

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee
October 29, 2025

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Good afternoon everyone. It is 2:50 and I would like to call this meeting to order. Rekeesha, would you mind calling the roll?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Hano is here. Ms. Gonzales. Ms. Hagan. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Piontek. Ms. Stewart. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Right here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Mr. Taylor is here. Ms. Xu.

KAREN XU: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Xu is here. And Ms. Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Polotzola is here. (Inaudible).

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Rekeesha. Before we get started I just wanted to remind you all of a few rules. For committee members and members of the public attending in person please raise your hand to speak and wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking. To help the meeting run smoothly please keep side conversations to a minimum and comments related to the topic we are discussing. For those committee members who are attending virtually remember you must be on camera and have your first and last name showing to be counted towards our quorum. Please keep microphones muted unless called upon by the chair. Electronically raise your hand to request to speak and wait to be called on by the chair. For attendees electronically raise your hand to request to speak. Once recognized by the chair your microphone will be turned on. After speaking your microphone will be returned to mute.

Also, the Q and A is to only be used by those needing an ADA accommodation to participate in the meeting. Public comments will not be accepted via the Q and A except for those individuals who requested the accommodation. As for order committee members in person and virtually will be called on first. Public members in person will then be called on followed by public participating virtually who have their hands raised. Comments in the Q and A will be addressed last. As with all hybrid meetings it can be

difficult to keep track of those wanting to speak in person and virtually. Please be patient. All comments and questions from the public may be subjected to two minutes at the discretion of the chair so keep that in mind. Depending on time constraints we may also limit comments to once per issue. Also comments about a person's character will not be allowed. Finally, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide public comment before each vote and during the designated public comment periods. The chair may also use their discretion if comments will be accepted outside of those times.

So everyone should have reviewed the July meeting summary which was attached to the agenda you received via email. There is also a copy in the committee packet. I need a motion to approve the July meeting summary.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We have a motion from Mr. Taylor. We need a second.

JILL HANO: Second.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We have a second from Ms. Hano. Is there any discussion? Any public comments? We'll now do a roll call vote. A vote yes is to approve the minutes. Am I in the right place? A vote no is to not approve. Roll call vote.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Hagan. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Piontek. Ms. Stewart. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Taylor, yes. Ms. Xu.

KAREN XU: Yes.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And Ms. Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

REKEESHA BRANCH: That's four yeses.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Rekeesha. Next will be the Office of Behavioral Health. Dr. Savicki is online. Dr. Savicki, do you want to present your reports?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yeah. I'm ready. Are you able to hear me okay?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, ma'am.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Okay. Great. And so I think we'll start with the year-end report. Is that true?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Okay. This is not the yearend

report. So this is the yearend report for everything expended on these funds for the fiscal year that ended on June 30th. Y'all have already seen the quarter four report which is roughly similar to this. Doing the year-end report obviously allows LGEs to account for any last invoices that weren't able to be paid by the time that that quarter four report is due to the council. So you'll see on the CCR report that with one exception all of the LGEs did meet the performance standard that we have set. The performance standard is expending 95 percent to the families that apply for that assistance. And all the LGEs have met that except for Acadiana.

We did go ahead and-- we typically wait until the yearend report comes in to speak to the LGEs about corrective action plans. In this case Acadiana let us know at the time of the quarter four report that it was fully accurate. That they weren't able to expend all of the funds by the end of June 30th. So we went ahead and worked with them on submitting a corrective action plan and have already received that and reviewed that. So that's already in place. And one of the ways that we monitor progress in correcting that is that we looked at the next quarter. And so you'll see when we get there Acadiana has actually, is already 32 percent expended. And so they're already more on track this year. They're doing well with their corrective action plan so far. So just wanted to share that information.

Any questions? So this is on the consumer care resources side. Any questions on this before we move onto flexible family fund?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any in the room.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: All right. Good to move onto the flexible family fund? All right. So this, again, is the yearend report. What we expect to see is almost all of the funds expended. We expect to see, every quarter we expect to see at least 90 percent of the slots being filled. Again, all the LGEs are in compliance with the exception of one. It is for quarter four of fiscal year 25. North Louisiana was under the amount of slots. They had 19 out of 22 slots filled. It's actually quite a bit improved from their quarter four report. They were able to kind of come and do a lot of work on their waiting list and get a lot of folks into slots even by actual end of the fiscal year. But again, we were already aware that they were

below where they needed to be on filling the slots and so we did already request a corrective action plan from them and have already received and reviewed that earlier this month. And again, how we monitor progress on those corrective action plans is we look at the next quarter report which, again, spoiler alert you'll see later they have similarly made progress and have quite a bit more of their slots filled as you'll see in the quarter one report.

