

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting
October 30, 2025

RENODA WASHINGTON: It is now 10:12. The quarterly meeting of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council will come to order. My name is Renoda Washington. I am the new chair of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. I would like to introduce executive committee new members. Ms. Angela Harmon, vice chair and Mr. Erick Taylor. Ms. Jill Hano as well. I would like to thank everyone. I am so honored to be the chair and I look forward to working with everyone also. Will Stephanie please call the roll for attendance?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yes. Before I call the roll if you are online can you please turn your camera on. Thank you. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Present.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Melissa Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Brian Bennett. Mike Billings. Ayden Blunschi. Jude Boynton. Alaina Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Cheri Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Jamar Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Present.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Christi Gonzales. Julie Foster Hagan. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Meredith Jordan. Cherie Kelly-Aduli.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Frank Macaluso. Dr. Meda. Pascal Nguyen. Tony Piontek. Tory Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Robby Smith.

ROBBY SMITH: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Brooke Stewart. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Vivienne Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Reporting for duty.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Gearry Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Wilson. Karen Xu.

KAREN XU: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Renoda Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: You have a quorum.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much. Thank everybody for attending as well. At this time we will have Mr. Tory Rocca do the mission statement.

TORY ROCCA: To increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

RENODA WASHINGTON: And now the ground rules will be read by Ms. Alaina.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Members must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Be respectful of each other's opinions. Break for ten minutes every one and a half hours. Discuss council business in a responsible manner. Except as necessary restrict the use of electronic communication during council and committee meetings. Silence or turn off all cell phones. The mission statement is posted at every meeting. Be on time for meetings. No alphabets. And side conversations are to be kept at a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much. Let's all adhere to the ground rules please. At this time I will read the virtual protocols. 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 your camera must be on at all times especially for this meeting right here because we're very tight with a quorum. So if at all cameras are off or any members leave out we will have to pause the meeting so please keep that in mind. 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 the microphone will be turned to mute.

Also, the Q and A is to only be used by those needing an ADA accommodation to participate in the meeting. Public comment 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 allowed to speak first. Public members in person will then be called on followed by public participating virtually and have their hands raised. Comments in the Q and A and chat will be addressed last. As with all hybrid meetings it can be difficult to keep track of all those wanting to speak in person and virtually. Please be patient with us. All comments and questions from committee members and the public may be limited to three minutes and that will be highly enforced. Or less should we run into time constraints so please keep that in mind. Also, comments about a person's character will not be allowed. Finally, members of the public will have the opportunity to provide public comment for each vote and during designated public comment periods. The chair may also use their discretion to determine if comments will be accepted outside of those times.

All right. Moving on. The first item of business is the approval of the meeting summary. And a draft of the July 31st meeting summary was distributed. The summary will not be read unless requested by a member. Are there any corrections? If there's no objection the meeting summary is approved as distributed.

The next item of business is the chair's report. Once again, I am Renoda Washington the new chair for the council. I would like to just kind of, because I don't have a chair report as we would continue to have like in January, but I just want to use this time just to thank everyone for their contribution so far. I've enjoyed working with each of you and I look forward to working more collaboratively with everyone in this room. The goals that I have is to just increase our collaboration not just here but so we can become a council that's more unified and united. That we learn one another. That we learn just, you know, to really adhere to the mission that we have and to always keep that in mind when we are in council meetings to remain rooted

and grounded in the mission at hand. That way we can keep down a lot of confusion. There's going to be times where we may not agree but we all should be respectful. And that's something that I want the council to be reminded of as I am chair that I am a woman of integrity. I believe in that and I believe that we should also have that same mind moving forward as we support those individuals with disabilities. Once again I want to thank you all. I thank you guys for seeing me as a leader for this council and I will strive to do my best. Thank you.

Next, we have the executive committee report. The chair recognizes Vice Chair Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: The executive committee met yesterday morning to discuss updates from DD Council staff, the council and committee meetings protocol which was established in April 2024. The staff provided an updated version of the council meeting rules. This version of the protocol is more accessible and plain language and includes a breakout of each session. The only change that was made to the current version of protocol was adding the order of how the comments will be taken. Specifically section six of the updated rules. A copy should be in your meeting packet.

Second was a discussion of the council meeting schedule. The committee also discussed how to potentially cut administrative costs due to the rising costs specifically associated with council meeting travel. While these costs continue to rise council's federal funding allotment stays the same at 1.38-million. The executive director provided options for (inaudible) on information she has gathered from other DD Councils across the country and how they are saving on costs. To make the meeting more efficient and cost effective at the same time some of the items that were discussed include having two virtual council meetings and two in-person council meetings. Having committee meetings throughout the quarter before the council meeting. Reducing the time of the council meetings is also (inaudible). We're asking the council members if these (inaudible) ideas for consideration to provide guidance to staff.

The council office building. The lease for the current office ends November 30th. The executive director also gave the committee information on the council's office move. The new office will be located on South Sherwood

Forest Boulevard in Baton Rouge. And the great thing about the new office is the council will have a permanent meeting space where we can host our meetings. Staff will share information through the council's LADDC news and other social media once the move is complete. Additionally, in comparison to the current office space the new office will provide an increase of square footage by 60 square feet and the monthly cost would decrease be around 177-dollars a month. The staff anticipates moving to the new space in December.

The next is council member retreat. The committee also discussed options for the next council retreat. We considered having the retreat in April 2026 due to the council's office move and staff not having sufficient time to plan a successful retreat. We will revisit this topic at our January meeting so any members have any suggestions that they would like to share please send those to Ebony.

Code of conduct. Lastly, the committee added an item to the agenda and discussed adopting a code of conduct policy so that expectations are set for how members should conduct themselves during meetings. This will ensure meetings run smoothly and effectively and that will help promote a positive culture in exchange.

This concludes the executive committee report from the executive committee agenda items and discussions. The committee has three recommendations for the council to consider.

RENODA WASHINGTON: At this time we cannot move forward. We do not have a quorum. Mr. Smith, do you mind coming on camera for us please? Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

ROBBY SMITH: Sorry about that.

RENODA WASHINGTON: That's okay.

ANGELA HARMON: The first recommendation on the updated council and committee meeting protocols. On behalf of the executive committee I move to adopt the updated committee council and committee meeting protocols as distributed.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Angela, for that report. Because the motion is coming from a committee it does not require a second. It is moved to adopt the updated council and committee meetings protocols as distributed. Is there any discussion from council members? Any discussion from council members? Okay. Moving forward. Any public comment? Thank you, guys. Are you ready for

the question? The question is on approval of the updated council committee meeting rules. We are going to have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to adopt the updated council and committee meetings protocol when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Stephanie, can you please do the roll call?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Bennett. Mr. Billings. Mr. Blunski. Mr. Boynton. Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Chachere, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Ennis, yes. Ms. Gonzales. Ms. Hagan. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Hano, yes. Mr. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Jordan. Ms. Kelly-Aduli.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Kelly-Aduli, yes. Mr. Macaluso. Dr. Meda. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Piontek. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Rocca, yes. Mr. Smith.

ROBBY SMITH: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Smith, yes. Ms. Stewart. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Webb, yes. Mr. Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Williams, yes. Dr. Wilson. Dr. Xu.

KAREN XU: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Xu, yes. Fourteen yeses, zero noes, zero abstentions.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Staff will post and distribute the approved meeting protocols. Thank you, staff, for your hard work and thank you members.

The next recommendation-- I'm sorry. Go back up. The chair recognizes Ms. Angela.

ANGELA HARMON: The next recommendation is on the meeting schedule. On behalf of the executive committee I move to have the standing committees and Act 378 subcommittee meet throughout the quarter in lieu of Wednesday before the council meeting starting after the January 2026 quarterly council meeting.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Because the motion is coming from a committee it does not require a second. It is moved to have the standing committees and Act 378 subcommittee meet throughout the quarter in lieu of the Wednesday before the council meeting starting after the January 2026 quarterly council meeting. Is there any discussion from council members?

SPEAKER: I just don't understand like so we're currently meeting on Wednesday and so we're moving that and we're just saying we're going to meet randomly whenever?

