

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
Self Determination and Community Inclusion  
July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

JILL HANO: Okay. Good afternoon everyone. It is 12:57 and I would like to call the July 2025 quarterly meeting to order for this committee. Brenton, can you call the roll.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. Those of you online if you would make sure your camera is on so we can count you towards the quorum. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mr. Bennett.

BRIAN BENNETT: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mr. Billings. Mr. Blunschi.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Hagan is not here. We have Mr. Bernard Brown in her place. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Harmon. Ms. Kelly Aduli. Mr. Macaluso. Ms. Nguyen.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: I'm here but can you see my camera because I keep turning it on and it's not showing on my end?

BRENTON ANDRUS: No, we don't see anything. It's black.

PASQUEAL NGUYEN: I'll keep messing with it but I'm here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Okay. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mr. Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Xu.

ZHENG XU: Here.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Perfect. And we do have a quorum.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. Brenton, can you please read the virtual protocols.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. For committee members and members of the public that are attending in person please raise your hand to speak and wait till you're recognized

by Ms. Hano who is chairing the committee today. Please keep your side conversations to a minimum and comments related to the topic that we're discussing. For those of you attending virtually remember your camera must be on and you have your first and last name showing for you to be counted towards our quorum. Please keep your microphones, for those of you that are online, muted until you're called on by the chair and electronically raise your hand to request to speak.

For our attendees if you're on electronically you can raise your hand to request to speak and once the chair recognizes you we will unmute your microphone and you will be able to speak. And after you make your comments. The Q and A is available for those that requested an ADA accommodation to participate. Otherwise we do not have the chat functioning. Public comments will not be accepted via Q and A except for those individuals who requested the accommodation to do so. Otherwise if we have public comment you need to raise your hand and make that comment. As per order for committee members in person and virtually you will be allowed to speak first. Then for public comments we'll take those here that are with us in person in the room and then we'll take those that are on virtually.

All comments from the public may be limited to two to three minutes. That is up to the chair's discretion and how we're doing on time. We also may limit the comments to once per person. And finally, before each vote we will have the opportunity to make public comments. And then we also have a designated public comment period at the end of the agenda. So any comments outside of those comments will be up to the chair's discretion.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you Brenton. The first order of business is the approval of the April 25 meeting summary. Everyone should have reviewed the summary which was attached in your agenda. There's also a copy in the committee packet. I need a motion to adopt the April meeting summary.

TORY ROCCA: Moved.

JILL HANO: Tory motions to adopt the April meeting summary. Is there a second?

BRIAN BENNETT: I'll second.

JILL HANO: Brian. Is there any discussion? Public comment? Now we will do a roll call vote. Brenton, please

take the roll.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. So a yea is to accept the April 2025 meeting summary. Nay would be not to accept it. And you can also abstain. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yea.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mr. Bennett.

BRIAN BENNETT: Yea.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mr. Billings. Mr. Blunschi.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Yea.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yea.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yea.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Ms. Hano. You're the chair. Ms. Harmon. Ms. Kelly Aduli. Mr. Macaluso. Ms. Nguyen. You don't have your camera working so we'll skip that one. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yea.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Mr. Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And Ms. Xu.

ZHENG XU: Yes.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You have eight yeas, zero nays and the motion passes.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you Brenton. So first up is our non-contractual activities. And so it's the home and community-based services. And in for Julie Foster Hagan is Mr. Bernard Brown. So can you please give us some LDH updates.

BERNARD BROWN: Yeah, sure. I think there was a couple of specific topics that the committee wanted to hear about so I'll kind of start off with House Bill 559 also known as the LGE bill. In session there was a lot of conversation about how this legislation in terms of what the impact would have on LGEs. The bill that was signed by the governor basically just required some additional reporting from the LGEs, the LGEs who worked with LDH to develop that standard. I can say now the plan is to meet with the LGEs to discuss what that will look like. As far as right now there is no substantial or significant impact to the LGEs in terms of that bill. I know we have a couple folks from LDH here if they have additional things to add to that. But just in general it shouldn't have a major impact to how we operate or affect any services.

