

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Executive Committee
April 20, 2022

AMY DEAVILLE: Can you put your cameras on, please, if you're a member of the executive committee. Jill, are you able to turn your camera on?

JILL HANO: No. I am not. Okay.

RASHAD BRISTO: There she is.

JILL HANO: Again, I'm upside down.

RASHAD BRISTO: You're just trying to mess with us.

JILL HANO: Y'all this is making me, freaking me out.

RASHAD BRISTO: It's an upside-down world, Jill. You don't have anything to worry about.

JILL HANO: Does this count as part of your quorum?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yes. It does.

RASHAD BRISTO: Good morning, everyone. We're calling to order the executive committee meeting. Today's date is Wednesday, April 20th, 2022, at 8:34 a.m. Just a few reminders. Please make sure that you have your cameras on. That way we can maintain having a quorum. Looks like we have everybody present. I see Ms. Nicole Banks, Ms. Kim Basile, Ms. Jill Hano. Then we have executive DD Council staff as well. At this time we'll move into the reading of the mission statement.

AMY DEAVILLE: The mission statement of 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.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Deaville. Now we're up to the approval of the minutes of the January 19th meeting. Any discussion about that before we move into a vote?

KIM BASILE: I make a motion that we accept the minutes.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Basile.

NICOLE BANKS: I second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Seconded by Ms. Banks. Thank you so much for that motion. All in favor.

{Collective aye}

RASHAD BRISTO: Any opposed? Okay. The minutes will be recorded into the record. Now next part of business is the executive director evaluation. At this time I'm going to ask to entertain a motion to move into executive session so we can go ahead and discuss the executive director's evaluation. Can someone make a motion for me?

KIM BASILE: I make a motion we move to executive session.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Ms. Basile.

NICOLE BANKS: I second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you, Vice Chair Banks. Any opposition? So at this time we're going to move into executive session. Ask that the staff and executive director step out so we can discuss this business. Also, the recording will stop. This will not be live streamed for any of the public. And this will not be publicly transcribed due to the fact that we're going to be discussing an individual.

AMY DEAVILLE: The recording will start up again once the committee moves back into regular session.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. The executive session has ended.

{Executive session}

RASHAD BRISTO: Decisions that were made in the executive session in regards to the executive director's evaluation was the executive director's evaluation met expectation. Will be presented to receive a cost-of-living increase of 4,000-dollars to the council. Now at this time I will need a motion.

JILL HANO: I'll make the motion.

RASHAD BRISTO: It's been moved by Ms. Hano.

NICOLE BANKS: I second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Seconded by Vice Chair Banks. All in favor?

{Collective aye}

RASHAD BRISTO: Any opposition? Motion carries. Thank you for your time.

JILL HANO: Did you say 4,000?

RASHAD BRISTO: Correct.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. So now we will move into update on legislative agenda and council member participation.

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah. So the legislative bill tracker gets updated every Friday and is posted on our website so that everybody can see basically what is happening and how it's moving through session. The largest, the biggest things that are happening are on Monday we were at the capitol for HB1. And at that time it was amended into HB1 for the additional 500,000-dollars for Families Helping Families funding. So that got amended into the budget which is positive. So now we're going to keep advocating all the way through to make sure that it stays in the budget. Also on Monday during HB1 discussions a conditional amendment was made for cameras in special education classrooms. That conditional amendment went something like in the event that the state continues to receive enhanced F map funding and some general fund money is put back in the general fund for the state then the first 8 million-dollars of that will go to funding cameras in the classroom. So it was a conditional amendment. Not exactly what we would have hoped for. But in the event that all of those things happen, then cameras would be funded and that would be a positive thing. All the other bills that we are tracking and really alerting LaCAN on, we've got-- well, cameras in the classrooms is going well. It has made it through every committee that it has hit so far. And like I said, that funding piece was just put in.

RASHAD BRISTO: Jill Hano has her hand up. Jill, you're recognized.

JILL HANO: I'm sorry, Amy. How much does FHF?

AMY DEAVILLE: Hundred thousand. But that's on top of what they already had in the budget which was about 507,000.

JILL HANO: How many zeros? Is that six, seven zeros?

AMY DEAVILLE: It's five.

JILL HANO: Thank you. Can we edit that out of the transcript, please?

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. Vice Chair Banks, you have

your hand raised. You're recognized.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. So from my understanding when it comes down to the cameras in the classroom, right, they're saying that if some funds are put back into the general fund and then only then are they able to release funds and put cameras into the classroom? Is that correct?

AMY DEAVILLE: Right. So the bill, the bill for cameras will continue to read that if the district has the funding, they should install cameras. But what was amended into HB1 is basically a way to get them funded if these other conditions are met. So it's not a guarantee that that 8 million-dollars in funding will be there. But it is a possibility that it could be there. Which is more than we had before.

NICOLE BANKS: Well, that's my question. Because when we have all of these reports and all of these, you know, reports from the different agencies and says that like they don't use all of the budget. Like it goes back into the general fund. That's why I ask those kind of questions because if it goes back into the general fund then shouldn't these cameras already be funded? Because we had a lot that went back into the general fund last year.