That's all I have for the flexible family fund report. Any questions on that?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any questions in the room.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: All right. We can move onto the supported living tab if folks are ready. And this one is pretty straight forward. Everybody had expended 100 percent of their funding for the LGEs who administer this part of the program. Any questions on that?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: No questions in the room.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: All right. Whenever the group is ready we can move on to the quarter one.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Okay. So this is our first report for fiscal year 26 and we're on the CCR. Something we always like to do is take a look at what the LG allocations are for the new fiscal year and see if there's any significant changes that have been made between one fiscal year and the next. They are largely the same if you kind of compare and contrast your year-to-year report and your quarter-one reports for fiscal year 26. Largely the same. A couple LGEs have made some small shifts. IMCAL, for instance, had ended the last year with a pretty reduced amount given some funding changes that they experienced throughout the year. They've been able to bump it back up a little bit for this year. Jefferson Parish last year had a pretty big increase based I think on some temporary funding so they've reduced a little bit but they still have a pretty generous allocation. Any questions on that kind of initial allocation?

BRENTON ANDRUS: There is a hand raised. I'm not certain where the question is but it's Ms. Mylinda Elliot.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Mylinda, you can ask your question.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Y'all are going a bit fast for me. Could y'all go to the chart before this one?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Are you talking about for the yearend supported living?

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Yes, ma'am.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Now I messed up your stuff. I'm sorry. Can you go down a little bit to the explanation. So in the explanation for SCLHSA, what is that?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: South Central.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: South Central Human Service Authority. It says that they made payments to peer specialists for services performed. Is that like paychecks?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: We would have to ask the LGE. They don't give that level of detail to us but we would have to ask that level of question.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: So is that an allowed expense for this area? It says the same thing in Calcasieu Area Human Service District, peer support staff salaries. Or not the same thing but something similar. And I didn't think this money was supposed to go for salaries. I thought it was for people. For, well, consumers.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So we can look at-- so I had noted that salaries reference before. We can ask. It's fairly broad. The state level policy around allowed uses is fairly broad to be honest. It really is speaking to providing supports to consumers where the supports do not have another payment source. But we can ask that question of the LGEs.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. Yeah, if you wouldn't mind please. Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: You said it was South Central and what was the other one?

MYLINDA ELLIOT: One of them was Calcasieu rea. I'm sort of guessing. But it's the one right above it. And that one specifically says peer support staff salaries. And then the one underneath says payments to peer support specialists for services performed. Which lead me to believe it was salaries too. Now I haven't examined all the others but that's the two that I saw.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Dr. Savicki, in regards to that would that mean that these aren't Medicaid funded services? You said something about there's no other funding source.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I'm just referencing the guidance in the policy which is if a service is reimbursable by a different funding source then that funding source should be used instead of these dollars. But I don't know

specifically what the LGE is referencing there so we would have to ask the question.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the question Mylinda. We have another question from Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Can she go back to the consumer care resources.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Which one?

ERICK TAYLOR: Can she explain the ones down at the bottom.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: You're talking about like Imperial Calcasieu has in red 10,582-dollars? That's what you're asking about?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Dr. Savicki, can you answer that?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yeah. You're referring to the entry in the budget changes since the start of the state fiscal year in that column?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yeah. That column is for LGEs to report on if they had to make any changes in the middle of the fiscal year to the amount of money that they have to budget for this program. And IMCAL reported a while ago, it might have been in quarter two or quarter three, I don't remember exactly, they had reported that they needed to reduce their initial allocation. In fact, I can tell you it was quarter three because it was in response to a federal cut to a grant program that they were using to kind of beef up the amount of money that they could allocate to this. They were using some federal dollars which then got cut in March. And so then they reported on their quarter three report that they had to reduce their kind of overall budget for this program because the money was no longer available for them to use.