So the other thing-- and I will take this one too. I don't remember if you guys remember last year during the legislative session there was a resolution that required a rate study to be done for HCBS which is home and community-based waiver services as well as for the ICFs. Both of those studies are set to wrap up in August and the actual reports will be published thereafter. As far as updates we don't have much there. For the home and community based one there was those technical work groups that they put together that's for the rate study. They're going to get with those technical work groups and share the findings with them and then after will publish the report. I believe it should include what the recommended rate should be based on the methodology and some of the rationale behind how they got to that rate. I think that happened on both sides. There's some additional stuff with the ICF one that after the report is published there's some additional work that will take place but it came out and (inaudible). So there will be more detail at the next meeting.

Budget. That was another question. So for OCDD's budget right now we don't see any major budget impacts. There are two things I do want to point out though. One is that there was language submitted in HB1. Two pieces of language. One was around the nurse consult rate. There was one that was actually put into the budget that is coming from the developmental disabilities trust fund to cover the funding for the first year for that nursing consult rate. Most of y'all are probably like what's the nursing consult rate, right. With waiver services there are needs that sometimes (inaudible) or consults where an RN level nurse is required. Specifically like they're delegated a task. Each provider agency has to have a nurse available per license and administrative guidelines to assist or sign off so that DSW can perform some of those delegable tasks, right. And what the providers were saying was those responsibilities weren't necessarily covered in the rate or they were additional responsibilities to ensure health and safety that we were asking the nurses to do that wasn't necessarily counted. So what they advocated for was additional funding to cover an annual budget just for nursing consults. And that money was funded so the next step for the department is that we need to submit that to CMS because that's a new service.

So we're going to have to submit that to CMS for approval. So we're looking at hopefully January 1 to get everything in in time. We're looking at a January 1 start date for that service.

The other thing I touched on it was in HB1 as well. There was some funding put in there to cover support coordination agencies for the work that they do assisting families when they're linked to the waiver. For the folks who have a waiver that that process once you pick your support coordination agency and they assist you with completing a Medicaid application, assist you with any questions on 90L they're currently not being paid for that work because they cannot bill Medicaid until you are certified to receive Medicaid services, right. So what they went and advocated for and received funding for was the money to cover those months of prework until they get certified. So that's in there as well. There's some policy things that we need to iron out relative to how we implement that. But the target date is sometime in early 2026. I think that's all the updates. I probably overstepped but I'll turn it over to Gearry or Brian to see if they have anything extra to add.

BRRIAN BENNETT: For budget I have one additional thing. By and large from this past legislative session Medicaid's budget was a fairly standstill budget. We didn't have any major cuts to services or programs. Medicaid, like most state agencies, we did identify some efficiencies. So if you did see any cuts to our budget that's likely where it was. Throughout the past year the department worked to really look at our operation to see where we could become more efficient, looking at the contracts that we have. So here and there we were able to identify some areas where we can combine things or just general things that resulted in some minor reductions. But those are all in the administrative side. None of those affected programs or services.

But one additional thing in addition to what Bernard said in HB1, which is the big budget bill that came out. This wasn't tied to any specific legislation but it was included in the budget bill. There was about 9.3 million-dollars that was budgeted for special needs pediatric dentistry. And I know that's been a problem area especially with our population. Sometimes it's hard to find dentists in certain areas of the state that can provide

services. So what this money is going to be earmarked for is to focus on enhancing rates for that population so that we can hopefully attract more dentists to serve the Medicaid pediatric population. We haven't started filing anything with CMS yet to change rates because we're still kind of figuring out which services in particular we want to target. And specifically what population. But I think we're going to target the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities because that subset of the overall (inaudible) population they have more difficulty, I think, finding dental providers. So that 9.3 million-dollars that's what's that's going to be targeted for. As far as the state budget that's all I have.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: For the Office of Aging and Adult Services (inaudible) our information for OCDD (inaudible) actually we had an increase of somewhat standstill because we had an increase in some of the personal services salaries related benefits. But we also had (inaudible) of state general funds (inaudible) social services and program services that are related to Medicaid functions. Those salaries now, a portion of those salaries (inaudible) transfer a portion of the budget. An increase by virtue of that decrease in state general fund, a portion of those salaries. We also had an increase in our statutory dedications because the nursing home there's no trust fund.

