

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Membership Committee
October 7th, 2025

JILL HANO: Welcome to the 2025 membership committee. Today's Tuesday October 7th. It is 1:10 and I would like to call the meeting to order. So Ebony, could you please take roll?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am, I can. Ms. Alaina Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon. Dr. Meda.

LAMARTINE MEDA: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Renoda Washington. Ms. Vivienne Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Karen Xu.

KAREN XU: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: And Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Great. You have five and you have a quorum.

JILL HANO: Okay. Perfect. Thank you. The next thing on the agenda is to review the council membership requirements. So Ebony, do you want to fill us in on the diversity aspects and the seats that we are filling as well as the applicant demographics?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am, I can. I'm going to ask Brenton to share the membership status document with everyone.

JILL HANO: Perfect.

EBONY HAVEN: So we are replacing three members this go round for the membership committee. You guys are recommending three members to replace the members that are terming out. Those three members are Ms. Christi Gonzales, Mr. Tony Piontek and Ms. Vivienne Webb. And you can see their appointment dates there. You can see the role they are representing on the council, the location and area of the state where they are. And in that last box I'll send to the governor's office once you all make a decision at the October meeting once the full council votes on which members they would like to recommend.

So if we look at the bottom of that first page your

demographics of your DD Council have to match the Louisiana state demographics. So I pulled this census bureau data as of July 2024. And so here are the demographic information for Louisiana as a state. 32.6 of our population is black or African American. 7.3 percent is Hispanic. 1.9 percent is Asian. And 62.6 percent is white or Caucasian. As far as gender we have 51 percent female here in Louisiana and 49 percent male. So if we look at the DD Council's demographics based on those 17 citizen members that you all have on the council, not including the state representatives, we have as far as African American or black representation we have 29.4 percent. 5.8 percent are Hispanic. 5.8 Asian. 58.8 percent is white/Caucasian. So you guys are very close to the numbers as far as the state demographics. And then for gender you have 53 are female, 47 percent are male. So again, you guys are right on target as far as your demographics go.

And so if we go down a little further we also have to keep in mind that according to the DD Act you guys have to make sure that you have representation in all regions of our state. So that's north, south, east, west, Central Louisiana. And then you have to have members both from urban areas and rural areas. So just based on the locations of our 17 community members, again, we have six members in our southeast region.

And I'm going to pull up a map in just a second but I kind of wanted to give you guys the numbers here first. And the southeast region includes New Orleans, Houma, Thibodeaux, Covington, Mandeville and the surrounding areas. So you have six members there. You have nine members in the south-central region. And so that south central region is going to include Baton Rouge, Lafayette and all those surrounding areas. We have one member currently in the southwest region and that's the Lake Charles area and surrounding areas. You don't have any members in Central Louisiana, the central region of Louisiana. We did have one member but he decided to move to the Baton Rouge area so now he's included in that nine members.

JILL HANO: So is this member currently on the council?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. And he's not one of the ones that's being replaced.

JILL HANO: Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: Again, you guys don't have any members

in the northeast region of the state. That's the Monroe, Rayville, Tallulah, Bastrop and surrounding areas. Y'all don't have any members there. And then you have one member in the northwest region. That's the Shreveport, Mansfield area. I'll ask Brenton to pull up the map that I have on the website as well. It kind of gives you a visual of where members are. I guess it kind of just shows a little clearer what members are being replaced. Those are the pins in red. And then your current members are in yellow.

LAMARTINE MEDA: Are there parishes for the northeast region?

EBONY HAVEN: I didn't put parishes on there. I put more so like the areas. I can show you. Actually, if you look at the map, Dr. Meda, that map will have the parishes.

LAMARTINE MEDA: So Alexandria would be?

EBONY HAVEN: I think Alexandria is in Rapides Parish.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You have two from Iberia, one from Caddo that are being replaced. And your current members are in Jefferson, Tangipahoa, St. John the Baptist, a lot in EBR, Lafayette, Vermillion and Calcasieu.

EBONY HAVEN: I can stop and answer any questions, Jill, if anybody else has any questions.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Like the new applicants.

LAMARTINE MEDA: (Inaudible).

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. Whenever we get to the applicant paper I'm going to make sure I call out the people that y'all are missing. I can keep going, Jill. If nobody else has any questions I can keep going.

JILL HANO: Any questions?

EBONY HAVEN: About our current membership or any demographic questions.

JILL HANO: Okay. Then please continue.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. So I'm going to have Brenton, just for those members of the public that are interested in just hearing about how you guys went about interviewing everyone and how they're rated. I wanted to share the ratings form with everyone. So we just have a simple rating scale if they answered the questions. Like let's just take the first one for example. The applicant fully supports the values in the DD Act. And things that were considered when they were doing the ratings were inclusion verses segregation. How did the applicant respond to the question about full inclusion verses segregation and congregate residential facilities.