ERICK TAYLOR: They had to give it back?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: They just weren't allowed to use it anymore. They had to remove it from their budget and they couldn't then use it in the future for the rest of the fiscal year two to provide to citizens.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Did she answer your question?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes, ma'am. I'm sorry, Madam Chair. Could she slow down?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Were you able to hear that Dr. Savicki?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Yeah. Just let me know when to pause.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So, Dr. Savicki, if you could pick back up. Where were we? Just starting on the first quarter I think. Correct?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Does anyone want to ask any questions on this one so far? So so far I was just speaking to the total budget allocation that the LGEs have budgeted for this current fiscal year. Y'all just let me know when you want to move ahead. I don't want to move too fast.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Go ahead Dr. Savicki.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Keep going?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, ma'am.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Actually, could you stay on the consumer care resources. Just wanted to note that what we look at in quarter one is certainly what we would like to see is about 25 percent expended but we also know that historically LGEs use these funds in different ways. So, for instance, I think every quarter one that I've seen this report for years Capital Area typically does not spend it, any of the funding in that first quarter. They often times use a different funding source to address needs early on in the fiscal year and then they use all of these funds really towards the end of the fiscal year. So it's pretty typical to see Capital Area with a 0 percent expended at this time of the year. But you will see a lot of the other LGEs have used a fair amount of it already. I just wanted to call your attention to Acadiana that they're at 32 percent. That's what I was mentioning before that they didn't get to the 95 percent expended by the end of last fiscal year and so they are working a corrective action plan to work on linking these funds to families a little more efficiently. And that 32 percent tells us they're doing pretty well so far. That they seem to be already above where we would expect them to be by this time of the year. That's all I had to say about this particular report on the consumer care resources side. But let me know obviously if there's questions.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any questions in the room or on Zoom.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: All right. So the flexible family funds what we look for is LGEs having their budgeted slots having them filled with families who are receiving this assistance. As you can see almost all the LGEs are doing

pretty well. There's a couple that have maybe one slot that's not filled that they're working through their waiting list to connect a new family into that slot. The one exception, one LGE that is struggling a bit is Florida Parishes. They only have 20 of their 26 slots filled by the end of this quarter. So we did go ahead and reach out to them I think maybe just last week when we were finalizing reports and we did request a corrective action plan from them to speak to how they're going to resolve that and how they're going to make sure that they are able to efficiently move more families into those slots. So we'll hopefully have an update for the council next quarter on what their corrective action is and how they're doing so far.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any questions on the first quarter flexible family funds? I don't see any questions.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: All right. Similarly for supported living for quarter one if LGEs use this funding sort of the same way throughout the year then we would see about 25 percent expended for quarter one but they do all use this funding in different ways. And so, for instance, you will see South Central has already spent quite a bit of it. But this is their reporting right now about where they're at with expenditure of the funds. Yeah, just let me know if there's questions on this.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Ms. Elliot.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Again, the little bit that I can see talks about what appears to be staff wages and, you know, maybe it's just about the way it's worded but I don't want people to get into the mindset or the feeling that it's supposed to pay for staff. It's supposed to pay for services for a person. That's in SCLHSA. And is it again in the one above it? I don't know. But where it says the peer support specialists for services performed.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: South Central. That's region three.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: I'm sorry. I didn't hear. Were you looking for an answer from me?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I just said that that's South Central you're referring to which is region three.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Yes, ma'am.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So yeah, we'll ask that same question. It is noting that it's payment for services performed which is different from salaries but we'll ask for clarification.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. So then that kind of brings to

mind then what does services performed mean?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: So peer support services is a defined service. It's a peer support specialist. There's an OBH approved training program for people with lived experience kind of dealing with and having their own mental illness and substance use struggles who have lived experience with that and have become peer support specialist to then leverage that lived experience to be really supportive and provide help and peer counseling to other folks who are in recovery. So that's the service I think that's being referenced there is that peer support service.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Yeah. I understand what peer support is but that's still a person.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: It's paying for the service that they're performing, yes.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. Maybe there's a better way to word that.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: As I'm thinking through this this could include people who have no other like medical coverage, whatever that coverage is, to cover this necessary service. So therefore it's being paid for through this fund which could be similar to flexible family funds and (inaudible) funds with OCDD which sometimes that will pay for a service such as a personal care attendant if a person doesn't have a waiver. It's technically for a person but they're providing a service that that person can't get or maybe don't have access to through a waiver or Medicaid. So it's kind of like filling a gap for people who don't fall under Medicaid service or a healthcare plan that would pay for it. Am I thinking about that in the right way? Is it similar?

