

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting
April 18th,2024

CHRISTI GONZALES: The quarterly meeting of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council will come to order. How is everyone doing this morning? Ebony, can you please give us the roll call for attendance.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes. Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Avera. Ms. Avera, if you could just say here for me. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm here.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Courtney Ryland for proxy.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hymel. Ms. Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Moore. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Perrodin.

MELINDA PERRODIN: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Pointek. Ms. Richard.

MELINDA RICHARD: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Singletary.

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Lauren Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: And I know Mr. Brian Bennett is here for Ms. Tangela Womack. You have a quorum.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Okay. Thank you. At this time we will have Ms. Stewart read the mission statement.

BROOKE STEWART: To increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building, and systems change.

CHRISTI GONZALES: And Mr. Billings, could you please read us the ground rules.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Sure thing. Ground rules. Members must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Be respectful of each other's opinions. Break for ten minutes every one and half hours. Discuss council business in a responsible manner. Except as necessary restrict the use of electronic communications such as texting during council and committee meetings. Silence or turn off all cell phones. Be on time for meetings. No alphabets. Side conversations are kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. Before we get started I want to go ahead and read the new virtual protocols. I just want to remind everybody of a few rules. For committee members and members of the public attending in person please raise your hand to speak and wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking. To help the meeting run smoothly please keep side conversations to a minimum and comments related to the topic we are discussing. For those committee members who attending virtually remember you must be on camera and have your first and last name showing to be counted towards our quorum. Please keep microphones muted unless called upon by the chair. Electronically raise your hand to request to speak and wait to be called on

by the chair. For attendees electronically raise your hand to request to speak. Once recognized by the chair your microphone will be turned on. After speaking the microphone will be returned to mute.

Also the Q and A and chat is to only be used by those needing an ADA accommodation to participate in the meeting. Public comment will not be accepted by the Q and A and chat except for those individuals who requested the accommodation. As per order, committee members in person and virtually will be allowed to speak first. Public members in person will then be called on followed by public participating virtually who have their hands raised. Comments in the Q and A and chat will be addressed last. As with all hybrid meetings it can be difficult to keep track of all those wanting to speak in person and virtually. Please be patient. All comments and questions from committee members and the public may be limited to three minutes or less should we run into time constraints. So please keep that in mind. Also, comments about a person's character will not be allowed. Finally, members of the public will have the opportunity to provide public comment before each vote and during designated public comment periods. The chair may also use their discretion to determine if comments will be accepted outside of those times.

The next item for business is the approval of the meeting summary and draft of the January 18th meeting. The summary was distributed. The summary will not be read unless requested by a member. Are there any corrections to the summary? If there is no objection the meeting summary is approved as distributed. Hearing none, the meeting summary is approved.

The next item of business is the chair's report. On April 17th the executive committee-- the chair attended the yellow shirt day at BESE when they were speaking about the SEAP committee. I also participated in the last SEAP meeting according to BESE until new members are obtained. That was in March 2024. And I did reapply for a position on the committee. I attended the special ed committee as the SEAP committee, I'm a member of that as well, on April 15th. And then in March, last year I started a nonprofit for autism in New Iberia and we had our first fundraiser.

And we had a lot of good participation and new people coming from the community. We also had LaCAN and Families Helping Families there as well.

The next item is the recommendation from the executive committee. The executive committee met yesterday and we have one recommendation to present to the council. In January the council needed additional information to make a decision about the executive director salary and requested the decision be sent back to the executive committee. Unfortunately, Ms. Haven was not able to answer questions about the information provided before the council entered into executive session so that additional information could have been provided. Therefore, after getting another list of items needed to make a decision on salary in January the vice chair and I had a meeting with Ms. Haven on February 21st and decided it was unfair for the council as an employer to ask her to complete research for her own salary. Especially after she provided information for the January meeting in the timeframe we requested and we were not able to reach a decision. Therefore, the vice chair and I agreed that Ms. Haven would provide information about the previous ED salaries, current staff salaries, which can be found on the Board and Commission's website, the budget which is included in your packet through March 2024 in a sources document. I think everybody got a packet. Yes.

The vice chair and I were responsible for obtaining the additional information Dr. Patti Barovechio offered to provide and researching southern region ED salary ranges. So to provide further explanation on the information she gave in January which is included in your packet. The executive director's job description which includes the ED role, responsibilities and essential requirements. I would like to point out that Ms. Haven clearly meets the essential requirements and in some areas exceeds the minimum requirements. The Excel spreadsheet council information with similar allotments to Louisiana includes information on DD Councils that have similar federal allotments to Louisiana. This document was provided in lieu of the southern region ED salary ranges and other ED state salary ranges because it is difficult to compare ED positions. The Louisiana State

Civil Service compensation manager also informed Ms. Haven that civil service only has salary ranges for unclassified positions. There is a wide variety of EDs in state government who are responsible for entities in various size, scope and organization structure. Therefore, it's difficult to make accurate comparisons. All this information was provided in January and for this reason Ms. Haven provided the Excel spreadsheet with councils of similar allotments to Louisiana. We know that each executive director of every DD Council has very similar, if not the same duties, and can be compared to the ED position for the Louisiana DD Council. Therefore, the Excel spreadsheet provides thorough information about each of the councils with similar allotments so their comparisons can be made when discussing salaries.

At the January meeting Dr. Patti Barovechio stated that she would provide a tipsheet on salary calculations and outlines a systematic method for identifying civil service equivalent roles and the calculating pay for civil service contract staff positions. She also provided a resource for the administrative pay schedule that a classified ED position could fall under. However, the executive committee took into consideration that a DD Council ED position is unclassified and the duties are very unique to this position. So we took all this into consideration when we were discussing a salary range. Therefore, the committee has one recommendation to offer for the council's consideration. So if you look on the screen the motion was the executive committee recommends a salary range of 115,000 to 130,000 for the executive director. And I need a motion. Is there a motion to approve the recommendation?

NICOLE BANKS: I motion to approve the recommendation.

JILL HANO: Second.

CHRISTI GONZALES: All right. So it is moved and seconded to accept the salary range of 115,000 to 130,000 for the executive director. Is there any discussion from council members? Is there any public comment? Any comments in the chat? You ready for the question? The question is that the executive committee recommends a salary range of 115,000 to 130,000 for the

executive director. We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to accept the salary range recommendation when your name is called please say yes. If you're opposed say no. If you abstain, say abstain. Ebony. Sorry.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Avera. Ms. Avera, could you say that a little bit louder.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: Sorry. Can you hear me now?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: I think Aduli. I don't know what that means.

HANNAH JENKINS: Oh, Ms. Aduli, that was one of the council members.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: Oh, I'm sorry. I think yes. Maybe no.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The motion is that we accept the recommendation of a salary range of 115,000 to 130,000 for our executive director.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Avera, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Barovechio, abstain. Ms. Bayham. Mr. Billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hagan, abstain. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hymel. Ms. Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Gonzales, yes. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Jordan, abstain. Ms. Moore. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Ms. Parrodin.

MELINDA PERRODIN: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Parrodin, yes. Mr. Piontek.
You're muted Mr. Piontek.

TONY PIONTEK: Better?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes. Is your vote yes, no or
abstain?

TONY PIONTEK: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Piontek, yes. Ms. Richard.

MELINDA RICHARD: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Richard, abstain. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Singletary.

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Stewart, yes. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Webb, yes. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Lauren
Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Lauren Womack, yes. Ms.
Tangela Womack. And the motion passes 18 yeas and four
abstain.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The yeases have it and the motion
is adopted. The executive committee also discussed the
legislative advocacy agenda process. Currently the
process includes LaCAN leaders hosting community input
meetings in late July and August to collect input for
the advocacy agenda. Staff compile and categorize a
list and LaCAN leaders and Families Helping Families
directors rate each item. Leaders and directors met in
September for legislative kickoff and narrowed the
items down to three to four to recommend to the council
in October for their advocacy agenda. The committee
discussed the lack of council member participation in
the advocacy agenda process and in general with LaCAN
activities during session including responding to
action alerts, attending legislative visits and yellow
shirt days. The committee had a great discussion about

making sure applicants are aware of the expectancy of involvement during the interview process and we received great feedback on including LaCAN activities and new member orientation. We will also look at the bylaws before the next quarterly meeting to determine what can be added to ensure members are active. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide feedback on how to make the legislative advocacy agenda process better which could include more involvement from council members due to running out of time, but we plan to continue the conversation at future meetings.

The next item of business is the executive director's report. The chair recognizes Ms. Haven for report.

EBONY HAVEN: I'm going to pull up the report in just one second. Just give me a second. But it's in your packet on the gray sheet.

JILL HANO: Can you speak louder.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. So I'm going to talk louder. Can you hear me now?

JILL HANO: Yes, executive director.

EBONY HAVEN: So we have a lot of information on the executive director's report for this quarter. We've been really, really busy so I just want to highlight a couple of things that we did for the quarter. We had our legislative roundtables were held in person with a virtual option for the first time since Covid. And we had very good turnouts across the state with a total of 389 participants including nine legislators or legislative assistants and/or BESE members. And we had nine council members attending the roundtables this year. It was a great turnout for the first time that we've been back since Covid.

Just a quick update on your legislative advocacy agenda. All three advocacy agenda items are for additional funding. You have the 500-dollars in additional funding for the Families Helping Families centers. The 9.4 million to eliminate the flexible family fund wait list for DD and OBH sides. And the 10.1-million to increase the waiver night rate to match the day rate. This additional funding will all be appropriated in House Bill one and LaCAN held yellow shirt days in house appropriations on March 12th and public testimony day on March 20th in house

appropriations as well. Yes, it is also being heard on Tuesday. They are going to have a vote so this is another, I know Christi just mentioned that the executive committee had a great discussion yesterday about council member participation in LaCAN activities. So this is a great opportunity for our council members to get involved. They're going to be voting on HB 1 on Tuesday in house appropriations and we want to just show up and make sure that they remember our yellow shirts. Remember that people with disabilities matter. Remember our advocacy agenda and our asks. So even if you're not able to attend the meeting on Tuesday. It's 9 a.m.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Tuesday the 22nd?

EBONY HAVEN: The 23rd. Tuesday the 23rd.

BRETON ANDRUS: 9:00 a.m. room five at the capitol for yellow shirt day. There will be an alert too for you to reach out to house appropriations.

EBONY HAVEN: So even if you can't make the yellow shirt day another great opportunity to get involved is to respond to the action alert that we'll send out. I'm thinking Brenton will get it sent out tomorrow. So that's another great opportunity for involvement of our council members.

Lastly, I'm really excited to just let you guys know that the council staff and I worked on your annual report for 2023 and I just want to give kudos to Stephanie, our program manager Stephanie Carmona, our program monitor Hannah Jenkins and our program manager Brenton Andrus for doing a great job. We went to get copies. We had copies printed up. They're upstairs. Just a few copies that we wanted to share with the council so you guys could see all the great work that was done last year on your action plan.

So a couple of the things I wanted to highlight was Partners in Policymaking. That last year was the first year that it was back in person. They had a full in-person class. And even though the number of graduates were low it was a really great class. And we had a new coordinator, Ms. Rebecca Fruge, who's here with us today. And also we had the return of the Youth Leadership Forum which was a great success. So the annual report will have those successes in it. And also our successes in our legislative advocacy agenda

where we received 9.4 million to ensure incontinent supplies was a covered benefit for adults enrolled in the new opportunities waiver, the residential options waiver and the supports waiver. And we were able to receive that funding before session even started.

We received the additional 500,000 for our FHF centers. Louisiana open meetings law was amended to allow for virtual participation. And we also were able to get the 1 million-dollars for the post-secondary inclusive education fund for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Louisiana post-secondary institutions. So those are a couple of highlights. I think Hannah went to go grab the copies that we made. But we're going to be pushing out our annual report on social media and we'll also be sending it out to our list serve.

Just to kind of go back just for one second. We've been doing a lot of advocacy outside of our advocacy agenda and I kind of just wanted to highlight one of the things that we've been advocating for. If you guys remember in January in my report I put that there was Act 392 that passed last year and it allowed convicted felons to, they can appeal to the BESE board and receive their certification. Thanks to Meredith Jordan she helped us get a meeting with LDOE staff and Christi Gonzales, Ms. Renoda Washington, the chair for the education and employment committee, and staff, we met with LDOE and they made sure that they let us know that there are policies and safeguards in place to make sure that there are only certain felonies that will be allowed to appeal for their teaching certifications. And they had a list of never-evers. So if the felony was on that list of never-evers that that person would never be allowed to appeal and get a teaching certification. So I kind of just wanted to follow up with you guys about that particular item that was on my executive report last time. So that's all I have. If you guys have any questions.

ERICK TAYLOR: (Inaudible).

EBONY HAVEN: It's not very accessible.

ERICK TAYLOR: I almost flipped over. So the ones in wheelchairs just keep that in mind.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Mr. Erick. Go ahead, Mr. Phil.

PHIL WILSON: I just want to say it was really nice to hear all the positive things you had to say this morning. It's refreshing. I appreciate not only the outcomes the council has achieved, but also the fact that you're speaking about giving kudos to other people and so forth. It feels like you're starting to feel like a well-functioning council again.

EBONY HAVEN: Thank you, Dr. Phil.

SPEAKER: I would like to give a shootout to region four. The council members, they currently have like six council members in that area and they almost had 100 percent of attendance in that round table. And they had a testimony from one of their council members. So I just wanted to give a shootout to them too.

JILL HANO: And I would add there is a misprint. It says Ebony Haven, interim executive director and she is no longer our interim executive director.

HANNAH JENKINS: Thank you, Jill. I'm making that change while you're talking now. No one will see that misprint except for you guys.

JILL HANO: So can we get a round of applause.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The next item of business is the budget report. The chair recognizes Ms. Haven for the report.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. So the budget report is on the white paper in your packet. So just everything is moving along. All of our contracts are moving along and they're on track. If you want more information about how the contractual activities are going you can look at your status of planned activities that's also in your packet. I know the self-determination and community inclusion committee didn't get a chance to hear about those updates for those contractual activities but if you guys have questions you can reach out to the staff and we'll make sure that we answer any questions that you have as far as anything going on with contractual activities. Okay, we'll have that printed for you guys and brought in in just a second. I'm sorry. It wasn't included in the packet. While she's making the copies I'll just keep going.

Just to point out a couple of things. In the staff out-of-state travel, the council member out-of-state travel you will see a credit of 552-dollars. We were able to get an airline ticket

refunded because one of the council members wasn't able to make it to the NACDD conference and they refunded that money. So that's the 552-dollars that you see in red right there. And then another thing I wanted to point out is if you look under the communication website hosting, the charge for January included the renewal subscription for our accessibility tool that's on our website, the Recite Me toolbar. I don't know if you guys have had a chance to use it, but it is very helpful. And then we also had our Gatorworks renewal, the company that host our website. So that's what that 4,000-dollar charge is. I didn't want you guys to think like what are we paying for, communication website and hosting. Those are just renewals for those subscriptions that we had. And if you guys have any questions I am here to answer them.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Ebony. Are there any other questions about the budget? Or we can ask after we receive the copy. Ebony, you want us to wait for the copy of the budget-- or would y'all like to wait or move on? Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: If anybody has any questions I can answer after.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Okay. Before we move on I forgot to ask, and it's in reference to us recommending the salary range, and I just wanted to request that you allow me to negotiate the salary with Ms. Haven. Does anybody have any objections to that? Within that salary range.

LAUREN WOMACK: Do we need to make a motion to do that?

CHRISTI GONZALES: You can, Lauren.

LAUREN WOMACK: I don't want to make it. I was just asking.

BRETON ANDRUS: It is within the authority of the chair to do those things. If you want a motion you can do one.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Being transparent. I was just asking, you know, requesting that y'all allow me to do that.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I would like to make a motion that we allow the chair, Christi Gonzales, to negotiate with Executive Director Ebony Haven for her salary within the range accepted by the council.

LAUREN WOMACK: And I'll second.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. It is moved to allow myself, Christi Gonzales, to negotiate terms with Ms. Haven between the salary range that we have previously discussed. Is there any discussion from council members regarding that? Is there any public comment? Are you ready for the question. The question is on allowing Ms. Gonzales to negotiate terms with Ms. Haven in regards to her salary range. Negotiating terms, the salary range of 115,000 to 130,000. We will have a roll call vote. If you're in favor of the motion to allow Ms. Gonzales to negotiate terms with Ms. Haven when your name is called say yes. If you're opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony or Ms. Hannah.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Can we put the motion on the screen.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. I'm working on it. I'm sorry, Vivienne. I'm working on it.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So the question is to allow the chair, Christy Gonzales, to negotiate with executive director on salary within the range of 115,000 to 130,000.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Avera.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Avera, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Barovechio, abstain. Ms. Bayham. Mr. Billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain. Ms. Hagan. She stepped out. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Jordan, abstain. Ms. Moore. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Ms. Perrodin.

MELINDA PERRODIN: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Perrodin, yes. Mr. Piontek.

TONY PIONTEK: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Piontek, yes. Ms. Richard.

MELINDA RICHARD: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Richard, abstain. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Singletary.

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Singletary, yes. Ms. Stewart.

Stepped out. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Can I ask you a question or I can't?

PHIL WILSON: Erick, is it about a clarification of what we're voting on or is it a question about something else?

CHRISTI GONZALES: It's do you give me permission to negotiate with her, with Ebony in that range that we approved yesterday.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay. Oh, yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Webb, yes. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Lauren Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Lauren Womack, yes. Ms. Tangela Womack. The motion passes. Sixteen yeas, three abstains.

CHRISTI GONZALES: And the motion is adopted. Thank you, everyone.

The next item of business is our committee reports. The planning committee. The chair recognizes Lauren Womack for the report.

LAUREN WOMACK: For the 2025 action plan ad hoc committee we met Monday March 11th. The draft plan that the committee approved has been included in your packet. During the meeting the committee allotted additional funds to the activity 1.1 Partners in Policymaking due to the increased cost associated with

inflation such as hotel expenses and travel. Also, we had to turn away I think it was three people due to the expenses. There was some people that couldn't attend because there was not enough funding last year. I think that was kind of our thought process.

HANNAH JENKINS: We had additional (inaudible) for two more but the funds didn't allow us.

LAUREN WOMACK: We talked about activity 1.5 updating our website and social media which will help make the website more accessible. The people with developmental disabilities including plain language documents and a more organized website design and layout. Funding was allocated to two new initiatives. Abuse, neglect and exploitation training. And activity 2.23 fetal alcohol syndrome spectrum disorder. In order to allocate the funds to the new initiatives the committee decided to remove the funding from 1.23 council member trainings. According to federal partners money cannot be attached to this activity. And removed activity 2.21 first responder training and activity 3.15 building capacity in employment and education. The reasoning behind that was we weren't getting as much participation or the outcomes or, lack of a better term, bang for our buck. So we wanted to maybe use that funding or explore new ways that may be more beneficial or useful for our community. The committee also recommends that the activity 2.13 navigating the developmental disabilities, behavioral health and MCO, which is Medicaid, Hannah, which is Medicaid, MCO managed.

BRETON ANDRUS: Managed care organization.

LAUREN WOMACK: Okay. Managed care organization systems can be continued at its current funding but to solicit proposals. As of now we have Hustle and Grow. It did not meet our activity and it had to be rewritten. And in the rewrites the staff noted that the activities are not meeting the requirements. We also discussed too that we may want to put into our contract any trainings that we have rights to keep them. So that even after we pay for the contract we still own the trainings that we can post and keep. Because for some of them we don't have that right.

So after reading and approving the draft plan the committee motioned to send the draft plan to the full

council for consideration. And then we adjourned. Some things that we were also discussing were with the trainings. We thought it would be good, or I think staff suggested we need to think about are these trainings responsibilities of the actual agencies. So first responders, are they getting money from their departments to do training for people with disabilities because we are part of the community. Should they be using their own funding for this training. Or should we advocate for them to use their own funding for this training.

And we also discussed whether Families Helping Families could better provide some of these employment or education trainings. And if they would prove to have, better fit the needs of the community and have better outcomes and reach more people. So did anybody have any questions that I can answer?