Employment, what's their stance on integrated employment verses sheltered workshops. Support for key values. And just what the interviewers were paying attention to. So the ratings are very simple. It's either a yes or you get a two rating or a somewhat where you get a one or a no or you get a zero. So I'm not going to read through all of that. I just kind of wanted to make sure that it was transparent about how you guys were rating or what the rating scale looked like as far as when you did your interviews.

So we're going to now go to the ratings for the applicants. Just give me one second because I have one last rating and I want to make sure it's pulled up. Just give us one second. Okay. We have it pulled up. Can everybody see it on the committee? Great. So we had a total of 15 applicants to fill the three seats. We had one self-advocate. We had, I want to say, 12 parents. Yes, 12 parents. And we had two immediate relatives. If you look at the bottom of this table you will see that someone is highlighted in red. After I contacted him I determined that he was ineligible. So 14 applicants were sent to the committee members for interviews. And so as you can see you can look at all the names. We have their ethnicity, their genders, their parishes and then we had the assigned interviewers for each of the applicants. And then you can also see the ratings on this form as well. The applicants must have done very well because we had a lot of eights on their interviews. And you can kind of see the breakdown of the scores if you look at each category how they answered.

There is something that I do want to mention about two of the applicants and they both have stars by their names, Ms. Missy Moore and Ms. Melinda Perrodin. Missy Moore and Melinda Perrodin were governor appointed by the previous governor, Governor John Bel Edwards. When the new administration took office they decided not to senate confirm four of those council members. So Melinda Perrodin and Missy Moore were two of the members that they did not senate confirm. So I just wanted to point that out that they were governor appointed but not senate confirmed and so they could no longer continue to serve on the council. But they had already been governor appointed. Just wanted to point that out to you guys. But I can answer any questions about this table if anybody has any

questions.

And just going back to Dr. Meda 's question earlier was about the parishes. So as you can see each parish is there and if you look at that map that we showed earlier you can see where some of the parishes like the first parent applicant Ms. Latoya Carrnahan, she's from Rapides Parish, that's one of the parishes that you guys don't have representation. You don't have representation in Ouachita. So Ms. Jasmine Frazier she's from Ouachita Parish. You also are going to be losing a member from Caddo Parish. Just keep that in mind that we have two applicants, Ms. Missy Moore and Audrey Gilliam, they're both from Caddo Parish. And then you have one from Bossier, Ms. DeAngola Francis Johnson. So depending on how they're rated you guys may want to look at those applicants a little harder because you're missing representation from those areas.

BRENTON ANDRUS: We haven't had someone from the northeast in years. Over five. Probably even six or seven years.

EBONY HAVEN: And I do want to point this out. We are losing two self-advocates so in order to make sure that we are in compliance with the DD Act you all will have to choose a self-advocate today. One of the recommendations will have to be a self-advocate and we only have one self-advocate applicant.

LAMARTINE MEDA: Who was that again?

EBONY HAVEN: Landon Hanks. That would take precedent over the parishes because you have to have-- yes. I'm sorry. I'm done now, Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. Vivienne.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I would like to ask about DeAngela Francis Johnson. I've actually talked to her in person at one of the community input meetings in our region and she's a very good advocate. I was very confused about her ratings and then I looked at some of the other ones that were rated by the same person and they also have low ratings. So I'm a little curious about that and would like some more information there.

EBONY HAVEN: That would have to be from the assigned interviewers. I know Dr. Meda is here. I would just caution if you guys are going to talk about anything sensitive that you wait until you go into executive session. He's saying it's sensitive information so he

would rather wait until you guys go into executive session, Vivienne. So does anybody else-- you have a question?

ALAINA CHACHERE: Vivienne, I was wondering the same thing about her as well so thank you for asking that.

JILL HANO: DeAngela?

EBONY HAVEN: It was DeAngela Francis Johnson, Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. I've never been this unprepared for a meeting.

EBONY HAVEN: You're doing fine. I can answer any other questions about the chart or any questions about the demographics or any of the information that we just kind of went through I can answer any of those questions. But if no one has any questions if you guys are going to talk about sensitive information about the applicants I would encourage you guys to go into executive session.

LAMARTINE MEDA: Let me ask one question. Is there a particular order that we're going to choose an applicant? As far as, for example, with a self-advocate verses representation from a parish, right. Do we have an order? For example, I can see the parish for Jasmine, for example. The fact she's from that particular parish would take precedence over everything else or not? Well, that's if she had a lower score. She had an eight, but let's say she had a five. Would the score or where she's from take precedent over everything else?