KRISTEN SAVICKI: I don't know if you're asking me that question but I think that's a really good analogy. That yeah, services are delivered by people and paying for a service is an allowable use of these funds. So yes, this could be a situation like on the OCDD side. If a client does not have the right health insurance coverage or doesn't have another source of payment for someone to provide, for instance, personal care attendant services then this funding could be used to pay for that service. On the behavioral health side this may be a similar situation where there's not a current funding source for that particular client to receive this service and so these funds are being used to pay for that service.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I think to just get that clarity from them that would be great for the next meeting.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Sure.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Ms. Elliot, do you have another question?

MYLINDA ELLIOT: No. We're good. Thank you very much.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you for the question. Anyone else have a question in regards to OBH, the first quarterly report? No one in the room? No one online? We don't see any other questions. Thank you, Dr. Savicki.

KRISTEN SAVICKI: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Now we're moving on to the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities report. Tanya Murphy with OCDD is here to report out on the program. Tanya, the floor is yours.

TANYA MURPHY: Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Tanya. I was going to start with the fiscal year 25 final end of year expenditures for the individual and family support program. This report shows all ten LGEs. How much money they budgeted towards this program. How much they've spent. And this report includes all of the invoices for the entire year. And similar to what Dr. Savicki said the goal is for every LGE to spend at least 95 percent. And as you can see in the column that says percent expended year to date every LGE spent at least 95 percent or more of their budget for the individual and family support program. So they met their goal. No corrective action plans were required. Any questions about the individual and family support program with OCDD?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any questions.

TANYA MURPHY: Flexible family fund provides 258-dollars a month to families who have children in their home with severe disabilities. I expect the LGEs to expend 100 percent of the flexible family fund just because you know exactly how much per month and you know how many slots you have. You just have to be real diligent about keeping them filled. Almost all the LGEs, 99 to 100. So they met their goal for this program. Does anybody have any questions about flexible family fund?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't have a question about flexible family fund but I'm looking at the IFS family support and the flexible family support and it seems like through those two programs over \$13.8-million was

expended. Is that correct? 8.3 for IFS.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. The Act 73 report on the other side has the total for both programs combined and it's 13,729,000.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions for the flexible family funds?

TANYA MURPHY: Act 73. This is where we monitor all ten of the LGEs to make sure that they budget 9 percent of their state general fund towards these two programs and that they've then spent that 9 percent. And so it's required that they spend (inaudible) percent of the amount they put towards these programs. It kind of insures the money gets spent. So some of the LGEs do put more than 9 percent towards it. If you look at the percent expended of the 9 percent 98 is the lowest. Northwest spent like 161 of their 9 percent. All the LGEs met the Act 73 compliance requirement for fiscal year 25. Any questions about Act 73?

Let's talk about the individual and family support requests. This is done once a year after we have the whole expenditure report and we have all the invoices and (inaudible). I submit this information to the DD Council and then they (inaudible). It's a lot of numbers. A lot of information. We can go through it if you guys haven't had an opportunity to look at it. And if you have any questions. The first page just talks about the number of requests that were received by each LGE. What priority level they were. And then what was the outcome for all of them.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I will say, just for clarity, this report it has gotten to be this large with this much information because y'all are always asking for things so it becomes this really massive report. I don't know how complicated it is for OCDD. It's not all that complicated to put together. But I guess we would also want to know is this information helpful for you because I know some years there's no discussion about it and then some years it's on your agenda for the next three meetings. A lot of members on this committee, the ones that showed up, are relatively newer so I guess just deciding if this information is helpful.

TANYA MURPHY: If you look at the first page and then on the back it just talks about the priority levels. What priority and what was the outcome. But then if you go on

to the next one where it really breaks it down as to what was purchased. If you wanted to look at this and find out for each LGE. Like Metropolitan spent...