EBONY HAVEN: I can address that. So the idea is to have the meetings throughout the quarter. As council staff we will work with the chairs to come up with a set date throughout that quarter. I'm just going to use a random date. The third Wednesday of the quarter and it will stay that day every quarter. So that's how it would work. Does that answer your question?

SPEAKER: Yeah. I just don't know like operationally like does it make sense.

EBONY HAVEN: So the executive committee, and you guys can jump in, we had a long discussion yesterday on how they can restructure the council meetings to become more efficient and more cost effective. So due to the government shutdown council staff have had to look at council operations to see what administrative costs can be reduced and we were spending a lot of funding on travel. So travel for the council meetings.

SPEAKER: So this would all be virtual then?

EBONY HAVEN: No. We can't have all virtual meetings. So we would still have to follow Louisiana open meetings law where we have an anchor location. If our members chose to participate virtually they could but we would still have

our anchor location at our office. You guys are still more than welcome to come in person but virtually is an option. But to cut down on travel costs. Travel includes hotels, mileage, food. To help cut down on those administrative costs that was one of the options that I spoke-- I've been talking to a lot of the executive directors across the country on how they're lowering their administrative costs because we are in a government shutdown so it's kind of forcing all of us to view how we are conducting business. And areas on where we can save funding or save money. And that was one of the areas where council staff identified where we could save money on costs. So if we were to do these meetings, which most of the meetings on Wednesday are like two hours, so those two-hour quarterly meetings could be done, or those two-hour committee meetings could be done throughout the quarter instead of one full day where we're here all day on a Wednesday and it could cut down on costs.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Before we move forward with further discussion I would like to reiterate before speaking please be recognized by the chair and state your name.

EBONY HAVEN: I don't have anything else unless you have any other questions.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Ms. Webb.

VIVIANNE WEBB: Hi. Vivienne Webb here. How exactly are we saving money if we're still paying the travel costs to actually come down here? We would be paying more in theory because we're paying for rentals on two separate occasions, two separate days. Especially if we want to come to multiple meetings or if we sit on multiple meetings. So wouldn't that in theory raise costs, not lower them? Also, it's incredibly inconvenient because people who sit on multiple committees or would like to see multiple committee meetings instead of just being able to come on Monday they would have to take the time out of multiple different days and plan and schedule around that which is very hard to get off work and to plan for. So how is this more beneficial for the council?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Webb, for your question. With us being able to attend meetings virtually that would cut down on travel costs because it is virtual.

VIVIANNE WEBB: Except Ebony already said she can't force everyone to come virtual. These are meetings where we are still able to come in person which means we would still be spending money.

EBONY HAVEN: So there's an option. So most of the committee meetings are like two hours. So if you chose to come in for those two hours for that meeting number one, even if we rented a car we would be cutting down on food cost because we wouldn't have to provide lunch or a hotel. And so that would cut down on those costs. But also I think we fought so hard to change Louisiana open meetings law and so I would hope that everybody would take a virtual option if it's only a two-hour meeting instead of driving. I think we would have this same update or the meetings would have the same update virtually. But again, you don't have to take that option. You can still drive in. You can still rent a car. But ultimately overall I think those are cost-saving measures.

VIVIENNE WEBB: It still provides an accessibility issue though because not everyone lives close to Baton Rouge which means we're not going to have equal opportunity to come to the anchor location which provides disparities in the meetings and impacts the meeting overall. During virtual meetings lately I've been being told I could have just come in person and it would have avoided a lot of hassle even though I was told I was not allowed to come in person because we didn't have the funds. So how are we considering this? How are we going to make sure it is equitable for everyone across all regions and not just those close to Baton Rouge? We need to hear from everyone in our community not just those who live nearby.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Webb. We'll take that into consideration. The chair recognizes Ms. Hano.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I asked a question. I'm sorry.

RENODA WASHINGTON: We'll take it into consideration and then we'll get back with you.

VIVIENNE WEBB: No one ever gets back with me when they say that though even if they say they will. I would really like an answer.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Thanks.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Ms. Hano. I thought you had your hand up.

JILL HANO: I know what I was saying. Because when the motion was made I wanted to just clarify that we came to the decision, the core of this was like budgetary considerations so just to be clear. Didn't want people thinking oh, we're just having virtual. And I understand

this because there is a lot, like our committee (inaudible). Right, Melissa? They weren't the Wednesday before the council meeting. They were kind of whenever.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Jill, for that. The chair recognizes Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: But again-- sorry. This is Erick Taylor. But again, we're not saying that the meetings will not be open to come. We don't want nobody to not say come but it would be easy and easy on the budget than just to say okay, that's where a cost would be better at. Because sometimes we come to some of these meetings they may last two hours and then you go and you got other meetings in between. So what I'm saying is if it cut down on some of the wait time and you basically logging in on your time, correct. So it would be a cost thing to do that. But if you choose to do whatever you want you can go. Is I correct on what I'm saying?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes, you are.

ERICK TAYLOR: You can do whatever. You in Baton Rouge you can come. If you not in Baton Rouge you can't come. That's how it is. I think it would be more beneficial with that.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Taylor, for that. The chair recognizes Ms. Alaina.

ALAINA CHACHERE: I lost my train of thought. But is this going to be permanent or is this temporary while we're operating under budget constraints? Is this something that's open for discussion at a later time to go back to the way that it was if our budget changes? Because I personally, and this is just me being new, I know that I'm maybe the odd man out. I enjoy coming the day before so I can show up here today and have the information from yesterday to be relevant for me today. And so I'm thinking in my mind if the committee meetings are further out from the full council meeting that's going to be recalling the information from the committee meetings is challenging when we get here. Or potentially not being able to participate in those committee meetings because it's another day to schedule time off or whatever. I'm just thinking in my mind how to make it work. I personally like the way that it is because the information is fresh to me whenever I show up here today to give my best effort. So I'm just curious is it a temporary solution or is it a permanent thing that we're doing?

EBONY HAVEN: I can answer. So going back to Jill's comment. The reason we were suggesting changing or restructuring the council meeting is because of budgetary issues. We've been getting the same \$1.3-million since I've been here. I don't know about Brenton. Yeah, it's pretty much been the same. So our allotment has stayed the same while costs have continued to go up. And so to me this would be the solution until we are either granted more federal funding or if we were able to successfully advocate with the state and get additional funding. And I don't see that happening because we had to fight so hard to keep our funding for Families Helping Families. So to me this would be the solution until we were able to get more federal funding.

And just to kind of address the freshness of the meetings. It would be similar to other ad hoc committee meetings that you all have. So the membership committee met October 7th. I'm trying to think of another one. The legislative ad hoc committee that met on the 16th. So it would be similar to those ad hoc committees where it's kind of meeting throughout the quarter before the next full council meeting. And so you have to recall the information or the conversations that you all had during those meetings as well and so you rely on your committee members to help you remember what happened in those meetings. It's just like those meetings. I'm just trying to address the freshness of the information in the meeting.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Just to piggyback off of that. It's just being proactive. We have to be prepared for the unexpected. Of course we do not always like change. And it kind of can look like we've been doing this, it works, but when it was presented it was just to be proactive. It was just strictly what if something happens to our funding. How can we cut back? How can we be proactive just in case it happens. So it's something that we would like to just try so that we can make sure that we maintain everything else. Wherever we can see where we can cut back that's what we were trying to do, you know.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Is there an option to like test run it and then make a decision or do we have to decide?

RENODA WASHINGTON: That's a great question.

EBONY HAVEN: If you guys want to test run it I think we would still need the motion. Yeah, so if you guys do it and we find that it doesn't work, yeah, I'm open to going

back to how things work. And I laid out other options that Angela covered in the executive committee report. It wasn't just cutting out the Wednesdays. It was also if on Thursdays we wanted to reduce the amount of time. These meetings are long. They're all day long. They're exhausting. If you wanted to cut down on the Thursday meeting by maybe eliminating the agency reports. Most agencies send in their report two weeks in advance so we have the information available on our website. So you guys could prepare those two weeks before the council meeting and come with any questions about those reports so that time gets reduced as well.