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So training. Is it that they were not training them on the right information or it wasn't aligning what we were trying to do? The ones where she said the Hustle and Grow did not meet the training standards that you guys were.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: So let me just give some additional information because following our planning committee ad hoc meeting on March 11th we received additional information on some of these activities. So I do want to share that with you so that way you can better make a decision. The first one is for activity 1.1.8. And I'm going to get to your question, Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: I might need all of that.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: So that one right now is the voting rights training. The committee had voted to continue this activity at its current funding of 30,000-dollars. I know yesterday during our meeting we didn't get to hear the update but it is in those packets and is available, that update. But currently three out of the six trainings had to be canceled or rescheduled due to lack of interest. At this time the contractor and the staff feel that this activity should be discontinued for the upcoming fiscal year.

For the activity 2.2.3, which is the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder awareness, the committee voted to put 52,000-dollars towards FASD awareness that the (inaudible) would conduct. At this time they're just

not at that stage so that isn't feasible at this time. We are still planning, we can still write in some kind of collaboration effort and Phil can give more information on that. Let me just finish out one more.

And then lastly, and this is the one that you had a question about, Nicole. For activity 2.1.3 the navigating the developmental disabilities behavioral health and managed care system. The committee recommended to continue it at its current funding, solicit proposals for a new vendor. The initial proposal that we received from Hustle and Grow was more to train professionals and to receive information from the state. The way that the committee and the council wrote this activity though it was to train individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers and families. So we had Hustle and Grow rewrite the proposal but we still kind of feel like those trainings aren't meeting that requirement still. And I'm going to turn that over if you have any questions, any specific questions about that we can answer those. I know Rekeesha does the voting rights. She's in charge of that contract. And Hannah is over the navigating the system one, that Hustle and Grow contract so they might be better able to answer questions if there are any.

NICOLE BANKS: Of course we're looking for them to train the individuals with developmental disabilities, not the actual professionals cause that's the agency's job to do that. Okay. I got you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Rekeesha, I wanted to ask you with the voting rights awareness whenever the individuals go to the DMV to get their ID card or anything they do not ask-- because they can register to vote at the DMV and they don't ask that. That might be something we can work with the Office of Motor Vehicles to see. That's one less step that they have to go through because when we took our students to get their identification card to set up their bank account I asked them, do y'all want to register to vote, not the DMV. And they can do that right there reducing that one step.

SPEAKER: So kind of just educate them and let them know.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yeah. Would you like to

register to vote. One sentence. Because they can register them at the DMV but they don't ask. They have to ask. But it's something I think we can work with the DMV on.

JILL HANO: I swear I registered in 12th grade civics.

PHIL WILSON: Tory may know something about this or not. I'm not sure. But I know the DRLA has done a lot of work in voting rights and accessibility and so forth. But the only concern I have is really a privacy concern. So if the DMV is encouraged to routinely ask everyone that question, fine. But I think you're crossing a line that some people might not be comfortable with is come in and declare this person has a disability and wants to vote.

CHRISTI GONZALES: No. One of their jobs, the things you can do at the DMV office is get your license--

PHIL WILSON: But is it their responsibility to ask that or is it the responsibility of the individual to..

KELLY MONROE: It's all state employees who provide a service to the general public is supposed to ask you if you want.

PHIL WILSON: Oh, okay. Perfect.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Actually, she's over that particular contract so if you have any questions about disability voting rights she should be able to answer that for you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: I'm just thinking if we worked with the OMV that would be one less step.

KELLY MONROE: They could get in a lot of trouble for not doing that.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Some do. Some don't. It just depends. But I asked my students and they were like what is that. I said that's where if it's time to vote for president or somebody you say yes or no. And they're like I want to do that. Okay.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I have a question for Kelly. Is it just state employees or like if it's contract OMVs would they be required as well?

KELLY MONROE: It's supposed to be anybody who's receiving state funding. So if they're receiving state funding then they're supposed to offer that. Even us like for the SPAS program, for instance, because we're

receiving state funding for it every time someone calls and changes an address or asks a question or anything, even if I already know that they're registered to vote I have to ask the question and then I have to mail the document to them. And whether even if they say I've already registered I'm like okay, I'm still mailing it. Throw it away if you want to. Yeah, you have to. It's part of the law.

SPEAKER: Do we have our own like training videos for everything? So like we were talking about is it in the police's budget and their job to educate people or us. Do we have standardized training videos for anything?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Ebony?

EBONY HAVEN: No.

SPEAKER: So is that something we should create so that every police agency, every paramedic or whatever across our state has the standardized training. Okay, this is the standard of care and how we're going to handle individuals with autism. This is how we deescalate the situation so that it's across the board. This is what's appropriate. Like you're not going to kneel on my son's chest. That's not appropriate. We just need to make one video and say this is the standard of care that every agency should follow in this particular situation.

LAUREN WOMACK: We were talking about actually at the planning committee, and I wish Melissa Bayham was here. They're actually using a learning platform. They're using like a learning platform, an online training system of videos. And like the state uses an online platform of training videos they have to do every year for the state. So I don't know, Hannah, if y'all were able to look into it. Remember we had discussed maybe the DD Council getting some kind of online learning platform that we could make our own kind of trainings.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: So I looked into it a little. The main issue that as staff we discussed was having these outside vendors use what we have created. The first thing would be-- I mean, we can't mandate that they use it. And then we would also have to hire an additional (inaudible) to write a curriculum for that and then that curriculum would go out of date as things

are updated. So it's a lot of moving parts at once that at least right now we didn't think was going to be helpful for us.

SPEAKER: I just think if we can get to that point across the board with everything that we do. Like for training videos for kids that are waiting to get into Early Steps. Kids that age out of Early Steps that need therapy but can't afford the copays or the coinsurance. If we had standardized training videos. Like as a caregiver like how do I block my son that's appropriate when he's coming at me. These are things that moms need to know but they can't get their kid to ABA because we don't have enough providers. So coming up with some kind of hey, look. We know that you're trying to get to the waiting list but this is the free education that we can offer you put together by a BCBA or whoever would put these training videos together. We look through this packet here and we saw autism, autism, autism. What are we doing to get in front of that. I think training videos would probably be the easiest way where we could reach as many people as we could. I know in healthcare that's what I do when I'm running an organization to teach employees this is how you meet the measures. These are the operational steps to meet a measure. And then you test them on that. So I'm thinking we'll need testing. Maybe the police departments might want to test their staff to understand did you review the material to make sure that you're paying attention. But I just kind of feel like maybe we don't have the money in the budget now but in the future I think this is the way that we can probably reach the most people.

LAUREN WOMACK: And I don't know what the state is using, their platform for training.

SPEAKER: For schools, for police, for hospitals, everywhere.

LAUREN WOMACK: They have to take trainings.

MELINDA RICHARD: With the state the payroll system also has a timekeeping system built into it and within that there is a product called Success Factors. And so you go there and look up the courses and you take the courses and it keeps track of your transcript. So I don't know whether or not you could be allowed into the state system like you're saying. Have your own access

to trainings. I know with the Department of Health sometimes they're very specific trainings that are just for us and so it's put in that portal. But nobody else would go take it.

LAUREN WOMACK: I know that's not parents but the other side, like even the police officers if they're already in the system and then we could work with them on updating.

SPEAKER: If we have to use social media to drive awareness. Look, nobody's going to try to go to the state's site and like log through and look through. It's got to be easily accessible. It's got to be easy to understand, organized and then you have to put social media behind it to drive awareness.

CHRISTI GONZALES: And it's something we can look into.

SPEAKER: I'm sorry.

REKEESHA BRANCH: No, I just wanted to remind everybody about the point of order. They're saying they can't hear because it's too many people talking and they don't know who's saying what.

SPEAKER: I was just going to comment. I work in healthcare as well and I'm a nurse in the hospice setting and we have a catalog within our trainings and we have mandated trainings and this is what you have to do every year. But there is elective trainings. And maybe just even looking into what they have, if they have anything on that, and not re-creating the wheel and making more things but seeing what their baseline training is already and saying hey, I see that you have this. Maybe the recommendation would be to change it slightly to match this. This would be what we recommend because we work directly with these individuals verses making it to where you're creating so many things.

Again, as a nurse if I get a big catalog of things to do yearly it's overwhelming. I'm not taking in the information really doing anything with it and regurgitating it. You want to give them something short, needed, necessary so they can do their job more effectively. But if it's already there and just see what they have based on it.

KELLY MONROE: So I think for some agencies and some companies you'll have to use their platform. So for state police, for instance, we go through POST

which is peace officers something training where they ask us to come to them and we did our training using their platform so they have it on their site. We also do it for FranU for the nurses and other medical staff. And so but again, we had to use their platform. We couldn't use ours because they ask their people to do the training using their system. And so you may do better reaching out to some of those places and seeing if you can get someone to do the training for them to put on their platform. But to have it on your own, police officers, if they want to, can come and do a training, but they have to do it through POST. Like they have to get their accreted hours through them. And same thing with FranU and same thing with LSU Dental School. They have to get their training from those places. So you might be better having someone go and do those trainings at those other places.

MELINDA RICHARD: This is Mindy Richard. I just wanted to add one other thing. I think looking for best practices that other states are doing is a good idea. I know when we were looking at spending some of our American Rescue Plan Act dollars to build a portal to let direct service workers go to this portal and get their training and get certified basically for these trainings. Florida and also the State of Michigan has a lot of caregiver training that are already built and these companies already run them. And so I think one of the big concerns you have to be careful of is the firewalls and the security and you're not opening somebody else up to be hacked. I think that's probably where a lot of these agencies kind of protect their portals and what gets on there and who uses it. I think there absolutely is probably an avenue to see what some other states have already done. And they probably already have videos and training out there.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Lauren, did you want to talk?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: So as is the plan cannot be adopted. We do need to change it. I had a couple staff recommendations and then we can open that up for discussion and if there are any council recommendations also. Going back to the ones that I was talking about that's activity 1.1.8. That was a 30,000-dollar contract. And then on the activity 2.2.3 which is the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder awareness with a

52,000-dollar contract that we had allocated on the plan. So that leaves us with 82,000-dollars that we need to allocate.

So as the staff we got together and I have just a couple of possible activities and recommendations that we came up with. The first is to add 10,000-dollars to activity 1.1.3. That is our (inaudible) contract. That covers things like legislative roundtables, brochures on LaCAN training. The reason that we are recommending this is because we had in the plan, I'm sorry, I don't remember what activity it was but I can look it up, that we are going to revamp the website and like to make it more accessible, add those documents, those easy read documents and plain language documents. So this 10,000-dollars would allow us to reprint any of our print material that had that updated information that the website's going to have. So that way our printed materials are reflecting what our website has.

The next one is actually two, I guess. Two different things. That is two possible activities that could be under either education or employment. As staff we kind of went back and forth of where these could go. They can kind of fit anywhere. The first one is a financial literacy training. I was looking through a lot of other state plans and Texas, and I don't remember the other one, but two states are currently doing a financial literacy training where they train individuals on creating budgets, opening savings accounts and checking accounts, protecting yourself from identity theft, how to apply for loans, managing repayment plans. And now that the school systems have started having a requirement for the financial literacy class I think that's important for anybody to take. So that was one of our ideas.

The other one that I mentioned could go into education or employment or kind of wherever y'all think it fits is a high school transition training. And this would be training for parents and high school students on those LRS and transition services. We see a large gap there with our students that are transitioning out of high school. We hear all the time at our meetings. So we know that there's that gap there.

And then the last possible activity is under our targeted disparity which is objective 2.3. Our

targeted disparity is on women's health issues. So we do have the newly opened office of woman's health and community health. Sorry, it's so long I forget the name of it. So one of our ideas was to fund a study on women's health issues specific to women with intellectual and developmental disabilities, where are the gaps there. What are women with the intellectual and developmental disabilities, where are they not doing, where are they not getting care. It would kind of be a phased activity where the first year would be funding the study and then the second year would possibly be training on, or even create or changing the documents to plain language documents to make them more accessible for this demographic. But those are the recommendations that we kind of came up with. So we can discuss if there are any other, or if you want any other information that I might have that I talked about.

PHIL WILSON: So I'm not requesting funds for the Human Development Center with this comment, but we have through Department of Ed, what do you call it, not the vendor guide anymore.

MEREDITH JORDAN: The professional learning partner guide.

PHIL WILSON: What she said. Professional learning partner guide. We're in about 40 school districts around the state and we moved, within HDC we've always had an employment kind of focus. We have difficulty funding that because state agencies are very reticent to do contracts anymore. So then that means you really don't know if you can hire a staff person and maintain them, maintain your infrastructure. However, this has worked out pretty darn good, actually, after three or four years we have grown our capacity. So we've moved our transition approach into that delivery mechanism and we're currently working on upgrading the transition to be not just solely focused on employment only, which is obviously huge. But say you make some money and you have no idea what to do with it, financial literacy, what have you really accomplished here, right. And the same with transition planning, etc. So what I'm trying to say is as a federally mandated partner with the DD Council or UCEDD certainly is happy to just let you know we are working on that and we want to partner with

everyone including the council, getting your input and ideas and focus here or there. That would be the beauty of having a good really well functioning council. And our DRLA now has an executive director so we're back in business of having an actual DD network in Louisiana.

So some of these things are things that we can work on as a network as opposed to it just being the responsibility or the focus of the DD Council. I'm saying all that just, I'm not quite sure why, other than if you're trying to figure out how to use your monies best, perhaps-- I certainly recognize the importance of those things and we're working on those things and we're not asking for money. But just saying that we are in these school districts already and we are beginning to get requests to work on transition. I think there's a mechanism there that as long as we stay focused as a network we can begin to make some headway. And not all three of them are working on it separately. So there's that comment.

As far as money stuff, I want to go back to the Partners in Policymaking and I had a question about that. You said you had three applicants that you could not fund for the upcoming cycle, is that correct?

HANNAH JENKINS: For the past. We were looking at numbers. We would like to try to select all of our alternates but unfortunately the couple of alternates were from the northern regions and unfortunately we couldn't add them to the mix.

PHIL WILSON: This is just a statement for I guess whichever committee kind of deals with that. Again, as a partner agency as part of our network the UCEDD is responsible also for community training and helping to support future advocates and all that. I don't see a reason why we couldn't contribute in some fashion. Especially if we could help design a pipeline which has sort of already happened in a sense of a lot of our Partners graduates end up going through our leadership education or developmental disabilities program. So I feel like it's probably, as long as I can get into my budget planning process, I feel like we could set aside some money to support Partners. And frankly, we have a faculty that I think comes in and talks about this is what HDC is or whatever, but I think there's other

things that our faculty and staff could contribute to Partners. I would like to see us be more integrated. I don't know where to say these things, and this may not be the right time to say that, but I'm afraid the day will go by and I don't know where to put it. And I have three or four more, and I'm not going to say anything about them, but at lunchtime talk to Ebony or Christi about how do I get this to the executive council without taking up everyone's time here. Or whoever makes these kinds of decisions. I'll stop there.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you.

KELLY MONROE: I think it would be really cool for the transition one to maybe be like something about like transitioning into adulthood and that would include employment but also include things like people leaving from one waiver to another waiver when families are not really familiar with what to do. And maybe they could start with families of 16-year-olds so that they know that as the years go on what's going to happen to your child when he's on the children's choice waiver. What will happen, when will it happen. Those kinds of things. Maybe it could be like a guide for families. And then also maybe some trainings. I think that would be really cool. But it could include all adulthood transitioning. So whether it be education, employment and medical.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. The staff has provided recommendations to change the presented action plan. Is there any discussion from council members regarding the recommendations that were presented?

JILL HANO: I have, not about that, but I do have a comment about the planning committee. And I could be wrong, but I was on the planning committee. In January both of our standing committees gave that recommendation for the planning committee. And although I can definitely recall that we did the FASD one, not placing blame, but I feel like a lot of the committee recommendations were maybe brushed off a bit. And I just wanted to make sure-- wait. Because one was in my head and I think I lied to y'all because we had one that Ms. Samantha suggested about the ER staff. And I don't know if that made the list. And also we had one, I think Julie had about, maybe not, but about

how to, a formal, how to make formal complaints within the department. Because I'm thinking a lot of the things with training, like I understand how companies, how a lot of organizations should put-- like I agree, not discard our population. But the reason we're here like you're going to have to get our training in ten to 12 minutes are going to be on disabilities. I'm trying to learn that disabilities and developmental disabilities are two completely separate entities. And also I know there were issues with training, but part of what we do at the council and what we use our funding is-- am I wrong Steph?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: No. I just wanted to add I know you mentioned Julie and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and how she had made that recommendation. It is added on here. It's activity 1.1.9.

JILL HANO: Okay. I thought it was. But can I say one more thing? Part of what a service is, the DD Council, we get all of these trainings, we get all of this state funding and part of what makes our organization unique is we can specifically teach first responders how to interact with our population or have whatever training catered to you as a self-advocate because like I don't know. But so I always thought even though like trainings should have, companies should have these kind of trainings in their budget it's equally important to know that the DD Council has your back and we can provide this training for you. Because another training might touch on people with disabilities, but our trainings are going to be catered to this population. And sometimes that's just nice.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Stephanie, can you please repeat the recommended changes to the plan since it's been awhile just to make sure everybody understands.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Sure. These are just staff recommendations.

EBONY HAVEN: So you guys haven't recommended any changes. So I have the plan pulled up right here. So if we look at the activities that Stephanie said that right now I don't think the UCEDD is ready to provide the trainings for FSAD just because they're still in the planning phases. And we had a meeting with the DD network and I think the consensus was if we provide a

training we want to make sure there's help and right now it's just bringing awareness. There is no (inaudible) for FSAD. So I think we can still collaborate with UCEDD, but maybe like Stephanie said it might be research that we can help them to do or, you know, some other thing that maybe Phil can recommend to the council where you can put your funding. Right now we had a meeting with the contractor for Disability Voting Rights and they felt that we shouldn't continue that contract. So that's 30,000-dollars right there that you all have to spend. We have another 52,000 for the FASD training that we're getting rid of. And then what was the other one, Stephanie?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: The third was just to open up the navigating the systems activity for new vendors for the 2025 fiscal year. That was on the money ones.

EBONY HAVEN: Right. That 52,000-dollars plus the 30 gives you all 82,000-dollars to work with for new activities. Now Stephanie just provided recommendations for the council to consider, but you all can make any activities you want. So that's what we're offering right now. If you guys want to make recommendations for new activities we're at that point.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So we have to decide how the money's going to be distributed?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

LAUREN WOMACK: Samantha, yours was the training for the first responders, correct. And we're not allocating funding for that, but one thing we were concerned when we were speaking about the emergency contact trainings, and all that we had allocating the money, we weren't getting a lot of people going, is that right?

BRETON ANDRUS: Yeah.

LAUREN WOMACK: It kind of felt like-- this is just a recommendation. We can change it as a council. I just want you to know you weren't being discounted.

JILL HANO: I didn't know. I'm sorry. But I didn't mean to make y'all feel that I felt that way because I didn't. I don't know. Never mind.

LAUREN WOMACK: But that's what we were considering was like okay, if we're going to do this training and we're going to allocate funds how are we going to do

it.

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: I have two folds. My biggest thing with emergency responders is remembering that emergency responders are not only police, fireman and people that are out on the street. ER people do receive those patients. Let me tell you the truth of what the ER is, it's a big legal issue for the hospitals and I think hospitals don't want to get sued. And I think that's lucrative to them to know how to treat an individual with disabilities if you come with it as a hey, I'll save you money on legal fees and teaching nurses how to not grab people the wrong way and give them shots and do things that medically restrain them or chemically restrain them that they're not supposed to be doing. That was my initial comment and concern because I think that is an issue to healthcare that we're really mistreating people that have mental health issues, behavioral health issues and developmental disabilities and disabilities all together. So that was my main comment for that.

Now going on my other side of it. They did have a staff recommendation of allocating 10K to activity 1.1.3 which goes to advocacy. And I do want to make it apparent to the council legislative session is horrible right now. Our children for education are getting stomped on. I went by myself to advocate for HR 745 by Emmerson and I want to tell y'all that I've never been looked at in such disdain by legislators and treated so poorly. When I got back to my seat with tears in my eyes I handed off my paperwork that I had done my study on for LIND for ESA that I worked very hard on and it was completely disregarded. I've emailed multiple legislators. I think we need to catch a fire that we're not catching. And it's going to come that our next council meeting has passed this legislative session and we're going to be reactively acting instead of proactively moving (inaudible). I think education is integral. I think we need to really rethink our LaCAN legislative agenda to where we're capturing more than just funding. Yes, I know money is a big thing, and getting these things are very important, but healthcare and education for these kids is imperative to futures. So that was my other thing. I'm fully supportive of allocating more money towards the

advocacy part of it because I think we really do need to catch a fire and catch other people to catch a fire. And get these young parents with children with developmental disabilities on board. And understanding what advocating looks like for them. Because it's sad. It's really sad to see what's getting said about our kids by legislators and seeing the disregard. I'm off my soapbox on that. Those are my two parts that I wanted to share.

