

Executive Committee Summary

October 18, 2023

5615 Corporate Blvd. Ste. 500B, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

LIVE Streamed Via YouTube

You can watch the meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/@LADDCouncil/streams>

You can view the meeting transcript [here](#)

Members Present: Jill Hano, Angela Harmon, Christi Gonzales (Chair), Brooke Stewart, Renoda Washington

Members Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Brenton Andrus, Rekeesha Branch, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Others Present: Nicole Flores, Nicole Learson, Mimi Webb, Vivienne Webb, Vanessa Wells, Lauren Womack

Christi Gonzales called the meeting to order at 8:39 AM. A quorum was established.

The [August 2023 Executive Committee Summary](#) was approved and accepted by unanimous consent.

Update on Building Advocacy Capacity Contract

Ebony Haven gave an update on the new Building Advocacy Capacity in Education and Employment contract for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Action Plan. During the July 2023 quarterly Council meeting, the Council accepted the Arc of Louisiana's proposal with the stipulation they subcontract with Bayou Land Families Helping Families at a minimum amount of \$5,638.68. However, Bayou Land has decided not to subcontract due to a lack of responses for participation in focus groups by Special Education Directors and community employers.

Executive Director Hiring Process

The committee discussed the process they would like to recommend to the Full Council to hire a new Executive Director. Council staff provided information on the process used previously (i.e. Executive Director Search Committee). The committee decided, rather than an expensive and time consuming search, they would like to promote the current Interim Executive Director, Ebony Haven.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: To hire an Executive Director from within the current staff instead of conducting a nation-wide search made by Jill Hano, seconded by Brooke Stewart.

MOTION PASSED: To hire the Interim Executive Director, Ebony Haven, as the Executive Director of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council made by Brooke Stewart, seconded by Renoda Washington passed without objections or abstentions.

The committee proceeded to discuss and determine a salary to recommend for the Full Council's consideration. However, the committee decided to have the discussion in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:19 AM, a motion by Jill Hano, seconded by Angela Harmon to enter into executive session passed without objections or abstentions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDED

At 9:56 AM, the committee ended its Executive Session and the public meeting was called to order at 9:58 AM. A quorum was established.

MOTION PASSED: To set the Executive Director's salary at \$160,000 made by Brooke Steward, seconded by Angela Harmon passed without objections or abstentions.

2024 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Ebony Haven explained how the Council receives community input from around the state for the Council to consider adding to its legislative agenda. Then, LaCAN Leaders and Families Helping Families Executive Directors meet at Legislative Kickoff to consider all the input received and make a formal recommendation to the Council for consideration on their advocacy agenda.

The committee discussed the recommendations sent which included:

- Recurring Funding for Families Helping Families Centers
- Funding Increase for Direct Support Workers Pay Raises
- Eliminate Family Flexible Fund Waitlist

The committee decided to accept the Legislative Kickoff recommendations for the Council and LaCAN's 2024 Legislative Advocacy Agenda.

MOTION PASSED: To accept the Legislative Kickoff Advocacy Recommendations and for the 2024 Advocacy Agenda to include:

- Recurring Funding for Families Helping Families Centers
- Funding Increase for Direct Support Workers Pay Raises
- Eliminate Family Flexible Fund Waitlist

made by Brooke Stewart, seconded by Renoda Washington. Motion passed without objections or abstentions.

There was no public comment and Council staff announced upcoming meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11AM by unanimous consent.