Another option I presented to the executive committee yesterday was two meetings virtually and then two meetings in person. So I'm getting all of these ideas from other executive directors across the country who have tried these things and they're working for their council. And I just wanted to present options to this council to see if you all wanted to sort of restructure things, again, to address the budgetary issues from the government shutdown. And when I get to my report I'll talk about that a little bit more. But the council staff was just trying to be proactive as Renoda has already stated. And give you guys options on how we can just restructure things to be more cost efficient and still have effective meetings.

RENODA WASHINGTON: And we thank you guys for that. The chair recognizes Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Hi. How does this effect self-advocates? We just had a member of the executive committee say if you're not in Baton Rouge you don't get to come. We should not be forced to do virtual and this should be accessible to everyone across the board. It is against the open meetings laws to prevent people from other regions to come to these meetings. Furthermore, you want us to do things in advance which yes, is correct. We should be doing that already. But what about self-advocates who might need further assistance with this. What are we going to do then?

EBONY HAVEN: So yeah, Vivienne, I even got ideas from the other executive directors. And this will be in my next report. But last week I was able to attend an executive director leadership summit. One of the things or ideas that I did receive from that leadership summit was to better assist our self-advocates. So one of the things that one

of the councils was doing that I thought would be a great idea for our council is to actually have a training session with our self-advocates maybe two weeks before the meeting to discuss everything we're going to vote on, all of the agency reports, any questions that anyone has. Just sort of go over the agenda so if there's any questions any of our self-advocates have or if there's any extra support that they need they can get that support during that training session.

And just to go back to what Erick said. I think you might have misunderstood him. I don't think he was saying that people from out of town or in other areas of the state couldn't come because you can. According to open meetings law anybody can attend our meetings.

VIVIENNE WEBB: He said if you are in Baton Rouge come. If you are not in Baton Rouge don't come. Those are his exact words.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Point of order. Point of order. The chair said point of order. That means everyone needs to be silent and I will address. Ms. Webb, we're trying to bring clarity to the situation for you. Let's keep in mind the ground rules as far as how we're respecting one another when we communicate.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I never attacked his character. I simply stated--

RENODA WASHINGTON: And I have addressed your question, okay.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Not all of it.

RENODA WASHINGTON: When one person is talking you need to respect the next person who's talking. When I speak I'm allowing you to speak.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Can you please define respect.

RENODA WASHINGTON: When I speak I'm going to allow you to speak then, okay. Can we agree to that?

VIVIENNE WEBB: Please define respect.

RENODA WASHINGTON: That's not the motion at hand for respect. So can we stick to--

VIVIENNE WEBB: We have a motion at hand for respect?

RENODA WASHINGTON: -- what we're talking about here, that's what we want to continue to speak on.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I have a question about accommodations. I asked you 24 hours ago. I mentioned it is putting me in pain to raise my hands especially for extended periods of time. What have we come up with since that question?

RENODA WASHINGTON: I'm sorry about that, Ms. Webb. Once your hand is raised that's when we acknowledge you, okay. I write it down. I have Ms. Nicole Learson who also writes it down. That's something that we put in place and we also changed our seating arrangement.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes, ma'am. I noticed that. But how do I know that I'm acknowledged because there have been times in the past where I haven't been acknowledged? Also back to the Zoom meetings. The last few Zoom meetings I was told I should have come in person. I was told to avoid any issues or to be heard I should have come in person. How are we going to make sure all of the council members have equal access to these meetings and can fully participate?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you for your questions. I do appreciate that. They're valid. We'll get with Ebony. I'll have you work with Ebony and we'll address your concerns offline.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Can we please address the concern about the accommodations now so I can (inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: I'm not going to address it right now. I'm going to address it offline. Thank you.

VIVIENNE WEBB: (Inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: We have lost quorum so the meeting is going to have to stand at ease for now.

{Recess}

JAMAR ENNIS: Hello, Madam Chair?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes, the chair recognizes you.

JAMAR ENNIS: Good morning. This is Jamar Ennis with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. May I entertain maybe a suggestion. Maybe those items that don't require a quorum maybe we could get through some of those to the extent that we can be somewhat productive as we kind of navigate our quorum dilemma.

VIVIENNE WEBB: The meeting requires a quorum, no?

NICOLE LEARSON: I'm so sorry. Let me just stop right now to say this again so that everyone is very clear. Your hand goes up. Someone will point, the chair will point to you and you lower your hand.

VIVIENNE WEBB: I'm just--

NICOLE LEARSON: I'm giving instruction so that you all understand how to comport yourselves moving forward. When you raise your hand the chair will point to you so that you can lower it and your name goes on a list and in that order your name will be called so that you can speak. From this

point we do not have a quorum and nothing can be done. No business can be transacted until that quorum is in place. So we are standing at ease or taking a small recess until such time as everyone needs to be in the room comes back to the room. And everyone who is online is online with their cameras on and their faces being shown, okay. Thank you so much, Madam Chair. You may recognize anyone who has their hand up and wants to speak.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much for that. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: So I have the silliest basic question. And I'm going to be blunt. And this is for Nicole Learson. What if I got to pee?

NICOLE LEARSON: So that is an absolutely great question.

JILL HANO: It's been on my mind for like three months.

NICOLE LEARSON: That is an absolutely wonderful question. Those are normal circumstances. And under all circumstances get up and go. Get up and go. If you do that in the middle of the meeting in this particular meeting and it affects quorum we will simply stand at ease in great fellowship with one another until you return.

RENODA WASHINGTON: If there's no objection will you guys be okay taking a break?

SPEAKER: Yes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. The meeting will pause for a ten-minute break.

{Recess}

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay, guys, the meeting will come to order. All right. And we're going to go back to the question. Is there any further discussion from council members regarding the motion to have the standing committees and Act 378 subcommittee meet throughout the quarter in lieu of the Wednesday before the council meeting starting after the January 2026 quarterly council meeting? Any discussion from council members? Any public comment? Are you ready for the question? The question is on having the standing committees and Act 378 subcommittee meet throughout the quarter in lieu of Wednesday before the council meeting starting after the January 2026 quarterly council meeting. We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to have the standing committees and Act 378 subcommittee meet throughout the quarter in lieu of the Wednesday before the council meeting starting

after the January 2026 quarterly council meeting when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Stephanie, can you call the roll?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Sure. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Barovechio, abstain. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Bennett. Mr. Billings. Mr. Blunschi. Mr. Boynton. Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: No.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Chachere, no. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Ennis, abstain. Ms. Gonzales. Ms. Hagan. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Hano, abstain. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Jordan. Ms. Kelly-Aduli.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Kelly-Aduli, yes. Mr. Macaluso. Dr. Meda. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Piontek. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Rocca, abstain. Mr. Smith.

ROBBY SMITH: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Smith, yes. Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Stewart, yes. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVienne WEBB: No.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Webb, no. Mr. Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Williams, yes. Dr. Wilson. Dr. Xu.

KAREN XU: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Abstain. Sorry. I didn't hear you. You have eight yeses, two noes and five abstentions.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Stephanie. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Staff will update and

distribute the information to all committee chairs (inaudible) between February and April to schedule those meetings. Thank you members.

The chair once again recognizes Ms. Angela.

ANGELA HARMON: The final recommendation from the executive committee is on the proposal for a council code of conduct. On behalf of the executive committee I move that the council staff draft a code of conduct policy to be brought before the council to consider and adopt.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Is there any discussion from council members?

JILL HANO: Wait. What? Sorry.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you. The chair recognizes Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Sorry. So like if this passes so like would we form an ad hoc committee to like create this policy? Or like I'm kind of confused on how it plays out.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Jill, the staff will help create the code of conduct.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RENODA WASHINGTON: And bring it to the executive committee.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: You're so welcome. No discussion from council members? Any public comment? No. Are you ready for the question? The question is on the council staff to draft a code of conduct policy to be brought before the council to consider and adopt. We will have a roll call vote. If you're in favor of the motion to have the council staff draft a code of conduct policy to be brought before the council to consider and adopt when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ms. Stephanie, would you please call the roll?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Bennett. Mr. Billings. Mr. Blunschi. Mr. Boynton. Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Chachere, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Ennis, yes. Ms. Gonzales.
Ms. Hagan. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Jordan. Ms.
Kelly-Aduli.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Kelly-Aduli, yes. Mr.
Macalouso. Dr. Meda. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Piontek. Mr.
Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Rocca, yes. Mr. Smith.

