

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting
July 18th, 2024

CHRISTI GONZALES: Good morning, everyone. The quarterly meeting of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council will come to order. I appreciate everyone coming today especially with this weather that we're having, off and on crazy weather. Ms. Ebony Haven, could you please call role for attendance.

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

CHERIE ADULI: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nicole Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm here.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: 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. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nguyen

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Piontek. Ms. Richard. Mr.

Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Stewart. 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. Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: And Ms. Gonzales.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: You have a quorum.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Ebony. At this time we will have Ebony read the mission statement and ground rules and virtual protocol.

EBONY HAVEN: So the mission statement for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council is to increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council's ground rules are members must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Be respectful of each other's opinions. Break for ten minutes every one and a half hours. Discuss council business in a responsible manner. Except as necessary restrict the use of electronic communication i.e. texting during council and committee meetings. Silence or turn off all cell phones. Be on time for meetings. No alphabets. And side conversations are kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand. And Christi, I gave you a copy for the protocols.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes, thank you, Ebony. I will now read the virtual protocols. Before we get started I just want to remind you all 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 are 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 muted.

Also, the Q and A is only to be used by those needing an ADA accommodation to participate in the meeting. Public comment will not be accepted by the Q and A 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 of 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. Thank you.

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

The next item of business is the chair's report. Good morning, everybody. The Executive Committee met yesterday and has three recommendations to present to the council. The committee discussed the five-year state plan development process for our next five-year plan, 27 to 31. Which will include an 18-month research and planning process. Based on guidance from the Informational and Technical Assistance Centers for Councils on Developmental Disabilities, ITAC, staff created a very detailed schedule which includes the following. Drafting and approving an updated mission statement and position papers as well as creating new

position papers if the council feels the need. The standing committees offering concepts to be considered for inclusion in the new five-year plan. Establishing and appointing a five-year planning committee. Hosting at least two public forums and collecting data from a public survey. Collaborating with the DD network. As well as developing the goals, objectives, implementation strategies and draft the five-year plan. Public comment period and lastly final approval by the council. Therefore the committee has this recommendation to offer for the council's consideration. Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: The draft of the five-year plan is included in your packet. It is on the left side of your packet. It's called FY27 through 31 five-year state plan development process. And the Executive Committee reviewed...

STEPHANIE CARMONA: It's behind the status report.

EBONY HAVEN: It was sent in the email that I sent on July 3rd. The process was sent in that email as well so if you all, the Executive Committee, this is the recommendation that they have for that planning development process, they recommend that you approve. I don't know if you want to take it from here, Christi. So the council is about to embark on a very long research and planning process. Christi kind of highlighted what you all will be doing, updating the mission statements and the position papers. We'll host public forums. I'm really excited because the DD network is starting to collaborate again so I'm really looking forward to the collaboration that we'll have in those public forums. We're going to be sending out public input surveys to develop the concepts that you guys will use to develop your goals and objectives for the next five-year plan. So this is the detailed process that the staff and I have come up with for you guys. It goes from today where you guys will approve the development process all the way to January 2026 where you guys will actually ratify the five-year plan and approve the position papers. So it goes all the way through January 2026 so that we can have the submission to ACL on time.

NICOLE BANKS: I approve it.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Motion to approve it from

Nicole.

EBONY HAVEN: Nicole, the motion came from the Executive Committee yesterday.

NICOLE BANKS: Oh, okay.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So it is moved to approve the drafted five-year plan development process. Because the motion is coming from the committee it does not require a second. Is there any other discussion from council members? Any public comment? Jill.

JILL HANO: Christi, how many months did you say this plan will take to develop? Like 18, 15? You said a number.

EBONY HAVEN: ITAC recommends 12 to 18 months that councils start to research and do the development of their state plan. Jill, we extended the time to the 18 months because we wanted to make sure we had enough time.

JILL HANO: Okay. All right, cool. Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Dr. Phil.

PHIL WILSON: Just had a question. When this plan is adopted, approved, whatever, will the council have the opportunity to create or assign ad hoc groups? This looks like a very (inaudible) plan and a lot. I worry about kind of missing timelines if you don't have-- some of those things might really get bogged down. I don't know, once adopted, if it turns out to be necessary.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah, in here, Phil, like where it says when those are just projections and we're hoping to get things done by then but things can happen. We don't know what the next session holds. It is Stephanie and I's goal to have more than two public forums. They only held two, one in Shreveport, one in Baton Rouge during the last five-year development planning process. It's our goal to hold more than that. But again, we don't know what the session is going to hold next year. What the council's advocacy agenda items are going to be. So these are all subject to change, which is why that star is there. But yes, just to answer your question, we are planning to establish the ad hoc committee in April 2025 and then they are going to meet for multiple times. They're going to meet multiple times. If you look at number 12 the development of goals, objectives, implementation

strategies and completion of the draft five-year plan. Stephanie and I have already sort of estimated that that planning ad hoc committee will at least have to meet...

STEPHANIE CARMONA: At least twice.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. And full day meetings.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Either two days in a row or broken up if we need a break. But the least is probably going to be two times. And the reason that we picked August is because they're not going to be established until April and then we have to put things out for public comment a little bit but then also do our research. So we wanted to make sure that the staff had the research available for the ad hoc committee. So we say August but it could be the end of July to August. As long as it's pretty much done before that October, that next quarterly meeting. That's why there's nothing for the October just in case we need that little bit of wiggle room.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Jill.

JILL HANO: When is this five-year plan, thinking really ahead, when is this due to the feds?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: So it's due-- like we're going to, or y'all, the council, will approve it in January. Just kind of like as a general rule-- this is my first five-year plan that I've done but I've done the annual updates and, for example, I've already updated our annual plan for next year for 2026 as a mock one just kind of estimating what it is that we're going to do. So that has already been done. So I would assume that after it is ratified by the council in January it would be sent off to the feds, ACL, all that for approval before this meeting at that time if that makes sense. I don't know if it's a little bit of a longer period. Like I said, this would be my first five-year plan that I am looking into that federal database thing so I don't know if they need more time to look over that since it is a larger plan than just our annual work plan. So I'm not sure when that will open Jill, but I hope that kind of answered your question.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Lauren.

LAUREN WOMACK: I guess my question or statement is to Phil and Tory. Is there a way that the committees could maybe get y'all's five-year plans? We could

maybe, I know y'all are busy, but that way we could compare them, go through maybe highlights and things similar that we have so we can help each other.

PHIL WILSON: So that's a great question.

EBONY HAVEN: We can answer, Phil. So if you look at number 11, network collaboration meeting. The DD network, we have decided to meet quarterly. We have that in July, but again, the date could change. But we do plan to meet with DRLA and the Human Development Center to see where we can collaborate, where they're going to work. Maybe we don't need to do that same work so there's not duplication so we're reaching as many families and individuals with developmental disabilities as possible. So there is a plan for us to have a collaboration meeting with the DD network.

LAUREN WOMACK: But just for us, the knowledge to have a copy of the plan.

PHIL WILSON: Can I respond? We will share anything, it is a public document, but it won't be apples to apples at all. And DRLA's plan is not even a five year. It's a different timeframe, right. Yours is coming up, right?

TORY ROCCA: Annually we put out goals and priorities for public comments. We don't necessarily do a five-year plan. I don't recall having been a five-year planning process. But what we do is every year we are required to put out goals and priorities for public comment so we do that on an annual basis. And those are all public. They're out for comment right now actually.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I was just also going to say that this development process right here is more for the council. We have two other processes that we're also following that is more for us like staff of how we are going to go about things. So this isn't like a completely fully detailed of exactly what we're doing because, I mean, yes, it says oh, we're going to research this, that kind of thing, but I didn't include things that really it was more of on our end just because I didn't want this big, long document. But just know that this, the overall outcomes of those months and really the things that the council will either need to be voting on, need their input. And just kind of know that or know something that we've

done that report is coming to them. Does that make sense? So there is a little bit more to what the planning is just kind of on our side that's not in this also.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions or comments? Mr. Erick.

ERICK TAYLOR: So basically y'all saying the plan it's approved to the board?

EBONY HAVEN: The Executive Committee approved it yesterday and yes, they are recommending that the full council approve it.

JILL HANO: For clarity, Mr. Taylor, all we approved is the timeline of when we were going to get everything done.

ERICK TAYLOR: So you're saying for clarity all you're doing is saying this is the time we want everything done to get the ball rolling?

CHRISTI GONZALES: The draft process, yes.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any more public comment? All right. You ready for the question? The question is on the approval of the drafted five-year plan development process. We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to accept the drafted five-year plan development process when asked your name say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony, please call the roll.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Ennis, yes. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hagan, yes. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jordan, yes. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Mr. Piontek. Ms. Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Stewart. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, yes. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Womack, yes. Eighteen yeas, zero nays.

CHRISTI GONZALES: All right. The yeases have it and the motion is adopted.

JILL HANO: I think we just made history y'all.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The committee also discussed the submitted proposals for activity 2.13 and 3.1.5 in the new fiscal year 2025 action plan. The council only received one proposal for activity 2.1.3 training for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on how to navigate the developmental disability behavioral health and Medicaid managed care organization system. The proposal was well written and therefore the committee has this recommendation to offer for the council's consideration. Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: That's the motion.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So it is moved to accept the approval of the Arc of Louisiana's proposal for activity 2.1.3. And because it is coming from a committee it does not require a second. Are there any discussions from council members? Any public comment?

LAUREN WOMACK: What you and I had talked about

about making sure that when we negotiate in the contract that we have primary access to put it on our website first.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yeah, I think we had talked to Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: So that will be in the negotiating process when we do the contracts, Lauren. And we'll make sure that we make it known that the council wants those materials to be theirs. And Kelly is here from the Arc that submitted the proposal. They have always been very forthcoming and open to giving us documents and making sure that we have them.

LAUREN WOMACK: Right, that we have access. But I just want to make sure that if we are paying for it so in fact it is our, it should be primarily on our website and maybe a link to the Arc. That's just my opinion.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah, and anytime you buy something, anytime you have a contract with someone it belongs to you guys. It actually doesn't belong to us. We can use the material because we developed it but it belongs to the DD Council. But just to be clear are you saying that you just want a link to go to the Arc. You don't want us to have an actual page like we do for SDM?

LAUREN WOMACK: That would be something the Executive Council.

CHRISTI GONZALES: For us to access the toolkit on our site and your site.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah, we actually don't put any materials on our website until the contract's over. So you have access to it first because monthly you're getting all of these documents. You have all the power points, you have all of the factsheets, everything. So you guys have access to it first and then not until the last month of the contract do we actually put it on our website. Honestly, it's because if they have the power points they might not come to the training.

PHIL WILSON: I just will say it's a little complicated for us because actually the university would require that if our faculty or staff made something it actually belongs to the university unless the contract explicitly states that. We always would put it, either link it to the other place or put it on ours. Either way. But if we can make sure that

wording gets decided within the contract. But I will say that from the university's point of view they will, not necessarily HDC, but the university would prefer it go on our website and be linked to your website. You own all the materials per say. So if we had to come up with some legalese way of saying it I think that's something we can do in the contract negotiation part.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions? Public comment? Everyone's ready for the question. So the question is on accepting the approval for the Arc of Louisiana's proposal for activity 2.1.3. We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to accept this proposal when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain.

Ms. Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Ennis, yes. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms.

Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jordan, yes. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Mr. Piontek. Ms.

Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Stewart. Mr.

Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, yes. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Womack, yes. Eighteen yeas, zero nays.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So the yeases have it and the motion is adopted for the proposal.

On the next one the council received two proposals to consider for activity 3.1.5 and it was for the training of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities on transitioning to adulthood to include but not limited to financial literacy, health, waivers, employment and voting. After consideration of both proposals the committee felt that Team Dynamics had the better project summary and were planning to meet the goals for the activity and therefore the committee has this recommendation to offer for the council's consideration. So the Executive Committee recommends approval of Team Dynamics' proposal for activity 3.1.5. Because the motion is coming from a committee it does not require a second. Is there any discussion from council members? Is there any public comment? Are you ready for the question? The question is on recommending the approval of Team Dynamics' proposal for activity 3.1.5. We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to accept its approval when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Ennis, yes. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hagan, yes. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms.

Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jordan, yes. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Mr. Piontek. Ms.

Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Stewart. Mr.

Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, yes. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Womack, yes. That's 18 years, 0
days.

CHRISTI GONZALES: All right. The yeses have it
and the motion is adopted. Thank you, everyone.

Lastly, the committee conducted the first
quarterly evaluation for our new executive director.
According to the council bylaws the Executive Committee
has to perform an evaluation on a newly hired ED every
quarter. The full council will evaluate the executive
director at the April 2025 meeting which is her
anniversary date. Since I was informed by ITAC that
council staff should not be involved with collecting
the data for the evaluation staff assisted in creating

an anonymous survey in Survey Monkey and a compilation of the results was sent directly to me. The survey results were very positive feedback including how approachable and relatable the ED is. She is available to help to provide assistance at all times and how the council is in compliance with the state plan mandates including advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

There was one area of improvement. The committee would like to have a council retreat to get to know one another better so we can work collectively as a team and unit. We will work better together if we build stronger relationships with one another. So the executive director and council staff will look into hosting a council retreat in the near future.

I would also like to add that I will be attending the CAPE Youth for the Department of Labor. They are doing a workgroup. I will be serving on the workgroup. The workgroup is for children with disabilities going into the workforce, employment sector. So the transitioning component as well. So I'll be serving on that work board for the next two years. And I think Ms. Julie Hagan as well. And that's it.

EBONY HAVEN: I don't know if you wanted to mention about what you told me yesterday about the teachers, the certified teachers.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The Arc. I spoke with the CEO of Arc at a women's retreat and we spoke about during the summer teachers would like to become workers for their program personnel for the students that they have for the summer. But we do have to speak about the conditions because going through all the requirements and everything. So I do have to set up a meeting with her because many teachers have inquired about it but they don't look at the process because there is a lot of process. So we feel that having teachers who are already certified and having the background, especially in special education, would benefit their constituents especially during the summer months and being able to help those in need on a more larger scale especially during summer. So I am due to give her a call this week or next week and schedule a meeting with her and see what we can do from there. Thank you for the reminder.

Thank you, everybody. The next item of business is the executive director's report. Ms. Ebony Haven, would you please give us that report.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. If you guys look in your packets on the right side it's the gray report. So I'm just going to highlight a couple of things. For the annual report or the action plan updates to the council's 2026 state plan were submitted to the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities on June 21st. And these were minor updates on our council membership and changes for our designated state agency, which is the Louisiana Department of Health, due to the changes in administration. So we had to go in and update that information. And we actually received approval, when did we receive approval like two weeks ago, maybe about two weeks ago for those minor updates. And then we will be updating our FY25 action plan based on the approved plan that you guys approved and that update will be due August 15th. So we should have approval before the next quarterly meeting and I will be reporting out on that.

Membership update. More detailed information is in the report but as I mentioned earlier this quarter we did have four members that were not confirmed by the senate and the council has sent out advertisements for council membership on our list serve and on our social media to fill those vacancies. The deadline to apply for council consideration is July 26. So if you know anybody that's interested in applying please encourage them to do so.

Just our legislative update. We sent out an LADDC news on June 17th to recap the session. The council was successful in two of our advocacy agenda items including the additional 500,000-dollars for our Families Helping Families centers. And we did receive the \$10.1-million needed to increase the night rate to match the day rate in the intellectual and developmental disability waivers.

There is also a link in my report and in the status report if you're interested in viewing all the bills that the council tracked during the 2024 session. You can look at that. We tracked a bunch of bills, of course. They all have different priorities. The council's advocacy agenda is priority one. And then we

had some bills that we were tracking which were priority two bills and you can kind of go in that bill tracking and see the outcomes for those bills as well.

The next three updates I am really kind of excited about. The Louisiana DD network has rekindled our relationship, I'm very excited about that, with the hiring of DRLA or Disability Rights Louisiana's new executive director Ms. Rainy Thompson. We all had a meeting in May where we got acquainted and we decided that the DD network in Louisiana should revive our relationship and start collaborating again. So we're going to start meeting quarterly. Our next quarterly meeting is September 11th in New Orleans. So I'm really excited about that collaboration. Because like I said earlier, it will play an important role in our five-year planning development process.

The next exciting change I am hoping that you guys can all help me welcome Mr. Brenton Andrus to his new position as deputy director. Brenton has been with the council for nine years now. He's been dedicated to LaCAN, advocacy and just making sure that the council runs well. He is probably the person with the most historical knowledge that we have on staff so I am very happy to have him in the deputy director position.

And then the last update I wanted to mention was our council re-branding. I don't know if you guys noticed but we got some council swag that we gave you guys. Some new notebooks, some new bags, some new pens. The council approved the website overhaul and the re-branding for the FY25 action plan. And on July 1st the council released phase one of the council's re-branding, our new logo and our new bright colors. And I hope you guys will help me in giving a shoutout to our program monitor Hannah Jenkins. Keep an eye on social media because she has some really great things coming out for like the holiday seasons. She did an amazing job with the logo and I'm just really excited about all the new materials, all the re-branding, the website overhaul where we're going to try to make things more accessible with easy read materials especially for our important documents like our bylaws and our action plan and a couple of other documents on the website. So that's my report. I'm happy to take any questions, Christi.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Jill.

JILL HANO: I saw it in here but is there anything-- Lauren, you can actually go because I want to look for what I want to say.

LAUREN WOMACK: It was just a question for staff. Will the council or the public have opportunity to give any input into the website or they're just going to make it for us? We just sign a contract and they run with it kind of thing?

EBONY HAVEN: We are in a contract with the people that host our website right now, Gator Works. But Stephanie and I were talking, whenever we do the overhaul for the easy read materials we're going to make sure that we form some type of workgroup to help us review those materials to make sure that they are easy to read and they are accessible. And yeah, we are going to have I guess individuals test out the website before it goes live to make sure that things are user-friendly and make sure that it just makes sense to everybody. So yeah, we are planning to do like a small workgroup, Lauren.

LAUREN WOMACK: I have some contacts at Affiliated Blind and they may want to, you know, before they finalize it maybe let them go through. And they actually teach people that are going blind how to use the websites and things like that. I know Lighthouse as well.

EBONY HAVEN: Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions? Jill.

JILL HANO: On the last page, Act 491, can we advocate against this or what can we do to stop this? This is not how we operate.

EBONY HAVEN: So Jill, are you referring to the bill that passed that allows the governor to appoint chairs to boards and commissions?

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: So we can't do anything to combat it. The bill passed. The good news is he has to use the membership that is currently on the council if that makes sense.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I mean, our only course of action once it passes is you can try to get some sort of amendment done.

JILL HANO: I don't know how to do that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I mean, (inaudible) agenda item if that is something that the council would want to try to do. I will say the likelihood of removing that from law is pretty low, but you can potentially look at a carve-out for certain entities. But it passed with a decent amount of support.

EBONY HAVEN: And I will say this, I'll add this, Jill. In the bill it says that he may. It doesn't say that he shall. It could be an instance where he doesn't choose to appoint the officers and the chairperson for the DD Council.

JILL HANO: Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: He hasn't yet. I think he does have till August. It's somewhere in the bill where there is a deadline for him to make those changes. And so I'm optimistic that the council won't be one of the boards or commissions that he chooses to appoint.

JILL HANO: How many boards and commissions do we have, Bambi?

EBONY HAVEN: In the State of Louisiana we have a lot, Jill. I don't even know how many.

CHRISTI GONZALES: It's 100 something.

JILL HANO: You would think he had bigger fish to fry.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions or comments? The report requires no action and it will be placed on file. The next item of business is the budget report. The chair recognizes Ms. Ebony Haven for the report.