In addition (inaudible) positions. Three of those will be associated with our adult protective services program and the other five are within our program operations which are dedicated to assist our participants with the community choices waiver. So with that reduction in state general fund (inaudible) able to find and tie those hours, a portion of the salary for those staff that worked in those types of programs. We were able to take that out of federal funding verses state general fund.

And of course any plans being put in place for potential reductions it's too early for us to tell. Of course we're always looking for efficiencies. One of the main things, like I said, right now is that we will be looking to some of the same work and due diligence we did last year as it relates to are there any other program functions that staff are working on or salaries or a portion of salaries can be tied to a Medicaid/Medicare function where we can use federal funding to pay our staff salaries or a portion of their salaries verses state general fund.

Find savings in that matter (inaudible).

BERNARD BROWN: Just want to add one more thing. To 559, that LGE bill. Julie asked me to ask you all if there is something that you would like to see improved or done differently with LGEs. Or if there's some efficiencies that you believe are there and available please shoot us an email if you don't want to talk about it openly. So when we do have those discussions with the LGEs there's opportunity to raise those things so we can improve how they interact with the community that would be helpful. Again, if you have anything you can think of. I wish LGEs did this. I wish LGEs can do more of this. If there's things you want to highlight and make sure it's standard across all the regions. Each LGE may have little nuisances or things they do differently. If you want to highlight and say all the LGEs should do this please let us know. Talk to your friends, colleagues. Let them know they can shoot those to us. An opportunity for us to explore any examples that we can put in place long term.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank y'all.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I was going to do some follow-up real quick.

JILL HANO: I'm sorry Brenton.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Since Bernard had put it out there I don't know if anyone on the committee has any ideas they want to share or if there's anyone online has comments about things. I know our Act 378 committee meets after this and they may have ideas as well. But I wanted to give y'all an opportunity or those online an opportunity as well if they did have feedback if they wanted to share.

JILL HANO: I do have a question. Can you give us like a gist of what House Bill 559 is. Like two sentences.

BERNARD BROWN: Sure. It requires (inaudible) reports, activities and standard outcomes for all the LGEs. So they're now going to be required to not only have that for all the LGEs but I think it also says they have to report it to the legislature. It's kind of things we have in place already but I think they're telling us to go back and see if we can standardize some things and report it out.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I will say at our last meeting we talked more about it. The initial version of the bill is much different. It looked at essentially removing any sort of control from the LGEs and so it created a lot of conversation. That stuff is not in the bill.

JILL HANO: That is brand new. I thought it was that essentially in my mind it was instead of the board making decisions the Department of Health would make the decisions specifically as to who (inaudible). So did that part go away?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. That was amended out.

JILL HANO: I don't like any type of dictatorship.

EBONY HAVEN: Jill, I have something. I don't know if other committee members had anything for Bernard. I did want to mention this. This has come up in conversations that I've had. So with the IFS dollars there are I feel like some regions that approve things, some regions that don't. And I know the council had a workgroup where we revamped the manual for IFS dollars. I just still feel like some of the human service districts or authorities, they pushed this even when I was in support coordination, that they are the payer of last resort. So we revamped the manual and took all of that language out of there. I just still think it's still really embedded in the minds of the people that review the applications and that give those approvals. So that's something that I would like to see change. Like the people that are reviewing the applications if they can get more training on I don't have to give you this. I tried five different places before I came to IFS or the human service district and authority for this particular need for this family or this individual with developmental disabilities. I just think that is still embedded in the human service districts and authorities. That's something that I would like to see changed. Just consistency across the board where the districts are telling families, not telling families that they are the payer of last resort because I think that's still going on. I've had conversations with families and I'm like they shouldn't tell you that. It's still happening. I just kind of wanted to bring that up. That's one of the things I would like to see change.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Awareness too. Because I run into a lot of family members, moms especially that don't even realize that's an option. Even though it's an option of last resort even though it shouldn't be. They don't even realize it's an option at all. I don't know how to spread awareness. Her support coordinator, I'm not sure who she's with, never mentioned it. She didn't even know it was an option. I think lack of awareness.