BRENTON ANDRUS: I can explain that second page, I guess. The second page of that report is going to just give you basically the totals from all of your LGEs, all your local governmental entities. But that's just all of them, all their totals for all their contracts are on that second page. And then on the back of the third page is just the totals all together in one snapshot. And then your subsequent pages from there breakout each individual LGE because I know sometimes y'all like to know how your LGE is doing in your region. So that's kind of how it is. That's how the report is set up. It just gives you those priorities on the first two pages. Your page two and three is just the totals of everyone all together. And then after that is a breakdown.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We have a couple options. We can give Tanya a hard time or (inaudible). I look at our personal care attendants, PCA and vocational, and I always, any of those items where it seems like we're paying a lot like just comparatively I asked, for instance, personal care attendants if it seems like it's disproportionately more in one region I'll ask like why aren't these people receiving Medicaid (inaudible) or a waiver. So like I look at Metropolitan it seems pretty high, 659,000. And Central Louisiana 338,000. And Northeast Delta 446. Those are like the three highest so I'm wondering like (inaudible) connected to the waivers or to other Medicaid services.

TANYA MURPHY: Well, my first answer is that some of the individuals can't qualify for Medicaid so they wouldn't be able to access a waiver and that's why we're paying DCA out of the state funded services. Some of those.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: They all are people who qualify for developmental disabilities?

TANYA MURPHY: Correct.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But financially they don't qualify?

TANYA MURPHY: Right.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I find that to be suspect that there's that many.

TANYA MURPHY: No. I'm definitely not saying all of them. I'm just saying part of it is individuals who their need is short lived. Like they don't need it for the rest,

they just need it right now because mom's having surgery or whatever. So they don't get a SUN screen of a four because their need is not going to be ongoing. So that's a bunch of money for a short amount of time. And then also-- what other situations where somebody wouldn't have a waiver. A state funded PCA.

SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

TANYA MURPHY: That's the other one. While they're waiting for certification of a waiver, which can take months and months, we're funding it with IFS. These are just examples of why. But it is the top thing people want generally.

SPEAKER: Some waivers are capped. Some of the services, some of the waiver services are capped and the family may need more services. But then IFS can supplement some of those to help with the needs of the individual services they receive whether waiver or whatever not meeting their needs sometimes IFS will chip in.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And I get that all of those situations could apply in their region. So I'm just wondering if-- and we don't have to dig that deep into it, but like is there some practices in the regions that say these really make sure people don't have gaps so therefore they're paying more or they're not getting connected in those regions as they are in other regions. Those are my other thoughts.

TANYA MURPHY: I'm also picturing the amount of money per hour that some places are paying as compared to others. Some LGEs are in contract with provider agencies and pay top dollar. Everybody, they decide what they're going to pay on their own. I know that one LGE spends extra to make sure the direct service workers are getting specific training before they provide that service and then they pay them top dollar. It fluctuates.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Ms. Elliot has her hand raised.

BERNARD BROWN: (Inaudible) it sounds like a lot of money (inaudible) it's like 300-dollars. (Inaudible) SPAS requests (inaudible) in comparison to the average cost of a waiver (inaudible).

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Ms. Karen.

KAREN XU: I just wonder the number much higher than expected. I just saw the budget, the family support, the total current budget. (Inaudible).

TANYA MURPHY: Which report are you looking at?

KAREN XU: 26.

TANYA MURPHY: We haven't gotten to that report yet, the fiscal year 26.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Mylinda Elliot has a question.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: It's not exactly a question but I heard somebody ask about the value of this chunk of reports and I find it very valuable to see the spread and about each LGE. And I know I'm only the public but that's my 2 cents worth.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thank you, Mylinda.

JILL HANO: I like it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I do have a question. I have a statement and I have a question. So the statement would be, and I know we had looked at vocational employment supports every year, and I just wanted to point out that the amount of contracts were reduced by 12 percent and (inaudible) percent expended. You have been concerned with the amount spent in that area. It looks like some effort somewhere has been made (inaudible) for the vocational supports. So kudos to the breakdown (inaudible) had to go through to see LGE by LGE where that reduction might be happening but I wanted to point that out.