EBONY HAVEN: I would say that you guys have a great range to choose from because we don't have anybody from Ouachita Parish but we're losing somebody from Caddo Parish and that parish too. So to answer your question, the role that a person plays on the council takes precedence. So a third of your citizen members have to be individuals with disabilities. Another third has to be parents of a child with a disability or an immediate relative of an adult with a disability that cannot advocate for themselves. And then the next third has to be a combination. Right now since you're losing two self-advocates you guys will be down, you won't meet that third for the individuals with disabilities if that makes sense. So that takes precedence. You have to have another person, I mean you have to have a person with a developmental disability to replace one of the applicants.

And then I would say that based off the ratings you guys will want to look, I would look at the parishes and then I would see what the rating was and then I would discuss

with the committee members, this is just my suggestion, discuss with the committee members what you guys liked about that person. So that would be my suggestion as far as like how you go in the order. You have to meet the role category first and then you want to look at the demographic information.

JILL HANO: Okay. Vivienne then Karen.

VIVIENNE WEBB: So I definitely want to give more representation in the north especially since I was the only person in the north and now I'm going to be leaving. We do have a lot of people in the southern area so I would probably want to focus on Caddo/Bossier area. Our highest score for the Caddo area is Audrey Gilliam. So that is something to look into. She did score particularly low but the other people for the Caddo and Bossier area did get really low scorings. I would like to know why as well considering they are in the north and I do think that is worth looking into.

EBONY HAVEN: Karen, I think she recognized you already. Are you done, Vivienne? Okay. Karen, you have the floor. Jill already recognized you.

KAREN XU: Thank you. I'm the new one. The first time to join this membership interview. So I just wonder we consider to replace the number with location. Just a concern. I just wonder do we need to replace the member with the same type of representing like a parent of a child with a developmental disability or individual with disability or just that kind of situation? Just wonder if we need to replace the same kind.

EBONY HAVEN: I understand what you're saying. Since we had two individuals with disabilities that we're replacing and then we have one parent you don't have to go role for role. But in this situation since you're losing two individuals with disabilities you are losing that third of the citizen membership being individuals with disabilities. So you are going to have to replace, it is going to have to be one for one if that makes sense. You are going to have to replace somebody with an individual with a disability with another individual with a disability so you can continue to be in compliance with the DD Act which says that you have to have a third of your citizenship members be individuals with disabilities.

Now as far as the other, like you don't have to replace Christi Gonzales who's a parent, you don't have to replace

her with a parent. You can choose an immediate relative to replace her because that quota, that third will have already been met. Did I answer your question, Karen?

KAREN XU: Yeah. Because it didn't show up in the table so I just wondered if we need to consider that.

EBONY HAVEN: In this case you do have to replace one of those members with a self-advocate because you will lose that third. As long as we have a third of members that were individuals with disabilities, 1/3 of your members are parents or immediate relatives and then the next third has to be a combination. As long as you're meeting that you don't have to pick like a parent for a parent if that makes sense.

KAREN XU: Yes. Got it. Thank you.

JILL HANO: So Ebony, I have a question. If we only have one applicant and two self-advocates are rolling off then will we be out of compliance?

EBONY HAVEN: No, ma'am. You guys are actually over the quota for your self-advocates which is a great thing. You have more self-advocates than you need. I hate to say that. That is not what I meant. You have more self-advocates than you needed to meet the quota is what I'm trying to say. So that 1/3, you guys were over that, that 1/3 as far as the self-advocate representation on your council. So in order to keep that third you have to at least choose one self-advocate. Unfortunately we only had one self-advocate to apply. But let's just say you had three self-advocates. You can replace all three of the members with all three of those self-advocates if that's what the committee chose to do. Or at least recommend to replace those individuals with three self-advocates if we had three self-advocate applicants.

JILL HANO: And Landon I think he's awesome but that's just me.

EBONY HAVEN: Alaina has her hand raised, Jill.

JILL HANO: Alaina, you have the floor.

ALAINA CHACHERE: If there's sensitive information that we don't want to share do we have to make a motion to go into executive?

JILL HANO: Yes, ma'am.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Can I make a motion?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. Dr. Meda has his hand raised, Jill. I think he has one more question before y'all maybe go into executive session.

JILL HANO: Dr. Meda, you have the floor.