EBONY HAVEN: So the DD Council operates on the federal fiscal year which is October 1st through September 2nd. However, our budget goes through our designated state agency which is the Louisiana Department of Health. So we have to run our budget on the state fiscal year which is July through July 1st to June 30th. So the state fiscal year just ended on June 30th and that's how these budget reports work. And similar to the local governing entities when this report was ran we hadn't gotten all of our June invoices. We hadn't gotten I guess all of our expenses processed. So some of the percentages are going to look low, but when we get our final, everything finalized, all of our invoices processed the percentages should go up. So one thing you probably will notice is that for travel we have a lot of money

leftover in travel and that's because we've been able to save money having the meetings here in our office. We haven't had to rent out meeting space at hotels and things like that. And I'm hoping to use the excess money, not this year but next year, since one of the Executive Committee's ideas was to have a council retreat. The staff and I are going to look at having a really nice staff retreat for you guys so you guys can get to know each other, build those relationships and hopefully work together as a unit and a council.

And then the only other thing I think I wanted to make sure I mentioned was for operating services. If you notice from April to this report right here I had to move some money in the equipment rental for the equipment rental. We had some invoices that were not paid for our old machine and so I had to move some of our money. You'll notice if you look at the April report I think I moved some from miscellaneous and from our postage. We had excess money in those categories so I just moved money around there to cover those invoice costs. And I'll have a final like yearend report at our October meeting which will have all of our expenses that were covered for that state fiscal year July to June 30th. And I think that's it. Does anybody have any questions?

PHIL WILSON: Is this for the federal year or the fiscal year?

EBONY HAVEN: The state fiscal year. Our budget runs through LDH.

PHIL WILSON: For the state?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

PHIL WILSON: So the balance that's there can be carried forward--

EBONY HAVEN: Into the new year?

PHIL WILSON: No, anything left does it go back to the feds?

EBONY HAVEN: That's something I would have to look into. I don't know if the money just goes back to the feds.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I was going to ask you what is your period of performance on your federal grant?

EBONY HAVEN: The period of performance, we run on the federal--

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right.

EBONY HAVEN: October 1st through September.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. In VR your grant is a one-year grant but if you don't have everything obligated by the end of the year the feds give you a second year. So do you know how many years your federal grant is?

EBONY HAVEN: It's two years.

MELISSA BAYHAM: It should rollover.

EBONY HAVEN: And the great thing about right now since Covid they've been offering no-cost extensions and I do plan to apply for one. I think the deadline is August 23rd. So since we haven't utilized all those funds I am going to apply for the no-cost extension so the council can utilize those funds. Like I said, we can have a council retreat and we can look into doing some other things.

MELISSA BAYHAM: So do you make sure that you spend all your state general funds in the year appropriated?

EBONY HAVEN: So all of our state general funds go to our Families Helping Families and all of that money is spent.

PHIL WILSON: Last thing on no cost-extension. Generally, maybe you ought to talk to your project officer. Generally a no-cost extension the funds have to be used for the purpose they were originally budgeted for so I don't know if you can do a new activity with the no-cost extension.

EBONY HAVEN: We did one last year and it was based on the activities that were continued. So I have to look at the activities that we have that are going to be continuing in the FY25 action plan and see which activities I can include in that application.

PHIL WILSON: I would just suggest to you that maybe have that conversation with your project officer first since he or she may be able to to do it as an exception especially given the newness of everything.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions or comments? The report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is committee reports. Our first report, the Act 378 Subcommittee. The chair recognizes Ms. Bambi Polotzola for the report.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi. Good morning, everyone. Yesterday the Act 378 Subcommittee met and we did not

have any recommendations for the council to consider. We did spend time reviewing fiscal year 24 fourth quarter data for programs within the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Behavioral Health and Aging and Adult Services through the Arc of Louisiana. These reports can be found linked in our committee agenda on the council meeting's web page if you would like to review. We really don't have much to report. Our committee had no recommendations for the council to consider. Based on the data it appears that most of the local governing entities or the LGEs are on target with their expenditures for the individual and family support consumer care resources, supported living and flexible family funds.

We also looked at the SPAS program, the State Personal Assistance Program and which was able to recognize additional unspent dollars in order to serve families who are on the waiting list needing home modifications which was really a good thing. We appreciate them doing that. We received all final fiscal year reports, we will receive all final fiscal year reports in October and at that time we will have a better idea if there's any corrective action that will be needed. But none of the department or the state agency representatives felt corrective actions would be needed and we certainly appreciate the LGEs and their performance. So our meeting was kind of short and brief and that's good.

And also just want to say if anyone is interested in serving on the Act 378 Subcommittee and think they can make the commitment to attend the meetings in person or virtually you certainly can request that from the chairperson for consideration for appointment. And that's it.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Bambi. Any other questions? Comments? Jill.

JILL HANO: Bambi, you said FY23 or 24?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Twenty-four which ended June 30th. They still had some invoices, you know, they haven't finished doing all their books because it's only 18 days past that yearend so by October we'll have everything through that fiscal year that ended June 30th, 2024.

JILL HANO: So are we in fiscal year 2025?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We're now in fiscal year 2025. That started July 1st.

JILL HANO: Weird.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I know. It can be confusing a little bit.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions? This report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee. The chair recognizes committee chair Brooke Stewart for the report.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mike is going to do it. He had to fill in for Brooke yesterday.

MIKE BILLINGS: Good morning. The Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee met yesterday and does not have any recommendations to present to the council. We received a lot of great updates during our meeting from our state agency representatives and staff. During our meeting Julie Foster Hagan with the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities shared a great update on a new access rule that went into effect this month. There's a great power point summary of the conversation linked in our committee agenda on the website. Changes to the rule include payment adequacy and transparency, critical incidents, timeliness to access, quality measure set, fee for service grievance process, Medicaid Advisory Committee and the Beneficiary Advisory Committee. States were given a timeframe of six to eight years depending on the area to come into compliance with this rule. And some states have expressed concern with the timeframe given the changes needed. The changes will also require increased funding. Ms. Hagan also stated the department will be looking at hosting webinars and roadshows to present these changes to the public. Members of the committee expressed the desire to share feedback about the department's progress towards compliance at quarterly meetings, committee meetings.

We also received an update on Families Helping Families of New Orleans. Executive Director Aisha Johnson attended to share updates on the center. A few things mentioned were that the auditors have been engaged timely for fiscal year 24 audit of the center.

All deliverables for FY24 have been met. The center did end the year with a 10,000-dollar deficit but they did see an increase in funding this year. The deficit was related to reduced funding in FY24 and Ms. Johnson is confident the budget for FY25, recently passed by the board, will be balanced. They're working toward increased outreaches, especially in rural areas, such as Plaquemines Parish. Staff have been going out into the communities rather than waiting at the office for families to seek help.

Ms. Johnson did note concerns of the state Department of Education contract in FY25. All centers contracts are currently in limbo. Ms. Johnson affirmed that a contingency budget is in place should this contract be cut or reduced to prevent the center from having a deficit in FY25. She also expressed concerns that layoffs were happening at the center. Ms. Johnson stated this was a false rumor. There are no plans to lay off staff. The assistant director is planning to leave the center and hours may be reduced for education staff should the DOE contract be reduced or cut.

We also discussed contractual activities under goals one and two in our plan and we encourage you to review the status of planned activities document in your meeting packet for updates on those initiatives. And that is all we have.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. Is there any comments, council comments? Any public comments? This report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of the Education and Employment Committee. The chair recognizes Ms. Renoda Washington for the report.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Good morning, everyone. 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 the update on LRS. LRS state plan was provisionally approved because there are not enough people on the council due to administration changes. Planning has begun for preemployment transition services for the 2025/2026 school year. There is currently a reapplication process for vendors in order to have better consistency

of services statewide. Some other efforts include a better referral form for Office of Behavioral Health and the Office of Workforce Development is currently working with other state programs such as Department of Children and Family Services. The collaboration efforts are to have a seamless system through the state. Lastly, LRS is having a shift for procedure for many things that were once happening at the regional level are now going to happen at the state office allowing field staff to be in the building.

We then received an LDOE update from Meredith Jordan. Meredith gave an update on the special education monitoring audit and a detailed audit timeline will be available at the Special Education Advisory Panel on July 31st and presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in August. In June LDOE attended a policy writing seminar and asked for a national office of special education programs funded technical assistance center to review the policy and provide feedback. This feedback is what was used to guide the recommendations for policy changes. The first being the addition of six new on-site monitoring positions doubling the number of people who will be able to do on-site monitoring.

New education legislation will require a number of bulletins to be updated to reflect the legislation. The bulletins will go to SEAP in July for their enforcement before they are sent to BESE for approval. SEAP membership received about 100 applicants. The Membership Committee screened and interviewed applicants. The Next SEAP meeting is July 31st. Lastly, Families Helping Families centers submitted proposals for funding to LDOE with decisions being made by the end of the month. We received updates on contractual activities in goal three of the council's action plan. I encourage you all to review the status update 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 comments or questions? This report requires no action and will be placed on file. I know we're a little early. It's 9:46. If there is no objection the meeting will recess for about 15 minutes. Hearing

none, the meeting is at recess.

{Recess}

CHRISTI GONZALES: The next item of business is the report of the Bylaws Committee. The chair recognizes Jill Hano to give the report.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Christi. Good morning, y'all. Y'all should have the bylaws in y'all's packet. Our committee meet on June 1st-- no, I'm sorry. June 7th and then again on July 1st to make recommendations to change the bylaws. And then council staff, we had some recommendations from our staff that we got from ITAC which is the feds. So during the June 7th meeting it was meant to be one meeting but we couldn't get through it so we had to schedule a second meeting. And in between those meetings I asked Ebony if we could separate the bylaws from our policy procedures to make it two documents. And the committee will make recommendations to the policies and procedures for our next meeting, which is October 24. And I didn't know if we needed to make a new committee or how that went, Ebony?

EBONY HAVEN: So Nicole is saying you can use the same members from the bylaws committee, Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. And then we also included our recommendations from our council staff and our Parliamentarian Nicole Learson. So now we're going to go over some, I'm going to highlight some major changes, not verbatim, but again, these changes are in a hard copy in your packet.

But article six is our council membership. We have agency reps that are not in our DD Act so we added the Office of Aging and Adult Services, OCDD and Governor's Office of Disability Affairs to be stated as our membership. Our virtual protocols were added. We added chair limitations to elected chair terms. We changed some language on unexpired membership terms for members filling unexpired members. Y'all, I'm sorry, I'm bad at this. Unexpired membership terms. And we changed it from less than 18 months to less than 12 months. And then we made changes to article five. Our officers and duties of officers which y'all can read. Section six. We also changed sections to add or delete whatever. So section six is now meetings and attendance. And the new section four of article six we

added some stricter rules for people not there.

EBONY HAVEN: Absences.

JILL HANO: Thank you because it was not going to come out like that. Some stuff in our bylaws we thought would be added to procedures. So like we removed a reimbursement section and then we have a new section for the Executive Committee because like I said, most of this is just moving around. Then committees is our new article eight. And then per ITAC I think we have to review our bylaws once a year so we added a section for that and that is all I have. Again, everything is-- we also updated our table of contents since we moved everything around. So everything's in your packet. And I think that is it. Again, we are going to review the procedures before our October quarterly meeting. And that should be it unless Ebony or Nicole Learson have anything to add that I probably missed.

EBONY HAVEN: I don't have anything to add. I think Jill did a great job. If you guys have any questions I'm happy to answer or Jill.

JILL HANO: So that's my report and I'll turn it over. Unless y'all have any questions I'll turn it over back to Christi.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So in the review of the bylaws, just curious, you didn't mention this but just wondered has there ever been a conversation around the months that we have the council meeting being October, January, April and July? I say that for those of us that have reports on quarterly data. It feels like we're always saying but that's not the end of the quarter because of when the meetings are held. I just wonder if that would be the appropriate time. I know at one point it was difficult to change them because we had to get the hotel rooms and those kinds of things. But just curious if there has been any conversation around that or if there could be any consideration to thinking about the months that we hold them.

JILL HANO: I don't know if that's a federal thing, but I know the schedule in part we're going to put in our procedures which is our meeting that we'll hold this quarter. But that's all I have for you. That's me on my knowledge.

NICOLE BANKS: I did bring this up because we are

always, since I've been sitting on the council since 2020 we've always had this issue. So it was a suggestion that we may move it back a month because that would make more sense. Like it would make more sense to move all the meetings back one month so that everybody reports will come in on the time designated and we won't hear we're waiting on this report, we're always waiting on this. A whole other three months before we actually get to look at the data.

SPEAKER: We're always playing catch up.

NICOLE BANKS: Literally we've been playing catch up forever. So that was a suggestion just so that we can kind of combat this catch-up thing.

PHIL WILSON: Just piggybacking, I agree with everything that's been said. And I probably have my annual report for the program is always due on July 30th so it's bad timing, this meeting is bad timing for me. This year particularly bad timing because this year I have several reports at the end of July. So I would be very happy to see it moved for both reasons. And then I do have another question.

EBONY HAVEN: Can I make a comment? I think that, and Brenton and I just discussed it, it's always been October. I think it's because they follow the federal fiscal year. So there are certain things that have to be approved by the council at certain times in order for us to get it submitted to our federal partners in a timely manner. I mean, that's not to say that we can't look at other dates that we can have the council meetings, but I think that is why they chose the October, January, April and July dates because of the federal fiscal year. I know we run on that state fiscal year like most of our agencies run on that state fiscal year but we run on that federal fiscal year.

PHIL WILSON: Yeah, we have grants on federal fiscal year as well as state and the quarters are the same they just start and end at a different point. Quarter one is federal fiscal year, quarter two in state year. They're the same if that makes sense. Just another number in a rotation.

ANGELA HARMON: I guess my thought process is moving back another month that May kids are getting out of school. Most of us are parents or teachers. So then you can't really, if you move back to November now

you're looking at the holidays. So I don't know that people are busy in November pushing it back a month may not necessarily work as well.

BRENTON ANDRUS: My comment was along the same lines of Angela's. So one of the things that has been helpful in the past is we had that month and that timeframe. It's always the third Wednesday and Thursday of the month. So if we do move it you're going to run in Thanksgiving in November. If we're looking at February you might run into Mardi Gras and so then you might not have the opportunity--

JILL HANO: What Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: What did you say, Jill? Oh, I'm not necessarily opposed to picking different months, I just if you do move it back a month, because you can't move it up a month because that will still mess up your report even more so, if you move it back a month there are some timeframes where you're going to start running into maybe some holidays whether Louisiana specific or not. And so that might make it more difficult for you guys to have a set schedule like we do currently of the third week. So you might, if you do decide to change it, look at maybe setting, you know, the first or second week of whatever that month is because generally you might not run into Mardi Gras timeframes in February or Thanksgiving in November. That might be something to consider if you're looking at different months. Because I don't know that you really have other options other than going November, February, May and then August.

EBONY HAVEN: I would just add just to what Brenton is saying. When you're thinking about the schedule that the council follows you guys set your advocacy agenda in October and so as staff we need time to plan for that agenda. We have to make factsheets. We have to train the LaCAN leaders on how to present the information to legislators and their LaCAN members. So I agree with Brenton, like you guys need to consider this very carefully because there are certain things that we do in certain time periods. Like we start the roundtables after the January meeting. So we're trying to get those roundtables in in February, March before the session starts. So it's a lot to consider whenever you're thinking about moving things back a month. I

would just tell you guys to consider it very carefully.

LAUREN WOMACK: Could one of the state agencies give us like the dates of their reporting so the Bylaws Committee would have the months when we're putting all these things into consideration if someone isn't there to let us know, like you said, is it always due--

PHIL WILSON: That one particular grant is, but it's a big lift, a lot of reporting. Nothing would accommodate the schedules of our reporting.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: And for us we just are doing reports for the council so we could do them, you know, as needed. And I guess that was going to be part of what I said, if it is difficult understanding those things, and I know, Nicole, like you said it might be that you're looking at older data but could we-- like right now January we're trying to look at October, November, December so we needed to keep it at January. Could we in January look at July, August, September data and so there is that three-month delay but then you're at least getting the-- could you guys as y'all are looking at process, and it sounds like there's valid reasons why we might need to keep them, I do think, Brenton, we could move them up a month if you're looking at the former data too. But if we do have quarterly data that we collect that we would report. So it would need to be that January, March, April, May, June.

JILL HANO: Okay. So for clarity, and Julie that was a great question, but like we're, and I don't know if this is appropriate or not, but in the meeting are these proposed changes we didn't even discuss our calendar. So we're going to discuss the calendar in our next ad hoc committee meetings. So these are the proposed changes and I think that right now we're just making a motion on these proposed changes because we didn't even, the calendar was not in this discussion. So the motion that-- I want to make a motion to accept-- and the calendar isn't germane to the motion to approve the bylaws. Is that correct or am I-- I don't know what's going on, y'all.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Jill, just really quickly. The part that they're talking about with the dates is on page six of your packet. I know you said that we haven't looked at a schedule but if you look at the

bylaws on page six it does say it's going to be held quarterly and it has those months listed so I think that that is the discussion right now. But I understand what you're saying, I just wanted you to know that that's where they're getting that information.

JILL HANO: Now I feel-- oh, my God.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: That wasn't my intention. I just wanted to let you know that's why we were talking about it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Or kind of continuing what Stephanie had said. Something that you could look at doing I suppose--

JILL HANO: I'm so sorry, Nicole.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Default to the Parliamentary about an amendment or something if y'all needed to do that. But on page six it does say it will be held quarterly, October, January, April and July. You could strike that from your bylaws and then you can put that in your policy and procedures so when that ad hoc committee meets again this can be discussed in greater detail. And I would encourage anybody that has skin in the game that really wants to see it changed or not changed show up to that meeting to provide your feedback. Your bylaws are just your governing documents, right. It shouldn't be super detailed. So you could remove that there and put the details in your policies and procedures of the specific dates or timeframes within those months that you want to have meetings. That's a thought.

PHIL WILSON: I would like to move to a different topic but still about the bylaws if I may. And I think we just laid out a vehicle for doing what I want to try to request to be considered is as we attempt to be more of a DD network it would be very helpful for the Human Development Center for planning and coordination purposes if we could have somebody, even if they don't have voting rights who's a member of each of the subcommittees because we work across both of those areas. So it's very different when I hear-- and so I would like for that individual to at least be able to bring information to that subcommittee meeting, the one that I would not be at, as a council member and also to receive information to be discussed there. Sometimes

the summaries of the subcommittee meetings for Education and Employment, Self-Determination and Community Inclusion obviously don't have the rich discussion and don't make it clear who's made what position and so forth. So if you're there, if we had a representative there that information could come back to what we call our leadership team and we can make adjustments to what we're doing or find out somebody really wants to do something and maybe we have resources for that.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I just was going to make a comment about it. That was added to section six of article eight. So it does say non-council members so that could be somebody that is a representative.

PHIL WILSON: So that really was my question. Sorry to make it so long winded in that case. I didn't know if by these subcommittees some of the standing ones...

EBONY HAVEN: The standing committees were in there but the Bylaws Committee recommended taking out the standing committees and just include subcommittees, ad hoc committees, caucuses. Yes, because Bambi isn't a council member and she serves as a chair for Act 378 Subcommittee. It was in there, Phil, but it was taken out. But I just want to point out for the Act 378 subcommittee, for example, we have Ms. Tanya Murphy, we have Dr. Savicki from OBH. They aren't council members but they come to the meetings, they provide information, they participate in the discussion. So they don't have to be appointed to the committee in order to provide the information. So if you wanted that person to be a standing item on the agenda to provide information.

PHIL WILSON: That's not what I want. I want them to be a full member of that committee. They don't have to vote but if they have to sit in the audience and wait their turn to speak then that will be-- like it's not the same as being engaged in those conversations.

EBONY HAVEN: No, yesterday Tanya Murphy was at the table. She wasn't in the audience. They are active participants.