JILL HANO: Okay. Any more questions, comments, concerns? So no more questions. Any online? We're moving on from our status report in the packet. Hannah would you like to start us off.

HANNAH JENKINS: I would love to. So the Partners in Policymaking you will see in the status report. I will give kind of a brief of how the last three sessions went. There was 18 participants that graduated, which is great. All that fun stuff. But something that's not in the packet is going to be the Partners in Policymaking reunion that's coming up. Is this the first one?

EBONY HAVEN: For this particular staff.

HANNAH JENKINS: To my knowledge the first Partner's reunion we've had. So Rebecca has done really well planning that. We've had at least 70 RSVPs so far. So that's going to be coming up August 29th through 30th. We have some guest speakers coming in. (Inaudible) that always comes and speaks at Partners. And Patrick Swartz. He came and did an education portion as our guest speaker this year but he was well liked, they received him well so he's going to be coming to the reunion as well. So that is Partners. Any questions? Concerns?

I also have YLF, Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum. Little update but since this report was done we actually had YLF. This year we went to LSUE Eunice instead of ULL. It went really well. Alaina was there. She can talk more about it. But it went really well. There was 13 delegates. They were all high energy. Really receptive. Lots of great potential leaders in that group. We also had a representative from Texas DDC. She came and she wanted to experience how we do YLF because they want to get that program started in Texas and they heard good things about us. She came and she was part of the whole thing so that was exciting.

We also, just a couple things I didn't mention there but I thought were good pieces of information because it is a new program. We do have four of the alumni from the last two years came as staff this year which is exciting. So it was nice to see them go from being delegates one year to the next year wanting to participate as a staff member. Not just came and then disappeared. So they did really well. Able to participate with other people from a different angle. We also have three of them have gone on to join Partners in Policymaking. So that's exciting to

see them moving to the next level of advocacy. And one of them, which you all know, is now a council member. I think YLF has done really well in showing how we can bring in these younger people and get them into the advocacy world at a younger age. So that is it for YLF. Any questions? Just what I like to hear.

And one thing that's not on your agenda but is a change is we have our new website is in the works. What it says in the status report is that the website will be launching sometime like right now but it will probably be more like the end of August that we will launch the website. It's just taking a little longer to process everything and check everything. And not going to lie, I don't know all the website lingo but they give a lot of information on what they're doing the next few weeks that I didn't share with y'all because I don't know what it means either. But bottom line, website is getting launched at the end of the month. I'll send out an LADDC news. Our social media will be a lot more accessible, a lot more user friendly, easy to find out what we're doing, what we got going on. And it should be really cool. So no questions I'm assuming?

JILL HANO: Any questions? Any questions before we move on? So now Stephanie would you like to share about your initiative on abuse and neglect.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I know it's long on here but when I zoom in on the screen you can't see the full picture. But it is in your packet. It's this long sheet. I don't know why it printed like this but I just rolled with it. So the council has contracted with Team Dynamics and they partnered with OCDD for this initiative. So far they have done six trainings across the state. They actually did a separate one which was on July 15th but I haven't gotten information on that because they submitted this information before that training. So the status report said there is three additional trainings. There's actually two that are coming up in August.

We have sent out multiple, I want to say at least this quarter we sent out two LADDC news that were for registering for these trainings. And then there will be one coming out within the next probably week or so that has both of the August ones listed to register for those. This initiative was added or was continued. I'm sorry. Was continued for the FFY 2026 action plan with Team Dynamics. So we are going to be working with them on the same initiative. So

far the numbers that I have were the six trainings. They have trained 42 people across the state and they still have one in July and the two in August. I did attend the one that was in Baton Rouge. It was a good training. I learned a lot. I don't have the documents though. They are in my car somewhere. But it was a good training. There was a video we watched and it was interactive. There was a Q and A. If you have any questions about this one let me know. That's all I have.

BRIAN BENNETT: It says professional. Were those providers?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Anyone that has said they were a professional is included so it could be. I will say the one that I went to in Baton Rouge they were on their lunch break I remember because they were like we came, we're doing this and we're going back. Because they do get a CEU for it. Team Dynamics has whatever certifications to give the CEUs.

