

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Executive Committee
August 28, 2023

JILL HANO: Okay. Welcome to this meeting, this August 28th meeting of the executive committee. As acting chair I call it to order. Ebony, can you please take roll call?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. Nicole Banks. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Kim Basile.

KIM BASILE: Present.

EBONY HAVEN: Hyacinth McKee. Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: You have three present, and you have a quorum.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. So our first item on the agenda is to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Can I get a motion to approve?

KIM BASILE: I motion that we accept the meeting minutes.

JILL HANO: Okay. Great. Can we get the second?

ANGELA HARMON: I second.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank y'all. Okay. Then moving right along we have the consideration of personnel matters. We need an interim director as Ms. Deaville has resigned from the council. And that's Dr. Thorton. Should she introduce herself? Okay. So this is considered a personnel matter to assign an interim director when Ms. Deaville, upon her departure from the council.

EBONY HAVEN: Do you guys have any discussion?

KIM BASILE: So are we going to-- has Ebony, have you already been selected to be the interim director, or do we need to make that decision?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

KIM BASILE: We need to make that decision. Well, I would like to motion that we make Ebony our interim executive director.

JILL HANO: Okay. So Ms. Basile makes a motion we make Ms. Haven the interim assistant director. Did you want to second that, Ms. Harmon?

ANGELA HARMON: I second that, yes. Thank you.

JILL HANO: And so it has been made by Ms. Basile and seconded by Ms. Harmon. So the motion passed that--.

EBONY HAVEN: You have to take public comment.

JILL HANO: Okay. I'm sorry. Public comment?

MARYILN THORTON: Congratulations.

JILL HANO: Dr. Thorton says congratulations for the record. So now it has been moved and seconded. If there are no objections and no further discussion we will, Ebony Haven will officially have the title of interim director. Can I ask a question? Do we have an effective date on this?

EBONY HAVEN: So Amy's last day is August 31st and so it would be effective on September 1st. And I can add that to the motion.

KIM BASILE: Yes. Please.

JILL HANO: Thank you. Okay. Sorry y'all. I'm so bad at this.

EBONY HAVEN: You're doing great. Take your time, Jill.

JILL HANO: So our next item on the agenda is update on--.

EBONY HAVEN: Wait. Can I go back real quick?

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

EBONY HAVEN: We have to discuss the salary for the interim executive director.

KIM BASILE: Is that to be in executive session or is that public?

EBONY HAVEN: Whatever your decision is it will be public whatever the decision is. Discussion will be whatever you guys want. If you want to go in executive session, you can. If you want to discuss it publicly, you can. But if you want to go into executive session you have to make a motion.

KIM BASILE: Before we do anything further can I ask what was done when Courtney became the interim director?

JILL HANO: Well, cause people-- can I reply?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

JILL HANO: People are overlooking because before Courtney was interim this situation mirrors how Shawn took over for Sandee before we even got to Courtney.

KIM BASILE: Right.

JILL HANO: So if, I mean, so you could ask what Courtney's salary was. And I don't want to like step on your toes, but I'm thinking Ebony's salary more aligned with what Shawn's salary was.

KIM BASILE: I think my question was not so much dollar amounts, but did we change their salaries. So when Shawn

stepped in and then when Courtney stepped in, did their salaries increase and what percentage did they increase? Was there some set percent or?

EBONY HAVEN: So Shawn, if I'm not mistaken, Hannah, and correct me if I'm wrong, if I'm not mistaken, and I didn't go back and read the minutes, I think you guys offered the executive director's salary which he turned down.

KIM BASILE: So whatever Sandee was paid that was offered to Shawn.

HANNAH JENKINS: From what I remember for Shawn's that was the thing and he declined.

KIM BASILE: So he stayed at his deputy director salary?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. And then in Courtney's case I think the executive search committee had determined a salary range and I think the executive committee at that time gave her the lower end of the salary range. And I'm pretty certain about that. So she did get an increase. Yes, to answer your question.

KIM BASILE: Okay.

JILL HANO: But can I ask a question?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

JILL HANO: I'm confused because the ED search committee didn't hire Courtney. The executive committee hired Courtney.

EBONY HAVEN: Correct.

JILL HANO: So okay. So thank you for the question, Kim. I'm assuming the parameters are that the interim, or in the past the interim director was offered ED salary. So whatever y'all's will is. And I don't know if we want to do this in executive session, which again, is y'all's will. Y'all are running the show.

KIM BASILE: I have a question. What percent would it be if we brought you up to, like what percent increase would it be if we brought you up to the executive director salary? And if I had known we were discussing this I would have come prepared. I'm sorry.

EBONY HAVEN: That's okay.

JILL HANO: She told me to come prepared, but I didn't do it. I apologize for being unprepared.

EBONY HAVEN: It's okay.

SPEAKER: I would say 8 percent.