But my question was the other category. So when we first started doing this report however many years ago everything was other and Tanya did a really good job working with everyone and doing trainings to not utilize other as much. What I'm concerned about is we're going back and using other for everything because we have a 23 percent increase, almost a quarter increase in contracts being other and almost a 50 percent increase in spending in other. And other to me is not very transparent. You have so many categories here I can't imagine outside of a few things that might be considered other. So I don't know if this has to do with turnover or laziness or whatever the issue was all those years ago. Could that be, and I guess (inaudible) whatever support that LGEs need to stop utilizing that other category when it's not actually other. Because if I'm not mistaken when we first started doing this we went back and looked at a lot of those contracts and so many of them fell within these other categories and it wasn't other. And the purpose of this report is to really show what these LGEs are doing, the needs of the community. Classified as other we don't know what that means. We

don't know what the need is. And it's not saying that they're trying to hide something. It's just that we don't know what the need is if you're not putting it in the right category. For instance, I see a decrease in the amount of contracts and spending for incontinent supplies which could be tied to that now being (inaudible) but I don't know that. That could also be put in (inaudible) so it's going to skew all these other numbers. If I don't go by the fact that that has increased so much I don't feel like this is a very accurate report anymore if they're just going to throw things in that other category.

TANYA MURPHY: I think that is certainly something to mention to all the LGEs next fiscal year is to please remember. I did tell them all to stop using other. There has been turnover. But I do remember very specifically talking to one LGE about using other too much this last fiscal year and that person told me that when you have one person that request several items and they don't know which category to put it in they'll put it in other because they don't want to put it in one of the designated ones because it's not only that. I was like enter more than one in there then or whatever.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Like I don't expect other to be at zero. I would imagine some things are going to be there that may not fit. Or to account for staff. But not 50 percent.

TANYA MURPHY: Northeast Delta was the one that said they put a lot of stuff in other.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I was just looking at the total, total.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: And I'm concerned about center-based respite also for Acadiana. That seems like a lot. Are they doing something creative?

KELLY MONROE: There are not many respite centers in Louisiana so if you see a high number I bet it's because they're one of the only games in town.

TANYA MURPHY: There was only two contracts for Acadiana for center-based respite. There was only two and that is accurate, that amount of money sounds...

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: But there was seven.

TANYA MURPHY: I'm looking at the one (inaudible). That is how much it cost to have somebody housed in center-based respite.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I'm drawing a blank. I'm on the Acadiana board and I remember (inaudible) telling us this

story. It was actually a success story about respite and how now someone is living independently. And it was a really great success story that he shared at our meeting. This doesn't necessarily mean it's negative. It may mean they're using it pretty, you know, it's only seven people. So it could be they're really targeting the use of it. That would be a good thing for us to know. It is kind of an outlier in regards to spending.

TANYA MURPHY: You mean from Acadiana compared to others. Like we were saying, (inaudible) there's only a few in the whole state.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: So other areas can't use center-based respite (inaudible)?

TANYA MURPHY: They do. They send somebody to the other one.

KELLY MONROE: There used to be several in all regions but because it was so expensive to keep a house you had to keep the house going whether or not you have someone in the house or not. There's no like money like there is for nursing homes. There's no money like that. So you have to keep the house and the staff going even if the house is empty. It's a really great service for families who need a break.

BERNARD BROWN: (Inaudible).

KELLY MONROE: Nicole has her hand raised.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. So we have a question from Mr. Taylor and then we'll go to Nicole.

ERICK TAYLOR: Madam Chair, the respite centers is basically (inaudible) some people run to the respite centers to be protected from the family member. So I understand what he's saying some of them don't want to leave because they scared of speaking so they got more security outside than they got inside. Now, do they need to watch the respite centers more, yes they do. But at the same time (inaudible) cross the T down here then hide it there. But some of them it's more protected in the centers because at home they're not.

BERNARD BROWN: Those conversations (inaudible) at the support coordination level and at the LGE level as well. (Inaudible) because a lot of folks kind of steer away from that but you're an independent person (inaudible) talk to your LGEs, talk to your support coordination agencies. There's a ton of people sitting in places they don't want to be because it's safer.

SPEAKER: (Inaudible) they don't want to go back to their family. (Inaudible) the process takes a long time to find that other place. That's another reason why they stay in the respite center longer than they should be there. (Inaudible).

ERICK TAYLOR: And another thing I'm seeing some of the respite centers try to hold you for 30 days. They feel like if they hold you for 30 days they got you locked in so they can get their funding. If they hold you for that 30 days then they got you locked in so they can keep getting that funding.