NICOLE BANKS: I just have a question. What was the house bill?

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: It was HR 745. Sorry, HB. And I think the senate bill on the other side is 313.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So for activity 1.13 what do we recommend on giving? We have 82,000.

BROOKE STEWART: This is Brooke Stewart. I think you had mentioned increasing it by 10,000-dollars for the printing materials so can we go ahead and increase it to make it 40,000 for the plain language printing materials that will match.

SPEAKER: Yeah, the website. I'm sorry.

SPEAKER: So it will be 50?.

BROOKE STEWART: No. The original 40.

PHIL WILSON: I'm sorry. I missed the number.

CHRISTI GONZALES: For activity 1.13 Brooke is requesting that we add 10,000 to the already established 30 which would make it 40,000.

BROOKE STEWART: That will address the print materials that will match the website in plain language.

SPEAKER: Who is getting the printouts?

BROOKE STEWART: Can you expand on that?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yes. So the printouts are used for a variety of things. LaCAN has their brochures that they bring to like legislative visits. It also includes our council brochures that have information on the council. It includes like our boards that we had with the mission statements, goals. Y'all help me out because I can't think of anything else.

EBONY HAVEN: And also in every contract right now it was voted on a little while ago that every contractor inform their participants that participate in any training that the council funds they have to provide information about the council, about Partners

in Policymaking and about LaCAN. So all of that information is pushed out to the participants that participate in the activities that you guys fund. Does that answer the question?

SPEAKER: Yeah. I just hate to spend so much money on paper.

EBONY HAVEN: That particular activity also includes like the money that the LaCAN leaders spend on the legislative roundtables. The LaCAN leaders trainings that we have in the summer. They have requested a retreat as well so that's something that we're also looking into for the LaCAN leaders. So it's not just like printed materials. It's other things that go into that particular contract.

SPEAKER: Advocacy events.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

JILL HANO: The website overhaul. I was kind of confused because in my head I kind of had three different things we were doing. The website overhaul, the logo and then the plain language. And then I had that in my notebook I had three different totals for that. So I was going to ask y'all that today because I was confused. Could we make that maybe three separate activities and then break the 55,000 into whatever individual activity cost and still get the 55,000? Y'all can say no.

EBONY HAVEN: Maybe we can add additional information in activity 1.1.5.

JILL HANO: Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: Where we put specifics like for the re-branding, for the plain language and for the website overhaul. Would that work, Jill?

JILL HANO: Yes. Thank y'all.

CHRISTI GONZALES: For the next one, activity 1.18. Currently we have 30,000 allotted for this. Do y'all want to remain there or do we want to increase it? Any questions? This is to provide financial support, technical assistance to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on voting awareness, rights and accessibility.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Just to clarify. They do not feel like we can do this again next year. So there is 30,000-dollars that this activity is not going to happen because the contractor feels that we're not

going to be able to.

KELLY MONROE: We haven't had much interest in it at all. A lot of what I think is happening is that with the CMS rule coming out and lots of options needing to be given to people with disabilities to choose what they want to spend their day, like learning about voting is not one of them. But going bowling and to the movies and different things seem a lot more fun. So we're having trouble with we've had people register, but the problem is that a lot of the provider agencies only have a certain amount of vehicles. Well, if you have more people who want to go bowling and you only have one vehicle then that's where they're going to go. That's what they're going to do. So we're having trouble getting people to be able to show up. So we have like started scheduling to where we're going to provider agencies and then allowing for other provider agencies to go to that one also. And we'll see what that looks like. But I just don't think you're getting the biggest bang for your buck. I'm trying to being really responsible and say thank you for the 30,000 but I'd rather you use your money on something that is more productive and that the voting rights just haven't been something that-- and it's a really, the training is really cool and Secretary of State comes and they bring the machines with them. But I think they just are not that interested, to be honest.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Mr. Erick.

ERICK TAYLOR: And another thing is the providers don't have transportation and they also is worried about the insurance on the vehicle. That's a lot of things that they don't want to follow them around with the insurance is a big responsibility.

KELLY MONROE: I don't think it's so much that, it's just the number of vehicles. There's not the number of vehicles that you would need. With the CMS rule they basically you have to put out a calendar and people have to register and say what they want to do for the day. And there's only a certain amount of vehicles, especially if you need some accessible vehicles, usually there's only one or two of those. And so it's just difficult transportation wise to get people to so many different places.

ERICK TAYLOR: Are they training people that's on

the vehicle?.

KELLY MONROE: Oh, yeah. They have to be.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So we have the 72,000. I'm just looking at our whole action plan with all of our costs. Would it be feasible for us to just split the cost up between what we already have? Like let's say 1.2.3, add another 5,000 to that.

CHRISTI GONZALES: And then we still have the office for the women's, the study, financial literacy. For transition, this is just my opinion, we really need to do a pamphlet on the transition services from when they leave high school. That was brought up from somebody yesterday. Because I went through it. They're going through it. It's difficult. It's a lot. I think the pamphlet would be really well received in knowing what to do or what's available once you leave high school.

MELINDA PERRODIN: Understanding the different waivers and what they're qualified for. And even something about the day programs and what they have to offer because a lot of parents are not aware of the different day programs.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Nicole, what are you saying?

NICOLE BANKS: I wasn't finished.

CHRISTI GONZALES: I'm sorry.

NICOLE BANKS: I get what we've already suggested, but if we can elaborate on some of these other things, even the recommendation for the pamphlet and things to get this information out. I just don't want us to spend a whole bunch of time because stuff is already here. All we have to do is allocate funds. We just need to allocate the funds.

PHIL WILSON: So I would just say going back to her point something that I think the UCEDD is particularly good at is a developing those types of materials. I think a pamphlet is great. I think having something either online or a video format or working with LaCAN or and/or Families Helping Families to really help people. I have my pamphlet, I've read it, but that still probably doesn't empower me to go do some of these things without some support. So I think we do a lot of those types of things. Just put my hat in the ring that that's something we could consider. We can't

do all of them because there's too many. Millions of them, right.

SPEAKER: I have a question about the 1.2.3. The support council members for training and education. So we nixed that money all together, that line. Council leadership, national training, networking events and advocacy opportunities.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: So it was actually from our federal partners that said that we cannot have money attached to that. The activity can be in our plan, but we can't have any money attached to it. It would be similar to council travel. So that's why.

BRETON ANDRUS: Doesn't mean it's not on the table.

SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you for verifying.

MELINDA PERRODIN: I was thinking about like, just a suggestion, like some type of transition roadshow where you have all the Acadian Human Districts or some of the different day programs to come and meet with the parents and the people to explain about the different waiver programs like in each region like how we have the legislature round table. I think it would be beneficial to parents if we do a transition round table for the children that are transitioning.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So we have a lot of suggestions. We now just need to allocate the money and we can bring those suggestions to the council later on. So let's go ahead and allocate our money and then we have all these great ideas we can, you know, go from there.

LIZ GARY: Good morning. I'm Liz Gary. I was the Partners coordinator for 11 years from 2008 to 2019. And I'm just going to throw this out here. If you're struggling to find places to put money we did a reunion in 2009 and they've done, a lot of other states-- for those who don't know, Partners in Policymaking is the national leadership program that empowers parents of young children with disabilities and self-advocates to be advocates. At this time you have four alumni who are on the council. But my suggestion would be is if you are looking to find a place (inaudible). We did a reunion in 2009. I think we had about 75 alumni who came for a weekend. And we had national speakers come in and we just reignited the advocates. What happens is after years and years being away from Partners and possibly advocacy you start to kind of wean off but

when you get back and reignite and you get that passion it comes back. I have not been to a council meeting probably in three years in person and it's like I am fired up right now just sitting here with advocacy. At the present time I work for on contract for HDC as the (inaudible) policy and advocacy coordinator. And my passion's been there. I have a 21-year-old son and it has not stopped the plane going but I think that would be a thought if you're looking for something to give that opportunity to have an alumni reunion.

BROOKE STEWART: So right now I think that one is activity 1.1.1. Do we have 90 or 115 allocated to that?

EBONY HAVEN: There was a recommendation from the committee to raise it to 115.

CHRISTI GONZALES: We already raised it.

EBONY HAVEN: From the 90 to the 115.

BROOKE STEWART: Do you all feel like that would be appropriate?

REBECCA FRUGE: I'm Rebecca Fruge. I'm the coordinator of the program. This is my second-year coordinating. And Liz, she mentors me because she's been here for so long and I truly appreciate that. But in order to sustain the program we need an appropriate amount, for a good amount of advocates we need to increase the funding. With inflation there hasn't been an increase. With fuel costs, food, hotel. Just as a whole the program itself to be able to continue like it is we need an increase. So what this is proposing is just since we have extra funding right now doing a reunion. We've had a lot of interest from the graduates on wanting to do a reunion. We have an alumni Facebook page and they're constantly interacting and talking about how great it would be to do a reunion to get everybody together again. Like she said, it would ignite that.

LIZ GARY: I'm sorry. Just to your statement Brooke, the reunion and that is totally different. That's to keep the program going for six months out of the year with the same group of 25 parents coming back January through June. This would be a completely separate event not related to that to hold a one-time weekend for those who have graduated to come back.

BROOKE STEWART: Do you have like a ballpark number

that you think approximately you would need for it?

LIZ GARY: I was doing the numbers in my head and it generally runs about nine or 10,000-dollars per weekend for 25 people. So if you're going to do 50 to 75 I'm thinking somewhere probably closer to 30, 35. That's just a ballpark. I'm just throwing it out there thought wise because you got the hotel, the mileage and all the stuff, the food, the speakers that you have in.

REKEESHA BRANCH: I just wanted to remind you about the public comment. It's been a while since you called. And Ms. Lillian DeJean, she had her hand up for a while.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Go ahead.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Can y'all hear me?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: Thank you for recognizing me. I just wanted to mention I know that you guys are looking at an overhaul of the website to transition it to plain language. I think it's really important whenever you guys are transitioning to plain language that you also transition your foundational documents to plain language such as this plan. And such as some of the reports that are coming out of your partner organizations that are represented on the council. All these documents that are necessary for your council members to engage with the council fully long-term really does need to be in plain language so the people that you are serving, i.e., people with disabilities can fully engage with the council independently. I remember whenever I was a council member whenever I was a youth on the council engaging fully on the council was incredibly difficult whenever I was faced with these, you know, multipage long action plans not written in plain language and I don't even have an intellectual disability. So I can't imagine how difficult it is for our community members with intellectual disabilities to fully engage with the council whenever your documents are not fully accessible to them. Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. If there's no objection we'll go ahead and take a recess for 15 minutes and then we'll come back. It is now 10:28.

CHRISTI GONZALES: We'll go back to activity 1.1.1. We'll start from there. We have allocated 115,000-dollars. Brooke.

BROOKE STEWART: I would like to add an additional 30,000 for the Partners weekends that they talked about. So I don't know if we need to add an activity or can we add it to that 115?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Ebony or Stephanie?

EBONY HAVEN: The way Liz and Rebecca worded it I think it would be a separate activity for this particular action.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So we need to add it as an activity. So 1.1.18.

EBONY HAVEN: I would put it right under the Partners 1.1.1 so it will change to 1.1.2 and all the other numbers--

CHRISTI GONZALES: Will fall down. Okay.

VIVIENNE WEBB: So if we're like funding a reunion can we also fund party hats and pizza and disco balls for the council meetings?

CHRISTI GONZALES: I'm just requesting the amounts. I'm not going over what needs to be-- allocating the money. I'm just taking suggestions.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Can we add an item for party hats and pizza?

CHRISTI GONZALES: I'll bring you one. Anybody else have any comments for that one?

MELINDA RICHARD: This is Melinda Richard. I just have a suggestion. I don't want to jump around too much but on activity 1.1.8, this was the one about the voting rights. I wonder if we could change the language. I heard a lot of discussion today about transition and training in transition. Maybe we could put money there to say provide training to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on transition activities for employment, financial literacy and health including voting rights. The reason I was bringing it up now is if we wanted to focus on transition training there decide that and then work backwards from there.

SPEAKER: I was discussing with someone else about it. My son, I'm going through transition now. There's so many things that I don't know that maybe we can put together how you tutorship, guardianship of the whole

possibilities for them once they get out of school.

CHRISTI GONZALES: That would probably fall under education and employment.

BRETON ANDRUS: We can add it as an activity.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Okay. I wasn't sure which one we wanted to add it under. So it would be 1.18. And we're just changing the language.

EBONY HAVEN: No. It would go under goal three.

BRETON ANDRUS: And not to influence your decisions in any way, but we do get a lot of calls and questions about that. So I think developing something--

CHRISTI GONZALES: Okay.

PHIL WILSON: So I would like to also (inaudible) there's two audiences. Definitely the families need this information. But if we're really truly promoting agency and self-determination and all those things, which I know we are, we have to move towards making sure we are not doing the same thing that some of our professionals do which is assume this person doesn't need to know about this. This is for mom and dad to know. As these people become adults they need to be part of the decision-making. And so I think that also needs to be something that's incorporated into the transition training or whatever it might be that students are getting in school or young adults--

CHRISTI GONZALES: A suggestion so we can make sure we have them all and that way we're not skipping anything and just go ahead and we'll go down and we'll allocate the money.

SPEAKER: I was just going to go ahead with what Brooke was saying and say I agree with the 30 as well for Partners. I find that it was a very needed program and it's a very timely time for people to ban together in our state.

JILL HANO: For under goal three with Department of Ed, which is our special education, and there are (inaudible) in IDEA and I taught myself that. If I know IDEA so-- and I know this wasn't the purpose of today, but I would like to propose there be an IDEA training, Meredith.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Major principals, yeah.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So let's go back. So we said on activity 1.1.2 possibly add 30,000. So for activity 1.1.3 we add another ten, correct? 10,000. For 1.1.5

did we want to add anything there? Just going down the list.

BROOKE STEWART: No.

CHRISTI GONZALES: All right. Any changes there?
1.1.8. I'm sorry, 7. That's the YLF. I'm just going down the list.

BROOKE STEWART: This list or this one? Because it looks like 1.1.5.

EBONY HAVEN: So don't look at the numbers, Brooke. They're going to change--

BROOKE STEWART: Mine says 5. But up here on five on the screen I think it says including the website.

EBONY HAVEN: So that's language that I added because Jill wanted it to be three separate activities but it's easier if we just add the language to make sure--

BROOKE STEWART: So we're accepting this, right?

BRETON ANDRUS: This is the document you'll be (inaudible).

BROOKE STEWART: I just want to make sure.

EBONY HAVEN: The draft that you have included in your packet is the one that the planning committee approved.

BROOKE STEWART: But we're accepting this?

EBONY HAVEN: Right.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So for 1.1.7 that's YLF. Any changes there? Monetary changes. The provide financial-- page two at the top.

PHIL WILSON: Can we check with the director person?

LILLIAN DEJEAN: YLF is in a really good place right now. We have a slate of full staff and a full slate of delegates for our 2024 season. For our financial planning we are also in a really good place and we are actually looking to hold steady on our funding because we want to get good at what we're doing right now. We increased our delegates from 12 to 14 this year. And for the next one to two years we want to keep it at around 14 so we can really, really hone in on getting good at what we're doing and building out our foundation since we are a newer program. So at this time we are not in need of any more funding. But we definitely appreciate the consideration.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. All right. So for

the 1.1.8 that is for the voting rights and training. We had changed it. We went down to 1.1.9 to 50,000, correct?

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. We took off the voting rights training and this is a new activity that the planning committee came up with, 1.1.9.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Is everybody okay with that amount? Okay. If we go down to 1.2.1 provide technical assistance and training opportunities to strengthen the self-advocacy network. Any changes with that one? The next one on page three, activity 2.1.3. We had allocated 30,000. Is everybody okay with that one? Then the next one is activity 2.2.1, emergency preparedness. That was 50,000. Then activity 2.-- I'm sorry.

SPEAKER: When I was thinking about what she mentioned earlier when we're talking about the first responders, does this include, is that where we are about the emergency preparedness and response relative to people with developmental disabilities? Do we want to expand this out to other professionals that are interfacing with individuals with developmental disabilities? Like this is for emergency preparedness specifically.

BRETON ANDRUS: So the first responder training, if I can, it is not exclusive to police officers and firefighters. It's pretty much anyone that has a hand in being a first responder can attend those trainings. It was predominately attended by police officers, firefighters. But the problem we run into (inaudible) to the point where this contractor so far has not had any trainings yet this year. We had lots of activity, lots of participation the last few years. Just this year it's been very difficult for various reasons. We didn't really talk about it in self-determination yesterday but there's some lawsuits happening with some sheriffs' agencies that there's going to be some requirements of particular training they have to do. I think a lot of these other agencies that he's been trying to get involved with have been sort of taking a backseat to see what those training requirements will be. Will there be ripple effects throughout the community, right. So I think that's kind of why we've seen sort of a decline.

Some of what the planning committee talked about was if you do try to, let's say, get into things that Samantha had brought up earlier. Let's say emergency nurses or something where almost I guess have to look at a curriculum because I don't know if we're going to have trainers that can tell you this is when you do or don't use medication to combat this or that. So I don't think it's as easy as we can just do this training. We're going to have to find someone to do a curriculum of some sort who would know better than me.

SPEAKER: I know someone had mentioned before about best practices. Not necessarily that we do them or find a contractor that could provide that level of training. Because I even hear about it from the ambulatory care sector that they have individuals in the office and the staff just aren't adequately trained.

BRETON ANDRUS: And we've done other trainings, let's say, for other professions like direct support workers and stuff. The attendance there was low because you pull them off their shift, right, or you have to pay them to work outside of their shift. I don't know if that would be the same case as far as the nursing.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Do y'all have any for allocation of funds, do y'all have any of that to change to this? The suggestions we can tend to later.

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: I really think Samantha is onto something really important in that even if I don't think necessarily the training on what medications to give and that sort of thing is a much more technical medical thing. But just like somebody comes in the ER and you're nonverbal or whatever, you have CP and you are hard to understand no one's going to sort of ask you. They're going to look for somebody else to talk to. So I think there's some very basic things that really could be very helpful. And that would be first responders.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So do we need to change the language? Like emergency personnel or. Samantha.

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: What I was going to say, if the council would be so kind to me, I would take the next whatever until we meet again. I could research it on my own. I built at the Ochsner Health System,

before it was bought out it was UHC in Lafayette, and I built a system for something that was similar to CPI but that was safer and taught it. So I don't mind looking in evidence-based materials, looking at other states and how they deliver and effectively deliver and coming back to y'all with that at the next meeting so that it's not so much gray area and we can continue to move on with our budget.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Okay. Thank you.

BRETON ANDRUS: And I do think with what y'all are discussing would be a different contractor than this.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Erick.

ERICK TAYLOR: Me personally know you wouldn't be dealing with what type of medicine they give you by me being disabled it's certain things I can't take and certain things I can take. This is what you give him and in certain situations. So I think that's an iffy situation. It's a yeah or no what they can do or what they can't because it's like a guessing game. Let me pull it up on a computer and see okay, I done transported before so they know in the computer files this is him and this is what we have to do. We know the history of him. But just come and get me your first time no, that's a risk. You're playing a guessing game. Because it's like when you go to the doctor. They want you to do more talking so they can get a feel of your situation. If I'm making any sense. How can I handle him. How can I transport. It's an iffy situation.

SPEAKER: One blanket statement just to kind of give some confidence to that. In the ER they give everything to everybody all the time and knock them and sedate is what I'm trying to say. And I don't think sedating people all the time is necessary or needed and I think they overuse medications whereas we could be harming people. So that's where I'm coming from from medications. Not guidance on medication. I just think there's an overuse.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So if we look on page four at the top, the next activity, 2.2.3. What have we discussed, Ebony, about this one?

EBONY HAVEN: So Phil and I discussed some things that he's probably going to bring to the council.