PHIL WILSON: As long as we have that. So if that's in here then I'm happy and I will be sending somebody who actually sat in on the Zoom yesterday,

Constance, who really would be a great person to come. And I might have to switch subcommittees if that can be worked out. That's not for the meeting. I'm sorry.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: That was on my list of things for us to talk about later, Phil, too. You just beat me to the punch.

LAUREN WOMACK: Is Tanya always on the agenda usually, is that her report?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. They're there to present information.

LAUREN WOMACK: It's just like this, it's just the member doesn't vote.

PHIL WILSON: I just didn't want to come and say well, here's my report.

LAUREN WOMACK: No, it doesn't have to wait till the end. It was on our agenda too. And just like we had our summary reports she had all her data.

PHIL WILSON: I don't feel the need for that individual to give a report to the committee. Just come and be a committee member.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yeah, okay.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions or comments?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I would like to make a motion to add article six section one to delete the month of October, January, April and July.

JILL HANO: Julie, repeat that.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: At article six section one to delete the months October, January, April and July. That doesn't mean we're changing them, but then it gives us the ability to look at that in the procedure if it's not specifically mentioned in the bylaws.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So it is moved to delete the months of October, January, April and July and just leave it where it's held quarterly, correct? Any discussion?

JILL HANO: Wait. Hold up. And Nicole, I might need your help. So before-- and Christi I think I might be overstepping, but I'm confused. Do we need to adopt a motion before we start amending? I'm so confused.

CHRISTI GONZALES: You're right. You're correct though. Go ahead.

JILL HANO: I would like to make a motion on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to accept these bylaws as

written.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Jill. Because this motion is coming from a committee it does not require a second and we had discussion. Any more discussion? We have an amendment from Ms. Julie Hagan to the meetings will still be held quarterly but just to delete the name of the months. Just delete October, January, April and July. Any objection?

EBONY HAVEN: A question. So are we on the motion that Julie made now or are we still on Jill's motion? I guess I'm a little confused.

NICOLE LEARSON: So let me just give some clarification. So the motion is the motion that Jill made. But what Julie is doing is changing or amending that motion so that what we accept is the proposed bylaws as amended. So that's how it would read in the minutes. So we handle Julie's motion to amend, and Christi can do that by unanimous consent, and if there is no objection then the motion would be Jill's motion of accepting the bylaws as amended and it would just simply be that motion as it's read. Does that make sense?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Is there any objections to the amendment?

VIVIENNE WEBB: I object.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Do you need a second on the amended?

CHRISTI GONZALES: We had a second.

SPEAKER: So we amend the bylaws, just delete those months. We're going to have a discussion on the months and put in the policy part?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Which is a subsequent meeting.

SPEAKER: All right.

CHRISTI GONZALES: We're not getting rid of them. We're just moving them.

SPEAKER: Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Ebony, can you give us a roll call. If your name is called say yes. If you're opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain.

JILL HANO: Can you state the motion, Christi?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes, I'm going to repeat it. We're doing a roll call vote to amend the proposed bylaws to delete the months of October, January, April

and July of the proposed bylaws. An amendment was made by Ms. Julie Foster Hagan and seconded by Ms. Lauren Womack.

EBONY HAVEN: So whenever I call your name it's yes, you are agreeing to the amendment. If you don't agree to the amendment say no. Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio. Dr. Barovechio, can you hear us? You're muted.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: I'm sorry. My computer is like acting up and it would not unmute no matter how many times I clicked it. Yes, I agree.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay, Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Abstain.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Ennis abstains. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hagan, yes. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Abstain.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano abstains. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hymel. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jordan, yes. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Mr. Piontek. Ms. Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Stewart. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, no. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Womack, yes.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Fifteen yeas, one nay and two abstentions.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So the yeases have it and the motion to amend the proposed bylaws to delete the months October, January, April and July have passed. And so now the motion is to adopt the bylaws that were presented by the Bylaws Committee to adopt the proposed bylaws as amended. Any discussion? Public comments? So the question is that the motion is that we approve the Bylaws Committee-- I'm sorry. The proposed bylaws that were reviewed by the Bylaws Committee and accept them as amended.

VIVIENNE WEBB: How is this different from the previous motion?

NICOLE LEARSON: So the previous motion was we want to adopt these bylaws but we want to change them first. So you voted on the change to the bylaws and now that you've changed them now do we adopt the changed bylaws. Does that make sense? For example, I'll give a simpler example. If the motion was to paint the house blue and then someone made a change to say I want to add the word light into it so that it's light blue you vote on whether or not to add the word light and then once you agree then you vote on whether or not to paint the house light blue. Does that make sense?

VIVIENNE WEBB: So if I disagreed with the previous motion I would still disagree now?

NICOLE LEARSON: No, you could agree with the motion even though you disagreed with the previous. You vote your conscience. Whatever you feel is right.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Wouldn't it conflict if I voted yes now though?

NICOLE LEARSON: Not if you agreed with the majority of the changes. Just because you don't agree with one of the changes made doesn't mean that you don't agree that the bylaws overall is a good document to adopt. So you just have to vote what you think is right.

VIVIENNE WEBB: It's probably going to pass either way.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So the question is that we approve the proposed bylaws as amended. The roll call vote, Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: She has her hand raised.

EBONY HAVEN: We have a council member with her hand raised, Nicole. Can we take the comment or we're already in the middle?

PATTI BAROVECHIO: I'm sorry. I vote yes. Just my computer is tapping in and out.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Abstain.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Ennis abstains. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hagan, yes. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Abstain.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano abstains. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jordan, yes. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Mr. Piontek. Ms. Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Stewart. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I don't know if I want to abstain or say no. No.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, no. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Wilson, no. Ms. Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Womack, yes.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Fifteen yeas, one nay, two abstentions.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So the yeases have it and the motion is adopted. Jill.

JILL HANO: Yes, ma'am, I'm sorry.

CHRISTI GONZALES: That's okay.

JILL HANO: That concludes my report. Thank you.

EBONY HAVEN: Jill, I think there was another motion that Nicole discussed with you, Nicole Learson discussed about making minor changes to the bylaws, giving the executive director permission to make those minor changes based off discussions from the council. So the Bylaws Committee won't have to meet to make changes to our DSA or capital letters or things like that. Just minor technical changes.

JILL HANO: Okay. What section on page eight, Ebony?

EBONY HAVEN: It's not in the bylaws. It was in the report that Nicole sent.

JILL HANO: Okay. Sorry, y'all. I had it but then I didn't. Okay, I think I have another motion to make.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Jill, would you like some help?

JILL HANO: Yes, Christi, I would because I am so lost.

CHRISTI GONZALES: It's okay. She wanted to make a motion that the executive director be authorized to correct articles and section designations, punctuations, cross references and any other technical and performance changes necessary that reflects the intent of the council in connection with approved bylaw changes.

JILL HANO: Yes, here it is. What she said.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Do we have a second?

MIKE BILLINGS: I'll second.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Mr. Mike. It is moved and seconded to allow the executive director to authorize technical and conforming changes to reflect the intent of the council in connection with approved bylaw changes. Is there any discussion from committee

members? Any public comment? Are we ready for the question? And it is that we allow the executive director be authorized to correct article, section designations, punctuations and other technical and conforming changes to reflect the intent of the council in connection with approved bylaw changes. So when Ebony calls your name please respond with yes if you are in favor of this motion, no if you're opposed and abstain if you want to abstain.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Ennis, yes. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hagan, yes. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jordan, yes. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Mr. Piontek. Ms. Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Stewart. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yeah.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, yes. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Womack, yes.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. The next item of business is the review of the FFY 2025 action plan and the public comments received regarding the action plan. The chair recognizes Ms. Ebony Haven to start discussion and share public comments.

EBONY HAVEN: So we received two public comments on the FY25 action plan. They're included in your packet. One of the public comments was about activity 3.1.5 the transition to adulthood activity. And then there was a public comment about the activities that we will be doing with the Human Development Center so I don't know if you guys have questions.

SPEAKER: What was the comment?

EBONY HAVEN: Well, you can read them. They're included in your packet. And I sent them on July 3rd with the additional information with the bylaws I sent the public comment as well.

PHIL WILSON: I mean, I can comment about the FASD work and if people have some questions. But there's just some information that I would like to provide. I think there's a lot of misunderstanding about what we propose to do. And this thing about a grant, I have no idea where that's coming from. We have not applied for a grant. If I knew where there was one I would apply. Anyone want to ask their other questions first or can I respond to this public comment?

Okay. So we do have a plan, and I promise to Ebony as soon as this council meeting is over and if I had the grace to finish our annual report I would definitely have a budget and goals and objectives. But I can give you an idea of what we are doing and we've already moved forward. We have begun the work with our own funds to work with the Department of Child and Family Services foster care system. We have not identified kids in a diagnostic clinic in any way, shape or form. That might be something in the future, but as you might surmise that's a very expensive thing to do and it's not high on our priority list to

diagnose kids.

So what we are going to do with the funds is we have Dr. Christa James is a parent of three children, they're adults now, with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. She has her PhD in special education. She's worked for us collectively for about seven or eight years. Five years probably. She worked for us for two or three years, went to Alaska for ten years, came back and has worked with us for about two years again. She works on our LASARD project. She's in school districts providing training and technical assistance and so forth. When she was in Alaska she worked on their FASD outreach project which was called None for Nine.

So back to what we are going to do. So we do have a staff person that we're paying with our own funds. If we receive these funds they wouldn't come till after the 1st, correct. So again, I'm not quite sure where some of this criticism is coming from. But what Christa and I, but primarily Christa, have arranged with Beth Green, Elizabeth Green, of region eight. We are going to begin training in every region of the state in a calendar way. The social workers that work for the foster care system of DCFS on a variety of things having to do with A, sort of identifying this is a child that might have FASD so let's try these strategies. Or you're doing foster care or your family is. These are things that we know from the literature and from experience are things that you should do with those children to address their developmental disabilities, but also very importantly their mental health challenges. And so we are going to do a tandem training in each region of the state. We want to work with Families Helping Families to have them help us recruit the family component and for them to go through the training there because families will come to them after all this is done so we want to leave them with some resources and knowledge.

We will train the social workers who are working with those families. Probably a separate training for now because the information will be relatively different that the social workers will need. So, you know, I think we have a very concrete plan. We have our staff person identified. We will be looking for grants to write for and/or requesting some advocacy

support to go to the state and say hey, maybe this is something the state should get behind. But there is absolutely no plan to set up a diagnostic clinic at this point. And there is no 950,000-dollar grant so I'm not quite sure where some of this misinformation has come from.

LAUREN WOMACK: I know, Phil, on the Planning Committee like one of the reasons we allocated because we were talking about it coming from the federal government. And maybe part of the confusion is, I don't know where, but we were talking about y'all having to try to find some good diagnostic tools and if that does cost money to research that and figure out or maybe develop. So maybe that's where that came from. I don't know but just speaking I know in the discussion it wasn't just throwing this money away. We anticipated that it will be a problem and we know concrete needs. I don't know if the council wants to request maybe just as you have updates if you could just share stuff like that.

PHIL WILSON: Absolutely.

LAUREN WOMACK: On the contract or and add a link to your website for anybody in the public that's concerned about where the money is going. And which you have to report anyway.

PHIL WILSON: We have, not a link, but a whole planning page on our website for FASD. We also established a chapter FASD United which is the national organization that does advocacy and family support work. And we want support to help us find these families and recruit them. The council could also play a role in that. And part of the funding through conversation with Ebony was we will also simultaneously use part of those funds to develop an awareness campaign which will be primarily driven most likely through web and social media and perhaps a PSA of some sort. And we would do that in collaboration, obviously, with the council and the council would be credited with whatever product that comes out for sure.

KELLY MONROE: A quick comment. I see now why maybe Lauren was questioning the materials and stuff. I would be happy to send all the information. I see the comment about the education/employment contract and I would be happy to share with the entire group if you

want on the materials that we bring out. That we are not gatekeeping anything by no means. And I would be happy to share with anyone. If you want I can send it to the board. That's up to Ebony and Brenton. But I would be happy to share with all of y'all our materials. By no means are we meaning to keep anything from anybody. We turn in our stuff to the contractors and what they choose to do with it is up to them. Just let me know. But I see this comment and I hope nobody really thinks it's a waste because we think we're doing a good job. If they want the materials just let me know and I'd be happy to send it.

NICOLE BANKS: I'm going off of the comment about the 950,000-dollar grant. You don't work for LSU, right?

PHIL WILSON: Yeah, I'm a professor.

NICOLE BANKS: So you don't have to sit on the department that handles the grants and that does the grant writing?

PHIL WILSON: Yeah, that's how we exist. We don't get money from the state. We exist through grants, period and contracts. If we don't do that we don't exist.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. That's why I was clarifying and asking because maybe she just didn't know where you worked at.

PHIL WILSON: I don't want to personalize this. I don't want this to become a personal thing. So what I'm trying to say is the only thing I can think is the RESPECT Act is a piece of national legislation that we have advocated for with our legislative representatives at the state and national level to pass but the RESPECT Act has been in existence for seven or eight years now as a bill and it's really gone through many, many revisions. It's quite possible that early on there was something written into one of the versions of this RESPECT Act that says there's going to be this money for each state. The current form of the RESPECT Act supposedly has some money in it for states but most of it goes to the federal government. And then if they choose to let it out or something there may be. There is nothing that I am aware of could possibly write for. We don't have a bill, an act yet. That's the only place I can think that maybe she--

NICOLE BANKS: Like how did she get this information. Like where did it come from.

PHIL WILSON: Well, it's such an exact number.

LAUREN WOMACK: I want to make it clear to both Phil and to Kelly, like I just want to make sure access of information. Being a person with a disability I'm a nerd but I like to research. But if you're a parent and you have a bunch of kids you kind of want to have one place okay, this is where all my stuff is. You don't want to have to go to a bunch of different websites. I never knew that Human Development Center had their own website and the council and everything like that. I just want to make sure that we're doing something, we're advocating, we have a one-stop shop that we have all of this easy, easy access. And y'all do great with that and I know Arc does and I did not mean to put you on blast. But to use as an example because we don't have a lot of other contractors and I love that y'all keep your stuff up which is great. But somebody that may not be associated with the Arc, maybe a parent in a school system might not have access to that toolkit. They may only know through the council.

KELLY MONROE: Yeah, I have no problem with (inaudible). I just only wanted people to know that if they want it, obviously it wasn't because someone else also felt the same way, and if someone wants it I could give it but it doesn't really belong to me. The council bought it when they contracted with us. It's their material. But if they want me to send it out I would be happy to send it.

LAUREN WOMACK: And thank you for being accessible.

PHIL WILSON: Just one follow-up. Sort of anything that the council wants us to put on our website as a link back to your website we would love to do that. I think we have done that with some things. And certainly the awareness, the more websites the better. Where the actual thing sits for us isn't giant other than what I said earlier about the university. But they don't really pay for it.

HANNAH JENKINS: Three hands are raised on the Zoom.

REKEESHA BRANCH: You have Dr. Patti was first, Pasqueal second and Jill was third.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Dr. Patti Barovechio

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Thank you. I thought I heard mention of Title Five and I'm getting a lot of muffling this morning. Just wanted to see if there was a mention of Title Five and what is our role or how can we support this effort.

EBONY HAVEN: There was no mention of Title Five in the public comments, Patti.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Okay. Just whatever information there are around this initiative we would be happy to help disseminate. I'm sorry, but I thought I heard Title Five so I wanted to check in on that comment.

PHIL WILSON: You won't escape me, Patti.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Pasqueal.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: I have a few questions I wanted to ask. First I wanted to know why did you choose to experiment on children in foster care? That's my first question.

PHIL WILSON: Well, we're not experimenting on them. I think I made a presentation to the council informally maybe it was just in our education. I think it was just in the subcommittee. But children in foster care are way, way more likely to have fetal alcohol spectrum disorder than children in the general population. That may be sort of akin to some of the challenges that birthmothers who have children with FASD who have consumed alcohol and other drugs during their pregnancy may be more, you know, those children are, don't want to quote a number because I'll give you the wrong one, but it's a magnitude of more than 20 percent, probably more than 50 percent more likely to have FASD if they're in foster care than just the general children in the general population which is 1 in 20 already. Does that answer your question?

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yeah, that's fine. And another one was, the next one was going to be what is the data on children actually being removed from their parents for alcohol use.

PHIL WILSON: I can't tell you that. I don't know if DCFS even tracks that specific piece of information but we know a lot of children do end up in foster care or in sometimes adoptive care hopefully at some point in their life.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Okay. And then also is it the family's decision or is it DCFS' authority to approve

them to be experimented on? I say experimented, you say research. It's pretty much the same thing. Is it their decision, the family and the children's decision to approve this or DCFS?

PHIL WILSON: There's no research. We are training social workers who are working with the families, foster families how to sort of be able to provide services that will be supportive to the foster families and because they still, in some cases that the child hasn't been given up or, you know, to the state then they may still be in contact with the actual birth mother. And typically foster care still as a first line of plan is to get that child back into their natural biological family, right. So then the next piece of our training is to actually train those foster families because those are the ones that we know. We can't, for HIPPA and confidential and privacy rights, we can't know who the birthmother and families are, right. So we're going to work with those people that have been entrusted to care for these children. It's using evidence-based practices that have been researched but not by us. We're just going to teach and provide training and coaching to the people either of the foster care, social workers and the foster care parents who have responsibility for these children. There's no research.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Okay. So there won't be any training for birth parents at all for this?

PHIL WILSON: Not with this particular first round. We don't know who they are and we have to figure that out. But maybe by starting with getting embedded in the DCFS system maybe they will decide okay, they can do the training because they're allowed to know, obviously, who those families are. Or if the families want us to train we're happy to do that but we can't just go there. Does that make sense? There's a privacy right.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yeah, I understand that.

PHIL WILSON: And of course nobody's going to be forced to go to the training in terms of even the foster families at this point.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Okay. Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Jill.

JILL HANO: So I understand that it's in the plan

that this contract isn't bid out. It was supposedly for each HDC to do this work for the council and that I understand. And I know you're very busy, but for transparent purposes, transparency purposes my question is would it be beneficial for you to maybe write up a little work plan?

PHIL WILSON: It will be goals and objectives and scope of work just like any other DD Council funded project or activity. This won't start till October 1st so we've been given a little bit of a grace period. There's a lot of pieces I have to get connected. I'm pretty proud of the fact that we already have the partners and we're doing statewide trainings trying to connect with our Families Helping Families organizations. And actually one of the things on my list was to ask the council if we can invite the LaCAN leaders for each of those regions to come too because this is a big job that we can't do by ourself nor can the council or anybody else. We're all going to have to kind of work together to raise this awareness and then get the services out there.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Is what you're proposing going to help these kids gain access to much needed services given we know DCFS means well but has no idea how to spot or navigate actual medical and disabilities related to people?

PHIL WILSON: Those are the type of things that will be included in the training. I can't make another state agency or a state agency-- no, I can't speak for them. But the fact that we're doing this for them at no charge and we're starting now. We plan to begin the first trainings in August or September. So before we've even received funding and then after that we want to do the whole state, not just New Orleans or Lafayette. We're going to be in every region. So I think when we have that curriculum, which is being written as we speak by Dr. James, it will come to the council. We would love for you to provide input on it if you think there are things that we're not covering. We will definitely get your feedback and try to incorporate those things.

EBONY HAVEN: I was just going to say for the FY25 action plan the activities are assigned to a committee. So I'm thinking these particular activities will be

assigned to the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee. And so the program monitor or manager that's assigned to those specific contracts will be able to make sure we give you guys feedback on how the contract is going, how the trainings are going. We try to provide as much information as possible so that you guys can provide feedback if it's not meeting the goals and objectives that you had in mind when you set the activity in the plan. So we're going to make sure we are communicating with you all. And I'm sure Phil will be at those meetings as well and he can answer any questions that you guys have.