ROBBY SMITH: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Smith, yes. Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Stewart, yes. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Webb. Mr.
Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Williams, yes. Dr. Wilson.
Dr. Xu.

KAREN XU: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Fourteen yeses, zero noes, zero
abstentions.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Stephanie. The yeses
have it and the motion is adopted. The staff will update
and distribute the information to all committee chairs.
Thank you to the executive committee and thank you members.
Again, as stated in the report if you have any suggestions
regarding the retreat give those to Ebony.

The next item of business is the executive director's
report. The chair recognizes Ms. Ebony Haven.

EBONY HAVEN: Pulling up my notes. One second. So in
your packets my report is on the gray pages. I'm not going
to read the report. I just want to highlight just a couple
of things. Your action plan for federal fiscal year 2026,
which began on October 1st, it was submitted and approved
by the Office for Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities on September 30th. I was also informed on
September 30th that your PPR, our federal reporting was
also approved by OIDD during that same time on September
30th.

Just a couple of highlights from appropriations. As everyone I'm sure is aware Congress hasn't passed a budget for FY26 which began on October 1st so we're currently in a government shutdown. I know there was some concern about council staff and I did send out a memo shortly after the 1st. I think it was the 3rd. There was some concern about council staff. But I just want to reassure you guys that although our grant is federal funding we are not federally employed so council staff are fine and we're still working to get things squared away and work out your plan, carried out the way you like it.

We are still operating on FY25 funding and so the shutdown is affecting the funding for FY26, not 25. So as I stated in the memo that I sent our FY25 funding should last until about this same time next year. Hopefully the government shutdown does not last until then but council staff are actively searching for ways that we can cut down on administrative costs to be more effective which is something you guys just (inaudible).

One other thing that I wanted to highlight for my executive director's report is our collaborative efforts with the DD network. So I want to say maybe in September the Human Development Center, Disability Rights Louisiana and the DD Council we met. And we're trying to have these meetings regularly once a quarter just to start facilitating more collaboration and partnership between our sister agencies. So what was discussed during that was collaborating more but also specifically we spoke about a three-day virtual summit that's going to be spearheaded by the HDC staff. The summit I think is going to take place in January. It's called speak up, stand out or speak up stand up. And I'm pretty sure whoever the HDC rep here is today, Constance, she'll give us more information about that when she does her report today. I'm happy to answer any questions, chair, if anybody has any questions.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. As she stated, any questions from council members regarding her report? The report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the budget report. Once again, Ebony Haven.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. This council meeting you all have two budget reports that's included in your packet. The first report is the final report for FY25 and the other report is the FY26 1st quarter expenditures. So I'll speak

about the closeout report for FY25 first. Now that we have all the June invoices that have been processed these are the final numbers for FY25. Looking at that closing column you will see all the expenditures for FY25.

As you can see at the bottom we spent (inaudible) percent of our funding. And in the closing column you will also notice in red, I know Erick kind of gets nervous when he sees red on the budget report so I want to make sure I address it for you Erick. You'll see that we had a refund of 250,000-dollars and that's the funding that was included from the legislature in the supplemental budget for Families Helping Families. When the funding is put into the supplemental budget we have to do what's called a carryforward. And so that funding was carried forward to fiscal year 26. Which for the state that began on July 1st. Once we get to the first quarter expenditures for FY26 you will see all of that 250,000-dollars was put into the budget if you look at revenue. I can try to explain. If you look at the closeout report, Jill, that funding in red. That 250,000-dollars.

JILL HANO: Okay. The first thing I saw.

EBONY HAVEN: So that is the 250,000-dollars that was put in the supplemental budget for Families Helping Families. So whenever the legislature puts things in the supplemental budget it goes in the current budget, which was FY25. But we needed that funding for FY26 so this council staff had to do what's called a carryforward. And once we completed the carryforward and put the funding in our FY26 budget what you guys are going to see in August under revenue for state general fund in August there's 250,000-dollars. That's that same 250,000-dollars that was in the closing column for the closeout for FY25.

JILL HANO: Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: Does that make sense?

JILL HANO: Yeah.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. Good. I'll keep going unless there's any other questions. Does anybody have any questions about the closeout budget before I move to the first quarter? Okay. So for the first quarter budget there is one thing that I do want to highlight and that is the expenses in the IAT category, acquisitions category at the bottom where it says expenditures. It's like the second to last column. IAT are interagency transfers and as you can see we've already spent about 40 percent of that

funding. Those expenses are for our payments to LDH. The Louisiana Department of Health charges us for things like IT services, HR, civil service, payroll, procurement which is our contracts. And they pay us to even use the system that we have our contracts in. So most of the time LDH wants those costs upfront. They like to collect their money upfront. But I just want to mention to you guys that those are one-time costs and we won't see those recurring. That category will level off now that we have passed July 1st, the beginning of the state fiscal year. We've gotten all of those expenses paid and you won't see those again. I wanted to highlight that because I didn't want to alarm anyone that we already spent about 40 percent of the funding in the IAT acquisitions category. I'm happy to answer any questions if anybody has any questions.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any questions? No questions. The next item of business is committee reports. The report from the five-year planning committee. The chair recognizes Ms. Jill Hano for the report.

RENODA WASHINGTON: You want Ms. Stephanie to read?

JILL HANO: Yes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: It's okay. No problem.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: The five-year planning ad hoc committee met on August 5th and 6th to start building the council's next five-year plan for 2027 to 2031. The plan guide for the council to work on helps people with developmental disabilities and their families. The committee reviewed what a five-year plan is (inaudible). Members then looked at Louisiana state of state data in several areas provided by the state agency reps including self-advocacy, education, early intervention, childcare, healthcare, housing, transportation, recreation, employment and community supports. They reviewed input from council committees, public forums and surveys and ideas from LaCAN. After reviewing all of the information the committee chose three main goal areas to focus on. Self-advocacy, health and community supports, education, early intervention and employment. They then wrote the goals and objectives for the next five-year plan. The draft plan that the committee approved has been included in your packet. Here's the motion they bring to the table to bring forward for your consideration. The five-year planning ad hoc committee recommends the council finalize the draft. I'm sorry. Accepts the draft of the five-year

plan and recommends sending it to the full council for final approval.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, staff. With that being said, we had the five-year planning committee. Since the council sets the draft of the five-year plan (inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: Because the motion is coming from a committee it does not require a second. It is moved to have the five-year plan, the ad hoc committee recommends that the council accept the draft of the five-year plan. Is there any discussion from council members? Any public comment? Are you ready for the question? The question is the council accepts the draft of the five-year plan. If you are in favor of the motion when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ms. Stephanie, can you call the roll please?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Sure. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Barovechio, yes. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Bennett. Mr. Billings. Mr. Blunski. Mr. Boynton. Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Chachere, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Ennis, yes. Ms. Gonzales. Ms. Hagan. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Jordan. Ms. Kelly-Aduli.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Kelly-Aduli, yes. Mr. Macaluso. Dr. Meda. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Piontek. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Rocca, yes. Mr. Smith.

ROBBY SMITH: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Smith, yes. Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Stewart, yes. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Webb, yes. Mr. Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Williams, yes. Dr. Wilson.
Dr. Xu.

KAREN XU: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Xu, yes. Fifteen yeses, zero
noes, zero abstentions.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Stephanie. The yeses
have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you, Jill and
Stephanie. The next item of business is the report from
the 2025 membership committee. The chair recognizes Ms.
Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: The membership committee met October
7th to choose applicants to recommend to the full council
for council membership. The council has three seats that
will term on November 2025. The committee reviewed the
Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council's
demographics compared to the state demographics and
discussed areas where improvements can be made in council
membership in regards to demographics and geographic
locations. Based on the information presented to the
council these members that live in Central Louisiana, i.e.
Alexandria, Northeast, Monroe region of the state. The
committee also reviewed the geographic location of members
whose seats were ending in November 2025. There was one
self-advocate applicant, 14 parent applicants, two
immediate relative applicants. However, one of the
immediate relatives was not eligible. So 16 applicants
were interviewed and rated based on their answers during
the interview. The committee was informed that since two
members terming are individuals with disabilities we had
to select at least one individual with a disability in order
to remain in compliance with the DD Act. The committee
decided to recommend three applicants and two alternates.
Those applicants have sent a short bio that is included in
your packet for the council to consider. Unfortunately we
were not able to get bios on two of the alternates.