PHIL WILSON: So I think what makes the most, what

I would like to recommend is we sort of do what was done earlier with the Partners thing where we added, split things up a little bit. And since you're trying to spend some money I might take just a few thousand dollars. So I think if we try to think about an awareness campaign as one activity and then doing what we know is 80 percent of kids in foster care have been prenatally exposed to some toxic substances. And of course fetal alcohol is one but there's many others. And as a result a lot of those kids are neuro developmentally, their brains and their nervous systems don't work right for the rest of their life and also many other organ systems.

So having said that, there are strategies that can be used by the foster parents, or actual parent, or adopted parents and educators and so forth. So we would like to try to bring this into a couple activities. One being more of doing the training and hopefully support the parents. We do have a colleague in region seven who is the coordinator, maybe not the right term, but coordinator for their foster care system in region seven. And so we were in some conversations with how do we get to these parents and assist them. So if you want to increase our funding a little bit on that that would be great because we would have two different groups of staff. One being training kind of people and the other more social media and outreach people. That's my suggestion.

SPEAKER: Are pediatricians the one who would catch this?

PHIL WILSON: Nobody catches it in Louisiana unfortunately. Probably the kids that are most caught by it are the ones in foster care. But even they are rarely caught unless the mother, birth mother is already under some kind of monitoring, or treatment, or whatever, or substance abuse or alcohol abuse. It rarely is something-- kids get misdiagnosed. Oh, he's got ADHD or he's oppositional or he's got attachment disorders. All of those things, that's what they look like, but you actually have to treat them differently than you would for a kid that just has quote, unquote plain vanilla ADHD. So we're trying to get to that place but we don't want to go diagnosing people until we have services for those families and those kids

already in place. In the meantime if they look like it we'll try providing services through the LASARD project and other projects. But we want to get into foster care where we know there's a large prevalence of these guys and we may do some diagnostics in that setting.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So are we adding this as another activity?

PHIL WILSON: I don't know if it's possible to subdivide it within and make two activities. How did you do the one with Partners and the reunion? One is awareness campaign and one is treatment.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So the training and support for parents would be another activity. And what do y'all recommend as the monetary allotment for that? We have 42,000.

PHIL WILSON: I think if we had an additional 8,000 and split it. Because that treatment one's going to be a lot more expensive because it's all personnel. The other we can do for 8, 10,000. That wouldn't be a big increase but just trying to help.

EBONY HAVEN: What's the recommendation?

CHRISTI GONZALES: To make it another activity.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. But what should I keep for activity 2.2.3 as it is written right now. So should I say collaborate with LSU HDC to bring more awareness to FASD period? What is the recommendation for the allocation?

PHIL WILSON: My recommendation would be 10,000.

CHRISTI GONZALES: For the second activity?

PHIL WILSON: No, the first. And then 40,000 for the second activity which is the treatment. So we start with 52. I'm saying if we are going to add a second add for the..

BRETON ANDRUS: I think you had 42 once we got down to that.

PHIL WILSON: Oh, okay. Well, come back to it if there is additional funds.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Okay. Does everybody agree with that, we'll come back? Right now we're on objective 2.3 which is females with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We talked about doing a study. I'm sorry. We talked about activity 3.15, right. Ebony, does the financial literacy training, does that come under education and employment or do we

have to add that as an activity?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Okay. So for the financial literacy training, that would be an additional activity under education and employment.

BROOKE STEWART: Which activity?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Goal three.

SPEAKER: It's not on there.

EBONY HAVEN: This is the recommendation that staff provided at the beginning. Stephanie kind of gave you guys some recommendations of how you can spend the additional funding and the financial literacy activity was one of them. And remember y'all still had the pamphlet for the transition. So right now y'all have 33,000-dollars left.

SPEAKER: 15 for what?

CHRISTI GONZALES: The financial literacy training.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: What materials?

SPEAKER: Transition booklets for parents.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: It was two different things. I guess one of the discussions I think that Phil was mentioning was maybe just saying the financial literacy falls under that high school transition. So we could write it so that it includes both things. Does that make sense? Because it would be two different things the way you are talking about it right now. Does that make sense?

BROOKE STEWART: Okay. Right now we're at 32,000, correct? We have 32,000 remaining. The last thing we spent was the additional 10,000-dollars for activity 2.2.3.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So we're going to put financial literacy and the high school training together. Is that what y'all are recommending?

EBONY HAVEN: I'm going to read what I have right now and I'll make it bigger. All right. Provide financial support and technical assistance for training of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities on transitioning to adulthood to include financial literacy training-- or like were there other specifics that you guys wanted to include besides the financial literacy?

SPEAKER: Is this the only place it's going to live, this transition activity? I would definitely

include health. If you're looking at holistically they've got to learn how to be a healthcare consumer.

BRETTON ANDRUS: Just clarity on that. I think the idea of that it would also talk about when you're transitioning from children's choice. So whenever you need to go (inaudible) they can fall under both areas, but when it does that in the plan you just kind of pick an area it's going to go into but it should encompass everything they need. Health, education, finances, work

SPEAKER: I just had to say it.

BRETTON ANDRUS: No, good point.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I just have a quick suggestion for the wording. We could say instead of trying to like still come up with other words we can kind of just leave it as to include but not limited to. That way we're not trying to come up with all these different topics and we can fit it in somewhere.

BRETTON ANDRUS: Because you're going to get a proposal that tells you everything they're going to do.

CHRISTY CURTIS: I just wanted to-- Christy Curtis. I'm a parent first and foremost and I just wanted to kind of mention that on the healthcare side of things what I'm finding he has several different specialists in several different areas and this transition into adulthood it's left up to mom to figure out where the adult specialist is, who to reach out to to see if they're even taking new patients. And most of our loved ones who have waiver services also have Medicaid. And these are adult providers. And so I'm running into oh, we're not accepting new patients. So right now I'm at a point where several providers, where do I go. I have nowhere to go. I don't know who to reach out to to find providers who are going to accept Medicaid. And then when I'm giving information about providers who accept Medicaid and I call as a parent we're not accepting new patients. So I think having the information included in here to direct them on where do we go to find these positions that would be terrific.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Also grab me at lunch. I can give you some resources. But our family resource center does help families. Families Helping Families will help as well. And additionally, if you are covered through Medicaid they have case management

programs which you can self-refer and call them because that is a barrier to access and say I need help coordinating, you know, and identifying adult providers. It's kind of hidden services and supports but I'm happy to help you.

CHRISTY CURTIS: And I'm not going to take up any more time but I can talk to you at lunch about it.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So what do y'all recommend since we grouped those two together, the monetary allotment?

HANNAH JENKINS: You have 32 left.

PHIL WILSON: What is it currently?

CHRISTI GONZALES: There's nothing.

BRETON ANDRUS: You can also move money around too if you feel like you need other things funded, that's an option, to extend your conversation. That is an option. Sorry.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So what do y'all recommend as the allotment? Do y'all accept that 20,000 for this activity and then that would leave us 14?

BRETON ANDRUS: 12.

EBONY HAVEN: How much were you at, 12? We're expecting a contractor to train on all of these things, like transitioning, I think it's going to cost more.

PHIL WILSON: To your point, Ebony, I think one thing that we're not doing a great job of as a council is so if you have a contractor who creates, whether it's a community to practice, or video or whatever it is there are other networks. We have LaCAN, Families Helping Families, UCEDD, I don't know, Arc of Louisiana, whatever that have people who are trainers and have networks that they regularly interact with. I feel like it cost you a lot to support the development of these materials and then on top of that training. I think a two-step process is really going to be a better use of our networks. And actually make some of our networks do things other than take people bowling or whatever. There's other things they can do. Not that recreation is not hugely important.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So for the monetary allotment for the activity 3.1.5 you're at 24,000 and the remainder of 8,000 go for the new activity under 2.2.4. 8,000.

EBONY HAVEN: Which one are you talking about?

CHRISTI GONZALES: So 24,000 for financial and

transition. And then the rest, the allotment of 8,000 to put with activity 2.2.4. Three, sorry.

BRETON ANDRUS: So are you putting it with three or you were trying to add something?

CHRISTI GONZALES: To that new activity.

BRETON ANDRUS: Okay. So just adding it to that 10,000.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes.

BRETON ANDRUS: Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: No. This would be separate. Isn't it a separate activity? Oh, or are you adding to this right here, the awareness?

PHIL WILSON: If we can add to it I would take it. The awareness, the 10,000, we didn't have a price on awareness. We just had 52 total. And I'm saying if there's funds I think 10,000-dollars is a good price for the work that we would do. To fund staff person to go out and do this work directly with families I'm asking for 50,000. So together it's an increase of 8,000 from the original 52,000-dollars that was allotted.

BRETON ANDRUS: Oh, they've already reassigned that money. I mean, you haven't voted on it yet.

PHIL WILSON: I'm so confused.

HANNAH JENKINS: That money was used for the other things y'all have been adding to. The events, the alumni. That all came from your 52.

BRETON ANDRUS: There's a misunderstanding, I guess.

EBONY HAVEN: So originally the planning committee allotted 52,000. So we were changing it based off the conversation we had.

SPEAKER: I thought it was going to be 62.

CHRISTI GONZALES: We took the 50 off. It went into the other stuff. Ebony, can y'all go over just to make sure everybody's on the same page.

EBONY HAVEN: So we took the 30,000 from the voting. That was 30,000. And then--

PHIL WILSON: It was 87.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. We took the 52,000 from the FASD based on conversations. They were under the impression that awareness, we weren't ready to do those trainings yet just because the conversation we had at the DD network we didn't want to do trainings without

having some type of plan for a treatment. And so...

PHIL WILSON: So the confusion might be we don't want to do a big push for diagnosis without having a network or the ability to provide the services that are needed. Just going to frustrate families even more, right. By doing a pilot within foster care where there's a very high probability of finding families that need this, and we have a collaboration we're trying to work on with region 7's DCFS foster care folks, we feel like we have the families we can work directly with. So I think the miscommunication, probably on my part, but what I was trying to say on our phone call was that we don't want to focus on diagnosis right now until we have gone out and worked with trying to teach families the strategies and teachers, which we could do through LASARD. But we don't need any help with the teacher part of it but we do need to get into the families because the whole life of the kids. You can't just do it in one place and not the other.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So we can allocate the 8,000 towards that.

PHIL WILSON: Well, not if it's already gone. It will just tap other funds. Maybe I can get foster care to pay. I think we're back on square, right?

EBONY HAVEN: We don't have 52,000-dollars allocated to that right now. We have 10,000-dollars allocated to awareness for FASD. If you still wanted the 52,000 we would have to change some things up.

PHIL WILSON: Well, it's not a matter of want. I think 52,000 to do awareness is a little steep, right. But I don't think we can do awareness and what we really want to do is work with some families so we know we get feedback about how is this working.

EBONY HAVEN: So are you recommending doing the 10,000 for awareness and 42,000?

PHIL WILSON: Yeah. Or 40.

EBONY HAVEN: For a pilot program?

PHIL WILSON: Yes. And the reason why that's expensive is that's staff and travel.

BRETON ANDRUS: So we just have to figure out where we're going to come up with the 40.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Ebony, can you clarify. Can we go over it to make sure everybody's on the same page.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. I want to add the activity if that's the will of the council. Are y'all in agreement with adding the pilot program that Dr. Wilson is suggesting? Not all at once. We have to allocate money and he's saying about 40,000. So if we allocate the 40,000 we're going to have to take the money from some other activity.

BROOKE STEWART: I would like to do the pilot program because I remembered that we had the audit like last year that you mentioned and that was one of the things that they talked about that we need to increase our partnerships with like other-- yeah, Dr. Wilson also talks about that a lot. I definitely think we should add that.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So if we add that we have to go back and remove money from somewhere.

EBONY HAVEN: Christi, I'm going to make it easier. I'm going to take it off of here.

CHRISTI GONZALES: We added 30,000 for the Partners reunion. We added 10,000 to the advocacy and the website overhaul and so forth. And then the 24,000 we added for transition and financial literacy. So how much we're over?

EBONY HAVEN: We're over 22,000. Stephanie's going to pull up the other document, like the actual budget document, and that may be more helpful than us looking at the actual planning. But we are going to have to come up with wording for that activity.

JILL HANO: Can I say something while we're pulling up the budget? Last year when we were working on the budget whoever was taking it put in the margins in red whatever, like actually minus 15,000. I'm a visual learner.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes, ma'am.

REKEESHA BRANCH: We have a hand raised in the chat whenever you're ready.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes, go ahead.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Kelly Monroe.

KELLY MONROE: Hey guys. It's more or less just like a comment. 24,000 for that thing under education and employment, that's a lot of work for 24,000. I don't know if you'll find anybody who will be able to produce that amount of work and have an employee for that amount of money. Because they may have to hire

someone who can do the financial literacy part. You can't just have anybody do that. Just something to think about.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So we have 24,000-dollars. So we have to decide where 24,000-dollars is going to be allocated between Partners, the website overhaul and transition.

PHIL WILSON: I need to ask a Partners' question. Do you know when you're planning to have the reunion when you do have it? Would it be in the next fiscal year?

REBECCA FRUGE: I'm Rebecca Fruge, the coordinator for the program. The whole purpose of having a Partners' reunion is to get everybody reengaged. I've heard lots of talk about how we're not showing up as advocates. We're not showing up at the capitol. We're not showing up at meetings. We're not as engaged as we should be. The whole purpose of the Partners' program is to build these advocates for systems change. A reunion would reignite these people, reconnect these people and it would also amp our referrals. So I firmly believe if it was held in the summertime when applications for the current year are open this would really get the word out and we have a very strong application number. And so that's the main purpose of the reunion.

PHIL WILSON: If I may just real quick. I don't know how to do this in real-time, but if we can talk over lunch there may be a way that we can absorb a good chunk of that. Like facility costs and stuff if you guys are willing to come to New Orleans to do your reunion.

REBECCA FRUGE: And just to give a number, we have close to 600 graduates. As of this current year we have over 550. Our PIP Facebook page has almost 300 individuals on it. When I made a post about a month ago about a reunion we had a very large number of people email me to make sure that I had their current information. They were excited about it. It's not about going and having a fun weekend. It's about reengaging. It's an important thing.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: I would just like to reiterate I'm a Partners in Policy alumni from 2017 and I agree with everything they've said. Especially since the

pandemic everything has kind of dropped way off. And there are, I think, a lot of alumni would get reengaged. We kid all the time about wanting to come crash the meetings and audit speakers and what not and we're kind of locked out on that. It would be a great opportunity for us to not only reengage with the Partners in Policymaking process but with our fellow advocates and kind of get that blood flowing again.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So we need to make a monetary allocation. If you have any suggestions we would highly take that under advisement.

CHERIE ADULI: I was thinking what if we speak to Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser who's over Louisiana state parks. I think he's very pro all of these things that we're doing. Getting track chairs for the state parks. Wanting to build handicap accessible cabins. He may say you guys can use these cabins so it's a cost savings instead of paying for all these hotel rooms. Maybe we can explore our state parks because it's cost efficient to hold the reunion. Knowing what he's trying to do. He's trying to get our state parks (inaudible) for families with disabilities.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Brenton.

BRETON ANDRUS: So just two things. One reminder, side chatter is picked up on these mikes. They hear everything you say even if you think they don't. Just keep that in mind because the room is getting kind of loud.

Second thing, or what I really wanted to tell you was if you look at some of your continuing projects, I mean, I appreciate the emergency prep training. I do think it's a great training. It is something to consider that we've been doing that project for this is the fourth year. There's still interest. I think they do about four trainings a year. But if you are looking at money and all of your new things are important you might want to look at something that has been around for a while and see if it's time to start looking at new projects and initiatives. But I'm not advocating for you to take that money by any means. I'm just saying that is an option. Especially since a lot of our other continuing things are really tied to our advocacy and we're trying to put a focus on that. 2.2.2 might be an option because it looks like with

what we had going on down there you were negative 32,000-dollars.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Lauren, do you have a monetary allotment?

LAUREN WOMACK: I would like to either take all of that funding and put it towards, take some of that allotment and put it towards the transition to adulthood and fund the new objective that we need to do. Because that was something we discussed at the planning committee at length that we spoke about it and had it with the public. As you said, it was dropping off and we weren't getting enough outcome.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So you're recommending that we take the 50,000 from 2.2.1 and put it towards the transition activity?

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

BROOKE STEWART: So put the 50 K towards the 32,000.

BRETON ANDRUS: The way Lauren was saying was splitting it between those two activities. So y'all have 82,000-dollars if you take that away.

LAUREN WOMACK: Do I need to make a motion?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Brenton, go over it again. Cause it's hard to see that.

BRETON ANDRUS: So if you take the 50,000 dollars away, that was what Lauren was talking about, taking some sort of amounts from that 50 to bump up what you would spend on your transition to adulthood which is down to the bottom based off of some of the comments that that may not be enough money. And then Dr. Phil was talking about the pilot program he mentioned 40 or so might be appropriate so you can move that money there. It looks like if you go with the 40,000 for Dr. Phil's program we have 18,000 left that you could put into your transition. Up to you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Lauren, now you can make a motion.

LAUREN WOMACK: I make a motion to pass with all the recommended changes.

EBONY HAVEN: Can I get the wording for activity 2.2, the pilot. Can you help me with the wording, Phil.

PHIL WILSON: Sure. To establish, plan, implement whatever training for professionals and family around--

you take out the diagnosis word for treatment of children and youth with FASD.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Do we have a question in the chat?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No. I've been answering.

BRETON ANDRUS: Tony, if you just unmute we'll be able to hear you.

HANNAH JENKINS: You're unmuted, Tony.

TONY PIONTEK: Okay. Pretty much every one of you, and Ms. Christi, I've done several things, not just our area, but a lot of the Families Helping Families, other organizations like us we've felt and given our rights to speak out. So I've done all those things where what y'all have been talking about one topic after the other so I know the coincidental or the collaborations and all the things that we are fixing and hoping to do and all the things that we're bringing up is always a facture of true life because we're always trying to print and develop more of a better future for us. And I can foresee all these things happening. But it's a never-ending thing as well. So we have to have a common ground with everything here that we're communicating, we're talking, we're trying to commute and I can see this. We all are affected no matter what shape or form in our lives. And on top of it the real part is with our people in our area. Blake, I've known for years and so forth. And those were the two that just got to go to Baton Rouge to live there because of these things that we're talking about. Bettering the future. Children, young adults. Adults like us. We need more of these things to happen and we want them to be better.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Tony.

TONY PIONTEK: We just can't imagine how important this is for all these facets of our lives to keep on going but not go backwards but to go forward.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you so much. Ebony, did you get the wording?

EBONY HAVEN: So if you look at activity 2.2.4 that I pulled up. I can make it larger.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Can you read it out loud please.

EBONY HAVEN: To collaborate with LSU HDC and provide financial and technical assistance to establish, plan and implement training for

professionals and families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on treatment of youth with FASD.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Is this something that Families Helping Families already helps out with?

BRETON ANDRUS: Not that I'm aware of.

PHIL WILSON: No. I spoke to Mary Jacob and she said all the years she's been doing Families Helping Families she recalls one family that knew their child had FASD.

VIVIENNE WEBB: My cousin has FASD.

PHIL WILSON: We need to find out about your cousin.

VIVIENNE WEBB: He's undiagnosed though.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So it's been moved to adopt the FFY 2025 action plan, the recommended changes. Because this motion comes from a committee it does not require a second. Are there any discussions from council members? Is there any public comment? Okay. So the question is that there was a motion to adopt the FFY 2025 action plan with the recommended changes. So we will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to adopt the FFY 2025 action plan recommended changes please say yes when your name is called. Opposed, please say no. If you abstain, please say abstain. Hannah.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Avera.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Avera, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: No.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Banks, no. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Barovechio, abstain. Ms. Bayham. Mr. Billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hagan, abstain. Ms. Hano. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms.

Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Jordan, abstain. Ms. Moore.

Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: No.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Nguyen, no. Ms. Perrodin.

MELINDA PERRODIN: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Perrodin, yes. Mr. Piontek.

Can you unmute, Mr. Piontek.

TONY PIONTEK: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Piontek, yes. Ms. Richard.

MELINDA RICHARD: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Richard, abstain. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: I stepped out for a second. What are

we voting on?

CHRISTI GONZALES: To accept the plan of action and the recommended changes.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Singletary.

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: No.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Singletary, no. Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Stewart, yes. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Taylor, abstain. Ms.

Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: No. We need party hats.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Webb, no. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Lauren

Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Lauren Womack, yes. Ms.

