness because they're all such good trainings and they're getting positive feedback. And again, it's like good for our council and our community. But I don't know if it's up to me to recommend that or just when y'all have a planning committee they're just going to say we're going to keep this for FY24 and not know-- or I'm almost pretty sure that for-- oh, but then FY23. So y'all don't have FY-- I think I'm getting ahead of myself because we're just spit-balling. But I do want to keep the SDM training along with the first responder and emergency prep trainings.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Okay. Is there anyone that does not think those should continue on the committee?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I do have a question. Kind of a follow-up on what Jill was saying. So the things that are in here now that, you know, will they automatically continue or do we need to have discussion of which would continue and which would end?

BRENTON ANDRUS: So if there is something that we are currently doing that you're really passionate about and you want to see continue, I would recommend you make a recommendation that that does continue. Because the planning committee, there are some things that they will continue. For instance, Partners always continues. LaCAN always continues because those are integral to some of the work we do here in our advocacy. But especially for things if they've been around for a few years it's possible that the planning committee might decide not to move forward with those initiatives because they want to give a chance for other initiatives. Sometimes we get a little stagnant with things for years and years. So I think if you're very passionate about a particular activity we're working on now or if you're very passionate about getting rid of something that we're currently working on it's good

to make the recommendation to the planning committee to either keep it or get rid of it just because you don't really know what they're going to do as far as continuing an initiative or not. I do think it's worth, you know, if Jill and the rest of you agree that those are really important we can add that we would continue the current initiatives and just put those in there XYZ. If anybody has disagreements with the individual things, kind of like Rashad mentioned we can break it down one by one. But generally if it's kind of unanimous consent of the particular things that we're mentioning we can vote on them as one package.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized by the chair. You have a question?

JILL HANO: I have a comment and a question. No, I have a comment then a question. I'm really thinking I want to put in the motion to keep these three items. And I'm almost certain that all the feedback has been positive. But I do want to add that to my motion to say depending, not depending on-- shoot. Just like assuming that all the feedback is still good.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Make sure I understand. You want to go ahead and include supported decision-making training, first responder training and emergency preparedness and response training also remain and add those two. That way we can kind of sustain those as well.

JILL HANO: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay.

JILL EGGLE: Providing that the feedback is consistently positive.

RASHAD BRISTO: Consistent of positive feedback. Okay.

JILL HANO: Y'all that was my first motion I've ever worded.

RASHAD BRISTO: You worded a good one.

JILL HANO: And I have a question for Amy or Brenton or whoever wants to answer my question. Are y'all going to-- when do y'all meet to decide on what y'all's recommendation for the action plan is?

AMY DEAVILLE: So the planning committee does not currently have a date that they are meeting yet. In fact, planning committee hasn't been appointed yet. But we usually look to have that happen in March. Sometimes in February if we're doing really well.

JILL HANO: And then before planning committee y'all will get together and make y'all's recommendations, correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Correct. The staff always get together as a group and we go through the plan and make recommendations based off of the feedback that we've gotten and the results that we're getting.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Amy.

AMY DEAVILLE: Sure.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Deaville. Anymore hands?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Oh, no. I was just going to get clarity from Jill to make sure you did make a motion, correct, to include voter awareness training and to continue the initiatives pending positive feedback, the video initiatives, supported decision making, first responder trainings and emergency preparedness response training?

JILL HANO: Yes, sir.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Okay. So we do have a motion on the floor.

CHANEY SAVOY: Second.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. It's been moved by Ms. Hano, and it's been seconded by Ms. Chaney Savoy. Committee's recommendation the planning ad hoc committee consider the following activities (inaudible). The voting awareness training specifically for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and continue the following current initiative providing consistent positive feedback through fiscal year 23 video initiative and should be specific to voting and accessibility are included. Supported decision making trainings. First responder trainings. Emergency preparedness trainings. Do we have any questions?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I will say before it goes up on the screen tomorrow at the full council meeting it will look a little bit different because I will add in the current activity numbers and stuff for people to reference. Just for sake of time I wasn't going to wordsmith it right now with all the activity numbers.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Any oppositions? Any abstentions? All in favor?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Public comment first.

RASHAD BRISTO: Public comment? Not seeing any. So

all in favor for us to present this to the full council meeting tomorrow. Recognized by saying aye.

{Collective aye}

RASHAD BRISTO: Any opposition? Motion passes. This will be presented to the council tomorrow for consideration. Are there any, do we have any announcements?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Only thing would be at 3:00 is our Education and Employment Committee meeting. It will be in this room if you're here in-person. You should have the link if you are currently participating via Zoom and you registered for that meeting you will have a link that was sent to you to participate. And then tomorrow is our full council meeting at 8:30 a.m. Same, it will be in this room if you're participating in-person or if you registered online, you will have a link that will be emailed to you to participate tomorrow.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other announcements? Not hearing none, we'll adjourn by unanimous consent. Thank you so much for your time.