Therefore the committee has this recommendation to
present to the council for consideration. On behalf of the
membership committee I move that the council accept the
following applicants for council membership on the

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. Landon Hanks, Audrey Gilliam and Melinda Perrodin and the following applicants as alternates. Latoya Carnahan, Tammy DeBiasi and Lorenza Lawless. It is moved to recommend the following applicants to council membership for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. Landon Hanks, Audrey Gilliam and Melinda Perrodin and the following applicants as alternates Latoya Carnahan, Tammy DeBiasi and Lorenza Lawless. Was there any discussion from council members? Any public comment? The chair recognizes Ms. DeJean.

LILLIAN DEJEAN: My name is Lillian DeJean and (inaudible). I just wanted to announce that Landon Hanks was a 2024 YLF (inaudible). Landen is one of the strongest advocates (inaudible) he is highly involved in multiple areas. (Inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other public comment? Are we ready for the question? All right. The question is on the recommendation for the following applicants for council membership to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. Landon Hanks, Audrey Gilliam and Melinda Perrodin. And the following applicants as alternates. Latoya Carnahan, Tammy DeBiasi and Lorezna Lawless. I apologize to all these applicants. Sorry. All right. If you're in favor of the motion when your name is called say yes. If you're opposed say no. If you're abstained say abstain. Stephanie, can you please do roll call?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yes. Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Barovechio, abstain. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Bayham, yes. Mr. Bennett. Mr. Billings. Mr. Blunschi. Mr. Boynton. Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Chachere, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Crain, yes. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Ennis, yes. Ms. Gonzales. Ms. Hagan. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Jordan. Ms. Kelly-Aduli.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Kelly-Aduli, yes. Mr. Macalouso. Dr. Meda. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Piontek. Mr. Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Rocca, yes. Mr. Smith.

ROBBY SMITH: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Smith, yes. Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Stewart, yes. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Webb, yes. Mr. Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Williams, yes. Dr. Wilson. Dr. Xu.

KAREN XU: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Xu, yes. Fourteen yeses, zero no, one abstention.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Stephanie. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you, Ms. Angela. And thank you for that, membership committee. All right. Any further questions? Hearing none, the next item of business is the report from the legislative advocacy agenda committee. The chair recognizes Ms. Alaina.

ALAINA CHACHERE: So the legislative ad hoc committee met on October 16th to review (inaudible) the council's 2026 legislative advocacy agenda. We had ten volunteers on the committee. I want to thank each one of them for their time and effort. I also want to thank the council agency representatives who joined us to answer questions and give input. And the public members who shared their ideas. The purpose of this committee was to look at all the input collected by our LaCAN leaders from meetings held around the state. Our goal was to create a list of issues recommended to the council's legislative advocacy agenda for 2026. The committee spent several hours talking about issues that (inaudible) developmental disabilities and their families. After much discussion we agreed that the council's advocacy should focus on no more than four main issues.

Here is the motion that we bring forward for your consideration. The legislative advocacy ad hoc committee recommends that the council include the following issues in the 2026 legislative advocacy agenda. Number one was to increase waiver rates and pay for direct support workers. Number two was to create or improve an emergency alert system for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Number three was to require school districts to conduct functional behavior assessments and develop behavioral intervention plans before continued removals. Number four was to provide additional funding for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to ensure the full federal fund match. And we offer this motion to you for consideration.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Since the motion is coming from the committee it does not require a second. It is moved to recommend the council approve the following four issues to the full council for inclusion in the 2026 legislative advocacy agenda. Number one, increase waiver rates and pay for direct support workers. Number two, create or improve an emergency alert system for individuals with IDD. Number three, require school districts to conduct functional behavior assessments and develop behavioral intervention plans before continued removals. Number four, provide additional funding for LRS to ensure full federal fund match. Is there any discussion from council members?

ALAINA CHACHERE: I just would also like to say that we did, the committee did discuss another important issue which was transportation and that we recommended that the council consider adding it to the next action plan funding for a statewide transportation study. And this study would help us better understand what can be done and improve transportation options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And based on the results we would hope that a task force and more advocacy work could be done to put the recommendations into action.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you for that. The chair recognizes Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Thank you. I know I asked a bunch of people this. I'm still not understanding. But why are we-- and I have my own issues and I really want to advocate for the whole and not myself, but why are we trying to raise the rates before the rate study is available?

BRENTON ANDRUS: So in self-determination yesterday and at the meeting that we had on the 16th, the legislative ad hoc, representatives from the department were very confident, we found out yesterday within two to three weeks that we should have the information from the rate study. So the study has been completed. It is done. The department leadership there just felt like the study was very technical and they wanted to also provide information in a more digestible way. So once we get that information, which I think Bernard had mentioned yesterday that's likely to come out in the next two, maybe three weeks, then we'll have that information to support the request for the rate increase. Now, what exactly increased rates and wages for workers is going to look like, I can't tell you if that report, if the evidence is there to support both of those requests.

JILL HANO: So is this DSW and support coordination? Because support coordination I have a big issue.

BERNARD BROWN: The rate study looked at all the rates for home and community-based services. (Inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Mr. Brown.

BERNARD BROWN: Bernard Brown with OCDD. The study looked at all home and community-based services. Not just rates in the waiver. So the state plan rates as well assessed and addressed, to answer your question in short yes, support coordination rates were looked at. The other piece Brenton was talking about, and I'll kind of touch on it, Angela might touch on it, somebody might touch on it. The way it's broken out you will see each proposed rate for each service category. So if it's the will of the legislature or whoever that's advocating one rate or another you will have that ability.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you. Great discussion. The chair recognizes Ms. Cherie.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: So the provider agencies that are participating in the value-based setting care measures or metrics when that funding comes in are those the dollars that we would use to pay the direct support workers or like where are those payments going to be routed?

BERNARD BROWN: Separate and apart. That value-based payment funding is coming from the American Rescue Plan Act so that money is already drawn down and allocated for. That was a separate process. And that's tied more to supplemental payments. These are like not the rates

(inaudible). It's not what we're billing for. Not what's tied to their rate of service. It's a separate supplemental payment. Did that answer your question?

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Yeah. I'm just wondering where, like when the payments come in for provider agencies that have met their metrics, like is that just like money however they want to spend it?

BERNARD BROWN: Yes.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: They could pay their workers if they wanted to or they could spend it however.

BERNARD BROWN: Well, the idea behind some of them, like some of them are designed to incentivize providers to do certain things. And that funding is to give them the appropriate funds to do that. Some of them it's tied to direct support workers. Some of them it's tied to how they operate their businesses, like creating efficiencies in how they operate. Some of it is tied to hiring practices, right. Tools to make sure we hire the right workers. That cost money too. That's not necessarily the rate. The idea is that we provide funding (inaudible) to fund things like that. We're not telling them how to spend the money. In some instances it's tied to the incentive itself.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any further discussion? Yes, Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: This is Erick Taylor. What you're saying is it's not based on direct support workers' pay?

BERNARD BROWN: Yes and no. So value-based payment is totally different from the rate study. Let me make sure we're clear there. With that discussion now is the rate study. That's going to the rate of the services provided. What Ms. Aduli asked was about a separate rate, which is the value-based payment model. Totally separate. So that money is supplemental payments to agencies to hit specific performance measures or incentives.

ERICK TAYLOR: Is it by qualification?

BERNARD BROWN: Yeah, so that money doesn't go out unless you hit the benchmark. You understand what I'm saying? It's like three free throws you get money. That's the value. That's not guaranteed money. The rate though, that's guaranteed money provided because they have to provide the services. Two separate things. That money there is an expectation with the rate study, an expectation in place now that is a certain percentage of the rate that's currently in place.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay. And the reason why I'm asking is better rate, better workers?