Tangela Womack. Eleven yeses, four noes and five abstentions.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The yeses have it and the motion to accept the FFY 25 plan of action recommended changes have passed. Ebony, can you make sure once all the changes have been made.

EBONY HAVEN: I'll make sure I send it out to the council as soon as Stephanie and I make the update we will make sure we get it out to everyone.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: We'll send it out and post it on the website.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The next business item is the report from the Act 378 subcommittee. The chair recognizes Lauren Womack for the report.

EBONY HAVEN: I have a request. The chair for the ED committee asked me earlier if she could go first because she has to leave. So is it okay with everybody if the education and employment chair reported first?

JILL HANO: Can we keep the side chatter to a minimum. Okay.

CHRISTI GONZALES: They can go ahead, Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: So you can give the floor to Ms. Renoda Washington.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Ms. Renoda, go ahead.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. The education and employment committee met yesterday and does not have any recommendations to present to the council. We received a lot of great updates from the Louisiana Rehabilitative Services and the Louisiana Department of Education. Melissa gave an update on LRS. LRS has their revised state plan out for public comment on laworks.net. They have also updated their tab for LRS on the Louisiana Workforce Commission website. This update included a reformatted policy and procedure manual and a new manual called a fee schedule. Those are more user friendly and available on laworks.net.

There was a statewide vendor training about the rate change. LRS is also restructuring with the amount of staff available. This shift will allow rehabilitation counselor associates to work with consumers. They specifically trained them to be able to work on the preemployment transition services. Concerns about staff allocations were asked. LRS is only allowed to have a certain number of job positions within the Office of Workforce Development. Although there is funding for additional positions there are only three vacant positions that fit in number of job positions available.

We then received an LDOE update from Meredith Jordan. The new LDOE state ombudsman was invited to the meeting. The state ombudsman role is to help families of students with disabilities to navigate conflict processes. There were concerns over only having one

ombudsman for the whole state, making sure the ombudsman was neutral and the role of the ombudsman. The ombudsman provided a one-page document with the committee that had her contact information on it. There was a suggestion from the committee to include a contact person for dispute resolution and complaint process investigations since that is not the role of the ombudsman.

Next, LDOE spoke on cameras in the classroom. There will be a second-year data collection in May with that update being presented to BESE in August. Lastly, LDOE gave legislative updates specifically on Bulletin 1706. The specific timelines outlined in the bulletin will be adopted July 1st. The changes in process and procedure for school systems must be done for the 2024, 2025 school year. LDOE updated the parent handbook to reflect the timeline updates in 1706. Additional legislation may cause a need to update the policy and procedures again after the session ends. There was a request for LDOE to bring more information on the ombudsman position to the full council meeting. We received updates on contractual activities in goal three of the council's 24 action plan. I encourage you all to review the status of that document that we receive quarterly for specific updates on each activity and any of the documents linked in our committee agenda.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Ms. Renoda. Are there any questions from council members on the report? Is there any public comment? The report requires no action and will be placed on file. If there is no objection with anyone the meeting will now recess for lunch. Hearing none, the meeting is now at recess. It is now 11:57 and we will reconvene at 1.

CHRISTI GONZALES: It is now 1:05. The meeting will come to order. The next item of business is the report from the Act 378 subcommittee. The chair recognizes the person that is stepping in for Ms. Polotzola. It will be Ms. Lauren Womack for the report.

LAUREN WOMACK: The Act 378 subcommittee met yesterday and we do not have any recommendations for

the council to consider. We did spend time reviewing the fiscal 24 third quarter data for programs within the Office of Developmental Disability, and Behavioral Health and Aging and Adult Services and Arc of Louisiana. These reports can be found linked on our committee agenda on the council's web page if you would like to review.

There were a few follow-ups from our October meeting that I would like to share with you. We looked at disparities within our regions for amounts spent on certain services. Specifically personal care attendant respite and vocational employment supports within the individual and family supports or IFF program. Thirty-four percent of all funding was spent on PCA respite funds and 17 percent was spent on vocational employment supports. (Inaudible) provided us with a report showing all districts and authorities have spent at least 10 percentage points above or below these averages. Seven out of the ten fell into this category. This just shows that the regions are responding to requests which may vary by region. No trends were identified.

Ms. Tanya Murphy did mention a few of the districts and authorities have prioritized vocational supports over personal care and respite for various reasons including cost and the ability to support individuals within an agency outside of home. Also, at our October meeting when discussing the yearend report for customer care resources program or CCR we noticed Florida Parishes had an extremely low expenditure rate. The Office of Behavioral Health shared that they have a corrective action plan in place for Florida Parish and feel confident that these actions will ensure adequate expenditures this year. They plan to use CCR funds for wraparound services which should increase utilization.

We also received an update on the 7,000-dollars in CCR funds being used in South Central region for marble composition notebooks. We were informed that South Central participated in an annual community event where school supplies were provided for students and families. The committee expressed concerns that utilizing this funding for a community event may take away from individuals with behavioral health needs who would qualify for this program. Dr. Savicki with

Office of Behavioral Health followed up on this concern after our meeting and South Central stated that they would no longer utilize the funding for that purpose moving forward.

We also discussed inconsistent supplies being offered in waivers and what impacts that may have on IFS funding. We heard from some representatives of the districts and authorities that report a small decrease in IFS requests for incontinent supplies. But they noticed restrictions on the types of products provided in the waivers have left some recipients without the supplies best suited for their needs. This was an issue the department planned to look into. It was also noted many waiver recipients were having difficulty finding providers for their incontinent needs and some providers to assist with IFS requests are not opting to become waiver providers due to the reimbursement concerns. Ms. Julie Hagan and Ms. Kelly Monroe said they were going to look into this for us because they were concerned about this as well. Because when they were championing this they wanted to make sure that people with developmental disabilities had a choice of what supplies best fit their needs and that they were not required to have one size fits all in these supplies.

Staff, is there anything? Does anybody have any questions? I'll do my best.

BROOKE STEWART: I just have a question or a comment. So with the event that had the composition notebooks I was like talking to another council member and they said that their child participated in the event where the composition notebooks were given and only people that were recipients of that office were invited for the school, back-to-school event that they had. So I think the concern was that they were using the money for like everyone, but it was only for invited registered guests. So I don't want to take away from their back-to-school events that they have for students. I think we didn't understand the event that they held yesterday. And then they just decided to not use those funds but I don't want to discourage them from participating.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yeah, I didn't write that. That's the thing I wanted to ask staff about too. Did they

respond to this after we met yesterday?

BRETON ANDRUS: Yeah. It was after yesterday. They simply just responded saying if it's a concern we don't have to use this funding for that any longer. The way it was explained it seemed like this was just a general open community event. So you weren't necessarily tying consumer care resources funding to an individual that put in a request and got a priority number. You were just giving out money. But certainly if it is for those individuals that put in a request for school supplies and they get school supplies that's an appropriate use of the funding.

LAUREN WOMACK: I had the same concern.

BROOKE STEWART: It seemed like it was a registered event for people that participated.

LAUREN WOMACK: I went to vote and the original question was just like 7,000-dollars on notebooks. Nicole, it was your?

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah. This is my region. Like my kid participated in this and it was only for the families that's in the program. It wasn't open to the public. It wasn't. They gave us a flier. They told us to register. And it was only the people that was in the actual program. Because I didn't see no outsiders. I'm not saying outsiders, but I didn't see anyone that I haven't seen already up in this program. I just was giving clarification about it because I know it happens every single year. I don't know why they would put it all under composition books because it was more in there than just that. It was way more in the supplies, the backpacks than that. It wasn't just composition. It was notebooks. They had basically everything to start you off with for your school. Everything to start you off with. Folders, rulers, pens, all kind of stuff. They had all kind of stuff in there.

LAUREN WOMACK: It seems like it was just a reporting.

NICOLE BANKS: I can't speak for them, but I just know I went to the actual event.

LAUREN WOMACK: Right. And I'm like Brooke, I don't want to discourage them.

JILL HANO: So I don't understand why, like cause this is the second quarter I've heard that we've talked about marble notebooks. So I don't understand why like

a person presenting the report at the actual committee, like cause this is the first I'm hearing that it was an actual event for students with disabilities. So I don't understand why whoever presents this during the Act 378 committee didn't clarify. I mean, no offense to anyone, but like why didn't anybody else know that oh, this was an event for this specific population. In August, in October we asked about the marble notebooks and they said they would get back to us and then yesterday we got, no disrespect, we only got clarification because a council member said oh, I was at the event and this is what it was.

CHRISTI GONZALES: I think it was just in their budget and the person who attended did not, am I correct, did not know what it was for.

JILL HANO: Okay.

ERICK TAYLOR: I have a question. My thing is about the school supplies where it's being put out and I see a bunch of churches give it out in certain areas. School supplies and clothes being given out. So what my question is-- how do I say this question is. They looking for-- I mean, I need some clarification. Is this strictly for people with disabilities that need certain things or is this tablets or notebooks or is this something that would be things that's capable of people that's with disabilities. Because why I'm saying this is when my child, God bless her heart, she's gone with the lord, she needed special things. She needed tablets. She needed things that talked. She needed things that was more important than tablets paid for. Stuff like that. Why do we not focusing more on things that's going to help them that's disabled instead of councils pay for stuff like that. If I'm making clarification on what I'm saying. Anybody can get in line and say hey, I need a pencil. Hey, I need this to start me off.

SPEAKER: Part of their budget was allocating money for that for children with disabilities.

BRETON ANDRUS: Yeah, I was just going to explain a little. So we did find out at the meeting that it is an allowable expense, the school supplies. That particular program you apply, you put in your request of what you need. It could be school supplies. It could be a communication device. But consumer care

resources is more focused on if you have behavioral health needs not necessarily developmental disability side. So this is through behavior. That was part of the concerns in the conversation yesterday because I think what most people took away was there was a big community event, everybody was welcome, there were different partners that contributed to this event to provide school supplies. And we thought while that's great, people do need school supplies, the concern is someone may have more significant needs. If we spent 7,000-dollars for notebooks we didn't want there to be any other requests that went unfunded because you participated in a community-wide event. And it may be the case that it was not community wide. Maybe it was just that district and authority invited all the people that they work with but that was not explained. I would still have concerns mostly because I think that program you're supposed to put in a request. You're supposed to put (inaudible) something what you need. There's requirements that should be followed in the program. So I think that was the big concern of just making sure that others are not going without that might have more significant needs than someone that might need a notebook.

ERICK TAYLOR: (Inaudible).

BRETON ANDRUS: That particular event they specifically wrote in their report they purchased marble composition notebooks. So pen, paper, notebook. And they spent 7,000-dollars on that. It's my understanding that was their contribution to the pack of supplies people may have received. They bought the notebooks, someone else may have bought other things for this community drive.

(Inaudible)

BROOKE STEWART: Like going back to what I said earlier. I don't want any child that's part of the behavioral portion to miss out on supplies that they were approved on spending that money. So I just would recommend for us to like maybe send a letter or an email just back to them from the LADDC saying that we were misinformed yesterday. Please continue to use the money for appropriate things. Just like that.

BRETON ANDRUS: Send that to the person that followed up. We could get more clarity. I think I share different concerns but.

BROOKE STEWART: Yeah. It was a lot of money to spend for the notebooks but I don't want them to not buy anything at all for maybe a lesser amount. But I don't want them to just totally pull out of the event.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Is there any public comment?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Maybe there could be a way to where they could send out a survey to see what the needs are and meet the highest needs first and go down the list.

BRETON ANDRUS: That's what you're supposed to do. Fill out a request for what your needs are and they give you a priority level. One is the highest priority. Two, three, four.

NICOLE BANKS: I think they need to report it correctly. They need to fix that.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of the self-determination committee, inclusion committee, community inclusion committee. The chair recognizes Brooke Stewart for the report.

BROOKE STEWART: The self-determination and community inclusion committee met yesterday and has one recommendation to present to the council. We received a lot of great updates from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or OCDD, Department of Health and Medicaid. A lot of the information shared is included in their agency reports so I encourage you to review those for more information. And a lot of this will be included in the agency reports coming up later. So I'll let those agency reps speak for those things.

The committee did receive an update from Families Helping Families of New Orleans as a follow-up to our discussions at the last few meetings. As you recall we voted to place the center on probation for fiscal year 24 due to concerns and their legislative audit. Essentially their funding has been reduced by half for this year. They have also been to many financial documents, policies and quarterly reports sharing what progresses have been made over this year. While the committee agreed the center was making some

improvements there were still concerns for management and functioning of the center especially given the results of their most recent legislative audit which found similar issues to the year before. The center director expressed the continued struggles due to lack of funding and expressed concerns that staffing may be greatly impacted should the funding not be restored. Thus the committee felt some funding should be restored based on progress but not all funding until the fiscal year 24 legislative audit is complete. That should come out next March or April. This additional funding would be contingent upon additional dollars being appropriated by the legislature. Thus the self-determination and community inclusion committee recommends restoring 28,000-dollars to Families Helping Families FHF NOLA budget in fiscal year 25 with the opportunity to receive full funding in fiscal year 2026 pending positive outcomes of the center's financial audit for fiscal year 2024 and is offering this to the full council for consideration.

Unfortunately we ran out of time to review our contractual updates but those can be found under goals one and two in the status of planned activities report in your blue council meeting folders. You can reach out to staff if you have any questions about particular initiatives.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So it was moved to the self-determination and community inclusion committee recommended restoring 28,000-dollars to Families Helping Families of New Orleans FHF NOLA budget in fiscal year 25 with the opportunity to receive funding in the fiscal year 26 pending positive outcomes of the centers financial audit for the fiscal year 24. Because this motion comes from a committee it does not require a second. Is there any discussion from council members.

PHIL WILSON: So what amount of money do they have for the current year? I see the 28,000, but I don't know what that is compared.

BRETON ANDRUS: It's 56931 that they get, all centers get that amount. We received an additional 500,000-dollars in our state general fund last year so everyone would have got an additional 55555 so that's the amount they were cut, that 55,000. And that amount

was divvied up amongst the other FHF centers. So this motion out of that 55, assuming the legislature appropriates that additional 500,000-dollars, 28 of that 55 will be given to them until that next audit comes out.

PHIL WILSON: So just a concern I have is while whether it's poor management or whatever the reason is, I mean ultimately aren't the parents and families of children, youth, whatever in greater New Orleans, aren't they the ones that ultimately are being punished?

BROOKE STEWART: So yesterday when Aisha came and spoke to the self-determination and community inclusion committee she let us know that despite the limited funding and lack of support they have done even more than they have before.

PHIL WILSON: Guess not. That was just a concern.

BROOKE STEWART: We thought that too. But based on the reports that she gave she said that she was doing just fine.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And she has her hand raised.

BRETON ANDRUS: She is joining us virtually if y'all have questions or if she has something to share.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Is there any public comment?

BRETON ANDRUS: Aisha, you should be able to unmute.

AISHA JOHNSON: Can you hear me?

BRETON ANDRUS: Yes, ma'am.

AISHA JOHNSON: Okay. I'm sorry. Thanks for recognizing me. And I want to apologize for not being there in person. Yesterday I found myself on the side of the road. My car stopped after I left there. So it's in the shop. I just wanted to respond to that. As I told the committee on yesterday that although we had the cut in funding we still wanted to make sure that our families could still receive quality service. And so what I explained to the committee was that I gave up my salary, the bulk of my salary to ensure that my staff would still have a living salary and still be able to do the work. There was a lot of things that I did cut from the budget so that we could continue our work. And then also continue to move forward with doing more because of course we had that time to incorporate where we didn't do a lot. And so we wanted

to do more in making sure that everybody is still receiving the services that they needed. And so I have a really great staff who will not ask for travel or, you know, those types of things. And so we're just really, really committed to doing the work and committed to the people that we serve.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Are there any comments in the chat?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No comments.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So we are ready for the question. The question is that the self-determination and community inclusion committee recommended to restore 28,000-dollars to Families Helping Families of New Orleans' budget fiscal year 2025 with the opportunity to receive full funding in the fiscal year 2026 pending positive outcomes in the centers financial audit for fiscal year 2024. We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to restore the 28,000 to Families Helping Families of NOLA pending the positive outcomes for the audit for fiscal year 24 when your name is called please say yes. Or if you're opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Hannah.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Avera.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Avera, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Barovechio, abstain. Ms. Bayham. Mr. Billings.

MICHAEL BILLINGS: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hagan, yes. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Jordan, yes. Ms. Moore. Ms.

Nguyen. Ms. Perrodin.

MELINDA PERRODIN: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Perrodin, yes. Mr. Piontek.
Mr. Piontek, if you could unmute to give your vote.

TONY PIONTEK: Thank you.

HANNAH JENKINS: What was your vote?

TONY PIONTEK: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Piontek, yes. Ms. Richard.

MELINDA RICHARD: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Richard, yes. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Singletary.

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: Abstain.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Singletary, abstain. Ms.

Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Stewart, yes. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: No.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Webb, no. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Lauren

Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

HANNAH JENKINS: Ms. Lauren Womack, yes. Ms.

Tangela Womack.

BRETON ANDRUS: Sixteen yeas, one nay and two
abstain.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The yeases have it and the motion
is passed. The next item of business is the report of
the education and employment committee. Sorry. We
have the standing council member reports. They are in
your packets. Our first report is from Louisiana
Rehabilitation Services. The chair recognizes Courtney
Ryland.

COURTNEY RYLAND: Good afternoon everyone. I'm
Courtney Ryland, bureau administrator with Louisiana
Rehabilitation Services filling in for Ms. Melissa
Bayham. In your packet it's the hot pink report. It
cannot be missed. And just for time sake I'm just
going to hit on the high points and I will absolutely
answer questions that I can. So for preemployment

transition services right now LRS is providing services to 4,382 students statewide. We currently have 16 third-party cooperative arrangements with school districts throughout the state. But we are already coordinating with Webster Parish and Lincoln Parish. So we will be adding some more third-party cooperative arrangements.

And then for the consumer statistics we're serving consumers through vocational rehabilitation. Just want to make note that as of March 31st we have 9,439 cases open just in VR. And then we have 3,684 cases open just in preETS. Preemployment transition services. Minding my ABCs. PreETS is 16 and older.

And the next chart is regarding open cases that are just for consumers who have been identified with developmental disabilities and the totals for those. So for those who have been identified with autism we currently are serving 810. With cerebral palsy, 159. Intellectual disabilities, 658. And specific learning disabilities 1,209. So that's a total of 2,836 individuals that have been identified with those specific diagnoses. For closed rehabilitated cases you can see the next chart. We have closed a total of 45 cases and that's just from January 1st through March 31st.

Then the next chart is regarding our rehabilitation employment development specialists. So just to give a reminder, those individuals that are employed with LRS they are basically job placement counselors that are just for LRS consumers. So they're working with LRS consumers and they're working in the communities trying to develop placement opportunities to make sure that our consumers are served.

Right now we only have what we call REDS in regions one, four, five, six and eight. Region three, which is our Houma region has not had a REDS in quite a while. Region seven, which is the Shreveport area, lost their REDS about six months ago. And then as of February the REDS in the Baton Rouge area, which is region two, was actually promoted so that created a vacancy for that position.

With regard to administrative services I'm actually also the LRC Louisiana Rehab Council liaison and we will be meeting next week, Thursday the 25th in

Lafayette Louisiana. We have our meetings posted on the Boards and Commissions website and LWC website as well.

Louisiana Rehab Services also employs our own community partner work incentive counselor who is assisting our consumers who receive SSI, social security insurance or social security disability. And she has provided services to 40 of our consumers since October 1st. And we are still sending referrals out to Lighthouse for the Blind and LSU Human Development Center for consumers who choose that as their benefits counselor instead of the LRS benefits counselor.

For the disability innovation fund project there has been some changes or there are going to be some changes. They still need participants in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lafayette regions. They're currently funded through Michigan Rehabilitation Services. And actually that's why Melissa's not able to be here because Rehabilitation Services Administration is at the LRS office meeting regarding (inaudible). So there are things currently going on with this project right now as we speak.

There's also another disability innovation fund project that LRS is coordinating with Department of Education. And I believe Ms. Jordan and Ms. Bayham are going to be going to Charlotte, North Carolina next month to try to develop a strategic plan to move forward. And you can also keep this in mind what the purpose of this DIF grant and that's regarding transition resources and referrals specifically in North Louisiana.