PHIL WILSON: And anything that we do, folks, from this point forward or backwards or inside out everything we do is open to the public, right. If we have a contract to go work with a certain agency or a certain school district or what it is we have to have their permission for you to be in their facility or their school or whatever. But basically one of the reasons we want to have Families Helping Families involved is so that we can get families, foster families or biological family members come to these trainings. We just can't reach them. You guys are always welcome to not only see our curriculum or sit in the audience. And as council members if there's any kind of fee, we are not planning a fee, this is a free training, but if there were one I would guarantee you we will wave it for a council member or a member of our own consumer advisory council. Constituent advisory council. They changed the name on it.

ERICK TAYLOR: How long do y'all got a program when you watch the parents?

PHIL WILSON: What we're trying to do is this initial training will be-- we would love to be able to go and do training with individual parents almost like Early Steps, right. If they need us in their home or their school or their job site or recreation center or whatever, that's where the training should take place with real world stuff. But given 50,000-dollars and 10 of it's already earmarked for an awareness campaign that gives 40,000-dollars. We're barely going to be able to pay Dr. James' salary and travel going around the state. But we will keep looking for other sources of funds and build this out.

ERICK TAYLOR: But y'all goal is not to just, is your goal just to work with the parents and make sure they get back to (inaudible)?

PHIL WILSON: Yeah. For the type of funding that we're talking about, which we will be putting in our own to kind of bump it up a little bit, the best we're going to be able to do is kind of more like a classroom style for the parents and a different training in the same region for the professionals that are from DCFS that are serving. So we try to get the same information out for everyone but it needs to be presented differently because a social worker is going to have a different kind of background and interest in terms of their professional duties than what a parent's going to have. They're going to be more interested in the actual what do I do when my child has a tantrum. Or he does something one day and the next he won't. Or he seems to be anxious or depressed. Back to Vivienne's question. We will make sure that we do the best we can to link them with the resources but we won't be all over the state so we have to depend on those services there at that point to kick in.

ERICK TAYLOR: Let me ask you this then. If it's parents, I'm going to just say this, and they don't know how to deal with that child with their disability but their intentions is good and they fall down, my question is how would you deal with that parent? Saying okay, we're going to get you at a point where you are at a level where you come and you understand what's going on if I'm making sense to you.

PHIL WILSON: You make great sense. Unfortunately, so if you look at what we do with our LASARD project, Louisiana Autism Related Disabilities Project. We send our facilitators such as Dr. James into a school district and she spends time in the actual school in the actual classrooms with the actual teachers and therapists and what not to coach-- after they've been trained we give a little training and then we coach them live and in person to actually implement the things that we have taught, right. Because there's one thing about taking a test and getting all the answers right and there's another thing about going back and actually doing it. So that's a very labor intensive and very expensive way to provide the services. We

can't do that for 50,000-dollars for the whole state or 40,000. But that is our intention to use that same model I just described eventually but we can figure out how do we pay for that. We don't want to charge the families so obviously we need to figure that out. That will take time. But this is a first baby step and we think we can make a difference, the baby step. We get going and walk and crawl, whatever we do. And hopefully one day these young people have a better life.

SPEAKER: Well, and Dr. Wilson you don't have to do any of this so hats off to you and thank you for your advocacy for these children who are so at risk who slip through the cracks. So thank you.

PHIL WILSON: Not me.

SPEAKER: Thank you for making this happen.

PHIL WILSON: I do appreciate that comment and I will take that back and share it.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you.

EBONY HAVEN: You have another question, Lauren?

LAUREN WOMACK: Just one more comment. When we're talking about the bylaws we also wanted to, and maybe Nicole can speak to this, that any subcommittees the chair can appoint anyone from the public to a subcommittee. Is that correct? So anyone that's not on a committee that wants to be from the public involved in coming to like the action plan meetings and things like that am I correct in saying they're invited to talk to Christi and if they would like to be appointed and included, especially some of these people that have public comment, we wanted to make sure-- I know a bylaw meeting that it's very clear that they are included if they want to actually come and be a part of the meeting.

One more thing for the transition plan, action plan thing. Do you know if the contractor, and I thought that they did, was going to get impacted to our families-- we're still (inaudible) about that transition plan, that we just make sure in the contract the wording and then our families that are in Louisiana and in our region and Families Helping Families are on this so we make sure it's tailored to our needs.

CHRISTI GONZALES: We can add that to our wording whenever we do the contract.

REKEESHA BRANCH: You have a public comment. Ms. Cosse.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes, Ms. Cosse.

BRENDA COSSE: Good morning. (Inaudible) including training funding supports a reality even if for a few. Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. Ebony, was there a change made to the plan?

EBONY HAVEN: So there was a minor change that Stephanie and I made to the plan. Well, there's a minor change and a major change. The minor change was that we added the Partners alumni event to activity 1.1.1. It was two separate activities but we just decided to add it together because the activity 1.1.1 addresses alumni events. So the funding didn't change, we just added those two activities together and Stephanie's going to go over the second change.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: The second change was something that I went to a training with ITAC last week, literally last Thursday and they suggested, or I guess recommended, that all councils have an objective for an emergent need issue. I know that we have activities that say emergent need if something were to arise in education or advocacy, but they said to have an overall objective. And this is in the case of something like flooding. If there's a major flood and we need to change kind of our focus to help those families and those individuals with developmental disabilities in that area. And with it being hurricane season and it happens every year I think that having that objective is a good idea.

There do not have to be any activities under it because it's to be determined. So there may not be anything for the year. If something does come up it doesn't necessarily have to be added to here, we just have to get approval from our federal partners that we can allocate funds to that and shift our focus over. So there wouldn't have to be any kind of approval, any kind of change process. It would just be what we think that we need to do as the council and in order to shift that focus over. So I did draft up this objective. So it says individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will have access to additional resources, time and/or activities based on

emergent needs and issues that may arise.

CHRISTI GONZALES: If it is the council's will to ratify the change made to the plan a council member may make a motion to do so.

NICOLE BANKS: I make a motion to ratify the plan.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Is there a second?

ERICK TAYLOR: Second.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Mr. Erick, Nicole. So it is moved and seconded to ratify the change made to the plan. Added the objective and also putting the activities together. Is there any discussion from committee members? Public comment? Here's the question. So the question is that we review, we ratify the change made to the plan and it's by adding the objective 2.4 and merging the two activities together. When Ebony calls your name please respond yes if you are in favor of the motion, no if you're opposed to the motion or abstain if you're not voting.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli.

CHERIE ADULI: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Aduli, yes. Ms. Banks.

NICOLE BANKS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Banks, yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Billings, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Ennis, yes. Ms. Hagan.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hagan, yes. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Hymel. Ms. Jordan.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jordan, yes. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Nguyen, yes. Mr. Piontek. Ms.

Richard. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Rocca, yes. Ms. Stewart. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Webb, yes. Dr. Wilson.

PHIL WILSON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Wilson, yes. Ms. Womack.

LAUREN WOMACK: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Womack, yes. Eighteen yeas, zero nays.

CHRISTI GONZALES: The yeas have it. The motion is adopted. The next item of business is standing council member reports. Please refer to the reports in your packet. Our first report is from the Bureau of Health Services Financing with Medicaid. The chair recognizes Brian Bennett for the report.

BRIAN BENNETT: Hello. Good morning, everyone. So in the report it's kind of broken into two different sections. On the first page there are a few updates that are primarily eligibility related. Work that we've been doing with Medicaid eligibility redeterminations. And then the second half is just a high-level overview of some of the programs and services that we have.

So as far as updates many of you are aware of our ongoing efforts that we've been involved with for some time now and basically those are just unwinding some temporary flexibilities that we implemented during the Covid 19 public health emergency. So one of the big ones that we had was during the PHE all of our eligibility redeterminations that we typically do every year those were paused and we just started resuming those redeterminations in May of last year. Which involved us looking at around 2 million people that were currently at the time on Medicaid and receiving coverage. That year-long effort was wrapped up in May of 2024 so now we're just going to return to our annual renewal process where everyone's looked at every 12 months and will more or less be on our normal schedule

going forward.

Also related to eligibility is we are resuming our wage checks. So this was something that we started just prior to Covid 19. I think we might have done this for about a year or a year and a half. And then of course during the PHE we paused this. But wage checks are another piece of the Medicaid eligibility process and they're completed when Medicaid receives data from the Workforce Commission that prompts us to look at an individual's income and verify that they still meet the requirements for Medicaid coverage. And just like renewals for the wage checks we'll send out a letter requesting information or documentation and it's very important that people respond timely to these notices of request because if you don't submit the responses or the documentation back that could interrupt or affect your Medicaid coverage.

For this though I wanted to highlight at the bottom of this section many individuals and families are excluded from wage checks. So in particular for this group I wanted to highlight the children, those receiving long-term care in settings like nursing facilities and ICFs and those that are on waivers. So any of our home and community-based service waivers are excluded from wage checks. But an example of somebody that might receive a request, or a wage check request is an adult that's getting long-term personal care services because they're not on a waiver. But I did want to highlight that section at the bottom that those are the people that are excluded from this process. So that started in May, the wage checks. We resumed that in May and that will continue every quarter as we get information, as we announce our information against the Workforce Commission's income data.

CHRISTI GONZALES: I have a question. In regards to the children is it also, are they also excluded in supported employment if they're in a workforce type employment situation in high schools?

BRIAN BENNETT: So all children under 18 are excluded. If they're receiving supported employment under the waivers they would be excluded as well.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. Any questions? Do you have anything else, Mr. Bennett?

BRIAN BENNETT: I wanted to highlight just a few in

the remainder of the report under programs and services. This is just a high-level snapshot of a few different services. So in Self-Direction you can see the enrollment there. As of beginning of June there were about 2600 self-directing their services and then the bar graph kind of breaks that down across the four different waivers that offer Self-Direction as an option.

The Act 421 children's Medicaid option, or TEFRA since that program was stood up in early 2022, LDH has enrolled more than 2300 children into the program and the table that's included provides some additional information and stats on applications received, process and approved and those currently enrolled. We have just over 1900 enrolled right now. And one thing that we're looking at with this program, since it is still relatively new, we're constantly looking at the enrollment trends to kind of see is enrollment still growing, has it leveled off. And we are still seeing growth month to month in this program but it seems like the growth is kind of slowing so we're going to keep watching that because that's very important for budgeting as we continue to make sure that we have funding to support this program going forward. Yes, right now we have a little over 1900 children enrolled under the TEFRA program.

Just really quickly. Applied behavior analysis, ABA therapy services. There's a table. Those services are delivered under our managed care plans. So the table that's included has some information on the number of prior authorizations that were requested and approved. And then also the costs across each of the plans for the month of May.

And then finally EPSDT support coordination. I included some information on this program. It serves about 800 children and youth. If you're under age 21 you have access to this program. And most of the individuals that are served in this program have a statement of approval with OCDD but they're not yet on a waiver. So this service kind of mimics a support coordination that many receive under the waiver programs in that the kids they get a plan of care, the support coordinator monitors the services that they should be receiving. And then also assist the family

with getting access to new services or supports. So I think that concludes my report and if there are any other questions I'm happy to try to answer those.

NICOLE BANKS: Just because not everyone knows what all of the acronyms are, what is the ROW and what is the NOW? What does that mean?

BRIAN BENNETT: So those are two of the waivers that we have. The ROW is the Residential Options Waiver. And the NOW is the New Opportunities Waiver. And both of those are operated by OCDD.

NICOLE BANKS: What was the NOW again?

BRIAN BENNETT: The NOW is the New Opportunities Waiver. It's one of the waivers under OCDD along with the ROW and Children's Choice. Those are the three that offer self-direction as an option. And then the fourth one is the Community Choices Waiver and that one's operated by OAAS.

NICOLE BANKS: So the residential option that's like rental assistance and that kind of stuff?

BRIAN BENNETT: No, it provides an array of home and community-based services. I think it was initially called the Residential Options Waiver because it was one of the waivers that primarily when people were transitioning out of, and Julie you can correct me if I'm wrong, transitioning out of facilities and that was the primary waiver that they were transitioning to so they could get back into the community with home and community-based services.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So not really, Brian. Most of the people who leave a state-operated facility go into the New Opportunities Waiver. So the New Opportunities-- we sort of have tiers, right. Your Children's Choice Waiver is for children under the age of 21. And there's an assumption for most kids that with EPSDT that gives you what's medically necessary and what's in the Children's Choice that should meet your needs. We do have some children who need to bump up. So then sort of the next tier in our waiver is the Supports Waiver. That's for people who really don't need help at home but they need kind of something to do during the day. Whether that's help with employment or help by going to a day program. So the Supports Waiver is primarily that with a little bit of respite just in case you need it. Then the next tier we have is the

Residential Options Waiver. And so the Residential Options Waiver was initially designed for intermediate care facilities. So like your small group homes that were like six and eight bed to downsize to become like three or four people living together instead of six or eight in a waiver home instead of in an ICF group home. We didn't have anybody take us up on that. There's lots of different reasons why. Anybody you ask will tell you.

But what we did do is take what was in the Residential Options Waiver and make it our next tier. So you can get in-home supports in Residential Options Waiver. You just can't get 24/7 supports. It doesn't have skilled nursing like in the New Opportunities Waiver you can get skilled nursing. If you need 24 hour one-on-one supports or skilled nursing the only place you can get that is in the New Opportunities Waiver. But there's an array of services in Residential Options with in-home services, employment services, permanent supportive housing is in there., housing assistance. So there's still an array of services you can get in the Residential Options Waiver. There's still some caps there like in our other waivers where the NOW is really for those people with the most significant complex needs who need more services. So now we don't really consider it our ICF conversion waiver like it was. It's sort of now just another step in our tiered waiver process.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Just for clarification. The tier and then once y'all like, once they hit a certain point they get bumped up until another tier, correct?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: There is process that happens based on the person's needs.

NICOLE BANKS: Right. So is it possible for a person to receive services from you guys, get a waiver from you and then with a whole other department get services like that? I'm just asking like you can do that. I would call it double dipping but.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So it depends. When you say another department?

NICOLE BANKS: Like another, let's say HDC or another government agency. That's what I'm saying, another government agency.

MELISSA BAYHAM: You want me to give you an

example?

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah.

MELISSA BAYHAM: So with OCDD we have an MOU with them whereas if an individual needs supported employment services to go to work, LRS, under the Vocational Rehabilitation Program pays for the supported employment services. But then the Supports Waiver, once our funding ends the Supports Waiver can be used for the follow-along for that job. But we do have to have an MOU in place so that you don't have double dipping and each government entity knows who's supposed to be paying for what.

NICOLE BANKS: Like how can people run into those types of situations, how do y'all combat that?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah, cause they can get state plan-- so there are different mechanisms but like she said, we have mechanisms in place.

LAUREN WOMACK: Just an example. I get the ROW. I started off on long-term care which is through a whole other agency. So technically like because I need so much care if we didn't have that system in place I might have to go to residential or a group home but because I live with my husband we have that in-home support. I don't need 24-hour care but I need a lot more than just a little. So we can live in our own home and not a group home. That's a real-world example.

And then I had a question for Brian. You were mentioning the long-term care the wage checks are in place, but for the waiver the wage checks are not in place?

BRIAN BENNETT: So the individuals that are subject to wage checks, the ones that would not be included in those would not receive wage check letters would be anyone-- let me pull up the list. So pregnant women, children, if you're in an active renewal period. So what that means if you currently have, if Medicaid's currently working on your annual renewal you won't get one because that work's already being done with your annual renewal. And then anyone that's in a long-term care setting like a nursing home or ICF and then anyone that's in one of our home and community-based services waiver programs, our HCBS waivers. So those are the four that are operated by OCDD. We just talked about a

few of them. ROW, NOW, Supports and Children's Choice. The two that are operated by OAAS which is the Community Choices and Adult Day Healthcare Waivers. And then we have one that OBH, Office of Behavioral Health operates and that's the CSOC waiver.

LAUREN WOMACK: Okay. Because I am on the NOW waiver and I've gotten wage checks. So that might be something I need to get with you about.

BRIAN BENNETT: Yes, please. Was it recently?

LAUREN WOMACK: Last year. Well, it was a few years. I'll just get your contact so I won't take time. But yeah, thank you for clarifying.

ERICK TAYLOR: I got a question for Ms. Julie. Ain't y'all trying to put the waiver as one waiver at one time where y'all was trying to work on that?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah.

ERICK TAYLOR: So what's going on with that process because y'all was trying to put it all in one.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Sure. So we, before Covid, I can only speak to you in years before Covid and after Covid because my brain doesn't calculate. But well before Covid we had what we called a systems transformation group and that's when we talked about our stakeholders that they wanted us to do two main things. One ending the waiting list, two was consolidating our waivers. And we worked for a year and we prioritized ending the waiting list and then worked on how we looked at our registry differently and got to the process that we're in now. And then we have been working on consolidating the waivers and we still plan to do that, but it is still down the road and I'll tell you why. One of the things that we're using our Rescue Plan Act dollars for is to work on, it's an electronic assessment tool that will be an electronic, lead to an electronic plan of care as well.

But what we're going to do is we're going to be, hopefully in the next couple of months, start piloting some of the assessments. So when for people who are on the waiver if you're randomly selected to be one of the three to 4,000 people that we're trying to do this assessment on during your annual plan of care meeting we're going to be doing an assessment hand and hand with the support coordinator with people that we'll be paying to go out and work on these assessments. It

will be a different tool than what we used before. Once we get those three or 4,000 it will probably take us about a year, year and half to do that we're going to use the results of that assessment to help us figure out, because once we go to a consolidated waiver we're going to have to have an objective way to look at where are people appropriately placed. Like what is the right service level for people. So we have to get that information together before we can know like what are the appropriate tiers. We think it will be similar to what we have now. A children's tier, an employment. You know, kind of like that. But we have to do that assessment so we can objectively look at what are those tiers going to be.

At the same time as long as we're using those Rescue Plan Act dollars, which we think we're going to spend until December of 2025, we're under something called a maintenance of effort. And so CMS is really not happy about us changing anything in our waiver until we spend those dollars. So we really, we need that next year and half to collect that assessment information. We know we can't change it. So once we get past that December 2025 mark we're really, our plan right now is to then move kind of full court press to starting to get back to those conversations around the consolidated waiver and we'll have the data we need to really inform within that consolidated waiver how you get folks into the right tier into the right service model.

ERICK TAYLOR: Are y'all still planning to do that?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: We are. A year and a half, two years down the road before we really start to dive in.

ERICK TAYLOR: So Ms. Julie, I see that y'all working on where y'all cutting the case managers down to three, like three companies. Y'all going to cut down to three companies and now y'all trying to shed some of these facilities down to certain like six or seven companies. How y'all going to handle the capacity of all the people y'all serve if y'all cut it down to so many companies? Which ain't a bad thing but have y'all put that in place to think about how y'all going to handle that?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So I'm not sure what you're

talking about. So we have support coordination agencies that do our case management and there's no actions happening right now to reduce that number or cut that number or have anybody do things differently. I think there's opportunities for improvement. I think the support coordination agencies, the state has opportunities for improvement. But right now we're not cutting out. I think there's only like two or three in most regions. Some regions have two. Some have three. I think Lake Charles area may only have one. So it doesn't give people a lot of opportunities for choice and there's no plan to cut those out.

ERICK TAYLOR: Y'all have a concern about the case managers with the overload that they got that is a lot of people is falling through the loophole with the cases that they have and they're not getting..