BRENTON ANDRUS: A lot of their other trainings we tend to get a lot of providers, support coordinators, a lot of social workers, a lot of hospital social workers.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: It might have been hospital workers. I don't remember but I do remember that they were like direct workers with people with disabilities. What they were and that professional I don't know that information besides-- because the question that they ask they only ask self-advocate or family. Is there any other questions?

JILL HANO: You're recognized.

ZHENG XU: (Inaudible).

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yeah. So we sent out an LADDC news. I send it like kind of by the month. Whatever one we're having that month. I sent one at the very beginning when they had everything scheduled that said like here's everything that's scheduled. You can sign up for it. But I don't want to send so much every week of the same thing because then people aren't going to read it. So I've been trying to take them and put them on one for the month. So like May I sent one out. June I sent one out. I sent one in July and I'll send one at the beginning of August to advertise those.

And then they also, Team Dynamics, they have their own mailing list. So they send it through their mailing list. We also put it on social media. So we have our Facebook

page so we do advertise on there. And then they work with like any person that they collaborate with. So like FHF centers or sometimes LaCAN like when they do their (inaudible). And then sometimes the Arc because they do a lot of the same work and they partner with each other on different things. They will send this out also. But that is up to the contractor to do those outside collaborations for that. We can send it out also. Anytime they send us information we're sending it out for them.

ZHENG XU: (Inaudible).

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yes. They are all in person. As far as I know there isn't an option for online. If that is something that I think more people are interested in I can talk to the contractor. That can be something that we look into for the next, like this upcoming year. They would like to do more in person just because it's very interactive. They do a lot of talking, a lot of scenarios and things like that. So I think they prefer it to be in person just so they're getting more response and interaction from people there.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you Stephanie. Any more questions? No more questions. Thank you. Next up Brenton will give us all of the remaining activities. So Brenton, you have the floor.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Thank you. I think a lot of what I have to share is mostly in your status reports. I'll try to hit a few things. But as far as LaCAN goes we were successful on our advocacy efforts this year. We have three items on our advocacy list which was no cuts to resources and services for people with disabilities. And we wanted to make sure to fund our Families Helping Families centers the 500,000-dollars. And then improving those seclusion and restraint policies in Louisiana. So we were successful in all of those.

I know our agency folks here kind of shared a little bit about their budget so I won't go into all of that. But I do know in addition to funding there was a cut for People First funding and I know there was a lot of advocacy around that. A restoration of those dollars as well. I think there were 750 new community choices waivers slots, I believe it was, that was added to the budget. So that's really helpful because I know that program has quite a bit of a waiting list. There was also 4 million-dollars added to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. And so there was

some advocacy done around that by the Arc. And I know some of the FHF centers advocated for that as well along with many other people.

So I'm pretty sure probably Melissa will talk more about that whenever she discusses any sort of updates in the education/employment committee. But those were some of the wins in the budget there. But for the most part no cuts to services that we have to worry about at the moment, which is great. All of the dollars that we needed for FHF were also restored. Half of it, so 250 was in HB1. The other 250 was in a supplemental budget. But those dollars make it essentially a standstill budget for the FHF centers. Which is a little over a million dollars that we split between the nine centers that we contract with.

And then the restraint and seclusion legislation. That is Act 479. We worked with the governor. We worked with Disability Rights. Tory is here. DOE, Department of Education, BESE, charter schools. A lot of work went into that legislation. I think we're all very proud of it. And that is going to be discussed more in the education and employment committee so I'm not going to talk about it here. That committee is at the end of the day. We also pushed information about it as well in session so that kind of gave you a recap of that.

We did see some increase as far as participation. So we saw about a 7 percent increase in the amount of people that were participating in advocacy through LaCAN this year. I know it doesn't sound like a big number but since Covid we're really seeing like this dwindling of participation over the years. So this year we saw an increase which is nice. It's a testament probably to picking an agenda that resonated with folks. We also saw almost a 20 percent increase in people that participated in our action alerts and yellow shirt days. Certainly when you are monitoring things like something as broad as disability services you get a lot more people involved and so I think some of that may be attributed to that. But in general I think folks are just really engaged in advocacy this year which was awesome to see.