BERNARD BROWN: In theory, right. That's the theory to some. There's a lot that goes into that. But yes. (Inaudible) attract quality workers.

ERICK TAYLOR: Right. Because if you got workers that's in a high class (inaudible) qualifications. Say like if you get a lower one and they not hiring the other one.

BERNARD BROWN: Providers are just like any job. You get paid on experience, right. Not experienced in providing service I wouldn't expect them to be paid the same as someone (inaudible). You know what I'm saying. So they still have that flexibility. We have in place now just because that person is a worker in this field don't mean (inaudible). And that's what we have in place now. So there aren't any direct support workers that are receiving (inaudible). You see what I'm saying? Did that answer your question?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yeah.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Any public comment? Ready for the question. The question is to recommend the council include the following four issues in the 2026 legislative advocacy agenda. Number one, increase waiver rates and pay for direct support workers. Number two, create or improve an emergency alert system for individuals with IDD. Three, require school districts to conduct functional behavior assessments and develop behavioral intervention plans before continued removals. Number four, provide additional funding for LRS to ensure full federal fund match. If you are in favor of the motion when your name is called say yes. If you're opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Stephanie, please call the roll.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Barovechio.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Barovechio, abstain. Ms. Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Bayham, abstain. Mr. Bennett. Mr. Billings. Mr. Blunschi. Mr. Boynton. Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Chachere, yes. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Crain, abstain. Mr. Ennis.

JAMAR ENNIS: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Ennis, abstain. Ms. Gonzales.
Ms. Hagan. Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Harmon, yes. Ms. Jordan. Ms.
Kelly-Aduli.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Kelly-Aduli, yes. Ms.
Macalouso. Dr. Meda. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Piontek. Mr.
Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Rocca, yes. Mr. Smith.

ROBBY SMITH: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Smith, yes. Ms. Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Stewart, yes. Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Taylor, yes. Ms. Webb.

VIVIENNE WEBB: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ms. Webb, yes. Mr. Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Abstain.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mr. Williams, abstain. Dr.
Wilson. Dr. Xu.

KAREN XU: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Dr. Xu, yes. Ten yeas, five
abstentions, zero nays.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Stephanie. The yeases
have it and the motion is adopted. Moving on. If there
is no objection the committee will recess for lunch.
Hearing none, the meeting is at recess. It is now 12:01.
We will reconvene at 1. Thank you.

{Lunch}

RENODA WASHINGTON: Good afternoon everyone. We are
back. I hope everyone enjoyed their lunch. We're just
going to move back to the agenda. It is now 1:17 and the
meeting will come to order. The next item of business is
the report from the self-determination and community
inclusion committee. The chair recognizes Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. The self-determination
and community inclusion committee met yesterday and does
not have any recommendations for the council. So as always
we got some good updates from OCDD and Office of Aging And

Adult Services staff. Updates provided are also included in the agency report. For the sake of time we will not go over that information. We also discussed contractual activities under rules one and two of our plan. I encourage you to review the status report document in your meeting packet for updates on those initiatives. You can also find the reports attached to our agenda. Finally, your website contractor provided an overview and tour of our updated website. I also encourage all of you to check out the new website.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jill. Are there any questions from council members on the report? Any public comment? The report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from the Act 378 subcommittee. The chair recognizes Bambi for the report.

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Hi everyone. Good afternoon. The Act 378 subcommittee met yesterday and we do not have any recommendations for the council to consider. We did spend time reviewing year-end reports for fiscal year 25 and the first quarter for programs within Office of Behavioral Health, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Aging and Adult Services through the Arc of Louisiana. All reports can be found linked in our committee agenda on the council meetings web page if you would like to review.

Based on the data provided by the Office of Behavioral Health on the yearend report all but one LGE met their performance standards in consumer care resources. Acadiana area was given a corrective action for not expending at least 95 percent of their funding. And since that corrective action plan has been put in place Acadiana has been on target for expending their funds.

For the Office of Behavioral Health flexible family funds Northwest Louisiana was the only LGE that did not expend their funding required. They only had 19 out of 21 slots which resulted in being under 90 percent expended. Northwest Louisiana submitted a corrective action and according to their first quarter reports they have filled 21 out of the 22 budgeted slots. And during the report on supportive living a member of the public had a question about South Central Louisiana Human Service District making payments to peer support specialists for services performed and Dr. Savicki informed the committee that she

would gather more information on the payment source and provide an update at the next quarter. The Office of Behavioral Health also reported that Florida Parishes Human Service District submitted a corrective action plan for only having 20 out of 26 of their slots filled for the quarter. An update will be provided to the council on the next quarter.

For the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities they provided their year-end report and based on the data in this report all expenditure requirements were met for fiscal year 25. The individual family support report was also discussed and the concern-- and the individual family support report is the annual report that itemizes the funds that are expended by the human service districts and authorities. And one of the itemized categories is other and so there was concern brought up by the committee about the excess use of that category which could cause potential inaccuracies of the report. And so OCDD discussed getting with the LGEs to come up with more appropriate categories to add to their list and to avoid the over usage of that other, the category that's titled other.

And I just also wanted to note that this meeting, the Act 378 committee meeting was the last meeting for Tanya Murphy with OCDD. She is retiring and she has been part of the committee for I think eight years now. And has been really great to work with and really helpful in helping the committee to be able to streamline questions and really put into place some best practices and policies in regards to this state funding through Act 378. So we will definitely miss Tanya but wish her the best on her retirement. Just wanted everyone to know about that.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Bambi. And thank you, Tanya, for your service. Are there any questions from council members on your report?

BAMBI POLOTZOLA: Madam Chairwoman, I do want to make one other comment, appeal to the council and to the public. We do need members of the Act 378 committee. Act 378 committee, the work is not, really not a lot. It takes commitment to attend the meetings and probably about an hour prior review before attending the meetings. But this Act 378 looks at the state general funds that our LGEs get through the flexible family funds and our individual family support funds. Which is really a great benefit to our

state. Most people that I know in the DD community at some point in their life have had to access those funds. And our state is really blessed to have those funds that really help to meet people's needs and not have as many hurdles as some of those other programs. And so while this committee's work is pretty streamlined it's important that we stay on top of it. And this committee continues to do the important work and ask the questions to make sure that it continues to be such a great asset to the community. So if anyone is interested in making that commitment and serving on the committee our chair, the council chairperson can make those appointments. We would love to have anyone who would be committed to doing this work.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Bambi, for that. Just let staff or myself know. Any public comment? The report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from the education and employment committee. I will be reading that report. The education and employment committee met yesterday. Due to difficulty meeting a quorum there was not much discussion. Ms. Melissa gave an update for LRS. There was no representative for LDOE. And LRS will review their agency report today for the full council. Are there any questions? Any public comment? The report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is standing council reports. Please refer to the reports in your packets. Our first report is from the Office of Aging and Adult Services. The chair recognizes Mr. Williams for the report.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Gearry Williams, Office of Aging and Adult Services. Just a few highlights here. As always we highlight (inaudible). I just want to highlight on the waiver registry (inaudible) provides community choices waiver on the CCW registry. As mentioned yesterday during committee we have been allowed to contract with a provider to really take a close look in examining our community choices waiver. I'm sorry. Contract with a provider to do a close examination of our community choices registry, community choices waiver program. We are looking to revamp that program to address the wait list. The last few fiscal years in the legislative session we had additional slots added but we continue to have a wait list associated with the program (inaudible). Whether that's related to support coordination or related to direct service workers

that are available. But when I say revamp we want to look at a (inaudible) program rather than first come first serve basis. We want to look at basing those slots based on need, participants get those slots based on equity verses first come first serve.

The traumatic brain and spinal cord injury program. We have reduced that waiting list to 108 on that wait list now. We have about (inaudible). Adult protective services (inaudible) an uptick in the number of cases that are referred to adult protective services. I've mentioned before in previous meetings that we did an awareness campaign. Both social media and billboards in certain areas of the state. So again, we did see an uptick in the number of referrals that we're receiving. We feel that because of the public awareness campaign (inaudible) have a better idea of what abuse and neglect looks like. And so we continue to get more cases, more referrals I should say.