Statewide trainings. There was a statewide vendor training that was conducted virtually last month. We updated our vendors on employment services because we had made some recent changes to our technical assistance and guidance manual and the new fee schedule. Which I hope you all had an opportunity to go to our website and review those.

We also conducted a statewide training with all of our rehabilitation counselor associates. And I think this may have already been mentioned before regarding making sure that they are equipped to be able to counsel parents and students regarding preemployment transition services. Kind of alleviate some of those responsibilities from our counselors.

And then of course the 2024 combined WIOA state plan is currently on the LWC website. They are soliciting public comment until April 26.

SPEAKER: What's it called?

COURTNEY RYLAND: It's the combined state plan. So WIOA stands for Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. Are there any questions from council members on the report?

NICOLE BANKS: I know my region, and I've asked a couple times, how does one go about applying for that REDS job?

COURTNEY RYLAND: If it's posted on the civil service website that's how you would be able to apply. That's the only way state employees are able to apply.

NICOLE BANKS: On civil service?

COURTNEY RYLAND: I don't know that it's up there.

NICOLE BANKS: If it's not up to where someone can apply for it how is someone supposed to apply for that job? We've been with somebody for two years and I ask this every single time.

COURTNEY RYLAND: For the Houma region?

NICOLE BANKS: Yes. I really have been asking for the last two years. Like how would we get someone in this position. I'm on the civil service website right now and I type in this position and it's not even coming up.

LAUREN WOMACK: I just want to say too like it's our opportunity to look at the LRS plan and the big LWC plan as a whole and make sure that people with disabilities are included. Especially for employment. I work as a partner and that's what I do professionally and we are not even on the radar even though we should be. It's mandated that we should be included in this. And I think it's very important as advocates that we read it and we make suggestions because this is going to be the plan I think for four or five years. So this is our opportunity. Please make time to read it, familiarize yourself with it, make suggestions, ask questions because this is going to be policy moving forward.

The other thing is I think, don't hold me to it, but if you go on the LWC website and you click on Louisiana Workforce Commission there might be a place where you say join us and it may be on there.

NICOLE BANKS: The what?

LAUREN WOMACK: On laworks.net. You click on the logo and it might have a thing where they're recruiting people to work at the actual Louisiana Workforce Commission and I think that position was under there the other day I saw it. But I could be wrong.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Do we have any other public comment? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from the Bureau of Health Services Financing Medicaid. That was for Ms. Tangela.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Brian Bennett is her proxy.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The chair recognizes Brian Bennett for the report.

BRIAN BENNETT: Are y'all ready for me?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes.

BRIAN BENNETT: Okay. Hi, everyone. My name is Brian Bennett. I'm presenting the Medicaid report for Tangela Womack today. I'll just go through and highlight some of the sections that are included in the report. So first and foremost in section number one we talk about our unwind activities. If you've heard the term unwind what we're talking about there is just during the Covid public health emergency there were a lot of temporary provisions put into place and when the public health emergency ended we had to undue all of those. So especially related to eligibility during the Covid PHE we didn't reassess eligibility for a few years. So about a year ago that requirement ended for, the continuous eligibility requirement ended so we started renewals again. We've been doing that for about a year now and I think we have one more month of renewals that are probably, I think they're slated to go out towards the end of April and then we'll get on a cadence or a schedule of just getting back to our normal routine of sending renewals out so that everyone on Medicaid will be renewed on a yearly basis going forward.

And I'm sure a lot of you have seen some of the outreach materials that Medicaid and LDH has put out there, the billboards, the radio spots, the TV spots, print media, social media. We really want to encourage everyone not only during unwind but going forward to check their mail. If you get something in the mail

make sure you respond to it. And then also equally as important if you have any changes to your contact information address, phone number especially make sure that those are kept up to date on file with Medicaid so that we can reach you and that you get any of that important information that needs to be completed and returned.

Another thing that Medicaid's going to be doing over the next probably month or two we're planning to do additional outreach to those that closed throughout this initial unwind renewal period because they didn't return the request for information or the mail that was sent out to them for their renewal. So for those people that closed because we didn't get a response to them we're going to be doing additional outreach to try to see if we can reach them or get updated contact information. And when we do our, hopefully when we do our next report next quarter we'll have some more details about that, about specifically what we're going to do to target that group of people.

And then for the rest of the sections I'll just go and hit the high points with some of the data. For the Act 421 children's Medicaid option or TEFRA program I do want to correct a typo. In the second line it says December of 2022 and that's supposed to be 2023. We've received or approved nearly 2,000 applications and as of this week we have 1,729 children enrolled in that program. I would also encourage anybody that wants to know more about the program, if you haven't already, to visit the Act 421 website.

Onto the next page on page four we've included a link to that. We really try to keep information there updated, provide information for people that are interested in applying, like the various steps you have to go through. There are several steps and it can get a little complicated but we try to put all that information on the website. We have some flowcharts there. So there's a lot of good information on that website. As well as there's a dedicated email address. It's 421-CMO@la.gov. If anybody has any questions, comments, anything they would like to see on that website for that program you can email and one of the staff will make sure to take care of that for you.

Going to the section four, the money follows the

person program. So this just gives kind of a historical view of the total number of transitions for the department. That's both across OAAS and OCDD over time since the start of the program in 2009. Note at the bottom recently Congress did, or about a little over a year ago, Congress did reauthorize funding for the program through 2028. And that doesn't mean that the program's going to end in 2028. That just means that they've dedicated funding at the federal level for that program to continue operating until 2028 which is really good news because for a little while there the funding was kind of piecemealed together year after year. So it's nice to have a good chunk for a few years that we have funding for.

And the next section, self-direction. So at the end of February there were a little over 2500 people enrolled in the self-direction option. And the chart that's included breaks it up by the four different waivers that offer that option. Over the past gosh, five, six, seven years we have really seen an uptick in the growth in the program which is good. And you can also see now that we've got the two fiscal employer agents Acumen and Morning Sun, the share of participants that each one of them has. That's included in that paragraph underneath the chart.

MELINDA RICHARD: Brian, this is Mindy. I think what Ebony's showing on the Zoom, or you're showing on the Zoom, doesn't match the handout. The numbers are about the same, so it's not that big of a deal. But I'm not sure which one's right.

BRIAN BENNETT: Oh, it doesn't match the physical handout y'all have?

MELINDA RICHARD: Yeah. Let's just make sure we get the right one on file I guess is my point.

BRIAN BENNETT: It should say April 2024.

MELINDA RICHARD: Okay. No problem. We'll pay attention to the screen.

BRIAN BENNETT: Then going down to electronic visit verification. That's the next section in section six. So electronic visit verification or EVV for short. We've had this up and going for a few years. Congress passed the CARES Act, I don't recall exactly what year it passed, but it required states to report certain services through EVV. So all of our personal care type

services, which those are available under most of our waivers, those have been utilizing EVV for a few years now. And then most recently at the end of last year, 2023, we implemented EVV for our home healthcare services. So the home healthcare services delivered or provided under Medicaid are now utilizing EVV to report and record those services.

And then just really quickly also in section seven that gives a breakdown of enrollment in our coordinated system of care program or CSOC across the state, across the nine regions of the state. We have as of last month there's about 2,265 children and youth enrolled in that program.

And then finally in section eight for our applied behavior analysis or ABA services. This just kind of provides a snapshot for the month of February to get an idea of the amount of services that were used, requested and paid out for just our ABA services. And that's the end of Medicaid's report.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Brian. Are there any questions from council members on the report? Is there any public comment? Since there is no public comment the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of the Office of Public Health. The chair recognizes Ms. Patti Barovechio for the report.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: I'm going to try to condense this really small since we're running short on time. But everything is pretty much covered within. One of the things I did want to call attention to is if you guys are working with providers or have staff that are interested in our partnership with Families Helping Families we are coming up on what we call resource information workshop season. And in the list, I think it's on page two, you will see here several training events that are coming up that are open to health providers but are really good for any public health professional. Covers things like development. We have one on trust-based relational intervention. Navigating early diagnosis in therapy for children with autism spectrum disorder. Introduction to trauma informed care. Really great topics. Some great speakers coming up. And if nurses and social workers can get, depending on the length of the presentation, but it's

usually two to three hours of continuing education credit.

And I know today health transition has been a bit of a hot topic and I just want to remind y'all, and I know it's not in my report, but we do have a family facing website, it's really targeting the teen audience. It's called smoothmovesYHT.org. And we know that web address is not telling so over the next year there is plans. It is moving to teenhealthhub.org. But that transition, if you use that web address it will bring you to smoothmovesYHT.org. But a lot of great transition information. Like I said, it's really targeted for that young adult to help support their transition to adulthood.

And just to let you know I think it's a really great thing for us to take on because I looked at the national survey and we're at about 12 percent of our teens with special healthcare needs in our state are receiving appropriate resources to transition. And we're talking about the youth health transition. So I think it's a really important topic for the communities that we serve.

Another plug for the national survey. If you need any data on child health the national survey of children's health is a really great resource. They have all kinds of data on the population of children and youth with special healthcare needs, children with mental, emotional, developmental, behavioral issues, family wellbeing. A lot of great data in that site. It's really easy to navigate and search through that dataset.

PHIL WILSON: Can you repeat that, the new website.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: The teenhealthhub.org. It's going to be smooth moves. Families Helping Families helped us determine what was a better website than smoothmovesYHT.org.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any questions from council members on the report? Is there any public comment?

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: I just wanted to let y'all know they did cancel the early identification, Deaf Hard of Hearing. It was open to the public. They canceled that meeting.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Thank you for that update.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So which one was that Samantha?

SAMANTHA SINGLETARY: It is on that second page or third page. I'm sorry. About three quarters of the way down. Advisory council for the early identification of Deaf and Hard of Hearing infants, April 26th meeting. I only know that because I was given an update at (inaudible) at that meeting.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Is there any public comment? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of the Office of Aging and Adult Services. The chair recognizes Mindy Richard.

MELINDA RICHARD: Hello, y'all. This is Mindy. I'm going to-- this is the peach one in your packet. And I'm not going to read all these numbers out to you but I am going to flag some activities that we have going on. Just a quick update on legislative. We don't have a ton of bills from OAAS this legislative season. But in HB 1, which is the state budget bill, we have requested 750 new waivers. And so last year we got 500. And, you know, the limiting factor sometimes is not having enough direct service workers to be able to provide the work. The other factor is the money to pay for the waivers. But one year it will be one problem and the next year it will be the other. So last year we got 500. The year before that we got 500. And I'll tell you how you know where the bottleneck is because two years ago we were able to fill those 500 additional slots by December. This last year we were able to fill, we are at the 90 percent mark here we are in April. So it's taken us several more months to fill those 500. So asking for 750 is a little ambitious next year but we're making some process improvements so we believe we'll be able to do that. We'll be asking the legislature for the funding for that.

Another bill that we have in session if you wanted to look up on the legislative website is Senate Bill 11. It's very much a housekeeping bill. This is for our program that's for the traumatic head and spinal cord injury program. Nationally most organizations are named the traumatic brain and spinal cord injury and we're just changing the name from head to brain. You can have a head injury and not have a brain injury. So we're just getting aligned with the rest of the nation on that one.

There's one other bill that we have, it's House Bill 687 and that is to create a PACE program license. PACE stands for the program for the all-inclusive care of the elderly. And just to revisit what that is for you. That is a program where the state pays a per member per month amount to these providers. The providers provide transportation to their centers so the person can go and it's like they have socialization at the center and gather for the day. They can see their doctor. They can have therapy there. It's a very all-inclusive care. They eat while they're there. If they get sick and have to go to the hospital or if they have a stint in a nursing facility for rehab all of that is paid under that same per member per month. So everything is cared for. Right now we have services in the Lafayette area, in the Baton Rouge area and in the New Orleans area. And we're really excited to say that we are expanding into Alexandria. It's taken us almost two years. It's a long process to approve a provider. But we just got word from Centers for Medicare, Medicaid services that our provider has been approved to open up in Alexandria. So we look for that program to open up in June. So if you know people in that area or if you're from that area please look for the advertisements. It's really a neat facility and a neat concept and so we're excited about that. You'll hear me mention about further expansion of that in a second.

One of the things that happened just yesterday was every year the Council on Aging in this area does a senior skip day. And I think that's just the cutest name, right. But it's really grown. They held it, this is the third year. It was at the Raisin Canes River Center. And I haven't been able to download completely. Our staff all went and had tables and giveaways and stuff. But I was texting with my folks this morning and they said there were literally thousands of people there. So let that be a notice to us all that the population of people who are aging is growing. If you need to know, if you need to see it go to one of those senior skip days and you'll see it. It's great fun and I encourage you this time next year if you know somebody please tell them about it.

Brian drew attention to the public health

emergency unwind. I'll just kind of add one little note on that. Every month when Medicaid runs that list they send a list to us and we go through that list of all of our participants that are in our waivers and our regional operations team reaches out to each and every one of our participants to do our best to contact them and make sure that they know if they don't get their contact and update their information that they're going to get booted out of Medicaid. And so I will note that this last month we actually had more people on our list than we had seen in previous months. And so I think that as we're all getting away from the Covid mindedness, and we're all eager to get there, I think people may be forgetting about this unwind activity and it may sneak up on them. Please, in your organizations please make sure that people have re-upped their contact information in Medicaid because we don't want anyone to fall off for the wrong reasons there.

Let's see what else I wanted to point out to you. So you heard us talk about our American Rescue Plan dollars. Those were dollars that were given during Covid and we've been judiciously spending that money. The money needs to be spent by next March, March of 2025. And as Julie may have mentioned yesterday to some of you who are on our committee we found out just the past few weeks that three states have gotten permission to extend their funding to use it longer than next March which would be huge for us because the bigger more effective and important projects just take a long time to procure and to get in place. And so we're working hard to see if we can get an extension.

Some of the things you all have heard us talk about with the bonuses to the direct care workers, we raised our provider rates. We were able to get that into our budget and keep those rates up high. I say high. Maybe that's not the best word. Higher. So we're proud of all that. We just recently, again, just a couple weeks ago got word that the request for us to do a rate study to look at what providers are paid verses the services

they are offering, that was approved by CMS. So we can use these dollars. That's an expensive actuarial type project and we don't often have the money to be able to do that. And so that was approved.

And then for OAAS we also-- you have to audit whenever you give money out, particularly if it's federal money you have to audit to make sure it was spent the way it was supposed to be. And one of the challenges for states is because we don't have the money to do the audit to pay people to do those audits in a financially responsible way. And we don't have the expertise to do it. They approved us to use this money to do the auditing.

And you'll remember that for OAAS our increase of our direct service worker wage went up to 9-dollar minimum wage. But we also had a part that said 70 percent of the increase in the rates had to go to the worker. So we'll be auditing to make sure that employers did that. Julie had mentioned about the home and community-based services access rule. There's a rule that we're expecting to come out this month by the end of the month and it is hundreds of pages long and it will impact how community health services is managed and monitored. And there's a lot of great things in there. Although it's daunting to think that we would be able to get this in place in the timeframe that they've given us.

But one of the elements that's in there is that 80 percent of the payments to providers would go to the workers. And the reason that's different is where I was just saying the rate, let's say the rate was this and it got raised to a higher rate. Seventy percent of this increase is what we said had to go to the worker. This says 88 percent of the whole payment has to go to the worker. So it's going to be a real paradigm shift for our community and our providers. So we'll be working through that to make sure that we can keep those providers, you know, in business and still meet the requirements.

One other thing I'll mention to you that as we spend money and something doesn't cost quite as

much as we have we say oh, we have some money left over, let's ask for some more ideas to be approved. And we have two that are cooking, I'm going to say, right now with CMS and one of them is to provide dementia training and training on who's a mandatory reporter for abuse and neglect. There's also training that we're going to be doing on person-centered planning. That's a term that we use when we talk about the plans of care that you're not just dictating to someone what they need for care. You're asking what is important to you in your life and you plan for that. And so be on the lookout, if we get it approved, we're going to use this funding to deliver this planning in widespread ways. And so I'll be sharing that. Rest assured you'll find out about it.

And just to skip through some of the numbers here. Oh, one of the very important things that we just got word of, again a couple weeks ago, a lot of good news things a couple weeks ago. Our CCW, our community choice waiver was renewed. It was going to be expiring in June. You have to apply for renewal and that's been renewed so we were pleased about that. We do still have over 4500 people on our wait list without any services. We continue to work to find various services that those folks can benefit from. And so we're continually trying to work into that space.

As far as adult protective services go all the numbers are at the bottom. There's a couple things I want to note with regard to APS. You'll notice that we have the three years, fiscal year 22, 23, and 24 and we're on track this year to have as many cases as we did last year. That's kind of a double-edge sword as they say, right. You don't want a lot of abuse and neglect cases, right. On the other hand, you don't want it going on and not knowing about it either. So we are encouraged whenever we see that the numbers haven't dropped off. You'll notice in 22 it had dropped off some. So reporting is a good thing. So along those lines we just went online with a soft launch of an online reporting system. You can't report anonymously online. And you can't

report sexual abuse online. You still have to call in to report that. But we've already seen a huge increase in the reporting by people that are using the online. We're still trying to make sure all the kinks are worked out of the system before we market it out wide for everyone to know. But there is an online reporting that's available now. And we have resumed our council meetings that instruct people on abuse and neglect in the communities and so you'll want your networks to know about that.

The only other thing I would notice when we have allegations and we investigate them they fall under these six categories you'll see in that chart. And I think it is really interesting that the caregiver neglect, it just stayed at the top of the list every year. Almost a third of our abuse and neglect allegations are caregiver neglect. But also noteworthy is nearly 20 percent, this last quarter is a little over 20 percent, is self-neglect. And so a lot of our APS investigators are really they've turned into educators and they've also turned into I'm going to say connectors. We've used some of our money through the Administration of Community Living, is how APS gets their ARPA money, and we've used that to create kind of an account of money that when we go and we investigate somebody and we see that they need to get out of the situation and they need help we have a little pot of money that can help us get them stable until they can get out of the situation they're in. And that was something we didn't have before the ARPA money came. Anyway, I just wanted to flag those couple things. And I think that's about the extent of my report. Answer any questions.

CHRISTI GONZALES: From DCFS from APS, because we have children who remain at school until age 22, is it they start with APS at 18 or 19?

MELINDA RICHARD: It's 18 to 59. And then at 60 it becomes Elderly Protective Services through the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. But we work closely with them. I think the trickiest part about adult protective services it depends on who the

perpetrator is as to who investigates it. So let me clarify. If the perpetrator is a provider it is investigated by our health standards division. They go out and they do a survey to see what's going on. If it is in the home and it's a family member or community member then we do the investigation. And so sometimes it's a little tricky to find out you have to know kind of where the person is. If they're living in a facility it's going to be health standards. If the perpetrator's a provider it's going to be health standards. But if it's in the community in someone's home it's going to be adult protective services. And so a lot of the cases we look into are neighbors, family, coworkers who call and report stuff on something they've seen or they think a child or a relative is financially exploiting the person. Those are the cases mostly that we investigate.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions? Yes, ma'am.

LAUREN WOMACK: This was just a thought. Something to think on. Could your office, or if they already have one, send like the grievance process or the process to Disability Rights. Because if people contact Disability Rights usually I know Disability Rights will be like go here and go through the process. But if they're properly educated maybe with a training or just a supporting document if they can explain the process to the individual. Or is that a disconnect or conflict of interest.

MELINDA RICHARD: Yeah. It kind of is in that we have a whole intake process that we go through when someone reports something and there's a lot of information that's gathered and it's gathered in a way that provides the investigator what they need to know. And I think from our being responsible for that would mean that it needs to come into our door. But we would be more than happy to have Disability Rights convey a case to us which is what happens many times. Sometimes we'll get someone call us about somebody who's over 60 so we take the information and we hand it off to Elderly Protective Services. Same thing with Health Standards. Somebody calls us and says it's a provider problem we take it in and hand it off to them. They work really closely together. But that's another one

of those things that the home and community-based services access rule that's coming, there are a lot of standards in there that require incident reporting and how you report that up to the feds from all these different channels. And we're doing most of that already but just coordinating it between the different events and the different facilities is going to be a bit of a challenge. So we have our work cut out for us there. But that's a great question.

MELINDA PERRODIN: The people that are on the waiting list, is there a metric or something that y'all use to put them on the waiting list? And the people that are waiting for services is there someone monitoring to see if their condition is getting worse? I guess my question is how do they move up. These numbers is kind of scary because there might be people that's in desperate need but just don't know their rights on how they can move up.