LAMARTINE MEDA: So how about the ability for someone to come to the quarterly meetings. I know that's not part of the questions there.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. That should have been on your questions. That's not the ratings, but that was one of the questions. So that would be something that you could talk to the committee members about. Yes, that is very important. Being a council member is a huge commitment. It's not just those four quarterly meetings every year. You guys know we have ad hoc meetings all the time. You want to take that into consideration for sure if an applicant can make the commitment.

LAMARTINE MEDA: Okay.

JILL HANO: So Alaina, were you about to make a motion?

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yes. Can I make a motion or I make a motion to enter into executive session.

VIVienne WEBB: I second.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Alaina. Thank you, Vivienne. Can y'all send me, Karen and Vivienne a link?

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. We can send one as soon as you guys vote on to go into executive session.

JILL HANO: Okay. So we have a motion and a second, Ebony. Do we need a roll call vote?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. You do. And I can take that for you if you would like?

JILL HANO: Thank you, ma'am.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. Ms. Alaina Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon. Dr. Meda.

LAMARTINE MEDA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Renoda Washington. Ms. Vivienne Webb.

VIVienne WEBB: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Karen Xu.

KAREN XU: What is the question?

EBONY HAVEN: Whether or not to go into executive session to discuss the applicants.

KAREN XU: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: That's four yeses, Jill, so the motion passes.

JILL HANO: Okay. It is moved. So now we will enter executive session. So public please bear with us. And then Ms. Xu and Vivienne and I will get a new link and we

will return shortly.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And for those in public I believe once we end this if you go back through your link to participate it will probably just hold you in a waiting room until we start that meeting again. So that way that can be your notification that we are out.

{Executive Session}

JILL HANO: All right y'all. Welcome back. We had a productive executive committee meeting. No, we didn't. Executive session. The membership committee recommends three primary recommendations and three alternatives. Does anyone want to make a motion to set the applicants that were selected during the executive session?

ALAINA CHACHERE: I motion to set the applicants that were selected during executive session.

JILL HANO: Okay. Ms. Chachere, can you name them?

ALAINA CHACHERE: All right. We chose Landon Hanks, Audrey Gilliam and Melinda Perrodin as our three. And then our three alternatives, Latoya Carnahan, Tammy DeBiasi and Lorenza Lawless.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Alaina. We have a motion on the floor. Does anyone have a second?

LAMARTINE MEDA: I second.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Dr. Meda. The motion has been made by Ms. Chachere and seconded by Dr. Meda. Do we have any public-- is it public comment or roll call vote or what?

EBONY HAVEN: Public comment.

JILL HANO: Okay. Do we have any public comment?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Not that I see.

JILL HANO: Are there any that you don't see, Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: None that I see or don't see.

JILL HANO: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: No hands raised, no comments, nobody in the room that is public.

JILL HANO: Okay. With that the motion passes.

BRENTON ANDRUS: But you have to do a roll call vote, Jill.

JILL HANO: So Ebony, will you do a roll call vote?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, I will. A vote of yes will be to accept the recommendations as they are on the screen. A vote of no will be not to accept the applicants to submit

to the governor and the alternates. Ms. Alaina Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Chachere, yes. Ms. Angela Harmon.
Dr. Meda.

LAMARTINE MEDA: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Dr. Meda, yes. Ms. Renoda Washington.
Ms. Vivienne Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Vivienne Webb, yes. Ms. Karen Xu.

KAREN XU: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Karen Xu, yes. That is four yeas,
zero nays, Jill.

JILL HANO: So the motion passes. Ebony, is there any
announcements?

EBONY HAVEN: The only announcement that I have today
is that the legislative ad hoc committee will be meeting
on next Thursday October 16th and that meeting is from 10
to 4, Brenton?

BRENTON ANDRUS: 10 to 3:30.

EBONY HAVEN: The anchor location is at the American
Red Cross. That's all the announcements that I have.
We'll announce the council meetings at that meeting next
week.

VIVIENNE WEBB: May I be in the legislative agenda
meeting?

EBONY HAVEN: Anyone can attend but there's a conflict
of interest I think we've talked about it--

VIVIENNE WEBB: I talked about it at the last council
meeting with Nicole and she said I'm good. It's not a
conflict of interest.

EBONY HAVEN: You talked about it with Nicole Learson?

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes, ma'am.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. Let me verify that with her and
then I will--

VIVIENNE WEBB: She said it's not a conflict of interest
since there's no money involved with my mom. It's not
going directly to her. It's not about her and her
paycheck. It's just about agenda items.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. I'll verify then I'll email you
after this meeting.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Okay. Cool. Thank you.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. There's no more announcements.

JILL HANO: All right. Thank you, Ebony. It is 3:50
so if there's no objection I hereby adjourn this meeting.

I adjourn my last membership committee meeting ever.
Thank y'all for all y'all's hard work.