As usual the population update is on the second page of the report. Breakout by waiver program as well as LTPCS and (inaudible) care of the elderly. One thing I do want to mention is that we put an RFI for PACE. Currently we have four PACE centers across the state. New Orleans, Lafayette, Alexandria and Baton Rouge. We had a study done some time ago and we know based on that study that North Louisiana will be the next area that should have a PACE center. So we did a request for information for that out in early October. That is out until the end of October. We're looking to get feedback from stakeholders as well as providers about opening a PACE center in Shreveport. So we're excited about that.

As we all know we're continuing to address, trying to address workforce issues. We are continuing to use ARPA funding to address training for some of the providers and direct service workers. (Inaudible) direct service workers to receive those trainings. We have had good participation in that with a lot of folks taking advantage of that. It's no cost to the companies or individuals. Because, again, we're used ARPA funding. It ends November 30th but we are working to extend that through December of 2026. And the only other thing I want to highlight is in the third to last bullet point. (Inaudible) Medicaid on that rate analysis once we get more information (inaudible). That's all I have.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Williams. Are there any questions from council members on the report? Any public comment?

ERICK TAYLOR: You say you're getting more cases so what's going on? Do y'all have cases (inaudible)?

GEARRY WILLIAMS: You're talking about the adult protective services? Yes, we're seeing more referrals. Most of which are related to just neglect. Some financial exploitation cases that are being referred but more so neglect.

ERICK TAYLOR: (Inaudible).

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes. We'll send our adult protective specialist out there to investigate the case. (Inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other questions from council members? Any public comment? All right. Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. This is Department of Education.

CAROLINE WILKINSON: Hi. I'm Caroline Wilkinson here from the Office of Teaching and Learning, division of diverse learners. I serve as the chief of staff and I'm here on behalf of our Executive Director Lauren wells, Dr. Lauren Wells. SEAP met on September 11th at the Claiborne Building. A quorum was not present but members continued with the discussion about the scheduled agenda items. The division of diverse learners discussed individualized education programs, IEP meeting guidance in response to some rule making. The Youth Leadership Forum hosted by Families Helping Families and we have representation in the room from that group now. And the parents summit hosted by the Arc. During that SEAP meeting the division of diverse learners planned to share a draft document on IEP meeting guidance and you'll see the future dates there. November 13th, January 28th, 26, March 18th and June 17th.

We had multiple presentations in collaboration with other divisions. The division of diverse learners provided presentations on support for diverse learners including an overview of the special education playbook, family and parental engagement strategies, IDEA policy updates and English learners support. Over 150 total individuals participated in these sessions which were delivered at the following events. A charter school refresher. Alternative pathway for boot camp providing successful school leadership. One leader at a time,

unpacking the content. And a parent and family engagement task force.

We hosted a pupil appraisal institute with the Louisiana Association of Special Education Administrators. The pupil appraisal summit institute is a two-day conference that took place in August in Baton Rouge. And school systems were encouraged to send four attendees and over 200 individuals attended. Also hosted English learner institute on August 25th, 2025, at the Claiborne building in Baton Rouge. The event focused on best practices for supporting English learners. And there were directors and coordinators invited to attend. Hundred individuals attended in person and fifty joined virtually. Future English learner institutes will convene on January 26th, March 16th and May 14th. We're also hosting EL, English learner impact calls. They begin this month. There's one this afternoon actually. Their quarterly Zoom sessions are designed for system leaders to provide targeted support to the need of Louisiana's diverse school system. Each call follows the state peer support model offering differentiated guidance based on population size. Sessions include important updates, statewide priorities and implementation strategies to help systems strengthen their EL programs and ensure alignment of best practices. You can see the tiers based on the number of ELs in any district there. Tier one, two and three.

Further diverse learner supports include a series of documents including bringing the special education playbook to life. Writing IEPs that support the instructional best practices. That's guidance that includes IDEA regulation supporting the best practices using the IEP to supercharge best practices and update existing IEPs in IEP screen shots and samples. A transition planning guidance for IEP teams. Transition guidance is available on the Louisiana Department of Education's website including information about the definition of transition services, competitive supports, transition checklists and compliance examples. Guidance has been delivered for IEP teams to begin early transition planning for middle, high school and beyond to aid in building skills, setting goals and ensuring smooth transition. There's a high school transition plan checklist. One for middle school. And behavior guidance and support framework for early childhood. Behavior

guidance is now available on LDOE's website including information about support for students with an IEP for significant behavioral needs, crisis response and student removal procedures. Support for teachers, support staff and principals and behavior support with what is presented verses not presented for students with disabilities.

The division of diverse learners is launching a gifted and talented workgroup. It's already been launched on October 16th. This group will begin meeting in person and virtually to explore resources and best practices and identify clear next steps to support educators across the state to continue to support gifted and talented students. The disability innovation fund, the DIF grant update. It's a federally funded program that supports state agencies in developing a cohesive transition system that facilitates partnerships between state vocational rehabilitation agencies, state and local education agencies and centers for independent living to ensure individuals with disabilities seamlessly and successfully transition to life after high school.

Louisiana Department of Education's grant application established a Louisiana center for effective transitions, LCET, was accepted and fully funded for 10 million-dollars. The current project updates include a middle to high school pilot. LCET will pilot and define strategies during the 2025-2026 school year to improve middle to high school transitions for students with disabilities culminating in a statewide transition toolkit by June of 2026. The LCET workgroup continues to fill a unified framework that includes post-secondary education, employment and community outcomes for students with disabilities. Project activities include developing additional support (inaudible) students, provide support to piloting school districts to ensure students are served in a least restrictive environment. We're also convening a special education best practice cohort. During the 2025-2026 school year the division of diverse learners in partnership with New Solutions launched the special education best practice cohort in engaging more than 35 schools, I think we currently have 38 schools, across Louisiana and to expand and implement best practices outlined in the special education playbook. Five key areas of support will be provided in multi-district cohort gatherings, targeted school and district coaching, hands on technical

assistance, development of practical action plans and alignment with state priorities.

Finally, menu of services. The Louisiana Department of Education now offers a menu of services. These professional supports are provided to reinforce instructional quality coherence and educator effectiveness. The services can be tailored to meet diverse needs including support of special education students and English learners. Currently our team is fielding requests for support of diverse learners and tailoring requests to meet the needs of the districts.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Caroline. Are there any questions from council members on the report? Any public comment? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from Disability Rights Louisiana. The chair recognizes Tory Rocca.

TORY ROCCA: Thank you. Our community living ombudsman program, that's our program where ombudsmen advocate for people with developmental disabilities who live in ICFDDs across the state. During the quarter that ended in September 2025 ombudsmen conducted a total of 416 site visits and saw 2,436 of the residents. Of the residents that we're seeing 217 requested assistance from the ombudsmen and (inaudible) of the requests.

Our supported independent living advocacy program serves individuals with developmental disabilities who are receiving OCDD waiver services and supports in their communities. In the month of September that program assisted (inaudible) maintaining appropriate and necessary supports so they can remain (inaudible). If you have any questions about that please ask.

And our financial access inclusion and resources program which provides financial coaching and case management serves to assist formally incarcerated people with disabilities with resource barriers. That program had 30 active clients and of those 30 active clients 20 of them are employed with 15 of these being employed for more than 90 days. Fourteen reduced their debit while in the program by a collective total of 28,600-dollars. (Inaudible). That's it.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Tory. Are there any questions from council members on the report?

ERICK TAYLOR: This is Erick Taylor. Question I have,

what do they have to get help to get all y'all programs?

TORY ROCCA: The last program that I mentioned?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

TORY ROCCA: That's for formerly incarcerated.

(Inaudible) but basically contact our people and (inaudible). This is for people who are formally incarcerated, have disabilities and in the New Orleans area. We only have funding to operate in the New Orleans area. It's not a statewide program. (Inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other questions council members? Any public comment? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. Chair recognizes Mr. Jamar.