MELINDA RICHARD: Exactly. That's a great question. About ten years ago Citizens with Developmental Disabilities changed their prioritization of their wait list. And so when you call in they assess you and decide, you know, what is your acuity, where you need to be on the wait list. That's not the way it's done in OAAS. OAAS is first come first serve. Now what we do have in place is we do offer people, other than the waiver, we offer you other services that you can take while you're waiting. So that number, 4700, those are people who don't have anything. Now we don't know-- so there is a screening process and when they call to get on the waiting list there are some basic questions that get asked. And we have to determine whether the person is going to be a nursing home level of care. There's some things that we ask. And so but once they get on there they're not really assessed like in person as an assessment until their number is called, until there's a waiver slot that opens. We did a lot of work last year because we would reach out to people and say hey, there's a waiver. We want you to come on board. And we would get about 70 percent of the time they never responded. And so we changed the way we do that. Now we call them when we send it. We tell them it's a blue envelope. We simplified the language. And we call them once they

get it and don't call us back, we call them again. So we do reach out and try to say okay, it's your turn. Sometimes we'll find the person doesn't need the services anymore. Unfortunately they've been waiting a long time and now they've either moved, passed away or gotten better in some cases.

So we are looking at we proposed to go back and begin the work to re-prioritize our wait list the same way OCDD does and get them in order of acuity. One of the things that we're looking at in the meantime though is there's a home health monitoring thing where we can give people equipment to monitor their blood pressure, diabetes and things. And that way if we see they're getting worse we can basically-- we do have some emergency slots. Right now we fill them up too. But we do have emergency slots we can use if somebody's in a desperate way. And we're working to get those freed up. So that's not a great system in a lot of ways. But it does allow people who have been waiting the longest.

SPEAKER: You're saying that year after year it's over 30 percent of the investigated allegations are from caregiver neglect. As we look into the caregiver neglect are we assessing the mental health of the caregiver. Is this a mental health issue of a lack of respite for the caregiver. Mental health issues for the caregiver and how can we better support caregivers.

MELINDA RICHARD: That's a great point. And there really is a national movement to spend more energy and funding on caregivers. And I totally agree with you. In fact, I just talked to the caregiver group earlier this week. But when you think about this you have to think about this from like an investigative standpoint. So if they go out-- and one thing they do as part of their investigation is they determine the competency of the person that they're talking to. And so they ask some questions and find out okay, is this person a good person to answer on their own situation. And so once they kind of assess those situations they'll get medical records, they'll check sometimes police reports. They pull all the data together. And then really what they're called to do is to make a determination is this allegation substantiated or not. Then they move into what can we recommend to get this

person out of it. So the short answer is no, we don't do a behavioral health assessment of the person who is the perpetrator per say. But it would be in that report and it would follow through to how do we get this person out of that situation. So that's kind of not the right answer, but in a way that is how they investigate(inaudible).

SPEAKER: Right. I'm just thinking it's a caregiver's mental health, right, is what's causing the neglect for the patient. And then probably lack of respite as well is also another layer to this. I guess my question is how can we better support caregivers through mental health and respite because Children's choice waiver you get 20 hours a week. Mothers can't work a real job if you only have 20 hours of respite. My son has autism and engages himself in dangerous behavior and it's exhausting. And what we pay caregivers per hour they don't want to deal with that. They don't want to deal with a child with autism. It's just a (inaudible).

MELINDA RICHARD: There are respite programs. I'm not the expert on that. Certainly can get more information and bring it back to everybody. But there are respite programs that will allow, and insurance will pay for some of that, I do know that. But it's not part of the investigative process I guess is what I'm saying. But I totally agree. And sometimes caregiver neglect it may not be mental health. It may just be ugliness. And so we don't really determine why. We just say yes it was or it wasn't. But that's a great question.

JILL HANO: Anymore questions?

REKEESHA BRANCH: We have someone with their hand raised in the chat, Ms. Mylinda Elliot.

JILL HANO: Ms. Elliot, you are recognized by the vice chair.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Thank you. Can you go down farther on the screen. So it says allegations investigated. That's not the same things as allegations substantiated.

MELINDA RICHARD: That's correct.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. So out of those-- let's see. Let me pick one. 887 caregiver neglects last year how many were substantiated?

MELINDA RICHARD: I would have to get you the numbers but we have those. If that's what you're more interested in seeing we certainly can. And you could have, what I think they were trying to make the case of here, is you can have emotional abuse and care, neglect in the same case. But certainly I can get those. I think it's around half but I don't want to guess at that. I would rather get that for you.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Yeah. I would like to see a percentage too if you can because half is a substantial drop and does it change that or any of the other, by the way, space in which things are worse than other things. If that makes any sense. Or which things have more instances than other things I guess is a better way to say it.

MELINDA RICHARD: Okay. Be happy to look into that. Like I said, overall I think about half of our cases are substantiated. But I'll get that number. And we have it broken out between all the different types of allegations as well.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: I'm done. Thank y'all.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Is there any other public comment? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of the Department of Education. The chair recognizes Meredith Jordan for the report.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Thank you. It's the light pink one. Before I go through some of the activities in the report I've heard a lot about House Bill 1. And so a really, really great update there as far as departments' requests in HB 1, listening to stakeholder feedback. And a lot of this we've talked about here Dr. Brumley has requested in House Bill 1 as part of our budget request additional full-time staff for additional special education monitoring. And so I know that's been talked about and something that we're really hopeful for and feel really great about support we've received on that so far. So just wanted to share that since I heard a lot of mention about House Bill 1 and budget and requests. So wanted you all to know that he's being proactive in requesting some additional staff to get that work done.

First, I want to update you all. We are in the process of still drafting our next IDEA funding

application. And so I know we've talked about that a little bit here. We've talked about that with our state education advisory panel and getting input on their strong beliefs about spending and planning for spending moving forward. And so we have all of those documents out there linked to our website. I will say we have not received from OSEP yet our next dollar amount. So the application is currently drafted based on our amounts from last year. And that's what they advised us to do. Go ahead and engage in your public process and draft your application and engage in your public comment period based on your prior allocation. And so as soon as we get the next one-- this is the latest that it's ever come out. So I don't know if we should be scared about that. Because we have post-pandemic seeing them every year give us an increase a little bit. And so as soon as we get the final amounts then we'll update those in our application. And I'm hoping that is soon because we have to submit that close to the end of May, I believe it's May 20th every year, about the same time. So that's kind of where we are with our next funding round.

My next update is a SEAP update. So SEAP did meet in March at the request of BESE. And Dr. Brumley, we had a lot of stakeholders who came out to the BESE meeting to talk about SEAP and ask about that process of submitting new applications and getting a new panel in place. And so we did hold a meeting in March. One of the things that we heard and understood was that stakeholders, the public wanted a place to talk about legislation. So you all know the department has to be very neutral on that. But we gave that platform at our March SEAP meeting and they had great discussion there around proposed legislation. We will next meet in June. I went ahead and gave you all of our dates moving forward. If something has to change, SEAP members know I don't like to change our dates because I like for the public to know when they are and for them to be set, but if we do we'll give plenty of notice if I have to make changes to any of those dates due to unforeseen circumstances. But you all can have those, put those on your calendar.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Who's going to be meeting in

June, the new members?

MEREDITH JORDAN: The new members. We have our application process that's closed. It just closed recently, April the 8th. And we will start our screening process. We introduced our new BESE cochair in March. Ms. Simone Champagne is our new BESE representative. We introduced her there. So she will be involved on this particular selection committee as we kind of move forward. So that's a great question, Christi. So that by June we'll have our new panel in place so that we can't skip a beat and keep moving forward with our work.

My next update is on our 2024 special education parent involvement survey. We are required to do this annually. So each year we survey our parents who receive special education services for their students. The purpose of that survey is to get feedback. We actually report data on a couple of particular questions in that survey to OSEP as part of our annual reporting to them. And we use that information also to guide our efforts improving services and results. So I have listed for you the chart of participating districts. So special education directors in these particular LEAs will receive random unique IDs that they will start to send out to parents very soon if they haven't already. There is a link, and I apologize I did not link it here, it wasn't up when I submitted the report but I'm happy to send it to Ebony to send to everyone. Any parent can also participate in the survey but OSEP requires us to develop a methodology to select parents of students with disabilities that are representative of the students and demographics in our state. And so we go through, not me, someone way smarter on our data team, goes through and figures out the selection of districts based on demographics of students with disabilities to get a representative group for our survey that we report. So again, everyone is welcome to participate and I'll send you that survey. And then the districts listed here in the chart are the ones that we submit as our representative sampling to OSEP. And that's the group that will be reported on next year. And so the survey goes through the summer. It will be open until July 31st. It's open right now. I'll send you all the link today

through Ebony.

Our next update is around the kindergarten dyslexia screener. So we're getting a lot of questions about this right now. And I completely understand that a student with dyslexia is not always a student with a disability but this work lives on my team. So we support, I have a dyslexia specialist on my team. So this is where this work falls within the department. So we are right now in response to Act 266, you know, we had dyslexia legislation in our state over the past several years. And that is common. This is a national interest, something that's really growing, how we identify and support those students in our state. And so this is something even nationally that we see increased interest.

And so Act 266 required the department to select a dyslexia screener at no cost for all of our school systems and we are required to screen students, kindergarten students in their second half of the year. So by the end of May every year from here forward kindergarten students will receive that screening. That screening will give the teacher an at risk or no risk designation. It does not mean that that student then, that is not an automatic qualification for a 504 plan or an IEP. They would still go through 504 processes for additional assessment evaluation and that SBLC team would determine what additional assessments and what support that student may need.

So there were a lot of very specifics within that law so I listed them here. We were subject to the provision of funds. So we received approximately 100,000-dollars, just over that, potentially, from the legislature to fund this particular screening. So we've been working through state procurement processes. We have procured a screener. We are working through now the rostering because our school systems are also going through their end of year literacy screening. We are doing LEAP testing. And so we want to make it as easy as possible on our LEAs to administer this screening. So we want to get the rostering right before that is sent out. The least amount of additional work on them as we can make it. And so we're hoping those rosters go out either this week or next. We are extremely close to getting that rostering

right to make it easier on them. And then they'll have, like I said, through the end of May to get their kindergarteners screened for dyslexia.

I'll also say that does not mean that at any other point, that's our state law required screening, that doesn't mean that at any other point if there's a parent concern, a teacher concern that that screening couldn't happen in other grade levels. We know we still have students in middle school and high school sometimes. They don't get identified until middle school or high school sometimes that they have dyslexia. So it's not to say that a student can't get screened if there's a concern at other grades. But we are now required to do it by the end of kindergarten. So I wanted to just get that update, let you all know where we are. We're very close to administering that screening.

And if a student receives an at risk the parent will be notified within 30 days, right. And so we know that some of that notification for this year, this should only impact-- first year implementations and rollouts are always tough. But some parents, some school systems may be using all the way up through the end of the school year. So some parents may be getting some notifications after school. They have 30 days to get that notification letter to parents. And we've made it pretty easy. The system will print. There is a letter that will print for the parent for the school system to send out. So trying to make it as efficient as possible for our school systems.

Next couple of items we have-- you all know when I came on board I started back our in-person capacity building sessions we called collaboratives for our special education directors on Tuesday. I had nearly 100. So that tells you that-- I also get some charters schools, right, charter school special education leaders, which are great, coming to our sessions to get professional development. So want to always update you all on those because they're very important to me. We have gotten extremely positive feedback from the directors that they like those networking opportunities. They like the support and the training that we're giving them. So just an example. And I want you all to know, I tell you this all the time but

I feel like I've got to be transparent and give you examples of how I do it. In listening to you all's feedback in these meetings I get to take that and then say okay, what do our directors need based on what I'm hearing. Based on trends that we're seeing happening in our state or knowledge that needs to be built. And so, you know, we've got a lot of end of year processes coming up. Summer learning processes coming up and planning happening. So one of the things that we took the time to do this week was really go back to some basics with them and talk about extended school year, right. We've all talked about that here. How do you qualify. How do you determine eligibility. It's not a one size fits all. It's individualized. So we really go back to basics. I want you all to know that I'm continuing to listen to you, take in those suggestions, take in those concerns and turn around and take that back and help build capacity for our leaders leading this work in our school systems.

Last, we have a lot of end-of-year reporting that happens this time of year. One of the things that we're going to be launching, and another one I didn't put on here but I just covered this so it's fresh on my mind. We're launching two actual reporting collections right now. So you all know that every year they have to report their local special education advisory council report where they're reporting on all the activities that local SEAPs are doing. Many of you serve on your local SEAPs in your areas. And so we're launching that report. We also took feedback and stakeholder input. I involved SEAP with this. You all told me this that you would like to see some consistency on those reports and so we have shared a template.

Now I will say House Bill 153 requires, will require some additional reporting. We had a lot of conversation about that. They submit those reports but there's nothing in the law that requires certain things that maybe you all want to see as the public and transparency from your local school systems. So we have already shared a template with them. But know I will have to update it. I slipped some of those things in because I do think some of them are good information to include in an annual report. But I'll make sure if

that house bill passes that I get, make sure all of that information that would then be required is in my template. So I really appreciate the feedback. You did a great job and gave a lot of great feedback about what you all would like to see as the public and as parents be placed in those reports. So we're launching that. They'll give me those reports by May. We'll compile them and then I bring those in August to my state panel. And I believe I also brought that to you all last year. I'll do that again. So at our fall meeting I'll be happy to bring those here.

And then we're launching, again, our special education camera data collection. So wanting to know and being good stewards of the legislative funding that supported the SPED cameras, how much money did they spend this year. How many cameras were requested. How many cameras were posted. And I also provide that and report that to BESE. And I'll of course bring that to you all as well. So I know we ask a lot of our school systems at end of year and all year but I know it's a really busy time for them. But those are just a couple of major things that we have going on right now.

But I already talked to y'all last time about teacher leader summit. We have the Human Development Center folks coming to talk about FASD so I think that is a wonderful partnership and really starting to address awareness at least for that. I know we've got over 80 sessions that are really geared towards students with disabilities and we'll be able to impact over 7,000. We've expanded this year over 7,000 leaders and educators will be with us in New Orleans at the end of May. So pretty excited. That's really a lot of work happening on our team prepping and planning. My full team is presenting every single session back-to-back so we're going to be worn out but it will be a great thing. And I'll take any questions that anybody may have.

SPEAKER: So what resources do we have for children with dyslexia? So they're going to be identified and then what's next? The second part of the question is is there a correlation with dyslexia and fetal alcohol syndrome that Dr. Phil is interested in?

PHIL WILSON: There are visual implications and auditory more than visual. But it's a spectrum

disorder. Just like the autism spectrum it's not every kid that's impacted by prenatal alcohol exposure is going to have.(inaudible).

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yeah. And just to kind of elaborate a little bit. And so one of the things we have to do as a state is have a really clear identification process for dyslexia. So we have an at-risk screener now specifically for dyslexia. Prior to this school systems were using the universal screener which is DIBELS and they were using that. And so if you were well below they were then instructed to do some additional testing to screen for characteristics. We're now matching the law language of at risk and that's what the screener, the language they use is at risk.

And so once I get an at-risk screening all of those students will go to SBLC. And SBLC will do further core assessments. They will decide okay, what is the reason for this at risk. Does this student, is the student still progressing. Are they going back to the school-- back to the educational setting, back to the classroom with additional reading intervention and literacy intervention. Or do we feel like we need to move to a formal evaluation process either for services under a 504 plan or services under an IEP as a specific learning disability with that dyslexia as that area of concern.

One of the things that law and policy talks about is that multisensory language program. So having a very structured phonics-based literacy instruction. So we define that policy. We are still developing a lot of resources. We have a lot of new FAQs coming out. And we have a new guidance document coming out. And we have multiple sessions at teacher leader summit because of an increase in awareness that we could also launch at teacher leader summit and then make more widely state available as well.

SPEAKER: So there really isn't an operational process that every school should follow right now?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yeah, right. They have an identification process, yes. That's outlined.

SPEAKER: The identification, not the next step.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Right. Correct. Yeah, we have way more to do around best practice, instructional

strategy, that kind of thing. Yes. But those kids who have those plans they're getting some very specific accommodations and supports if they're served under a 504 or under an IEP. But yeah, we have more to do.

SPEAKER: I'm just wondering like how many special ed teachers are trained in dyslexia to help these children.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Absolutely.

SPEAKER: We need funding for that to provide these teachers with that training and education to help these kids.

MEREDITH JORDAN: We're on our second cohort of dyslexia therapists. So we are trying to place more of the therapists and practitioners across the state. But to your point next year we're looking at already how can we provide, right-- and I can only take 25 in each of those cohorts. So we're going to have 50 pretty soon that we're placing across the state. But statewide what can we do to build capacity around dyslexia support and best practice strategy. So there's more to do for sure. We're doing some but there's more.

SPEAKER: At least it's on radar.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Absolutely.

PHIL WILSON: Question. What age, how young can the screener-- you know what I'm trying to ask.

MEREDITH JORDAN: So, yeah. So a lot of our pupil appraisal professionals don't recommend that you go much further back than kindergarten. And there are differing opinions on this. There are some who think kindergarten is too soon. Previous policy that we just changed to match law was between kinder and third and most were waiting until first or second grade. So they had some leeway when they were screening.

PHIL WILSON: I was just thinking could we do a lot of screening (inaudible).

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yeah. Because they're still really picking up those foundational literacy skills that early, no, not many would recommend going prior to. Good question.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Ms. Meredith. Are there any public comments? Since there is no public comments the report requires no action and will be placed on file. Would council members like a break?

If no objection the meeting will recess for ten minutes. Hearing none, the meeting is at recess. It is now 2:50. We will reconvene at 3:00.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The next item of business is Elderly Affairs. The chair recognizes Cheri Crain for the report.

EBONY HAVEN: She's not here today and she didn't send a proxy.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The next item of business is the report of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. The chair recognizes Jamar Ennis for the report.

JAMAR ENNIS: Hello, everybody. I'm happy to be here. For those who don't know me my name is Jamar Ennis. I've been working for the Department of Disability Affairs, I started back in 2009 as assistant director. Started as a program coordinator then assistant director. I left during the pandemic to work with the Statewide Independent Living Council and I was offered the opportunity to come back. I'm not as pretty as Bambi. I have some big shoes to fill but I'm here. We do have a report. It is the green sheet of paper. This was done prior to my official start date. There are some slight deviations.

I just want everybody to know that the Landry Administration, we have an open-door policy. If there's any issues, concern. My contact information is on the report. Please feel free to visit me, call me, email me. We want to know about issues, concerns. Especially with this council. We want to do the best job we can to serve our constituents. So I know that we're in the throes of legislative session right now so anything that we can do for issues we're here for that. That is what we signed up for.

And another thing. We're in the midst of planning our GODA conference. We're still trying to determine the day and how long it's going to be. But that's something that we definitely want to do. We want to have a diverse selection of topics, education, accessibility to offer to keep the tradition going of information sharing. We do it around the anniversary of the signing of the ADA is generally how we try to do it. So we certainly, we'll probably be sending out a

request for proposals or request for participation for any of our agencies who want to present we'll be happy to have them.

Also, we have some updates relative to the GACDA Council, which is the Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs. We are taking applications. We have significant reduction from 31 to 9. So we do want to have anyone who's interested in applying to apply. The applications are open. Our next meeting won't happen until June 18th. It's usually the third-- and forgive me. It's only my second week back. It's usually the third week of whatever quarter it is. But certainly we want all interested parties to apply for our council.

If you haven't met our assistant director his name is Liam Doil. He's from Lafayette. He was a former employee of the Lafayette Consolidated Government. So we just look forward to serving and working. I know my report has some other things in there but I just wanted to kind of use this time to kind of just serve as more of an introduction. I look forward to getting to know everyone on this council and working together and doing the work.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any questions?

PHIL WILSON: Jamar, you mentioned you're planning a conference of some sort. One is when would it be and second is who's typically the audience at that conference?

JAMAR ENNIS: Good question. So generally we plan it around the signing of the ADA which is around July 20th. Somewhere around there. We're considering doing a hybrid of in person and virtual as done in the past. And the audience, of course it's free of charge. Anyone can attend. We certainly want as many participants representing the disability community as possible.