AMY DEAVILLE: Well, right. But last year there wasn't anything in the budget bill to trigger taking that money and using it for cameras. And in the next fiscal year there will be because of this amendment.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: Let's see. We also on Monday were at the capitol for the post-secondary inclusive education program. That went really well. And it was approved out of committee. And then it's going to go-- where will it go next, Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Senate floor today.

AMY DEAVILLE: Oh, senate floor today. Let's see. What am I missing? So in case you didn't hear what Ebony was reminding me of, the funding for the dental coverage is still included in the Medicaid budget. So we still continue to advocate for it to stay in. But nobody has made any efforts to try to change that funding yet. So we're good on that bill as well. The other thing that I wanted to talk about was the DD Council participation in legislative actions. So let

me see if I can share my screen real quick. So basically what this is showing is-- we don't have names, but this column right here, C, is regions. So council members that are in these regions. RT is roundtable. So if somebody from that region was at a roundtable. If they participated in a legislative visit. If they have participated in any yellow shirt days. Or the yellow is for home and community based legislative advocacy items. The purple is for education. Green is home and community-based action. And then action alerts. And this other pink, purple is for education action alerts. So as you can see-- trying to make it big enough, but also show everything on the screen.

RASHAD BRISTO: Is everybody able to see that by show of thumbs up? Okay. Can I interject?

AMY DEAVILLE: Yeah.

RASHAD BRISTO: So with that being said, you know, the public health emergency has officially been lifted. So as executive committee and, you know, going into the council meeting tomorrow it's time to encourage our council members, including the chair, to start back being active with these different opportunities to be advocates in the community. We are the face, for the most part, for a lot of the disability community. So we want to go ahead and start back being active. I know that there are still those who have reservations and there's no shade on anyone that does. But for those who are willing and you're already chomping at the bit, and you have the fire, it's time for us to go ahead and get back out there. That way we can reclaim our territory. Letting people know that we are present, and we don't get dismissed when it comes down to those governmental and legislative issues that really need to be presented. Especially when it comes down to those round tables. And not only that, starting back encouraging our state representatives and legislators and all of them to be a participant as well. But it's hard to ask for something if they don't see us at the table. That's the main thing. Vice Chair Banks, you're recognized. You have the floor.

NICOLE BANKS: Thanks, chair, for recognizing me. So I know the only invitation I think I knew about was the LaCAN, the yellow shirt thing. That's the only one

that I knew about. I don't know about any of the rest of these. How do we get this information to us? Is it on the website? Do we have to just go look for ourselves or what? Because that's the only thing that I remember seeing as far as, you know, coming to the capitol. And I saw beaucoup emails about that. Bambi was very active with sending that and getting that together and letting us know. Dr. Beckers. I saw all of that. But I didn't see anything from anyone of those other committees. So I'm just asking, you know, when it's available. Because like if you want us to participate in this kind of stuff, and which I would love to, I got to know in advance. I have businesses. People have other things that they're doing. So if we know in advance when all of this stuff is taking place, or at least where to go look for it. Is it on our website?

RASHAD BRISTO: No doubt. Like I said, I'm just saying to start being proactive. For the most part these are going to be reflections while we're still in the public health emergency. You know, we've had hurricanes and things along those lines. I'm just saying moving forward these are things that we want to go ahead and start back putting on our radar. And those are some things I'm going to be asking of the council members tomorrow. It's no reflection on now. You know, it will be when we look at 2023 how we did for 2022. But for the most part we just want-- another thing too. We have to get with our LaCAN leaders as well because some of them are not quite as proactive in some regions as others. And they don't let people give advance notice as necessary. And I'll echo that tomorrow as well. But this is no reflection on anybody at this point. I'm just saying that now that the public health emergency has been lifted, you know, now it's time to just start becoming more visible and doing our due diligence to make sure that we can represent the DD Council in as many aspects as we can. But this is no reflection on anybody currently.

NICOLE BANKS: Okay. Well, just making a suggestion that can we just know when this stuff is so that if we're available we can come and represent. Because I would love to come to this stuff, but I don't even know about it. I just know about the Monday one.

But I know they kept changing it because-- I don't know why they changed it really and truly. But I know it kept getting changed.

AMY DEAVILLE: Nicole, are you getting emails from your LaCAN leader?

NICOLE BANKS: Can't say that I am. I don't think I am.

AMY DEAVILLE: We'll check and make sure that you're on her list.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Are you on the council's list as well? Because we push out alerts for every alert, every roundtable scheduled. I mean, we send out to our list serve as well.

RASHAD BRISTO: And while you're doing that, point of order. We really got about ten minutes left. So we're going to kind of expedite. So Jill Hano, I see your hand. You're recognized.

JILL HANO: So y'all were talking about house bill one and the cameras. So I was confused. Is camera funding going to be part of HB1? Cause I thought we had separate, I thought we had the separate camera bill?

AMY DEAVILLE: So there is the cameras' bill that's separate from HB1. But there was an amendment to HB1. It's conditional.

JILL HANO: Okay.