KELLY MONROE: No. It doesn't work like that.

TANYA MURPHY: Some of the unlicensed group homes may want to do that because they get your check.

KELLY MONROE: Those aren't the same as going through OCDD?

BERNARD BROWN: Those things are homes that's not licensed and they just pretty much take your check?

ERICK TAYLOR: Right. (Inaudible) you go sit in a room with a bunch of machines and you're not supposed to have that but they want to hold you for that time. (Inaudible).

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: We have Jill and then Nicole.

JILL HANO: I think Ms. Green, you can address this issue so she can go first.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. Nicole Green.

NICOLE GREEN: Can you hear me?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Yes, ma'am.

NICOLE GREEN: Okay. So in regards to the other category I did call our database coordinator while you all were having the conversation to see what he has put in the other category. And he's going to send me a complete list but he told me some things off the top of his head that I think will answer some of the questions in regards to how many people we've put in that category. So we spent dollars or we help families purchase school uniforms. We also help families whether it's an adult or a child engage in what we call summer enrichment. And that can cover summer camps, regular summer camps, therapeutic summer camps for children during the summer. And he puts that information in the other category. We can decide if another category would better suit those things, but those are one of the major things that we do that falls into that other category. And there are some other things too I just don't have the complete list in front of me but I do have

him working on that.

TANYA MURPHY: The assistive devices/clothing might be more appropriate for school uniforms.

NICOLE GREEN: Yeah.

TANYA MURPHY: The summer thing...

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Is it like educational services?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I would imagine all LGEs probably at some point in time spend money on let's say school uniforms or whatever. What's the process? How does it work if you notice, let's say we go through the other and notice a trend. Everything is in this particular category.

What's the process of adding a list?

TANYA MURPHY: Send an email to David Starns and say hey, Dave, add a category and he does it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Because I was just wondering like maybe summer camp. I know a lot of LGEs do summer camps so maybe that needs some sort of category on its own.

TANYA MURPHY: It's a drop down and we add to it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Just to help them. Because I'm sure they would also want to have a better picture. Certainly helpful.

TANYA MURPHY: Thank you, Nicole.

NICOLE GREEN: You're welcome.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Thanks, Nicole. Any other questions about this report, the IFS, I guess the detailed annual report?

BRENTON ANDRUS: End of the year IFS report I guess.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Jill.

JILL HANO: This is on a big question because (inaudible) speak gibberish but where are you getting these categories of services from?

TANYA MURPHY: In the database we have a place where all the LGEs enter the information about their individual and family support contracts. And so there's like a drop down. It's like a database.

JILL HANO: So this is services based on individual/family? Okay. Perfect.

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. And we created the list based on past experiences of what we spent money on. We just got everybody's feedback as to what do you spend money and then we just created the list.

JILL HANO: Okay. So it's what the LGEs spend money on, yes?

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah.

JILL HANO: Okay. Perfect.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions about this report? Karen.

KAREN XU: For the contracts so there's (inaudible) so do you get the number?

TANYA MURPHY: So each LGE has certain people in their area that ask for services. And whatever the families need that's what they need so that's what we do a contract for and that's what we put in the database that we spend the money on. It's like literally what the money is spent on for each family.

KAREN XU: So it all depends on the need?

TANYA MURPHY: Yes.

KAREN XU: Because I know the (inaudible) so I was curious.

TANYA MURPHY: Right. If nobody ask for it then--

KAREN XU: It depends on how many requests?

TANYA MURPHY: Yeah. Exactly.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any other questions? We're short on time so we'll move on. What's our next report? Is that it for the first quarter?

TANYA MURPHY: I did want to just throw something out there before I start with the fiscal year 26 quarter one. I think back in 2017, 2019 or so that the individual and family support rule was changed and they put a specific statement in there that the IFS funds cannot be spent on salaries for LGE staff. And I don't know if maybe that is something that Mylinda is thinking about like they can't do salaries. They can't spend this money on LGE staff. It just popped in my head that it was flagged about the salaries. Anyways, that might not help.