PHIL WILSON: I guess my question was really about our staff have a wide variety of things that they do and I don't want to have somebody come do a presentation to physicians if there's no physicians there. If it's mostly self-advocates, parents, professionals, a mix.

CHRISTI GONZALES: This is the same conference that Bambi would put on every summer. Just a continuation--

PHIL WILSON: I have not attended her conference.

JAMAR ENNIS: LSU has represented a few times. And also we may do a temperature check to see what interests our constituents and our community, just to have. We try to do things to what's going on, I guess, this year. We often have themes. For instance, during the pandemic it was mostly pandemic things. Whenever we were kind of easing out that pandemic phase we kind of themed it on pandemic was on the horizon. This is how we're getting back to business. So we're going to put a lot of time and thought into what we're going to do and how we're going to do it. Of course we're open to input from everyone. Glad you're asking questions to try to get us thinking about what topics are going to be presented this year.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any public comments?

MEREDITH JORDAN: I just want to say welcome, Mr. Ennis. Welcome back. And Liam's been coming to our SEAP meetings as well so I still felt the presence and look forward to working alongside you all.

JAMAR ENNIS: Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: I see the information on Mr. Liam but do you have a phone number you can be reached at?

JAMAR ENNIS: Yeah, I do, actually. This report was created before I started. I'll give everybody my cell phone number and my landline. My landline is (225)219-7547. It was also Bambi's old phone number too. Let me give you all my work cell phone number which I don't know by memory yet so please forgive me.

REKEESHA BRANCH: I'm sorry. You have public comment.

SPEAKER: Repeat your phone number.

JAMAR ENNIS: Main line is (225)219-7547.

SPEAKER: Thank you.

JAMAR ENNIS: And I will give you, I will send my cell phone and my fax number. And I'll circulate that to make sure everyone has it.

NICOLE BANKS: Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any public comments?

REKEESHA BRANCH: That was it.

CHRISTI GONZALES: All right. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of the Disability Rights

Louisiana. The chair recognizes Tory Rocca for the report.

TORY ROCCA: My report is the lavender one and given that we are running late I can perhaps just refer you to the report and answer any questions I will be happy to. Here's the report. And if you have any questions about programs or anything we're working on please ask me. I don't have any right now. You can contact me. Yes, Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. The first responders in Jefferson Parish, isn't there some suit?

TORY ROCCA: There might be. I don't think that's one we are working on right now. So other attorneys. It sounds like something a private law firm is doing. A private law firm is suing first responders in Jefferson Parish? As far as I know it's not something we're working on at all. Something a private law firm is working on with a plaintiff. We would generally not be involved in that.

JILL HANO: It was the one I thought I heard you and Julie talking about it in January.

TORY ROCCA: I will get with our legal director and ask her if we're doing anything regarding that and I will get back to you with an email.

JILL HANO: Cool.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any public comments?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No public comments.

JILL HANO: It looks like a first responder training I'm talking about.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from Families Helping Families centers. The chair recognizes Kristen Reed for the report.

KRISTEN REED: I will make mine quick and simple. Mr. Sprinkle could not be here today so I took his place. I am the deputy director at Families Helping Families Crossroads in Alexandria. As you can see we've been very busy this first quarter of this year. All of our centers right now are, as Patti had mentioned, working on our RIWs, our resource information workshops for the region. We also had-- it's IEP time. It's almost the end of school year. They're getting ready for IEPs for next year so we are really working hard on that.

Individually as far as region six is concerned, because that's where I'm from and my pride and joy. But we recently held our RIW. We're actually blessed to have 152 participants. We are focusing on right now our transition fairs in our schools. We partner with the parish school boards to do the transition fairs for graduating seniors, what they're going to do when they get out, where they're going to go. We've been incorporating. I think we're unique in that. We are looking at other things that they need besides just are they going to go to community, are they going to college, are they going to ARCs, where are they going. We are having those conversations about guardianship because there is nothing worse than a parent calling and saying she's left me, I don't know what to do. She's over 18. It's very hard to do those services. So we're having all those conversations in the communities.

We also, we have been very blessed. We just recently had two of our gumbo meets. That's for visual and physically impaired children. We had 110 athletes in Shreveport. We had 166 in the Monroe area. We are going to be doing more throughout this year as far as doing that. But right now one of our main focuses for region six is to get people out of their homes and back in the community. Everything that we're doing right now is we're really promoting in-person base because, you know, it was all fine and good when it worked, and it worked very well, but now some meetings are so important that nothing but face to face works. That gets your point across, the emphasis, what you're talking about. It keeps your attention captured. It keeps their attention captured.

We are working on legislative visits, technical yellow shirt days. Really pushing out the information there because of course we're asking for money because we're Families Helping Families so of course we are looking at that. But also the flexible family funds and the waiver night supports rate. We're going to continue to keep up the good work. Thank all of y'all for your time.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Ms. Reed. Do we have any questions from council members on her report? Any public comments? All right. The report requires no

action and will be placed on file. The next item for business is the report from Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. The chair recognizes Julie Foster Hagan for the report.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Good afternoon, everybody. Our report is, I don't know what color, but it's the book that's in your folder. Yellow. Thank you. And so I do know that we have the first several pages are just different data points that the council has asked us to provide through the years. And I know we have some new council members so I will make an offer if there are any council members who would like for me to take some time to dive into really explain what this data was and where that came from. Ebony, I'm happy if you and your team, if there's members who would like for me to do that or new members I'm happy to do that outside of the council meeting because we could talk for an hour just about the data. So you can continue to scroll.

So I'll just highlight a few things and then again, I'm happy to take some questions. On page seven is where we have some information about employment. We've been doing a lot around employment and day services and the services that are provided there. I'm happy to announce that as of April 1st we now have all of our services, day program and employment services aligned across all of our waivers. And the rates also aligned across all of our waivers. So that includes some previous services that we had. We used to have some things in the supports waiver but then they weren't in the ROW or the new opportunities waiver and so we've been working in the last probably year and a half or two to get those services aligned across all of our waivers. So as of April 1st I'm happy to say that we've got that accomplished.

There's still some misinformation and confusion around that since we just started it so we are planning trainings for our support coordinators and our provider agencies to make sure they all understand the codes that we have, what the service is so that they can help make sure that people receiving services and their families better understand that.

If you keep scrolling I also will just hit a couple of highlights in terms of the American Rescue

Plan Act. You can see all of our activities and as Mindy mentioned earlier we also have the rate methodology. That one is not in this report because we just got the approval. But we'll add that along with updates on there. I did just want to point out a couple of things. So we've been working for a while now with the START team who specializes in helping states do scans and come up with strategies to address gaps in services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health needs. And so we were hopeful that we would have our report by April. However, when they went to do the report they looked at all the surveys, and we blasted out survey opportunities through Developmental Disabilities Council and lots of other avenues. But we wanted to make sure, they wanted to make sure they felt like they didn't hear a lot from people with lived experience themselves. So they heard a lot from families but not a lot from individuals with disabilities. And they also felt like they had not heard from people, didn't have enough representation from people in rural areas. As well as our behavioral health, some of our behavioral health providers. So they came a few weeks ago and we scheduled some additional meetings. We have one more that the team is going to be talking with Meredith and some of her folks at the Department of Education. So we have that. And then once we have those final meetings scheduled we will, we do anticipate getting a report pretty quickly from them which we plan to make public and we plan to use it as a working document for us to then be able to really look at what are some strategic things we know that we can do moving forward.

The other thing I'm really excited about that I'll have more information for, because we're really just starting with this, but we've been talking a lot about technology and adding technology services in our waiver. There's still just a lot of confusion about what we mean when we say technology. And that's not even just in Louisiana. That's nationally, you know, people talk more about telehealth and telehealth is a service. And then assistive technology are more your devices that you can use to help. And then there is kind of more remote supportive and remote monitoring.

And those are different things. So we're really working on trying to make sure we're using consistent language when we're talking about those things so that it can be clear.

But we are really excited because several of the local governing entities agreed to partner with us because a lot of people just said we don't even really know what you're talking about. What equipment are you talking about. What technology are you talking about. I'm not sure if it works for me or not because I don't even know what the possibilities are out there. So some of our team is working with the different local governing entities so that they can have on-site throughout the state at different locations a place where if people are interested in using technology they can go there. They can meet up with members from LATAN who can then do demonstrations of what the different technology is. That way we're not spending money on things that aren't working for people but we're also letting people know what these things are that might be able to help them be more independent in their own home. Or out in the community or at work. So we're really excited about that. We're working now to determine which equipment we're going to have in which areas. And anticipate that to roll out in the next few months.

Early Steps, just to share with you guys, the only legislation that OCDD specifically asked for this session we have the statewide interagency coordinating council, SICC. It's federally required that we have this council and it's to help inform what we do in our Early Steps Program. That SICC council has been under Governor's Office of Disability Affairs for some time now. And when we started looking at, you know, how that functions in other states we learned that we were one of only three states where the agency that operated the program wasn't helping to monitor that coordinating council. So only Louisiana, Alaska and Wyoming. We were the only three states who had the SICC somewhere else. So it is in legislation that it be under the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. We worked with Bambi before she left, and welcome back, Jamar, worked with Bambi before she left and the Governor's Office who were in agreement with just it moving. All

of the SICC members, just like the Developmental Disabilities Council members will be appointed by the governor. So we won't have any input or influence over who those members will be. We will simply just help coordinate meetings and have the staff that are responding to the requests from the SICC if in fact this passes through. It has been presented by Representative Lions, passed the house floor and we'll now be hearing that, I believe, next week on the senate side.

And then finally just want to really do a recognition, and I'm happy, I don't think this was in our report, but I'm happy to share the link. Our OCDD resource center has been working with some other states and national folks to develop some resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs, actually for those providers in the community, your healthcare providers to better understand how to support people with IDD in their practices. But they've also done a lot of work around wellness and we've published several tools and resources for wellness that are geared for families and for providers and direct support professionals. And they've gotten a lot of national attention and a lot of folks that have reviewed these feel like it's very helpful instruments. We are also internally looking at how we make sure our own system has access to all of these tools. So some of those things just came out within the last month. So we will definitely make sure that you guys see all of those resources. And I will stop there but happy to take any questions folks have.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any questions from the council?

LIZ GARY: Hey, Julie. It's Liz Gary. I just have a quick question. And I hope it's quick. The SUN assessments. We're getting a lot of feedback from families stating that they're being told that they're a zero and that they can get all the support they need from EPSDT and I just wanted a little bit more info wondering if the screening has changed. And I know TEFRA did come in which did give a lot more families the opportunity to have the EPSDT. But my concern is is that there are a lot of families who need the support of a waiver for being out in the community or taking their children, for the caregivers to take the

children to therapies and things like that and I do not think that that can be done under EPSDT which is causing more problems for the families.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah. So we had gotten the same concerns, Liz. And we didn't-- well, nothing changed with the SUN screening. There has been some recent clarifications in terms of needing to make sure that we're following the federal mandate which requires that we try or that we employ state plan services before we employ waiver services. But to your point one of the things that we're working on making sure we clarify within the system is there are things that can happen in EPSDT and then things that can't happen in EPSDT. So if what you need is someone in your home providing those personal care services that looks different than your community services. So we are making sure I think that when we clarified we have to use state plan services first. There's some additional clarification we need to do to make sure people understand for EPSDT, PCS and long-term personal care services what those services do and what those services don't do. And so we are working on getting that clarified and that information out to folks.

LIZ GARY: Right. Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Melinda.

MELINDA PERRODIN: Could you explain what is the community life engagement. What does that involve with the day programs?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Sure. Before Covid or before we had this service typically what would happen, not in all cases but in a lot of cases, people would go to a day program and they would stay in the day program most of the day, they may occasionally go out in the community for an activity, but they were primarily receiving services there in a campus, in a facility with other people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. So we developed-- and some providers helped us with this because what they started doing is instead of having people come to a facility they started providing services out in the community. In order to do that you really-- so if you're in a day program location then you would typically only have one staff for eight people. If you were going to do services in the community you need a smaller staff

ratio. So with community life engagement it can be up to one staff person for up to four people. But those services all have to happen in the community. So a lot of providers have just found different locations that they go to in the community. Sometimes providers might have people who go to a site maybe two or three days a week and then they would bill the regular traditional day service and then they might spend two or three other days out in the community with that higher staff ratio. And at the time that they're providing the services in the community, which are your day program services, so you're trying to help people be more independent. You're trying to connect them with the community and all of those things that you do in day program but it just happens out in the community. And so the rate is higher because there's an expectation that you're going to need more staff to be able to provide that service.

PHIL WILSON: Two things I wanted to ask you about. First, is the five parts of the individual supported employment services. It seems-- I'm guessing this might take place through a person-centered plan or something outside of these employment services. But I don't see listed here any sort of evaluation assessment, whatever that might be to determine what the individual's interests might be. We've lived through decades and decades of sheltered workshops and so forth. And even when we started in supported employment everyone started their first job was to be a greeter for someone or whatever. But it doesn't work so well if you're really interested in helping people find work that's meaningful and enjoyable to them. I'll stop there. And I would like to ask you another question if you can respond to that.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Sure. So as it relates to that there are services for assessments and things. There's some discussion through the person-centered planning process, you are correct, where you're talking about what they want. But those five bullets, that's not all the employment services. Those were the ones that were different across the different waivers. So you might have one in one and not in another. And what people were telling us is that it was just really hard to even be able to share. So there are still those

services, by all means, that are helping people, you know, our goal for anyone who wants it is to get them true competitive, integrated employment where they don't really need any of these services. So that's our goal. And to that point, Phil, yes, you have to do assessments and you have to be able to link folks to the right jobs. So what that is just explaining is where we now align them across our waivers. But there are still those other services in place.

PHIL WILSON: I kind of assumed there would be. It sort of jumped out at me. So the second question I have really is more about if we're really trying to do some systems change work here obviously if you're a provider you're going to be incentivized to do those things that are going to capture the most reimbursement, right. So when I see that I can do a one-to-four ratio of doing things like taking four people out into the community to do something together - and I don't know what that dollar rate is that that provider is getting reimbursed for. But let's compare that to if I'm really doing employment I'm probably doing more of a one-to-one ratio, maybe one-to-two from time to time. But if I'm really doing competitive, integrated employment that's kind of a difference there.

So in the past one of the reasons why we have not made as much progress on breaking down some of the sheltered workshops and day hab and all that is that if I'm a provider I can make a lot more money providing group services than I can individual services. So without necessarily asking the dollars and cents on all this, which may still be not firmly established, has that been taken into consideration. And is a provider going to make more money by providing services that are going to result in that individual getting a job or are they going to get more money for taking four individuals out and being reimbursed for all four of those people. Add that up and it's like yeah, I better not do all competitive employment-oriented work or I'm going to go bankrupt.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah, no. So the rate is, I don't have it off the top of my head and I don't have it in here, but we can get it for folks. So one, the rate is much higher. There is the ability to do

one-on-one in like a career planning and some of those kinds of things. So thinking about really trying to get people to the individualized part there is that one-on-one. There was no increase. So the services that are provided in the day program with a one-to-eight staff ratio, there was no rate increase for those at all. The only increases or additional funding we looked at were for those things that are provided in the community and there is an offset if you have smaller groups even more of the one-to-one.

And I don't have a lot of the details because I wasn't involved in this but Rosemary Morales and Charles Ayles in our office, they actually had multiple meetings over the last year and a half or two years with the day program and employment providers across the state as they built the services and as they built the rates to be able to have frank conversations about what you just said. We don't want to incentivize large groups of people going and sitting in a place. We want to incentivize true community. And we have some providers who do very well at doing that so we make sure those folks were already at the table. And then we structured what does the rate and the service definition look like. So yes, they considered all of those things as they moved forward with the system change.

PHIL WILSON: Yeah. Thank you.

JILL HANO: Okay. Any more questions for Julie from the council? Rekeesha, any public comment?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No.

JILL HANO: This requires no action. So moving forward this report will be placed on file. The next item of business is the Human Development Center. The chair recognizes Mr. Phil for your report.

PHIL WILSON: Thank you very much. I wish I had a short report but it's actually going to be about two hours. No, following the lead of two to three people before me. I think our information is in here. I did talk a lot about FASD earlier. But we are doing lots of other things at the Human Development Center and I encourage you to look at our report. And if you think we're not doing enough of something or we're doing something that you really think is great please give us some feedback. Give me some feedback so I can give our

staff feedback. But otherwise like Tory said, it's in here. I'm here to answer any questions you might have. I'm afraid if I take more than ten more seconds there could be a mutiny.

JILL HANO: Okay. Any questions? Everyone's hands goes up at once. Thank you, Dr. Wilson. No council questions? No public, Rekeesha?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No ma'am.

JILL HANO: Okay. At this time we will have public comments. Rekeesha.

LAUREN WOMACK: I have one thing real quick. We can talk about it next time or maybe people text. We had a lot of people interested in working on a transition guide. So I'll send out some things and staff can send it out. And then maybe next time we can talk about what we want to do. I don't know if I need to make a motion.

EBONY HAVEN: I think whenever we are creating the solicitation for proposals we can get those ideas from you and make sure that information is included so whatever contractors are interested in applying for it they know specifically what the council wants.

PHIL WILSON: Can I ask a quick question. When do those solicitations go out?

EBONY HAVEN: So after today we have to put the plan out for a 45-day public comment period. After that time then we'll be able to move forward with the SOP.

PHIL WILSON: Got you.

JILL HANO: Okay. So no comments in the chat. Thank you for your comments, questions. At this time, Ebony, any announcements?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. Council members just please don't forget that your financial disclosure forms are due May 15th. And for any new members that have not been senate confirmed I know that Marie Lively, and I can't remember what committee she's on, but she's with the senate. She's been sending out information to make sure you fill out your questionnaires and your background checks. So if you haven't done that please do that. Get the questionnaire notarized and submitted to senate so you can be confirmed. We've gotten word that the session will probably end early because they're looking at doing a constitutional session. So

we want to make sure that we get those documents in to senate so you all can be confirmed. That's for new members.

And then our bylaws chair has asked me, I know some of the members weren't here for the January meeting because of the ice situation, so if anybody is interested in volunteering for the bylaws committee you can let me know and I'll let Christi know. Is anybody else interested? I think we only have four members right now. So if you're interested.

ERICK TAYLOR: Am I on it?

EBONY HAVEN: No, Erick. But if you're interested you can definitely be added.

JILL HANO: Point of clarity or question. When I was chair of the membership committee I thought like I appointed the volunteers.

EBONY HAVEN: Christi, the chair, she makes all the appointments.

JILL HANO: Okay. Cool. So I got Nicole Banks and Erick Taylor.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Tony Piontek volunteered as well. Ms. Melinda Perrodin, Nicole Banks and Angela Harmon, they all just volunteered.

JILL HANO: Oh, Angela, I definitely did forget you. All right. I can make motions, right?

EBONY HAVEN: I'm going to refer to the Parliamentarian. It was less than 12, right, Nicole?

NICOLE LEARSON: Correct.

EBONY HAVEN: We're at ten so you're good, Jill.

JILL HANO: Going once. Going twice. All right. Okay. Thank you to all. Any other announcements, Ebony?

EBONY HAVEN: No, just that the next council meeting is July 17th and 18th. The same days except 17th and 18th in July.

JILL HANO: So with that said..

EBONY HAVEN: Jill, I do have one more thing. If everybody could please look in the back of your packets there are surveys. The council staff and I work really hard to make sure these meetings run very smoothly but if you notice anything that we could do better please let us know. And that's food and anything that you can think of.

HANNAH JENKINS: We know you're all going to say

it's cold.

JILL HANO: Y'all, I'm not trying to prolong this.

SPEAKER: Actually, it just came out today we have a yellow shirt day here Tuesday. I believe the call is 8:30. So check your emails everybody. It's in your email. House appropriations at the capitol. All the details are in there. It's the (inaudible) budget and we need that money added in. We need to make sure and show up. Know what the ask is and all that. We need the funding. We just show up and show out in yellow shirts. Hope to see everybody there.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Mary has her hand raised.

JILL HANO: Yes, Ms. Mary.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: About the yellow shirt day. What day is that again?

SPEAKER: It's Tuesday. This coming Tuesday at 8:30.

MARY FRANCES AVERA: Okay. Thank you.

JILL HANO: So anymore comments, questions, concerns? Okay. Hearing none, if there is no objection we will convene this quarterly meeting of the DD Council. Hearing no objection, this meeting is now adjourned.