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah, so we have a limit that you can't serve more than 35 people, each case manager can't have more than 35 people because we feel like that's the reasonable amount to be able to give folks what they need. We do have some agencies who will come to us and say we're having a shortage, we don't have the right number of people, we need to go over. And we will give temporary exceptions to that if they can't meet it. We do know that that's an area that, you know, just like we talk a lot about the direct support workforce crisis there's also a case management workforce crisis. We don't see a lot of people coming in. We've done some brainstorming in our department around how do we help get into maybe schools of social work where you have case managers usually have like a social work background. Can we start to expose them to some of the work that in social work that you might do in the DD field. So I do think it's a problem. We know there's recruitment issues. They have issues trying to retain them. We know there's a lot of turnover. I hear that from families all the time. But we do have limited caseloads and we don't have plans to reduce them.

Now what was happening for a little while is we had a lot of people who were trying to come in, new agencies that were wanting to come in. And we have a lot of training that's required for new agencies to come in. So what we have talked about is when there is

a new agency that wants to become a support coordination agency having them request that maybe like around October or November so that we can then spend the three months that's required doing the training. And what we were having to do is kind of do that all year long with different companies. So we are trying to do some streamlining of when new people, support coordinators come in and when we do that training and how we do it but we are actually not legally allowed to, at this point with the way it's set up, we're not legally allowed to kick people out or not have them do it unless there's some performance issue or issue that they're not doing what they need to for licensing certification.

ERICK TAYLOR: One more question I have. With the companies, how many clients that they can hold in a company to actually give the service that they need to give out in the area to handle the clients that they have? Do y'all have a limitation?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: So do you mean the 35? So in OCDD we say one support coordinator can serve 35 people.

ERICK TAYLOR: Once the case manager, let's say you can pick this company, you can pick this company you have a choice. Is there a limitation of people in that company that they can hold to serve?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: No.

ERICK TAYLOR: Have y'all ever looked into putting a cap on how many?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: If we know that they don't have the capacity. Typically what they do is if they start to get more than they'll hire another staff person. But we can definitely take that back and look at it. There's a lot of things that other states are starting to do differently so we are looking at where are there opportunities to make changes. But again, we're still just in the exploratory phases. I think there's things that could happen that would help everybody but we're having to look at that and that will be a change that we would have to get CMS approval for.

ERICK TAYLOR: So I'm just throwing out here, what can we do as a board to fix the overloading that's coming and say okay, I'm going to take this person, I'm

going to work with this person, I'm going to take this person and they don't have the capacity but they're working with them. What can we do?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Mr. Erick, can we-- you and Julie, can we discuss this at a different time if that's okay?

ERICK TAYLOR: That's fine with me. I was just asking.

CHRISTI GONZALES: No, that's not a problem at all. Just so we can stay on with our report and everything like that. And we'll get to your question, I promise. Brian, do you have anything else from your report?

BRIAN BENNETT: No, that was all.

EBONY HAVEN: I hate to put you on the spot, and this isn't included in your report, but I know that the peer learning collaborative that we're doing I think the council would be very interested in hearing about that just because they are, the DSP crisis shows up a lot on their advocacy agenda and I kind of wanted, can you just speak to what the goals are for that peer learning collaborative that we're participating in.

BRIAN BENNETT: Yes. I'll include that on a future report. But the Office of Aging and Adult Services, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and Medicaid, the three agencies under LDH we applied for a technical assistance opportunity I believe it is with the National Council on Aging. I can't recall if that's the sponsoring, national agency that's sponsoring it. But we were chosen to participate in this technical assistance opportunity to basically address the direct support professional workforce crisis that most, if not all, states are experiencing.

So over the next six months or so the technical assistance opportunity will involve two different things. Number one, we've been assigned a subject matter expert to work with. Her name is Dr. Lisa Mills and she's going to be working with us to try to develop some career ladder or something similar to that that we can look at maybe implementing in the future that would allow growth for a direct support worker. Particularly growth in their wages or growth in their pay that would be tied to experience, maybe competencies working with different populations. Just something to incentivize

that worker to hopefully retain them in that DSW role. So that's kind of the first part.

And then the second part is we have a peer learning collaborative where I think it's us and five other states will be meeting monthly to kind of brainstorm and share ideas on best practices because all six of us, including Louisiana, are kind of working to develop a similar model where we're hoping to develop something that will give a career path for direct support professionals. So it's both the TA that we're getting from Dr. Lisa Mills to help us develop something that will be specifically tailored to Louisiana. And then we're also working with our peer states, that cohort to bounce ideas around and brainstorm and ask other states what they've done that's worked well. There is a few states that we're working with. I believe Oregon and maybe Michigan that have already done some work in that area so we're very eager to see what we can learn from them.

CHRISTI GONZALES: All right. Thank you, Brian. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. If there is no objection the meeting will recess for lunch. Hearing none, the meeting is now at recess. It is now 12:03. We will reconvene at 1:00.

{Lunch}

CHRISTI GONZALES: It is now 1:05. The meeting will come to order. The next item of business is the report of Office of Public Health. The chair recognizes Patti Barovechio for the report.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Good afternoon. So this is the report for Title Five Office of Public Health. It is in your packet of items and I'm just going to touch on the high points since we have a rather lengthy report. Just for a point of reference the Bureau of Family Health administers the Title Five program. So what you'll find within the report are several of the programs that touch people or serve and support individuals with disabilities and their families. So one of the things that I do want to point out is there's information there on the Commission for the Deaf. So a lot of resources there. You can find information on the programs that they offer. Within the report as well as on their website.

We also, Phil, to your point we do offer the nurse

family partnership which is a home visiting program that supports individuals. So this would be an especially important resource for families that are experiencing the risk of substance abuse disorder or the like. So those programs are available. They do have financial eligibility requirements. But those are programs that would be there and available to support these families. And for pregnant moms is the nurse family partnership model. And then after the child is born if there's a risk identified there is also another model the bureau administers which is called Parents as Teachers. So information on both of those programs are within my report.

We continue, the Children Special Health Services programs continue to offer subspecialty clinics in certain areas of the state where specialists providers are needed. And we also offer a children and youth with special healthcare needs transportation program. So if families have applied to Medicaid transportation services and they are not adequate to meeting that specific need they can reach out to either a family resource center or the Bureau of Family Health around information for applying for those transportation stipends.

And then also we have our family resource center that really is available to any family in the state and they really work with families to reach and provide supports for any need of the family. So we look at the child and the family as a holistic unit and so anything that is impacting their health outcomes or their ability to thrive we work with families to connect them to those resources. And we do this in collaboration, we also have a partnership with our Families Helping Families networks so it's kind of a relationship of what we refer back and forth so that we make sure that all families are supported effectively and efficiently. And that's pretty much the high points.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Patti. Are there any questions from council members?

RENODA WASHINGTON: You do have a hand raised, Ms. Brenda Cosse.

SPEAKER: Ms. Brenda?

BRENDA COSSE: Hello. Good afternoon. I wanted to ask Ms. Patti for the pregnant moms is the doulas

included with that assistance? Thank you.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: We do work to connect families if that is a support that they're looking for we connect them to doulas within the community. And the bureau is kind of leading work around developing that doula registry. On the LDH website if there is someone that is interested in registering as a doula with the registry there is information available there. But when we are contacted by families if they are looking to be connected to doula services that is something that we do support them with.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Is there any other public comment?

BRENDA COSSE: Yes, I meant to ask Ms. Patti if she could briefly say what a doula is. When I was pregnant I was denied a doula but that was years ago and I'm glad that is an option now. Thank you.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: So the doula is a support coach for individuals who are pregnant and they are experts in childbirth and in supporting families through this period and so they're a valuable resource. There's been several pilots and demonstration projects that have proven the effectiveness of doula services to pregnant moms and families. So yes, it is a very important resource for families. And they provide education and support and coaching. So yes, a valuable resource to our families.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you. Any other comments? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. This is to let our virtual participants know the weather is getting very bad here and if for some chance the internet goes out we have to break for 30 minutes and after 30 minutes if we haven't been able to reestablish connection and if we have a quorum we can go ahead and continue with our meeting. But just to let you know ahead of time. The next item for business is the report of the Office of Aging and Adult Services. The chair recognizes Mindy Richard to present her report.

EBONY HAVEN: It will be Natalie Istre.

NATALIE ISTRE: Good afternoon, y'all. Sorry that I'm joining virtually today. I'm having some vision issues. And the weather is getting pretty gnarly over here. In terms of the report we just have updates on

our current number of recipients for our waiver services and our other home and community-based services including long-term personal care services and the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly.

To highlight, we did have a new PACE center open in Alexandria. I believe they officially opened May 1st and accepted or enrolled their first participants as of June 1st. But they're hitting the ground running. They enrolled about three times more participants than they anticipated in that first month of services, which was really good. But they are open. They are operating. They are fully functioning and they're excited to be in that area to provide a service in that area that wasn't there before. We are using ARPA funds to conduct a marketing analysis for possible additional PACE sites in Louisiana but we don't have the results of that yet so that's kind of in the works.

There's some information on our waiver registry as well as Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury program update and SPAS. In terms of updates, for those I don't have many updates for those. We did have legislation pass this last session to update the name of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury program to the Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury program. That will be coming.

And then there are some numbers regarding the adult protective services calls and the quarterly report there. They are accepting online reports now for allegations of abuse. And so I don't know how that's impacted their numbers. I can ask for next time. I would be curious to know if they're seeing an increase in reports due to the availability of that online portal and I can certainly ask about that.

And then on the last page just some additional information on our populations by program, by region, by race, gender and age group. And that's all that I've got.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Are there any questions from our council members?

NICOLE BANKS: I have one. Under the Medicaid home and community-based services I see the current recipients but the waiver registry, the wait list, 10,405 people on the wait list. Like how are we combating that? Because just the number of that many

people on the waiting list.

NATALIE ISTRE: Sure. So we're currently focused on wait list reduction efforts primarily working with our support coordination agencies and trying to make improvements there. We did, again, in this last legislative session receive funding for an additional 750 waiver slots. But as with all I think home and community-based services there are workforce issues that are limiting what we can do with the population that we serve. So we also try to really, even though we have that many people on the wait list, there are currently 5,820 that don't have any services. So a little less than half of them are receiving services, most likely LTPCS, but they're still on the wait list for CCW while they're receiving those LTPCS services.

NICOLE BANKS: And how long, because I've asked this question before years ago, how long are these people on the waiting list? Are these still the people that was on the waiting list in 2020?

NATALIE ISTRE: It depends. The wait list is prioritized in terms of our offers. Our offers are prioritized for people who do not currently have services before people who currently have services. So those, for example, who have LTPCS and are still on that CCW wait list could be waiting for quite some time. I don't have the exact length of time in front of me and I want to say those without services the wait time-- I don't want to tell you a number, I would be wrong. But it's not quite as long as those who are receiving services through, like I said, LTPCS, for example.

NICOLE BANKS: So about on average a person would be up on the waiting list for about two and half years, something like that maybe?

NATALIE ISTRE: I don't think so. I don't think it's that long. If you give me a minute I will pull it up and I can tell you exactly what it was probably as of last month for each of the different groups. But I don't have it in front of me. I believe it is less than a year for those without services or right at a year for those without services. For those receiving services it is much longer.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. And then you said this also is because a workforce issue. So is it because you

don't have enough people that are mandating these programs or (inaudible) this wait list and this process, is that what the case is or is it something else?

NATALIE ISTRE: I think it's a multitude of factors. I think, again, we are seeing that our support coordination agencies and the providers that provide direct support workers to participants are struggling to find and keep workers just across the board. We have waiver slots available. Again, we have another 750 slots that we're going to be able to offer in this coming year. The challenge has been getting people, getting those slots offered and then that timeframe from offer to actual certification and to start delivery of services.

NICOLE BANKS: And there's not like a concrete time like that timeline that this has to be done by? Because I've asked this question multiple times before and I always get this general answer, what I'm getting right now is oh, we don't really know or we can't say what the timeline's going to be or everybody is different. You still should have some sort of concrete all right, well, this is the process, it takes this long to stream these people so this is how long that this is going to take and then we're going to go into the certification. We've never gotten that answered. I've asked that many of times on this council. Not saying that it's you because they have other representatives for this particular agency. But this has always been my issue, always has been my issue with the waiting list, the employment issues, the direct support care and then the time these people are on this waiting list. Just to combat the process like something better has to be done. This is way too many people up on the waiting list and it's been like this since 2020. Since I've been here this waiting list has actually went up.

NATALIE ISTRE: Yes.

NICOLE BANKS: What are we doing because like I brought this up several times about combating this whole waiting list thing.

NATALIE ISTRE: Sure. So I can tell you some things that we're working on. So like I said, we've been working on SCA initiatives to try to improve the

process particularly from waiver offer to certification. So we've been looking at updates to our waiver documents which take time. But we've also been looking at updates to our own internal policies and procedures to see where we can perhaps, again, streamline things for our providers so that they're able to move through that process more quickly. This year we are actually actively doing some of the work for or in addition to the support coordination agencies in an effort to get people certified timely. So we have staff that are doing assessments, that are out there doing the groundwork, doing the legwork to do those assessments and to do plans of care to get people certified. So we're, again, it's kind of a multi-prong approach. No one has told me you need to have this wait list cleared by X date but it is top of mind I think for everyone in OAAS.

NICOLE BANKS: Yeah, I mean, just a suggestion. I'm just a council member. That we get some type of timelines up on it. We require that from Department of Education. We require that from all of the rest of our agencies. Even with Families Helping Families they have timelines and deadlines that they have to meet with certain things. I know that y'all working on it and I'm pretty sure your efforts are really commendable, but can we at least get some type of timeline of when this is getting done?

NATALIE ISTRE: And when you say when this is getting done, help me understand what you mean.

NICOLE BANKS: When you have all these trainings and all the certifications that people have to go through and the different things that y'all have to do as a process. So you're saying you're working up on trying to revamp that so the process doesn't take as long. So what I'm saying is during that process how long are you guys giving yourselves to get this done? Not saying that we're requiring you to get anything done. What is your goal on your timeline of what you plan on getting this stuff done?

NATALIE ISTRE: Yeah, and I will say so we have certified this year at this point over 700 waiver participants. So that kind of gives you a sense of how quickly we're moving through the process. I can't remember the exact number but it's a little over 700

waiver certifications in this last state fiscal year I should say.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. That doesn't answer my question but hopefully we can get an answer to my question.

LAUREN WOMACK: I don't know if this answers your question but just prior to right after they make a determination of prior need it was first come first serve and they told me that I was going to have to wait for services to get personal care up to like, they were on three or four years and it was just whoever signed up first got first come first serve. So now they do need but for the same time even staffing here it is that they already have the waiver spots for-- you talk to anybody they can't find the staff to keep the people that are already on the waiting list. So then you open it up more and the agencies are saying we can't even staff the people that we have. You're letting all these newer spots open, but still the people are without service. So it's even more frustrating because you're like okay, you say I can have services but now I have no staff so I'm in the same situation. It seems like we're always trying to find a solution. It's a multi-prong issue and the legislators just want to keep giving us more spots but we don't have people to provide the service. I don't know if anyone wanted to speak to that or if that captures a little bit about the situation.

ERICK TAYLOR: This is what I want to ask her. What's her name?

EBONY HAVEN: Natalie.

ERICK TAYLOR: Ms. Natalie, is y'all doing emergency ones or do you got them in group?

NATALIE ISTRE: We do have some reserved waiver slots. We have 300 reserved waiver slots for expedited waiver slots is what we call them. So those are referrals that we get when someone maxes out typically with LTPCS and they still need additional support. So we are able to expedite that. But I'll tell you there's a wait list for that now too. All of those expedited slots are filled, that particular group, the 300 slots those are filled and we have a sub-wait list now of 50 or so people waiting for the expedited services. But we do have priority groups I think is the answer to your

question. And those are defined in the waiver document.

ERICK TAYLOR: You got them in groups who need it the most and who need it less and then that's how you're looking at your waiver list?

NATALIE ISTRE: So we do have certain priority groups but beyond those priority groups and outside of those who already have services it is first come first serve basis. So your spot on the wait list is dependent upon when you called and basically, you know, requested to be added to the registry to the wait list.

PHIL WILSON: So I guess want to (inaudible) positive comment earlier I want to make sure we need to ask hard questions and so forth. But we also need to acknowledge when we hear about things that are moving in the right direction. I forgot the name of it but the group that's doing the multistate leadership for the DSPs, the learning collaborative. I think at the end of the day I'm guessing if every one of those were called individually and privately and said what we really think the solution is we have to professionalize and pay people to do this very important work. And until we do the situation that Lauren just described of I got this waiver slot, it's great but I can't get any staff to fill them. We know it's because people can make more money doing much other jobs, let's put it like that. And this is a tough job to do if you do it right.

LAUREN WOMACK: It can be for somebody that you're not related to.

PHIL WILSON: So we all know that and we shouldn't necessarily stop saying it or anything but until we start paying people a reasonable wage that you can do this for the rest of your life if you choose it as a career path we're going to keep having the turnover that we have. And it's just the same story, even when we solve one problem we still haven't solved that underlying problem. So it's going to take a lot of people. I don't know what workforce can do for us. I don't know what the governor can do. We know what the cost of not fixing this problem is. I don't know if we know that but people die, people have other bad outcomes, in the hospital all the time, this and that. And we have to figure out how do we demonstrate that to

our legislators and executive branch folks to say we've got to do something about what we're paying people.

LAUREN WOMACK: And actually, if it's okay with Natalie, I did some research and there is a national group of PHI and they did a survey and Louisiana is last on everything. We are last on pay. The demographic is deplorable about the low-income single mothers. Minority, like everything. We are 50th on every category. And I just think that maybe if we appeal to them-- getting involved in this workgroup might be something that we can do, at least instead of complaining about it, is at least try our best to look for a solution because we all want the same thing.

CHRISTI GONZALES: And what's the name?

LAUREN WOMACK: It's PHI is the acronym and I can send it to you, Christi.

PHIL WILSON: I guess I want to go back to make sure I'm convinced on doing this for quite a few years that bottom line is we're not paying people. And if our legislators and the people that are making decisions about the pay that people get, which frankly isn't anybody in this room, if they don't see how much it's costing to not fix this problem they aren't incentivized to do much about it. But when they find out it cost millions of dollars to not fix the problem maybe they would look at the map a little differently and say well, I guess we have to pay more to avoid these other costs. And that would probably take a fairly sophisticated study to do that. An evaluation or whatever. And I don't know how we get that funded. But maybe we can get a resolution or something that could be advocated for okay, it's a little bit information but now we need the money to actually do a really true evaluation.

ERICK TAYLOR: I'm going to keep it short. Sitting around this table this is not enough that we say okay, we need funding. Until they come out the high seat and see where we go through every day to live independent to see okay, we need what we need to live every day. It's easy to say okay, let's push them to a nursing home and that's cheaper to push them to the nursing home than to do this. We need better paying workers. We need better paying people that cares about the work they do. Because if we don't get people that don't

care we got a problem. We give them coins and they live off of coins. You go buy a loaf of bread you ain't got no more coins to live off. But if you give them money to live on and give them a skill. And you got to qualify to do this job and not just put somebody and say boom, you got a job. At the end of the day who going to take care of us. They need something to come to work for to live off of to say okay, I'm happy to come to work to wipe this man face, to help him do assistance what he need to be done, to help this young lady here. But if you give them coins, I got to go to Wal-Mart to get a better paying job. It can't work that way. We can talk about it all day. Burger King get paid higher than what they giving us.

PHIL WILSON: I actually agree with every single thing you said. What I'm trying to say though is nobody in this room is going to be able to mandate a doubling of the wage or 50 percent more of the wage. The only people that can do that, frankly, are across town in the capitol building. If they don't understand that it's costing a lot of money to provide really poor services which then result in bad, expensive outcomes for people. Every time somebody goes to the hospital and you get an aspirin that's 50 bucks, right. We've got to figure out a way to demonstrate to the policymakers that if they don't spend money they're going to keep losing. And the quality of life of the people obviously that's clear as you very eloquently described it.