There was, I don't have a percentage because it was not a great percentage, but there was more participation from council members in advocacy this year, which we appreciate. There's certainly lots of room for growth but I would encourage all of our parents and self-advocate

members to really stand behind your agenda that you vote on every year. Really get out there and participate. I mean things as simple as action alerts, sending an email. We don't really have a great success rate of council members participating in that. This is me encouraging you to participate in those particular activities. If you can't make it out to the capitol. If you can't make it out to yellow shirt days. If for some reason you can't go to the roundtables at least try to participate in those action alerts. Because you're creating agendas that you're asking people to advocate for and we need you to advocate as well alongside of them.

We had a briefing in June. We talk about a briefing every year. It's just a way that we get together with LaCAN, our FHF centers and kind of talk about (inaudible) our action alerts and our yellow shirt days. What advocacy activities we did. How did we perform. What language did we use that we need to change. Pretty much anything and everything that relates to advocacy over that past year. And so one of the things that we decided this year to give a try is to not have our legislative kickoff. So kickoff is something we usually talk to you about in October because that's when you develop your advocacy agenda. So we would have legislative kickoff usually around September. And so right now all of our LaCAN leaders in their regions they are hosting, and a lot of them in partnership with FHF, are hosting community input meetings. This is where we ask members in the community to give us ideas of what we're going to advocate for next session.

So even though this session just ended we're already preparing for next. And what we would do in kickoff is our LaCAN leaders or FHF directors would come and review all of the input and then kind of come up with a recommendation that they would send to you in October for you to consider to add to your agenda. This year we're taking out that kickoff piece because what we did last year was we added in a legislative ad hoc committee. So what we found was whenever you're debating what to put on your agenda in October it pretty much overtakes your entire business meeting. We had to cut agency reports short. A lot of the business you needed to do we had to cut short because we spend so much time discussing this advocacy agenda so we created an ad hoc committee. And that is going to be the committee that's going to essentially come up with those

recommendations for you.

So if they're going to come up with the recommendations it doesn't make sense that we would utilize your dollars on contracts to have one set of recommendations then to bring you all in to have another set of recommendations that may or may not match. Then go to the council for a final approval. So we're trying to streamline things. We have encouraged our leaders and FHF directors to participate in that legislative ad hoc as members of the public but (inaudible) on that committee that is not necessarily a council member so we're going to have a representative of FHF that is going to sit on that committee. We're going to have a representative from one of our LaCAN leaders sit on the committee as well to help with some of those conversations, some of those decisions that you're going to have to make.

And I think probably tomorrow it will be out there. But we are going to be looking for folks that want to participate on that legislative ad hoc committee. That committee is probably going to meet certainly not before late September but probably more so in early October because right now we're doing community input meetings. If you are signed up to receive our information you should have gotten an info alert last week I think that went out that basically said hey, these are the community input meetings that are going to be happening in your regions. It's your chance to come out. A lot of them are happening virtually. Some are happening in person or doing it as hybrid. So once those are over, those happen through the end of August, then we'll be able to look at getting that legislative ad hoc committee going.

The community input meetings, if you did not get the information, there's going to be at least two in each region. If you did not get that information you can go to our website [laddc.org/LaCAN](http://laddc.org/LaCAN). You will see where it talks about our regional membership meetings there. You will be able to get the schedule for those community input meetings.

We also sent out some information, we had a rebranding of LaCAN. We are still the yellow shirts. That was a big question. The yellow is still there whether you like yellow or not. I know that's debatable. But those yellow shirts are still there. Our shirts have been more simplified. It's just going to be our new LaCAN logo on

the front. As you know our previous shirts we had messaging on the front, back. LaCAN logo was very small. And people know us as the yellow shirts but they don't necessarily tie it to LaCAN or the council. So the shirts are really going to be streamlined. We didn't want to do any sort of messaging outside of just our logo because messaging can change, right. We don't want to be locked into a particular statement or messaging that may not apply to something we're advocating for at the time or in the future. So right now we have to replace all of our materials so I did not bring you a goody bag of fun things for you to have because we're kind of saving those for whenever our leaders go out on outreaches. Yellow shirts, if you do come out to a yellow shirt day you will get a new yellow shirt. As we reveal those supplies I will be able to share that with you guys. That is it for LaCAN. Any questions specifically about LaCAN?