All right. I'm going to go to fiscal year 26 quarter one expenditures. This is we're back to talking about the fact that we don't have all invoices yet in quarter one when this report comes in. And so although you would like for everybody to be at 25 percent they generally are not because they're missing almost a month of invoices yet. And I do like to talk about quarter one right after I talk about final year. Because final year you saw they did spend everything. Even though we're looking at some of these, you know, they're only at 15 percent or 17 percent. But I have no worries when I see those in quarter one. I know that they will spend all the money. The LGEs always provide comments in that bottom part that says if you think

their expenditures are a little low to put a reason why and so they have. Most of them say because we don't have all of the billing yet. Any questions about quarter one individual and family support?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: I don't see any questions.

TANYA MURPHY: Flexible family fund is pretty much across the board at 25 percent from all the LGEs. Everybody is on track. Any other questions?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: No questions.

TANYA MURPHY: So then on the next page, Act 73. We get all of the total state federal fund amounts that are due for fiscal year 26. I say we do the math but actually Excel does the math for me, thank God, as for the 9 percent of that. And then I add together what the LGE has budgeted towards and make sure that they're all budgeting at least 9 percent. (Inaudible) caught my eye so I'm thinking (inaudible). Everybody has 9 percent so we're good there. And then statewide we're at about 24 percent spent so far which is right where we should be for quarter one.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Any questions for Tanya? Thank you so much. We're going to miss you. I know we're going to have Mr. Herman back. We're definitely going to miss you. How long were you on the committee?

TANYA MURPHY: From like 2017 on. It's been what, eight years. Again, math.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Happy and joyful retirement.

TANYA MURPHY: Thank you so much. I've been really robotic emotionally for most of this last month. For some reason yesterday I did my out of office email message and there was no end date and my whole body went into shock. So emotional.

BERNARD BROWN: (Inaudible).

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Kelly.

KELLY MONROE: I'll be quick.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Kelly will do the Arc of Louisiana report on the SPAS program.

KELLY MONROE: Okay. Really quick. This quarter, we already did last year, we did that one last time so we're just focusing on the first quarter. So for the first quarter we served 41 people. I'll give you the demographics of those. Of those people 22 of them were African American. Twenty-eight were Caucasian and one was Hispanic. Twenty-seven of them were male and 15 were female. The ages of the people served ranged from 33 to

94. Most of the people that were served were in region seven as usual and region nine. There were seven people in region one, two in region four, four in region three, two in region four, four in region five, two in region six, nine in region seven, zero in region eight and nine in region nine for a total of 41 people.

On the next page you will see that all 41 received support coordination. Thirty-eight of those people received personal care assistance. Three of those either received rental assistance or utility. One was any type of medical supplies or equipment. And then two of those were vehicle or home modifications. We're expected this year to spend on direct services 888,000-dollars. Below that is the breakdown of what those services cost. I won't go through those unless you really want me to read them out to you.

On the next page is our waiting list. Currently we have 89 people on the waiting list. In region one there are 22. In region two there are 22. Region three there are nine people. Region four there's 11. Region five is two. Region six there's two. Region seven there's six. Region eight there are three. And region nine there are 12.

On the next page you will have the breakdown of the demographics. Forty-one of those people are African American, 42 Caucasian and six are unknown because they did not complete the application. And then of those people 39 of them were male and 50 were female. A total of 89 people.

On the very last page is the breakdown of what services they're actually requesting. So if we were to serve all of these people we would need an additional \$2.5-million which really isn't a whole lot. I want to say in state general funds I think it's like 700,000 maybe. I don't know. I'm with Tanya with the math. That's not my thing.

So the next thing right underneath that is just something that you guys had asked for previously wanting to know if the applicants were receiving any other service and if so what service were they receiving. And that's what the breakdown below is. There are eight people though who are not eligible for any other service besides the SPA service. We know that. Anybody have any questions I would be happy to answer them. I know that was quick but Tanya took forever. I'm just playing. Does anybody have any questions?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Only 700,000-dollars. That's not a lot.

KELLY MONROE: It's really not when you consider people in their homes and not in nursing homes.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Okay. I don't see any other questions for Kelly. Please note that after this meeting our education and employment committee will meet in this room starting at 4:15. Also, tomorrow is the full council meeting which will start at 10:00 a.m. It will be in the same room. Those that are registered to participate virtually should have received a link in their email. Does anyone on this committee have any other announcement to make? Do you have anyone wishing to share public comment? So I hereby adjourn this meeting late but at 4:07. Thank you.