HANNAH JENKINS: And then when Courtney (inaudible).

JILL HANO: We're not-- I have to take this step by step.

We're not at Courtney yet.

HANNAH JENKINS: Sorry.

KIM BASILE: So my question's first, do you want the position, will you accept it? Okay. Can we move to executive session?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. You guys would just have to make a motion.

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

JILL HANO: We have a motion to move to executive session. Do we have a second?

ANGELA HARMON: I second it.

JILL HANO: Seconded by Ms. Harmon. Motion carries.

(Executive Session)

KIM BASILE: If Ebony accepts the interim director position that that salary be set at 95,000-dollars.

EBONY HAVEN: I'm typing it, Kim, and then I'll post it and then just let me know of any changes.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes. I second it.

EBONY HAVEN: Do we have any public comments? Jill, do you want to ask for public comment?

JILL HANO: Do we have public comment?

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. And I accept. So do you want to ask for any abstentions or objections?

JILL HANO: Any abstentions? Any objections? Okay. Motion made. Motion passed. No abstentions. No objections. Okay. So we had the surprise agenda item, which is again, has to be discussed in executive session. This is probably why you came.

EBONY HAVEN: So Jill, we need another motion.

JILL HANO: Do I have a motion to move into executive session?

ANGELA HARMON: I'll motion that we move into executive session.

KIM BASILE: And I second it.

JILL HANO: Okay. Motion made and seconded.

(Executive Session)

KIM BASILE: All right. Welcome back. We are finished with our executive session, and I believe Ebony has a statement to make.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. I just wanted to explain to the public and any council members or anyone that's watching on YouTube why we had to go into executive session. We did end up, Amy and I ended up getting the legal opinion from OBH legal about the motion that was made at the July council meeting. And the motion states that the Self-Determination and Community Inclusion Committee recommends the council to continue its contract with FHF NOLA at its current funding level but require the following be provided. A quarterly report submitted to the committee and council staff detailing the concerns noted in their fiscal year 21 and 22 audit and actions taken to address and mitigate those concerns. A leadership assessment to determine current needs within management including all directors, assistant directors and supervisors and a detailed and specific plan of the actions that are being taken to address all identified needs. And the nonrecurring portion of their funding is used to pay down debits. So our current Executive Director Amy Deaville contacted LDH legal to ask them if it would be permissible for the DD Council to require FHF NOLA to use those additional funds, which the amount is 56,390, would it be permissible for them to use that additional funding to pay down their debit. We did receive the opinion. However, LDH legal said that the opinion is confidential and can only be shared with council members. So we had to go into executive session for that legal opinion to be shared. And therefore the committee discussed it and now they are prepared to continue with the meeting.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Do we have a motion concerning what was discussed?

ANGELA HARMON: Yes. I would like to make a motion to withhold the additional 56,390-dollars from FHF NOLA for this fiscal year and that they are in a probationary period and if they did not meet all stated criteria to the DD Council's satisfaction they will not receive the fiscal year 25 funding.

KIM BASILE: Is there anyone to second that motion?

JILL HANO: I would like to second that.

KIM BASILE: So Ms. Harmon made the motion. Ms. Hano seconded the motion.

EBONY HAVEN: Can you say it one more time?

ANGELA HARMON: Yeah. The motion is to withhold the additional 56,390-dollars from FHF NOLA for this fiscal

year and they are in a probationary period. And if they do not meet all stated criteria to the DD Council satisfaction they will receive no funding in fiscal year 25.

KIM BASILE: Okay. Take out the second the. Motion to withhold the additional. And if they do not meet all stated criteria. All right. So is there any discussion?

EBONY HAVEN: And Kim, do you want to just explain for the viewers why you're hosting the meeting.

KIM BASILE: I'm hosting this section of the meeting because I sit on the board of an FHF, and I do not vote on any of their matters. So since we have no public comment, motion passes. Hand the meeting back over to Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. So thank you for that discussion and for chairing that portion of the meeting. So our next agenda item is public comment. Which we have no public, so I highly doubt there's comment. So that's on the agenda. Are there any announcements?

EBONY HAVEN: No. I think I just put that on there because that's what they had on the last one. So no announcement. But if you guys want to wish Amy well her last day's Thursday August 31st. We wish her well on her new endeavors. I don't know if you are signed up for NACDD announcements but she's going to be working with NACDD and we wish her well.

JILL HANO: So is she like our regional person?

EBONY HAVEN: Unfortunately she can't work with the Louisiana DD Council for I think she said three years. So we'll have somebody else but that doesn't mean she won't help others.

JILL HANO: Okay. All right. Thank you, Ms. Haven. All right. Do we unanimously--.

EBONY HAVEN: You can unanimously adjourn.

JILL HANO: If there's no objections by unanimous consent we will adjourn this meeting. Thank you.