LAUREN WOMACK: What you're kind of touching on maybe we need to do an awareness campaign and make it relevant not only to people with developmental disabilities, but people are living longer. The senators are sitting there voting, one day they're going to be in my situation. Are they going to want to be in an old-folks home. Nobody visiting their relatives would ever want to be. But you don't want to think about that. An awareness based on this will be you.

PHIL WILSON: So somebody very wise taught me a long time ago that our legislators and executive folks, they are good people, they want everything for everyone. But at the end of the day they have this pot of money and they have to divvy it up 18,000 ways. If

you can tell me that our budget, our taxes, whatever will go further if I spend some money and not pay these other bills they will be well inclined to go that way. You give an emotional story they may agree with you 100 percent and still go what can I do about it. I only have this much money to spend. So I'm just saying basically a cost benefit analysis is what's required. And it's not something I can do. I don't know if anybody in this room has that kind of skill set. But there are companies, universities, people that could do those kind of studies.

LAUREN WOMACK: Could the council, is that something that we could do?

PHIL WILSON: No, it's too expensive. It's a big lift.

VIVIENNE WEBB: So last year we were going to work on a DSW rate increase and then we changed it, we let people convince us to do the night rate instead. I'm just saying this isn't the first time we're discussing this.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other public comment?

NATALIE ISTRE: I'll just say this. Thank you for talking about the bigger picture issues that we're facing in the state and nationwide to be honest. It's not just here in Louisiana. But I also want to say don't ever hesitate to hold us accountable or ask us tough questions or hold our feet to the fire. That's your job and it's our job to be able to answer those type of questions. So I don't want anyone to feel like they can't question us or can't express frustration, you absolutely can. And again, we absolutely want to be held accountable and want to make sure we are providing you with the information you need and we are moving in the direction in which we need to for our participants and for the state. That's all. Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Natalie. Hearing no other comments-- go ahead, Jill.

JILL HANO: Y'all might lose me because it's raining pretty bad. And if y'all just saw me make a face there was thunder and I screamed like bloody murder so y'all might lose me.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Okay. Thank you. 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 her report.

MEREDITH JORDAN: So I'll go through a couple things. We've been extremely busy post legislation session and we talked about this a lot yesterday in our Education Committee. Quite a few legislative bills are going to impact special education and several of our policies. So that's kind of been our focus is to get those legislative responsive policy updates done very quickly. So SEAP is going to meet on July 31st and that is going to be, it will be a packed agenda and that will be one of our main focus areas is going through those policy updates in response to legislation. The only legislative items that we are not addressing just yet are the two dyslexia related legislative items. That will take quite a bit of our team's work moving forward and they're just going to take us a little bit more time in terms of putting together the payment schedules. One of them requires reimbursements for families and for parents and for school systems who want additional dyslexia testing after an at-risk screening. So there's a little bit more detail and work rather than some pretty quick straight forward bulletin updates. So those will come later. But that will be our focus for SEAP in July are those legislative policy updates. And we'll also have a response item for the most recent audit on monitoring.

The second piece here, I know we talked about this survey, but I wanted to bring it back because we're nearing the close of that survey on July 31st is our parent involvement and input survey. So we have a specific set of school systems that you'll see on here that we will report those results on to the US Department of Education around a very specific parent involvement indicator. However, the survey is also open to all parents. But that will close July 31st. And we've been doing a lot of outreach to these particular school systems reminding them and making sure because it is a secure survey. Parents do, in these particular LEAs, they do have to have a code to access the survey. And so we've been doing a lot of outreach with these LEAs to say hey, here's your

response rate. We want to see these response rates go up. Please make sure your families have access to the survey and please send out, use social media, use different communication structures to get it out to families.

The next piece that I wanted to update is we are in the process-- so this time of year, end of year is a lot of data collection that we're doing and a lot of collections that we are required to gather different documents from our LEAs. One of those that I know this council as one of our stakeholders have been really interested in are these Local Special Education Advisory Council reports. Which we did see some legislation that requires certain requirements that will be part of our policy update and putting that in. So we saw a little bit of legislation around local special education advisory councils this year as well. We are collecting these reports still. I am very insistent and adamant to make sure I do the outreach on this myself. I do have team members to help but as we get to all right, here's the due date and I don't have it, they get an email from me. And so I will say I've got, so far, more than we have ever gotten. Sometimes it's we have nearly 200 LEAs between our school systems, between charters and so it is a lot to collect a lot of these things. Which this is one collection that we're under but I know it's one that you guys are really interested in. So we're doing additional outreach to try to get all of those reports and all of those links. We go in, we click on everyone and if I don't see a report I'm reaching out. So you sent me a link and I don't see your report, we're reaching out and following up with that too.

So it's also a verification piece in there as well. So making sure that just because you sent me a link I'm going to look for the 23/24 report of your council of what you all did, what you all accomplished. And so we're going to release this in September, the final collection, just as we did last year. I think I shared it with this group too. So once I release that document every LEA it will have a link to their report so that interested parents, stakeholders can go to whatever parish, whatever LEA, whatever charter and find a list and a report on the actions. So I'll bring

that back to you all. But I did link here where it will be posted. We already have the one posted from last year. And it's very transparent. If we didn't get a report it's blank for that particular LEA.

The next piece, you all know we had our Teacher Leader Summit in May. We've had a lot of professional development opportunities happening over the summer. We do a literacy regional tour. We've got some ELA and social studies trainings coming up. Our team is going to be offering some support for pupil appraisal. In order to facilitate that collaboration with pupil appraisal and assessment teams we added a pupil appraisal expert. I have diagnosticians, I have speech but I added a pupil appraisal person on my team who has that coordination background as well so she's going to lead and put together this institute. It will be a one-day institute for pupil appraisal staff from across the state to come in and we're going to talk about data, how to use data to make impactful changes for students and make really great intervention recommendations. We'll talk some with pupil appraisal about dispute resolution. What are the things that we hear from parents. What are some of the main complaints that we receive around evaluation requests and that process. And so that we can try to help build capacity and help-- so I think making those connections sometimes. So we spend a lot of time supporting school systems, teams, staff, educators, now pupil appraisal staff. But also helping them connect what we also hear from parents that you all need to know that you may need to be addressing in your school system, right. So we'll talk a little bit about that, what are some of the top complaints that we get around the evaluation processes. Any updates, bulletin updates, legislative updates that will impact pupil appraisal teams we'll include those types of topics as well. So we're pretty excited to kick that support off.

We're also starting, we'll be launching our cohort five for our special education fellows. We have teachers around this table, we've had special educators around this table and a lot of you have been interested in that so I linked our application there. And we're going to be recognizing our cohort four completers also at August BESE. We had about 22 individuals complete

this year-long process. The past year it was the most that we've ever had. So really building and connecting with leaders who are interested in being special education administrators and directors so that when we see folks in that workforce retiring that there are people who are connected or being supported by the department, supported around laws, around policy and how to be and lead this work in our state. So we have a group of people who are great candidates to step in some of those roles across our state if they come open.

We have extended access to some foundational literacy modules. Several years ago there was legislation passed that required science or reading training for any educator K through three. So one of the things that we often hear is well, Meredith, we sometimes have students with disabilities who have learning challenges around reading in middle school, early high school. And so we launched some specific modules for those middle school grades. And really targeted our special educators who support reading and reading interventionists. So we're extending those modules. We have some school systems who, now this is a local decision, but they may be offering incentives or pay incentives for their special educators for literacy specialist to access this course work because of course it is in addition to their job responsibilities and additional training. So you'll see what those modules are. And we've been communicating that regularly to our SPED directors that these are expended and that they're still available. Because they are extensive. It does take, each model takes hours to complete. They're interactive. They're in depth. They have checkpoints. They may be watching videos at certain points. So they are interactive. They're kind of not just sort of sit and get. You have to watch a video, interact with the training, that kind of thing. So they do take time. It would have to be something that an educator is doing either during a professional learning experience after school, maybe this summer. And so they're pretty expensive.

Wanted to give at least one dyslexia, a couple of dyslexia updates. So we had Act 266 of the 2023 session that required all kindergarten students to be screened. So this past year was the first year that we

had started all kindergarten students being screened for dyslexia. So we launched that. The department provided the Shaywitz dyslexia screen. We used legislative funding that was dedicated for that activity. We had training that we provided. And those students were to be screened prior to the end of the school year. If students come back with an at-risk screening, so not saying they have dyslexia, right, you need multiple assessments, multiple data points. But if this particular screening comes back with at risk there is a requirement by law that parents are notified within 30 days of that result. So any parent at this point hopefully would have already been notified because that screening should have happened before the end of the school year.

And, of course, like I said, there were some new legislative updates this past session that we will have to address next steps with dyslexia. We are, because this is a real growing interest, even nationally of course in our state. We have had dyslexia legislation for the past couple of years in our state. Last year we launched a cohort for a dyslexia practitioner pathway of training. We already have certifications for dyslexia practitioners and therapists in our state available through the department. If you meet certain coursework requirements you can get that on your Louisiana teaching certificate. And so these cohorts we launched those in an effort to-- we have a lot of science and reading training that's happening to grab some of those teachers that are really experts in science and reading in the area of supporting students who struggle to read and take them to the next step. And grab those experts and say hey, are you interested in really (inaudible) knowledge of dyslexia and how to support those students. So we had a cohort of 25 last year and I worked with our literacy team to fund it with some state literacy funding. This was not funded through IDEA. So just to kind of tell you guys how. I also reach out to other team departments that help support our work around some of our students with disabilities as well. And our second cohort this year will also be funded with some of that same literacy funding. And we're getting a lot of interest. I would say we had more than 50, maybe even closer to 100

applicants but our cohorts are only taking 25 just based on the funding availability and this literacy funding and what we could finance at the time in terms of the cohort.

And you'll see kind of how extensive this is. So 140 hours of course work, 60 practicum hours where they're actually having to support students with dyslexia and report back to their instructors. So it's not something that you want to sign up for if you're not extremely committed. But our thought is and when we choose the cohort we are looking at trying to, you know, because we'll have a school system that will send us like 20 names from one school system. But what we want is regional representation within these cohorts so that we're trying to train these folks across the state and be fair, right.

So that's just kind of-- there's an inaugural dyslexia summit that the Louisiana Academic Language Therapy Association, we have the Center for Literacy and Learning in Louisiana. So this is really ramping up in our state. This is the first to my knowledge of a Louisiana state dyslexia summit. It is not being funded by LDOE but wanted to just kind of put that out there as something that's kind of growing in interest here. And that will happen in October. So any dyslexia practitioner, therapists, any educators, literacy interventionists. It would be great for school counselors who are interested in dyslexia, 504 supports, special educators, you know, ed diagnosticians, speech language pathologists. All those folks would be folks who would be potentially interested in going to this dyslexia summit. And we'll see kind of what is that interest. You'll see the registration is open. The cost is 299-dollars. So again, not something funded by the department but something that I know with a lot of our Louisiana dyslexia organizations very involved in and collaborated.

Also, last thing, we will be hosting regional collaboratives across the state. So again, I know I've talked with you guys about this. You know, sometimes we miss supporting certain areas because a lot of times we're holding things and hosting things here in Baton Rouge and it is very hard,

it's a long drive for our North Louisiana friends to get down here. So trying to be a bit more respectful and going to school systems to support or at least to regions to be closer and more accessible. And so that we don't pull them out of their schools and school systems for days on end when we have supports or trainings we need to do as a department. But we're going to host some regional collaborations in which special education directors from every school system will be required to attend alongside their superintendent, alongside their chief academic officers. That's been something that we have been very vocal about as an agency around special education is bringing all of these folks together and not siloing students with disabilities support.

So our instructional coherence pathway we're really focusing on inclusive practices for our children with disabilities and our students with disabilities making sure they have access to inclusive, high-quality teaching and learning. And so I'm really excited about this and I'm really excited about having those special education leaders right alongside their superintendents and CAOs who also need that learning and need that support. And to kind of show and model that cohesion that we want to see in our school systems around making sure we're providing the best outcomes and the best learning for our kids with disabilities. So those are just a couple things that we have going on and we'll be doing reports. So happy to take any questions.

CHRISTI GONZALES: I know SEAP usually meets on a Wednesday but in November it's on a Tuesday. Is that correct?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Let me double check that, Christi. It could be a room issue.

CHRISTI GONZALES: I just wanted to make sure.

MEREDITH JORDAN: And we also normally meet in June but we had to move, of course, because of June 19th holiday this year. Let me check on November.

SPEAKER: So do we have any test results for the kindergarteners that were tested? Like what was the total number tested, how many came back positive or at

risk?

MEREDITH JORDAN: So the legislation doesn't require us to collect those at-risk indicators so I don't have numbers on how many kids came back at risk. What we do collect is every December we collect and report to the legislature the number of students-- so the law requires us to identify once a year the number of students identified with dyslexia that have an IEP or 504. But this particular at-risk screening we're not required to collect that information.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So who identified them as having dyslexia?

MEREDITH JORDAN: So that will go through either your SBLC team or that IEP team. Now remember dyslexia falls under specific learning disability for IDEA purposes, right. You can also have a medical diagnosis of dyslexia.

NICOLE BANKS: Why are they screening the kids in kindergarten? A lot of these kids don't know how to identify things so how can you really accurately screen them in kindergarten?

MEREDITH JORDAN: That's been a huge discussion. Right now because the law tells us to. The law specifically says to be screened by the end of kindergarten.

NICOLE BANKS: When did they pass this law?

MEREDITH JORDAN: 2022 and then we got the funding last year in 2023.

NICOLE BANKS: So let's say that I'm a parent and I feel like my child needs to be screened for dyslexia that's not in kindergarten, maybe they're in middle school.

MEREDITH JORDAN: You can still request that your school screen.

NICOLE BANKS: How long does it take them from the time that you request to actually do the screening and then get back with you? How long is that supposed to take?

MEREDITH JORDAN: It should be a reasonable. There's no timeline.

NICOLE BANKS: Two years?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Absolutely not.

NICOLE BANKS: Because that's the thing I'm dealing with my own son where we asked to be screened for

dyslexia through the IEP team. They went through some, they gave me a roundabout answer into why they still haven't did the screening yet. He could read and all this other stuff, we don't qualify for the screening and then he's still having issues so it's like it took them two years just to tell me that.

MEREDITH JORDAN: No. It should not take two years.

NICOLE BANKS: The actual screening process of the dyslexia and all that before like after kindergarten and after this is done. This is how long it took them with me and I'm in Terrebonne Parish. I don't know if any other parents are facing what I'm facing with dyslexia but that's definitely concerning to me how long it took.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yeah. It shouldn't. The Shaywitz dyslexia screener takes less than five minutes.

NICOLE BANKS: I was specifically told when we went through the IEP it was going to take at least a year and a half because they had a waiting list. And I'm like just for a screening. Literally. And they did not do it until last year, like the beginning of, I say last year, but 2023 the beginning of that school year. That's when it actually got done and I requested it in 2021.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. IDEA sort of typical language is within a reasonable time.

NICOLE BANKS: Because I know I must have been one of the ones that fall through the cracks or something like that. I know I experience this, some other parents have experienced the same thing that I have experienced as we currently speak.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes, and I would really encourage parents or families that would experience that to reach out to our special education ombudsman and let us help connect the parent with the school district and kind of navigate that disagreement, right. And let us help move that a little bit if we can.

NICOLE BANKS: And that ombudsman that you guys hired previously, right?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes.

SPEAKER: And this is for public schools only? Or this is mandatory in private as well?

MEREDITH JORDAN: No, it's for public.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any public comments?

HANNAH JENKINS: Yes, Ms. Brenda Cosse has her hand raised.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes, Ms. Brenda.

BRENDA COSSE: Good afternoon. Should I read all three of the questions?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Yes, go ahead. Start with one at a time.

BRENDA COSSE: Okay. How to access the virtual options? Thank you for the report for SEAP meeting for 7/31 to give public comment on the legislative portion.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yeah, Ms. Cosse, we have a live stream link that appears on our SEAP agendas that you can use. So those will post publicly, the next one will post on Wednesday. So they're usually posted a week ahead of time, our agendas. And that live stream link is right on that public agenda, Ms. Cosse.

BRENDA COSSE: You mean on the BESE website?

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes, ma'am.

BRENDA COSSE: Okay. Second question. How many SPED fellows cohorts for, you said it was the largest, how many are being recognized in August by BESE?

MEREDITH JORDAN: We have about 22.

BRENDA COSSE: Thank you for continuing that--

MEREDITH JORDAN: Sure.

BRENDA COSSE: --funding. With the PASI 24 is there virtual options for that one-day institute? And the report says that school systems are encouraged to send two attendees. Is at least one pupil appraisal representative required to attend training? Thank you.

MEREDITH JORDAN: Yes, ma'am. Good questions, Ms. Cosse. Right now for Pupil Appraisal Summit we're going to do full in person and they could send whatever two pupil appraisal staff they wanted. So we want both of those people to be a pupil appraisal staff member. It could be a diagnostician, could be school psychologist. But yes, definitely a pupil appraisal person.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other public comments? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. Thank you, Ms. Meredith. The next item of business is the report of the Office of Elderly Affairs. The chair recognizes Cheri Crain for the

report.

CHERI CRAIN: Good afternoon, everybody. My report is just the same basic report, just updating some of the statistical data. So I'll really just kind of go over some high points of where GOEA is at the moment. Just keep in mind that these numbers are not as of June 30th because we don't have that data completed yet. This is actually as of the end of March. So if you kind of go down to the bottom where I start talking about just our continuation work with EMDAC when it comes to response and recovery, support functions during disasters that's still ongoing. Will be for a good while which is a good thing.

And then just touch basis on what we have accomplished during the regular 2024 legislative session. I know over the last year I've reported about APS or Elderly Protective Services unit which had an audit, came up with some findings and addressing those audits. We've been preaching that our Elderly Protective Services unit has been understaffed. The caseload has been extremely higher compared to other states throughout the country. So it was very good news during the session. We were allocated 16 additional positions for our EPS unit so that will alleviate that high caseload number. So it will take a while to feel those effects but we are in the process of doing the job descriptions for those positions because they are going to be strategically placed throughout the state. And also we will be including some of those to be actually supervisors over regional areas so it will take a little while to feel those effects of getting a lower caseload, however, we are working on that now.

During May we celebrated older Americans month. For some of you who don't know the history Older Americans Act was done in 1965. Congress passed it to help the elderly as well as other whether they're disabled to stay in the community, live in their home longer and still get the services that they need. Whether it includes family caregivers, congregate meals, home delivered meals, you know, preventive health services, personal and healthcare services, transportation, legal assistance. All of those services as well as provide the ombudsman service.

Some of you may know with the Older Americans Act we have, that's kind of what we are, we're the state unit on aging and that is what we follow. That is our guide on providing services to the community. It was done in 1965. It was reauthorized a couple of times. Since 1988 there has been no major change to that Older Americans Act until February of 2024. February 2024 they did a final rule and they revised the Older Americans Act. So now our agency has to take our internal GOEA policy and procedure manual, rewrite it to mimic the changes, implement it to our triple As which is our area agencies on aging. We have 64, one in each parish. So we have until October of 2025 to be in compliance with those changes. It's going to take a lot of work. I am spearheading that project since I am the manager of compliance and planning. So that is going on as well as everything else that we have with getting the 16 additional positions.

Also, we were invited by ACL, which is the Administration on Community Living, to submit a proposal for the USA aging conference and we submitted the proposal based on how Louisiana handles disasters. Of course we all know most disasters that we get here is hurricanes. So we submitted a proposal. I wrote it up with some help from one of my staff members and we actually submitted the proposal and we were asked to present. We did that earlier this month. This is the first time that Louisiana has been able to participate as a speaker at this conference. So it was a pretty big deal.