Families Helping Families. You have the reports in your packet. That is fourth quarter data. And before anyone calls to tell me that that's not correct that is not final data. Say it again. Before anyone calls me and tells me it's not correct that is not final data. What you have here is pretty much most of the information. We have to create our documents before we get all of the information in so this is not going to be the final. You will get that in October.

I already talked about we were able to get the restoration of funding so their contract is going to look the same. Since we do not have an increase in funding we are not increasing deliverables for next year. One of the things you'll notice in the document you have in your packet you will see two numbers under the targets. You will see for instance under referral it will say 2850 and you'll see 1900 GNO. That is just because we started our contract with FHF Greater New Orleans after that July date that we started the rest of the centers. So starting this July 1 the contracts with our centers they're all going to be looking to achieve the same deliverables. You won't see that differentiation. That's why you see the different targeted deliverables for one center and the rest have a different one.

And the number of info and referrals that are being put out there which is great. That means more people are reaching out trying to get connected to different services

and supports in their area. Our number of trainings increased across the centers. Peer to peer support also increased. And so those are three of the main things that our centers do on the daily is info referral, training and peer to peer support. So we saw increases in that area and most certainly will be able to give you specifically how much of an increase in October once we finalize that data.

We're also going to have monitoring and desk audits that are going to come up for our centers between now and October. Usually every year we try to collect information on our centers. We'll do an actual monitoring visit. We go into the center and talk with staff. We interview, sometimes we talk to board members if they're available. We do knowledge checks. We look at financials, things like that. Again, it's come up in this committee before we are not accountants. So we are looking at very high-level financial stuff and not super minor things. But those will be happening between now and October and you will get more information about that as we move on next quarter. Any questions on Families Helping Families?

JILL HANO: I forgot what you said. We saw increases in referrals?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. Information and referrals.

JILL HANO: Brenton, there's like five things that say trainings.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. It's a collective of all the trainings. And then peer to peer support.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. Any questions about FHF? Thank you Brenton.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We have two more to go. So our next initiative is co-occurring disorders. That is activity 2.1.3. So we collaborated with the Arc of Louisiana on that one. They have done statewide trainings for people with disabilities and their families. It's really to help educate folks about the different services and supports that are available for people that have a developmental disability but also behavioral health. There is a report in your packet I believe and it shows that we've had seven trainings so far. There was one I think that happened earlier this month that I don't have information for right at this moment so that will be reported out in the next quarter.

And then our other activity would be our FASD training awareness. That's 2.2.2 and 2.2.3. We collaborate with

LSU HDC or Human Development Center on that one. And it kind of goes hand in hand with one of their priorities this year which was to bring awareness to fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. And so in addition to their awareness campaign they're also doing trainings that are being offered to social workers within the Department of Children and Family Services as well as foster parents.

This training it kind of got off to a late start. I think we talked about it in the last meeting. DCFS had put kind of a halt on doing their trainings. They were doing some reorganization, restructuring about their training process and so they weren't participating in any outside trainings at that time. But that has since changed. They are now participating in the trainings. So so far there's been 16 trainings. There's been over 200 people that have participated in those trainings. And so they are also working on a plan to I think create a poster and there's also one that they're going to try to send out statewide. Hopefully we will have more information about that at the next meeting because I don't have a lot of information about that initiative. So any questions on those?

JILL HANO: If there are no questions? Thank you Brenton. I'm going to move onto announcements. Please note our Act 378 committee meeting is held in this room at 2:45 followed by education and employment. Also tomorrow is the full council meeting which starts at 10:00 a.m. in this room. Those that have registered to participate virtually should have the links in your email. Does anyone on the committee have any other announcements to make? Okay. Any public? Nope. So I hereby adjourn this meeting at 1:57 p.m. Thank y'all.