AMY DEAVILLE: But it will provide for funding for cameras if those conditions were met. So they did get that into HB1. Which is great if those conditions are met and they're able to fund the cameras.

JILL HANO: And then cause it's been so difficult for people to read. Is there a way like y'all could send us out a summary like what specifically we're getting? We're asking like just a specific like summary specific to HB1. Like what we're getting. Where's my Ebony?

EBONY HAVEN: Hey, Jill. I'm here. I was just going to say that action alert number eight was sent out yesterday. So all of that information about what's included in HB1 and what's not included--

JILL HANO: Okay. I think I did see that. But go on.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. So all of that information will be in the action alert that was sent out

yesterday.

JILL HANO: Perfect.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

RASHAD BRISTO: All right. Thank you so much.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Any other comments in regards to the topic because we're being expedition of time to the legislative agenda or the council member participation? Okay. Thank you so much.

JILL HANO: Busy day.

RASHAD BRISTO: Exactly. Okay. So moving forward the next item of the agenda is hybrid meeting protocols. I'm going to take this one. The most I can say about this one in three words, please be patient. We are trying our best to make sense of being able to take advantage of the virtual and in-person. And with anything there's going to be hiccups. We are definitely going to be experiencing them. It was not really the desire of the DD Council to even have the meeting to be split like it is. We did try to campaign to keep everything virtual. But for at least the April meeting. But it was an impossibility due to the fact that the public health emergency was lifted and there were just stipulations placed upon us. For the most part, like I said, most I can say is those three words. Please be patient. Cause everybody's working as best as they can to try to make this thing run as smoothly as possible and your patience is appreciated in the process. Ms. Basile, I see your hand. You're recognized.

KIM BASILE: Just have a question. Are we no longer allowing the public in on the Zoom, and they can only be on YouTube? And why is that if that is the case?

AMY DEAVILLE: The public can watch on YouTube, and they can also be here in-person. When the public health emergency was lifted, and we had to move back to in-person the easiest way to do it in the timeframe that we had was to move everything back to as close to the way the meetings were held pre-Covid. Which was that everybody had to be in-person. But we polled council members and realized that it was unlikely we were going to reach a quorum if everybody had to be in-person for this April meeting. So to be able to try

to still have a meeting and get business conducted, because we are on a timeline with the plan cause it needs to be approved so we can move forward with that, this was the only way that we could offer an ADA accommodation to our council members so that we could make sure we still had the participation that we needed to make a quorum and still get business conducted. But everything else we needed to try to keep as close to in-person protocols as possible.

I sought legal opinion on how best to do this or what we could do. Could we do it all virtually. But with the way the Louisiana open meetings law is written, there really is no virtual option. So our meeting is running a lot like BESE meetings run. Which is everybody is in-person with the exception of the council members. If you kind of take that part of it out. But everyone must be in-person. You can watch it as a public member. They live stream it on YouTube so you can watch it. But the only way that you're able to participate and make public comment is if you're there in-person. So we're kind of using both what the council did before and what other entities that have to follow public meeting law are doing and trying our best to coddle it together just to make April happen. And then I think we'll probably have to reevaluate after this set of meetings and see what worked, what didn't, can we keep going like this, do we need to move to fully in-person. Because it does not currently look like open meetings law is going to change anytime soon. Which is unfortunate. But that's just the reality that we're in. So I'm trying to follow the law while allowing as much flexibility for my council members as I can. But I do not want for us to be in a situation where anything that we do or decisions that the council makes could be subject to challenge because open meetings law wasn't followed.

RASHAD BRISTO: There's a lot of troubleshooting going on in this one. And we already discussed before this even started to take notes to see what all hiccups we've encountered. That we're going to encounter during this model so we can reevaluate. So that way hopefully the July session-- session. I keep saying that. Meeting will move a lot smoother, and we'll know what options and opportunities are available based upon

this. Again, this was more of a scramble than anything. So again, those three words. I'm asking please be patient.

AMY DEAVILLE: So as you're in other committee meetings, or Kim as you chair self-determination, if you would kind of take note of what works, what doesn't. And then we'll have to have a conversation after and figure out does this virtual format even work for us.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Thank you.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you. And again, take notes and I'll make a mention of that to the council members tomorrow to take notes of what they saw may or may not have worked. Wrapping up we almost got about two minutes left. Jill, I see your hand. Did you have anything?

JILL HANO: Can you send us copies of what public opinions you got?

RASHAD BRISTO: You talking about legal opinion or you talking about--

JILL HANO: Yeah. Legal opinion.

RASHAD BRISTO: Ms. Deaville?

AMY DEAVILLE: I mean, I can forward it to the executive committee.

RASHAD BRISTO: Okay. She can forward it to you for you to review. Do we have any other questions from any of the executive committee members? Is there any further business to discuss? Since there's no further business, if there's no objection, we'll adjourn the meeting. So all I need now is just a motion to adjourn.

KIM BASILE: I make the motion to adjourn.

NICOLE BANKS: Second it.

RASHAD BRISTO: Thank you so much for your time. Truly appreciate it. Y'all have a great day. Looking forward to seeing you in some of the other committee meetings. And see you tomorrow. Thank you again for your time.