We had states that inquired on many different levels of how we started, what did we do, how did we partner with some of these other agencies. And it was a big learning. You have Oregon who doesn't really have many disasters, however, they had wildfires. They had nothing in place on how to plan for it, what they were going to do, how they were going to evacuate, how they were going to respond. They are at the bottom level building the foundation and trying to go up. So we just tried to explain to them it's never perfect. We learn from every event. There's always room for improvement. We talk about what went well. What didn't go so well. How we can fix it. And, you know, to say that this is a multifaceted agency and

partnership. It includes DCFS, it includes the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and it just goes on and on. So to have those agencies reach out to us and I still get emails asking how did you do it. Unfortunately, I was not in on the bottom level. This all kind of came together with EMDAC after Katrina. I've only been involved for like four or five years. But I still have connections to a lot of those members that were on the founding part and still part of. And one of those is Bambi Polotzola. So I look to her for a lot on trying to help these other states of like where should they start, where did they go, how do they start these partnerships. So that was our biggest thing this year. And then EPS getting the positions. They also have to update their policy and procedure manual because the Older Americans Act did affect some of the guidelines on how Elderly Protective Services used to provide those services when it comes to investigating those requirements. Things that are required of them. So that's something that we're also looking at updating and advising.

There are plenty of webinars, lunch and learns going on right now to go over the changes in the Older Americans Act. So it's a lot of me trying to go back to the foundation of learning everything that the old policy and procedure manual had and looking at the new regulations and the expectations of agencies and states and try to rewrite that. Our legal team is going to be assisting me on this but it's going to be a long process. But we're up for the challenge.

Other than that there's not much going on except it is hurricane season. Just kind of want to remind everybody that GOHSEP has a wonderful website, Get a Game Plan. If you're not familiar with it please get familiar with it. It has a lot of good information on checklists of what you should have together. Mostly for the elderly population it's prescriptions, it's medical equipment, it's the chargers for the medical equipment. Those are the things that we see mostly that get left behind and sometimes it causes an issue trying to replace those when you are trying to evacuate. But other than that anybody has any questions I will gladly answer if I can.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any questions from council

members? Any public comment? Well, congratulations on your presentation and being recognized, Ms. Crain. Good job. Ms. Cosse.

BRENDA COSSE: Yes, I just had a question. Is there any assistance for extreme heat?

CHERI CRAIN: So, Ms. Cosse, it really depends on the area that you're located. If you tell me what parish you're located in I can give you contact information.

BRENDA COSSE: I'm in St. Tammany Parish. Is there a website? Are we supposed to go to our local council for that?

CHERI CRAIN: So you can contact your local Council on Aging. Each council has different contacts depending on where they're located and depending on the vendors that can help. I know like in EBR they do have a fan drive every year so they can distribute fans. There's other energy assistance programs that you can fill out for your electronic bill and so forth like that. But it is actually probably if you have that number readily available easier for you to contact them because they do have all those partnerships.

BRENDA COSSE: Okay. Thank you.

CHERI CRAIN: You're welcome.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other public comment? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business the report of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. The chair recognizes Jamar Ennis for the report.

JAMAR ENNIS: Thank you, madam chairperson. Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Jamar Ennis. If you haven't met me I'll gladly get acquainted with everyone who I haven't met. I do see some unfamiliar faces so I look forward to meeting everyone. So I do want to talk about my report. I'm not going to go into detail. Please accept it as written. But I would like to also deviate from it for a little bit. We have an announcement. We have our GODA conference that's scheduled for August 23 of this year. It will be completely virtual. We will have some really interesting topics spanning from education, accessibility, estate planning, trust, special need trust. We will have a one-day conference. It will be very robust, I can assure you that. We do encourage

anyone who has been a participant of the GODA conference to attend. And we will have some things from legislative session, recaps. And we also are going to have a youth component, Lillian DeJean has agreed to graciously appear and give a recap of Youth Leadership Forum. And hopefully we can create some advocacy, some energy around that to create some funding opportunities for them to at least encourage the support and bring awareness for it. So we're very excited of the slate that we have. In the report you can kind of just see a glimpse of a tentative slate. Again, it's not in its final form but I promise you we will have a great conference. Please attend if you can. Please expect to have Liam reach out to you. Our newsletter, if you haven't subscribed, please subscribe. We can add your email address to the list if you make a request to our office. So we're just very excited to at least continue it even though it's not the full three-day conference that you expect. So that is our conference. Just overview. Please be on the lookout for more details. And again, it will be virtual.

So one of the main things that we are focusing on is the financial resources of not only our office but our sister agencies and who we deal with. So, for instance, LRS always has a funding conundrum. What our office is focused on we want to create a list so we can talk to our administration and say look, these are funds that are being left on the table every year that are subject to matching federal dollars to improve services. We want to put everybody we can in winning positions to get the most money that they can get to improve services.

What we're also doing is we're in the midst of applying for a (inaudible) account. It's very powerful for us to at least look, research and determine what funding opportunities may be available for people who we know can do the work, who are already legislatively empowered to do the work, so on and so forth. My office has written letters of support for individuals who have embarked on applying for grants to better serve a need. We actually did one for your agency recently. So any agencies that would like our support please let us know. We're happy to do it.

And here's where the deviation comes from. We will be doing something that we're statutorily authorized to do that this office hasn't done before. So our office is authorized to convene a committee to address accessible parking. So this group that we're building, and hopefully everyone can be a part of it, is to address the abuse of accessible placards, handicap plates. And I don't like using the word handicap but that's how it's written in our statute.

ERICK TAYLOR: Thank you.

JAMAR ENNIS: And that's one of the recommendations that I think this committee can really bring home. So we get a lot of complaints when it comes to accessible parking and it's very germane to what we do because that's how we're funded via the disability trust fund. 2/3rds of every parking violation or any violation of accessible parking it's supposed to be remitted to us via the local sheriff's office. And we haven't always been getting it. It does serve a substantial nexus to fund our office to do programs, to do the other things that I'm going to talk about after I leave this topic. So I think this is a beautiful start to doing something that's really effective because we're going to involve the medical review board who issues these things in perpetuity to hold better and greater standards. So that's the goal. So we're still figuring out what this is going to look like but we're definitely going to do that sometime next year, at least the start of it.

The next thing that I wanted to kind of deviate from my report, we know that there's a lot of value from local groups, mayor councils, mayor commissions, local entities centered around resolving disability issues. So we want to get together and create a summit with local interests in mind anchored around the mayors' councils and any local entity that would like to build something on a local level to address or resolve disability and accessibility related concerns. So our summit and administration loves it so I think we're really going to make a big deal out of it. Make it one of our new anchor programs to have everybody in one location to talk about what works, what doesn't work and how they can get more support to do things in their own communities. So our summit, LABI, is interested in doing presentations to empower local

networks. So we're really excited about potential and the concept of this program that we're also going to bring to the table of things we do at GODA.

So we recently had our GACDA meeting. It was one day. We're still building our committees' structure so that hopefully we can get all of the people who were involved with GACDA back on in some shape, form or fashion. So we're just excited about the growth that we're continuing to figure things out. And just for the sake of time I can take some questions. Here's some things that you can continue to expect from us in the newsletter. If there's anyone who wants us to participate in their events we will certainly be happy to do that. Proclamations, awareness campaigns. Please advise us in whatever itineraries you have especially if you want our office to participate. On that note, Madam Chair, I will close and open up the floor to any questions.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any questions from council members? Any public? Jill.

JILL HANO: Whoops. When did you say your conference will be?

JAMAR ENNIS: August 23. The slated time is 8:30 to 4:30. Nine to 4:30. That gives everybody a chance to get their coffee. If there's any accessibility requests Liam is going to-- I promise you're going to be throwing up this conference. So many fliers to come out starting next week. We do hope that we can have the participation that we've had in the past so please support us. So moving forward this is just the beginning. We hope to have a hybrid in person and virtual next year.

JILL HANO: It's the 23rd?

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes, it is a Friday next month.

JILL HANO: Perfect. Thanks y'all.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Kristy Curtis first and then Ms. Brenda Cosse.

KRISTY CURTIS: Hi. Thank you, chair. So my question is about the accessible parking placards. It sounds like you said that y'all were going to get with the medical board. And so I think this is one of the issues that I'm passionate about and what I see the most is that accessible parking, we need to focus on enforcing accessible parking rules. What I've noticed

is that it's not being enforced especially in the communities I'm in the most. And so if we were enforcing it we could get more of those fees from the tickets being given to go to the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs or wherever it goes to. I would hate to see some of our families and individuals not getting the accessibility because they're not able to get the accessible parking they need. I'm sorry.

JAMAR ENNIS: No, thank you for your comments, Kristy. So let me give you the particular statute that I'm referencing here that establishes our authority. So title 46 section 2584. What this committee would be commissioned to do is to report findings, make recommendations to Louisiana Medical Advisory Board. Because look, it's an epidemic. No matter what parking lot you go to you're going to see nothing but placards. Doctors give them out like candy. We're very aware that this is a growing issue. So this is what we have under our tools in terms of activities. So I think it's now more appropriate than ever to commission a committee to have some really serious discussions on how to improve the situation. So again, that is title 46.2584 is the section number.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Jamar, just to let you know, my son had double hip surgery this past Christmas and it took an act of Congress for us to get a hang tag because we had to bring him to the DMV to get a mobility card.

JAMAR ENNIS: What parish?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Iberia. So we did get it and we only use it if we need to at the end of the day if he's really exhausted, that kind of thing. But it took us a while.

JAMAR ENNIS: Some parishes have it under control more than others. Some are heavy handed. But we want to at least understand everyone's individual needs in terms of parishes and just take some really strong steps to make sure that this very important tool is used appropriately.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Ms. Brenda.

BRENDA COSSE: Good afternoon. I had questions about the-- thank you for the one-day virtual conference and continuing that even if it's the one day. We appreciate it. The applications for

membership in GACDA, the advisory was in the June GODA newsletter. Are you still seeking applicants and are they only former members?

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

BRENDA COSSE: Okay. And the GACDA committees, are you able to serve on a GACDA committee even if you're not a GACDA member?

JAMAR ENNIS: Two great questions. Thank you, Brenda. We have one opening that the governor hasn't filled yet so we want as many qualified applicants to submit applications so they can go through the process. And yes, it is the aim to have nonmember individuals be involved with our committees. So we have accessibility, education, legislative. So those are the traditional committees. However, there's some needs-- we can always-- in the past there's a transportation committee. So based on where we are those could be created and just to serve a particular need. It could be perpetual. But that's something that we're building. And as you know we went from 30 to 5. And I don't care who you are if you get a reduction that size you're going to have to make some changes and some adjustments so that's where we are. Someone else has a question.

ERICK TAYLOR: Jamar, I got a ticket, mine was expired and they took mine. And I was wondering they took mine and I had trouble getting mine back.

JAMAR ENNIS: Did you ever get it back?

ERICK TAYLOR: I got it back. They say it was expired and what you doing with it. I'm in a wheelchair. Like look in the back of the car.

JAMAR ENNIS: You can explain something but you can't make them understand it. Sorry that happened to you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: I'm sorry, Ms. Brenda, I thought you were done. I apologize for that.

JAMAR ENNIS: There was another question?

BRENDA COSSE: How does the public participate in the GACDA meetings and do we contact Mr. Liam to serve on the Education Committee? Thank you.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes and yes. So it will be virtual participation. So our committee, our council is of course they have to vet-- doing the same thing that this council is doing, doing the Act 378 to (inaudible)

rules and procedures for virtual meetings so we're going through that process as well. There will be virtual and in-person opportunities to participate. And yes, Liam is the coordinator of GACDA. I've been made a member. So Liam has been gracious and he's been great in this role coordinating the council's meetings and laying the foundation for us to be successful.

VIVIENNE WEBB: So really I just have two words to say. Hidden disabilities.

JAMAR ENNIS: Give me more...

VIVIENNE WEBB: In regards to the handicap tags you don't know who does and does not have a disability. It's not easy to get those handicap tags. It's very difficult. So if someone has one they probably have a disability.

JAMAR ENNIS: Well, let me say this. We get complaints from people all the time whether it's exposing abuse of SSDI, we get a lot of complaints about people from individuals with inside, who exploit loopholes to get things that they shouldn't have. So I guess our office is looking into it to vet what should be out of an abundance of caution. And yes, that is very true. However, there is some abuses out there so we just want to make sure that it's appropriately dealt with as our roles in public service just so we can at least make sure there's some more public confidence in doing the right things for something that's in the wrong hand can easily be abused. I appreciate what you're saying. And what you're saying is very true. And I think that we can look into it more. That's where we stand.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Mr. Erick.

ERICK TAYLOR: I know with mine I did get some clarity that I have an ID and that ID matches to that tag. So if you basically don't show that ID they can pull that ID. Like I was in the grocery store one time and my worker was parked in the handicap parking spot. They asked her to show the ID. They actually came in the store and asked me to pull that ID. And that ID stops a lot of that because if it don't match that ID they will say okay, you don't actually have that.

LAUREN WOMACK: My husband is a disabled veteran with his back. Some days walks fine, some days not. But he should have (inaudible) something that can go on

your actual ID that if a cop or law enforcement, look, I have this ID you don't have to explain anything else because that's not their business, obviously, but it's through the DMV through your doctor I got this designation. So it won't cover all the abuse, but I think it would allow us to enforce it a lot easier. And the fact that the (inaudible) say okay, you need to come get redetermined. Cause if you just had a knee replacement but you did that five years ago and you're fine now I know a lot of people are still using it, you know. Or somebody with their grandma might have their tag using it without grandma. But if grandma has her ID then she can keep her tag with her. Just little things like that I think having like you said the workgroup would cover the things that not everybody thinks of. But the individual people who are the exceptions we can work it out hopefully.

JAMAR ENNIS: Finding all the loopholes, finding all the exceptions and the creative ways.

LAUREN WOMACK: The best-case scenario because you're not going to get one size fits all.

JAMAR ENNIS: So having people, having individuals with interests and who know the system because they lived in shared experience. Those are the individuals that's going to be a part of this.

LAUREN WOMACK: It's not going to be perfect but we can make it better.

JAMAR ENNIS: That's the goal. Thank you for saying that.

ERICK TAYLOR: One more question. Y'all can't make them free for us cause those things 32-dollars?

JAMAR ENNIS: Erick, that's a little bit out of my paygrade.

MIKE BILLINGS: If the local, I don't know how you would do it on the enforcement end cause that's the problem. The local law enforcement. You're not going to get anybody to show up and do any enforcement if somebody's parked in a spot. Now if they did that you could make those free for Mr. Erick here because you can have a spot blocked and call and they won't come. And I've personally had these little cards that say you park like an idiot and I use them.

JAMAR ENNIS: Well, one thing I say about our governor, Governor Landry, the sheriffs tend to listen

to him more than I think any other governor. So that's one thing that we hope that will change. So I appreciate what you're saying. So certainly we intend to do something about it when it comes down to getting information and determining what is real and what needs to change.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Jill.

JILL HANO: I wanted to bring this to the group and I've been forgetting. But my favorite restaurant is in a shopping center and I want to say a loan place in the shopping center and they have two signs that say, the big outside like advertisement signs that say and they use it for reserve parking. Like I said, it's in a big old shopping center. My parents and I got in an argument with them because one of their signs was in the handicap spot like for that designated for the whole shopping center. We moved it but they gave us grief. But is that like well in their authority? Can you reserve a handicap spot for your organization in a parking lot structure?

JAMAR ENNIS: I would believe that you can. Everything's governed by state law. Unless they can prove some local statute or ordinance. Everybody has a right to park if they have the appropriate placards or credentials.

JILL HANO: That's not what I'm saying. I was going out to eat and they had a big sign for advertisement blocking their handicap spot and that was the only handicap in the whole parking complex. So we ignored the reserved spot and parked at the bank reserved because that was the only handicap spot in the place that I could park at. Does this make sense?

JAMAR ENNIS: Yeah, it does. And I think that this committee can vet issues like that. So when we get it established I think we can talk about those issues further. Just for the sake of time I know that there's others who need to present. I would be more than happy to talk about the individual situations offline. If there's additional private or other questions or concerns.

JILL HANO: Okay. Great. Thanks.

JAMAR ENNIS: Thank you, Jill.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed

on file. At this time it is time for a recess. Would y'all like a recess?

NICOLE BANKS: Yep.

CHRISTI GONZALES: If there is no objection we will recess for ten minutes. Hearing none, the meeting is at recess. It is now 2:47. We will reconvene at 3.

{Break}

CHRISTI GONZALES: The next item of business is the report of Disability Rights Louisiana. Tory Rocca

TORY ROCCA: First let me apologize. I noticed my report says it's from April. It is from July actually. Just a failure to change the date when I was running reports. We use the same letterhead. Any dates you see in here might be from the first quarter this year. Those are accurate. It's just that I write these reports based on our internal reports from our board of directors and sometimes there's a lag. If it says from March that actually is from March. We have our Client Assistance Program that helps people with disabilities who are applying for services from LRS and it helps them understand their benefits and rights of the Rehabilitation Act. We currently are assisting 31 people in that program. We have recently successfully advocated for two clients to gain supports for tuition and maintenance and we are filing a case in the court for a piece of equipment for a client that is needed to access his farm.

Our Community Living Ombudsman Program. We have advocates in that program who advocate for people who are living in ICFDDs across the state. In March of 24, that is the most current for this. Our ombudsman visited 136 of the ICFDDs in the state. Received 67 requests for assistance. Including transferring or helping one transfer to a facility that the client deserved over the one they were in.

Our Supported Independent Living Advocacy program. It's like our CLOP program only it serves individuals with developmental disabilities who are receiving waiver services in their home and communities. We are currently assisting 30 people in that program. Our Rep Payee program which protects people who have social security benefits. It provides oversight to a representative payee regarding their services to beneficiaries and gives them support to understand

their responsibilities. The program has a target number of 50 cases for grant year two. And as of May of this year we have already hit that target with some time left in the year so we have exceeded our target on that year.

Our litigation. We are still working on there are a number of litigation issues here. The Cooper case, I probably mentioned that before. That case involves the wait list for people who are currently in jail and are waiting to transfer out after being found (inaudible) to stand trial. There is a waiting list right now, a backlog of about 400 people I think if I recall correctly. There is a working group that is trying to address that. We are part of the working group. To the best of our knowledge the state is trying to open up a few other forensic psychiatric facilities to address the backlog. And that's the highlights of my report. Any questions?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any questions from council members? Any public comments? Hearing none, 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 Mr. Sprinkle for the report.

KRISTEN REED: Mr. Sprinkle is not here today but my name is Kristen Reed. I'm here to talk a little bit about the Families Helping Families centers. Right now (inaudible) get the word out about everything else. All of our centers are currently working on back-to-school events and things like that. But also going out into the community doing those IEP workshops, getting ready for the next school year. What's going on, promoting for Bureau of Family Health vaccinations. What's required (inaudible) your doctor before. What's going to be required at home. Our collaboration kits with our doctors for surveys for Bureau of Family Health. We have been coordinating with our schools to go to literacy nights, family reading, anything in the community to promote disability related so we can get our services out there about OCDD, about the LDOE websites. Different things that are going on in our system. Also introducing what's coming up for us. School starts less than a month now for almost every place, at least in our place, we're just doing what we

can to help parish by parish get school uniforms, documentation, assessments, you know, whatever is needed to get back going and stuff as well as continue our ongoing and getting disability services out(inaudible).

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any questions from council members? Phil.

PHIL WILSON: I do have a question but it wasn't about the report. But it is about Families Helping Families. I know there used to be a meeting or meetings, I don't know what time period, but where all the Families Helping Families offices would have some kind of joint meeting. Is that still the case?

KRISTEN REED: Yes. We used to have an umbrella FHF Louisiana but that is no longer in existence.

BRENTON ANDRUS: One thing to chime in. The directors of each center they do get on a call every Monday. So if you needed to speak with them I'm sure you could reach out to one of the directors.

PHIL WILSON: I just wanted to give out information about the trainings we're planning on doing. If there's somehow somebody could send me the time and the number to call in on.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah, Kristen.

KRISTEN REED: I'll take care of that.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other comments? Ms. Brenda.

BRENDA COSSE: Thank you for the report FHF. Can we get the report on the website please. Thank you.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Thank you, Ms. Brenda. Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: So this is probably a question, maybe y'all answered it, I had to go to the bathroom. But I know last meeting we were talking to the New Orleans Families Helping Families and we had took the funding back and they're on like a probational period. Was that discussed or like where are we with them with that?

BRENTON ANDRUS: That's handled in the Self-Determination Committee.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And that was discussed in Mike's summary this morning in his chair report.

NICOLE BANKS: He did discuss that part?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. He provided a recap of that conversation.

EBONY HAVEN: And if you want to go and look at the update the director provided, Nicole, it's in the Self-Determination agenda online, her update is linked.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other comments? All right. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item for business is the report from the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. The chair recognizes Ms. July Hagan for the report.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Good afternoon, everybody. We are going to be working on updating our report for October. First off, we've kind of gotten a book now because as the years have gone and people asked and we've sort of added things but didn't always take things off. We are also really, really trying hard for anything that we have that's public facing to make sure that we're using plain language and really thinking about how we're using that and it gets really kind of complicated. I may be reaching out to some of you directly, but if others have thoughts or ideas about this is really helpful in the report or this is not necessarily helpful. And Jill, sorry, but I'll probably be calling you directly because I know you and I talk about the report quite a bit. So I do want to make sure that-- I don't want to not be transparent, but I also don't want to continue having information in ways that don't make sense. And just really we're trying to put an eye for is there a way that we can present this in a way that's maybe a little more user-friendly where there might be standing agenda item things that we routinely update on but then if there's major things for that quarter that we have a way to highlight that because you sort of lose it in the report in the way that it is now. So again, if folks have thoughts or suggestions around that I'm happy to take them. We're going to shoot for the October report, it depends on how much feedback I get, but for sure we'll have that by the January report.

Some of the main things we're working on, we are still under a corrective action plan for our home and community-based settings rule as relates to our day habilitation and employment programs. We are working on having everybody able to come into compliance with that specifically around people not just going to a

building and spending their entire day only with people with disabilities but having more community integration as it relates to that. So we do still have some areas. The rural areas are where we struggle the most with how to achieve compliance with the things that we're asking, of course. We still have some facilities that are not quite there but we're getting closer to kind of the finish on that.

In the report you'll see the breakdown on the American Rescue Plan Act dollars. We have gotten an extension. So all of the activities that you see we originally only had until March of 2025. We've now got an extension from CMS until December of 2025. So we have a little more time now to really focus on, we're not doing new activities, but really some of the things we're piloting or some of the things that took us longer because we had a contract so we were excited to see that we have that extension until December.

They mentioned this morning in the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion, I did a report on the access rule. That's really got all of our attention right now in terms of thinking about how we are going to come into compliance and so that's something you'll definitely see in my report and something I'll be using the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion for routinely to be able to get their feedback on certain aspects of that access rule.

We were also awarded, and Ebony and Arc of Louisiana will be working with us on this, and also going to maybe be reaching out to some other people. But it was a technical assistance grant for helping people understand the benefits of dual enrollment in Medicaid and Medicare. We have a lot of people we believe in Louisiana who could benefit from being enrolled in Medicare, having more access to doctors greater-- you know, they're eligible but you have to apply. And so we're going to be working with this technical assistance cohort to look at our policy. So we have our Medicaid team at the table along with OCDD and OAAS. We're going to be pulling in external partners, looking at our policies, what might we need to change to make sure that people are getting access to the resources that they need and knowing about it. And then they can help us with material development and

things like that. So it's one year and it just started July so that will go through next June. So we'll continue to keep you guys updated. I'm sure we'll have some asks to help us get information and resources out.

And then our Early Steps Program. We are having an audit from OSEP. Office of Special Education Programs will be here in December doing an audit of our Early Steps Program. We've been getting ready for it for a while. We've been getting ready for the fact that we will probably have opportunities for improvement once that audit is finalized but we'll be making sure to share that. One of the things that did happen during the legislative session, and Jamar had mentioned some of the positions that changed, the SICCC person who coordinated our Statewide Interagency Coordination Council for Early Steps was under the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. That's been shifted for be under the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. So we don't have a person in that position yet. We'll be hiring for that position soon. And the main thing there is for them to oversee that coordinating council.

And then the last thing I'll just mention, because we've gotten a lot of questions about it, it is within the American Rescue Plan Act, but we are working jointly with the Office of Aging and Adult Services and our Medicaid office to do a rate methodology study. You guys were talking about rates and direct support workers and what that means. So one of the things that-- we'll be contracting this out so it will be an external group. There will be a component of stakeholder engagement with whichever provider. We've narrowed it down to a few. I think we're really close to identifying who that provider will be. It will be-- we're looking for someone who's done this in other states. So they have history, know what are the relevant things that need to be included, what do we need to consider. And get us to the point-- because right now when we say things like we need to pay the workers more. Well, what portion. In the access rule it says that some of the rates 80 percent will have to go to the worker. But how do you figure out overhead. How do you figure out overtime payments that we know. And so what we're hoping to do with this rate

methodology is really have a clearer picture of what all of those factors are that tie into the rate. So that if we do need to go to the legislators and say hey, 9-dollars an hour is not enough. We think direct care workers need to be paid 12-dollars an hour. Then now we have this rate methodology that tells us that this is what the rate needs to be to support 12, 13 or whatever the rate is paid and you have a more objective way of doing that.

It's not that we don't have that now in OCDD but it's not done with an external group that can objectively really take a look at that. So we hope to have that done. That will be paid for through the Rescue Plan Act dollars. The different agencies who applied gave us different timeframes for that. That is something I don't want to rush too fast. I would rather do it, I would rather take a little more time and get it done right than try to hurry it along. But we do recognize too there's sort of ideal times that we need to have it if folks are going to go advocate to the legislature for certain things. So we're kind of looking at all that. But we hope to by the October meeting I should have a work plan and specific deliverables for you guys on what we're looking at doing on that rate methodology. And so I'll stop there. There's tons more in the report. Happy to take any questions.

CHRISTI GONZALES: For Early Steps, Julie, do you still utilize (inaudible) for children to qualify for Early Steps?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: That's the more restrictive? We haven't changed it.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So it's them too?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I know there was a report done that asked us to look at changing that.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Years ago it was just one.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: And there was a fiscal note tied to that because our utilization for Early Steps has gone up and so that is something that we could look at but would need to look at it along with what the fiscal impact is.

CHRISTI GONZALES: So that's going to stay the same too?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: For now.

PHIL WILSON: So another question about Early Steps. I just want to make sure the eligibility number I get that, but does eligibility necessarily mean you receive services and/or what number of hours and types of services? I'm not asking for that data. Is that available? So like if 100 people are eligible and assessed you could have ten people getting services and they don't gain three hours of speech therapy a week, or a month or something. I think that would be an important thing to kind of understand.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: We did not previously have a lot of that information. Part of the audit and part of the-- we have a new, well, she's not new anymore. She's been here almost a whole year now-- Early Steps director. But they have been working specifically on what data can we pull from (inaudible) to start to look more at numbers. Anybody who's eligible has an IFSP. Beyond that-- I mean, I can tell you that everybody--

SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Right. But in terms of how much or what we don't. I know that they've been working to be able to pull certain data so I can find out what that is and what might be able to kind of be included.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions?

PHIL WILSON: An acronym for a program that was developed somewhere else?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: It's actually the National Center for START Services. And I abbreviate it to START. I don't think that it's capitalized. It's National Center for START Services.

PHIL WILSON: I'm very interested in that model.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: We just had a report published from them. I don't know if I remembered to share that with you guys. I'm happy to share that with the council.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other comments or questions? Any public? Hearing none, the report requires no action and-- I'm sorry, Lauren.

LAUREN WOMACK: I think if possible-- I mean, this is really helpful. Some of the questions that we had earlier from the OAAS report, the waiver participant data is some of the same questions that we had for this one. Maybe for the policies and procedures as a

council we may want to just see to help the state agency line out certain things. Not necessarily mandatory, but just as a helpful guide so they don't feel like they have to make too big of a report but just give us what we're asking for. Just a suggestion for the subcommittee.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any public comment? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from LSU Human Development Center, Dr. Phil.

PHIL WILSON: I would try to go really fast because it's the end of the day and I just wanted to share some information with y'all. And rather than go into a whole lot if you look on the first slide the one that looks like this in the report there's a QR code, box, whatever it's called there and that should take you to our website if you want to look at more detail about what our particular programs look like. So I'll just say that and try to minimize the amount of time I take right now. This overhead or handout or whatever will give you I think some fairly plain language type idea of what we at HDC primarily do which I know is a big mystery to a lot of people, but I think really is an attempt to kind of help people understand what we do.

There are three things that we kind of are working on right now that are not really one of our goals per say but the activities that we think are going to lead to other goals and activities that will be beneficial to families and individuals with developmental and other disabilities. First and foremost I think Ebony already mentioned that we're very excited about re-energizing or reengaging our Louisiana developmental disabilities network. DD network. And that was a thing for the first until shortly after Katrina. We met every quarter, the executive directors of the three agencies, and was really helpful to try to get more bang for our buck collectively in terms of what we can accomplish and how we approach partners and learn about new opportunities and all those great things. So I'm really, really excited that that's about to kick back into gear hopefully in September.

Second thing we have accomplished already is we applied for and received permission, or whatever the right word is, to start a state chapter of FASD Fetal

Alcohol Spectrum Disorder United. And hopefully we can work with not only the DD Council but with the whole network and those agencies that feel that they might have some potential skin in the game to try to figure out how do we recruit people into this that have had lived experience either as a parent, a foster parent, adoptive parent, brother, sister or an individual with for all the reasons that I've mentioned in the past. So we will probably share our outreach stuff with both of our sister agencies and cousin agency we have over here with OCDD and ask that you all help us get the word out and any other kind of groups that we can think of.

And then third is the plain language initiative. The two things I guess I would want to sort of point to is in this past year at HDC we reached, is the only word I can think of to say, 10,832 different individuals through either providing continuing education and that's a big chunk of our work. We work a lot with-- we train professionals to do evidence-based practices and so forth so that they can go out and do that, right. We know that's not a great assumption to make. (Inaudible) people make for too long is by training to do it you'll go out and do it. So we've adopted a model or created whatever not all by ourself, but we strongly believe if we do training and don't go and follow up and support the individuals who are ultimately going to implement that training it's like wasted time and money because it just rarely happens on its own. But with a little support people try and they get feedback and all of a sudden they master it and they're off and running. So that's one piece.

The second big piece is to unity training which is the kind of training we do to anybody whether they're a professional, or a parent, or self-advocate or anybody else. And it doesn't result in any sort of certificate or something they can use for their professional credential. And then we do technical assistance, a good bit of that. Sometimes some of our projects are all about helping another organization or individual to solve a problem, or help them write a grant or help them implement some project sometimes joint with us. We do a lot of interdisciplinary training. But I don't

think that has a direct impact on the DD Council. Again, it's more about we train people for future purposes in our interdisciplinary training. Therapists and teachers and so forth.

And then finally, we do a number of direct services such as the WIPA project that you guys do and I think Lighthouse is still doing it and we do. That's one of our things we do. Early Head Start activities. And we have a childcare, very small childcare center with about 25 kids. And I know we have an autism diagnostic clinic that's very low volume but we do that for teaching purposes and so forth. I think that's probably enough for today. But I do encourage you to go to check the QR or the website is [www.lsuohdc](http://www.lsuohdc.org)-- oh, I can't say it. Use the QR. That's all I got.

LAUREN WOMACK: So Phil, with this interdisciplinary (inaudible) would that be, because there is such a shortage in fields of disability professionals and things (inaudible), the way that the world is changing and careers. Have y'all looked into anything taking like nurses and all that maybe don't need as much physical in developing those individuals that have the skill and experience into a new phase?

PHIL WILSON: That's an awesome idea.

LAUREN WOMACK: Especially because I know through the workforce we're pumping in these young workforce but when we get to that age when they're middle age nursing is hard on your body and I see a lot of people, and I don't know LRS if y'all do as well, that they can't physically do it anymore but they have the skill. So maybe like teaching, like going into the field. This is not long-term, but as you develop we're taking the same people boots on the ground and putting them into the leadership that way.

PHIL WILSON: That is an awesome idea. We aren't currently actively kind of recruiting people with that particular intention. It's more about if I'm going to be a speech therapist and I know that that person's going to probably be interacting with a nurse, or a psychologist or whatever that they experience together, learning together and also how to give up your own professional biases and understand what other professions' biases are and just work on communication and efficiencies from the point of view of the

individual or the family. Do I really need to go to four different appointments or can I kind of get some of this done in a more efficient way. But I love your idea, I just hadn't thought of it. Thank you for that input. Make a note.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Ms. Brenda.

BRENDA COSSE: I'm sorry, I was typing my question. Can you come back to me?

CHRISTI GONZALES: We can wait for you, Ms. Brenda.

BRENDA COSSE: My question was I think for DHH, OCDD. Are you there?

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I'm here.

BRENDA COSSE: They're doing wellness checks from the healthcare people and the stakeholders appreciate the wellness checks but they say that they don't know if it's a really legitimate one because it's an automated system and there's no prompt to talk to a human. It talks really fast and some of the stakeholders are adults and it's not their parent or caregiver and they need time to process the questions that they're being asked and the system just go on and on and on they say. If y'all could look into that. I didn't know if I was supposed to ask my (inaudible) about it, but if y'all familiar with that wellness call can y'all get your committee to talk to the people. Thank you.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: And you said it's a wellness?

CHRISTI GONZALES: Like when they call in to ask for one. Is that correct, Ms. Brenda, when you call in to ask for one, the automated system.

NICOLE BANKS: It's calling you. I don't know what that is but I know what she's talking about. It does call you and it ask all these prompts that it's getting you to ask and it's like a wellness check but it's going through it really fast. And she's right, if you go to press to speak to somebody it will just hang up and you have to start all over.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: I'm trying to figure out where the calls are coming from.

NICOLE BANKS: I know what she's talking about because I received a call.

BRENDA COSSE: It ask do you need a provider. Do you need this. Do you need that kind of questions. But it's going so fast and if you don't answer like

within a split second it just goes to the next question or the next thing they say. It's an auto system. It just ask like is this this person. Is this your number. That could be anybody saying yes, it's me and then they giving out their information once you say yes, this me. I would never let me son just take that call. Thank you.

JULIE FOSTER HAGAN: Yeah, Natalie or Brian, does that sound familiar to either of you guys? That doesn't sound familiar to me.

NATALIE ISTRE: No, it doesn't but I'll ask.

BRIAN BENNETT: Yeah, I'll ask to see if maybe any of the health plans have anything like that. But I haven't heard of any robocalls or anything.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions or comments? All right.

ERICK TAYLOR: I just want to thank the committee that set this up for us and get us prepared. Y'all do a good job.

EBONY HAVEN: Sorry about lunch today. I'm so embarrassed. We'll do better.

CHRISTI GONZALES: This report requires--

VIVIANNE WEBB: Not related to the report, but what are you talking about? The lunch was awesome.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. I thought that some people's orders weren't correct and some of you guys had to sacrifice some things that you might not have ordered. So I apologize.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Last one. This report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item for business is Melissa Bayham from Louisiana Rehabilitative Services.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Sorry, y'all. I'll go quick because I know y'all are ready to go. We have lots of numbers in the report that y'all request. The only number I'll say is we're up to serving 4,525 in our Preemployment Transition Services Program. So that number continues to increase and we're really excited about that.

I'll just mention that, you know, we realize that over the last several years we had a lot of challenges at LRS and so we are, internally we have an initiative, a system's change initiative that we're calling THRIVE and that stands for system's change initiative

transforming hardships through resilience integration in vocational empowerment. It is really my intention that we're not getting additional positions at this time. We're not getting additional funding at this time. So we're trying to figure out how to be better with what we have. And to be more positive and for people to have a better experience when they come to LRS. That's our priority right now.

But just to let this council know if we continue with the funding that we have at some point in the future we will have to go to order of selection which means that we will have to have a waiting list. VR agencies go on order of selection for two reasons. Because you don't have the budget, because you don't have the staff. And we definitely have deficiencies in both. So we're trying my hardest not to have to do that, but we have to be mindful of our participants. And we're currently on a corrective action plan with the federal government because we don't determine eligibility timely and we don't put individuals in plans for employment timely and that is a direct result of our staffing.

So but I say all that to say that we are making changes within the structure of LRS to try to alleviate some of those things. I talked a lot in the committee meeting yesterday about just different changes we're making. Like we're making payments at state office now instead of the field offices. We're doing more of the vendor initiation at the state office level instead of at the VR level. So we're trying to shuffle duties as much as we can so that the individuals that work at our field offices can work more with our customers. So that's the big thing going on at LRS. So if y'all have any questions about anything in my report or if you have something to discuss I'll be happy to do that.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any questions or comments?
Nicole.

NICOLE BANKS: The corrective action on the feds, how long did they give y'all to correct that? I know y'all always have issues with the staffing.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. So we're actually technically on two corrective action plans. This last one is for what we call 60/90, which is 60 days to determine eligibility, 90 days to develop the

individualized plan for employment. That CAP, that corrective action plan we just submitted so it's not finalized yet but more than likely in order for us to get off of that corrective action plan we will have to go through two consecutive quarters in compliance. In compliance is 90 percent. So but obviously part of that corrective action plan we also have to tell them what we're doing. So we are telling them about the staffing changes that we're making and then also this training we have to get the staff and things of that nature.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Lauren.

LAUREN WOMACK: Could you maybe add in the report or to the report to the Employment Committee whenever y'all start reporting like the different regions the average time period of eligibility and average time between eligibility and planning and maybe planning and services so that we could see improvement if that's something you have to report anyway. If you can capture it.

MELISSA BAYHAM: The only thing I can't capture for you is the time period. I can't tell you the time period somebody goes from eligibility. I can tell you how many we have in that--

LAUREN WOMACK: Yeah.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any other questions or comments? Public comment? All right. Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. At this time we will have any public comments. All right. Thank you for your comments, questions and concerns. At this time Ms. Ebony Haven will do some announcements.

EBONY HAVEN: So this is something that we discussed in the Executive Committee at the April meeting. We didn't get a chance to finish the conversation but I did want to kind of put out there that currently the LaCAN leaders are hosting their community input meetings early. I encourage all of our council members to attend those meetings. Make sure you get your input in for your 2025 legislative advocacy agenda. But we're hosting kickoff a little bit earlier with our FHF directors and our LaCAN leaders in order to bring the council the 2025 advocacy agenda items that they recommend that you guys include

earlier. We had a lot of discussion, a lot of opinions about the change in the advocacy agenda last time and I want to make sure that the council is fully aware that you guys have opportunities to provide feedback. But I also want to allow opportunities for the public to provide feedback to the council as well. So we will be hosting I guess an ad hoc committee, a legislative like advocacy agenda ad hoc committee and I'll be looking for members for that. So if anybody's interested please let Christi know and/or you can let me know as well and she'll make the appointment. I think that's it. The next meeting is October 16th and 17th.

CHRISTI GONZALES: Any further business? Hearing none, if there is no objection we will adjourn the meeting. This meeting is now adjourned. See you in October. And if y'all have any questions please feel free to email myself or Ebony as well. Thank you, everyone.