JAMAR ENNIS: Hi. Good afternoon everyone. This is Jamar Ennis from the Governor's Officer of Disability Affairs. Start off by saying that's not my report. I just have a few highlights I just want to put into this space. One of the important developments since the last time we met was Governor Landry's executive order that he signed and put into effect on October 24th of this year simply due to the governmental shutdown to ensure that the SNAP program remains viable at least until the month of November. So as we know we have over 120,000 individuals with disabilities who receive the SNAP program benefits. And approximately 88,000 elderly and disabled individuals who receive SNAP benefits. So this order expires on or around November 4th of this coming year obviously so it's only viable for a couple of days. So this is just kind of giving hopes that we get out of this federal governmental shutdown so that we can have the SNAP program restored to its normal working functions. We're just at least happy that we have some recourse to at least have something in place. The legislators appropriated \$150-million to LDH to ensure that the month of November is covered. So this is just a temporary Band-Aid so we're just hopeful that we can get out this governmental shutdown. Our agency is monitoring obviously the effects and the impacts that this governmental shutdown has. So we're just constantly on the lookout to just make appropriate recommendations to the administration just so we can increase our advocacy.

One of my department's main hurdles for the end of the year is just simply finding ways to ensure the disability trust fund is properly funded. We've been working with the

state treasury's office. So we're in a major deficit due to noncompliant parishes not funding the disability trust fund properly. So we're in the midst of finding solutions to ensure that we get sufficiently funded so we can have a program so we can have events and initiatives that everyone expects and loves from our department.

Another major update is that our department is constantly monitoring things just because we have legislative session that's going to come up sooner than later, March 9th of 2026. We ask that all agencies who just like the DD Council has their legislative package of the four things that as agents, as a council wants to advocate on we ask that other agencies similar situated in other groups get these proposals to me by November 14th so that we can add these to our wish list for our department to meet with our policy teams and our administration to just add things to our wish list for legislative priorities.

And the last thing I just want to remind everyone that this is the fall season and everyone knows that this is the GOLD awards, an inclusive art contest time where things are being submitted. And we have the GOLD awards every fall. This year is going to be on December 10th at the Old State Capitol, same venue. The nominations are due on November 3rd. So there's a few days left to get things into us whether it be the art contest or nominations for the GOLD awards. So that's all I have to report and I'll take any questions if anybody has any.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jamar. Any questions from council members on the report? Any public comment?

BERNARD BROWN: Jamar, quick question man. Did I miss the GOLD awards?

SPEAKER: He just said that.

JAMAR ENNIS: I missed your question Bernard.

BERNARD BROWN: I was about to ask about the art contest conversation we had.

JAMAR ENNIS: Absolutely. LDH, and this is an offer we couldn't really say no to. The new LDH director requested that we take our artwork entries from this year's contest to adorn the administrative walls of LDH. So we're getting all the particulars together. I'm sure that there's certain events where there's going to be high traffic, right, Bernard, to have these things showcased. So we're happy to do it. And this is something that we did a long time ago. We just didn't have the manpower to get

these art pieces on a tour so to speak just to increase awareness of the program and the importance of inclusion through artwork. So we're very excited to display the products that we get that we love to receive that's done by school children, adults alike to spread the word of inclusion. Thanks for reminding me about that Bernard.

BERNARD BROWN: And it will be in the lobby of the Beinville Building in Baton Rouge for the whole week, Jamar, right? The whole week leading up to the GOLD awards, the selection process. I don't have all the details.

JAMAR ENNIS: Yeah. From when we last talked it was requested before the award ceremony. Which we're perfectly okay with. The problem is the art contest winners we have to really try to talk them out of confiscating their artwork back so we can share it and promote the program for future years. I'm certainly not going to be the person to get in between their artwork submission and the program. So if they want to keep it they can but we love promoting this just to show, it's one of those things you have to see it to appreciate the program. But I'd rather display this stuff on the front end than on the back end instead of wrestling artwork from school children or at least talking them out of it. Very important date that you brought up Bernard. I would rather stimy this approach from the front end and display the artwork while we can.

BERNARD BROWN: It will be there, y'all, if you want to stop by and check it out.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much. Any other public comments? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. The chair recognizes Cheri.

CHERI CRAIN: Good afternoon. I'm Cheri Crain with the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. My report is on the yellow paper. I'm not going to go through it. It just kind of gives an overview of the type of services that we provide. Gives a little information on our long-term care ombudsmen program. And I will talk about our elderly protective services along with aging and adult services. We've also seen an uptick in our number of cases especially when it comes to financial exploitation and self-neglect.

If you were here last year and the year before I talked

about how we got additional positions for investigators because our caseload was above the national average. We are now back down to the national average on all of our investigators throughout the state. However, this uptick has now brought it above the national average. We are currently looking at once again trying to ask for additional positions for investigators since we also had did a campaign to bring awareness to the program and what it actually does. Also, to do some trainings to help those in the field to recognize self-neglect and listen and possibly pickup conversations that would involve financial exploitation and explain who is responsible to report everybody. That's a big drive to our numbers going up as well.

A little information about our aging and disability resource center across the state. We have eight of those. They provide resources for anything you call on. We do tell you that you do need to call your ADRC within your region because not all services are the same coming from each resource center. One of them is volunteers or churches that will provide the ramps and so forth so it's not available in every region.

Last thing, a little bit of information about our Medicare improvement for patients and providers act program. Registration is going to be going on until December so that just kind of gives a little information on the low-income subsidy program along with the Medicare savings plan. All of our councils, most of them provide this service and will be able to sit down with the elderly and talk to them about what current plan they have and then what is available this year in comparison and see which would benefit them best and help get them enrolled in those services.

And the last thing, once again, it is still hurricane season until the end of November. If you have been watching the weather like we have you know that Jamaica got hit really bad from a cat five, Melissa. So just keep that in mind. And we do still work with the Emergency Management for Disabled and Aging Coalition, EMDAC, along with the feeding task force and other response support function groups as those events happen and take place. That is all for my report. Any questions?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Cheri. Any questions from council members? Any public comment?

Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from LSU Human Development Center. The chair recognizes Ms. Constance.

CONSTANCE ALPHONSE: Thank you. The Human Development Center's report I guess is green. So I'm not going to read the report. Just some highlights from the report that I wanted to bring to your attention. The Louisiana Deaf-Blind project was selected to run a pilot of the first ever career readiness mentoring program for youth with usher syndrome. And so they're working with the Usher Syndrome Coalition as well as the National Center on Deaf-Blindness and the Helen Keller National Center. That's really interesting work coming out of that.

Also in paycheck, our paycheck program has done an expansion this year. Typically the partnership is with Delgado Community College. And so this year they have a partnership with Nunez Community College in St. Bernard Parish with St. Bernard Parish Public Schools. And so they're following that same model we used with Delgado. So hopefully that's, I guess kind of inspiring because hopefully they will be able to spread and provide services further across the state as they start trying to expand that.

And then also the FASD united chapter was recently established. So the first chapter meeting was held via Zoom in August and September. And what they did during those meetings is they really worked to plan awareness activities that took place in September which is the national FASD awareness month. And then they had a lunch and learn and social media campaign to build awareness about fetal alcohol syndrome.

The last bit I will touch on what Ebony mentioned earlier, The Speak Up Stand Up Summit. They're pulling it up on the screen so you can see. It's a virtual three-day self-advocacy conference. It will be virtual all three days. You'll be able to join in our sessions. We encourage you to register for it. It is led by self-advocates. There's going to be three speakers. Two of them have been identified. So they are looking for one more speaker if you know someone within the disability community that may fit please send me an email and I will forward that to Phil who is coordinating. I will play a video to explain more about it.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I do just want to let everybody know that we're not going to be able to hear it. You will have to access the video directly. But since it's not connected you're not going to be able to hear. But I can if you would like me to. I'm sorry. But I will show you. If you go to the HDC website and go to resources and then the HDC news.

BERNARD BROWN: Y'all have specific dates already?

CONSTANCE ALPHONSE: The dates are not announced yet.

BERNARD BROWN: Good.

CONSTANCE ALPHONSE: So I don't know what they are. They have them in mind though.

CONSTANCE ALPHONSE: (Inaudible) the QR code so you guys can scan it to sign up to get information.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Do we have any questions from council members regarding the report? Any public comment? The chair recognizes you.

SPEAKER: I just want to remind everyone (inaudible) advocacy opportunities and their voice and their perspective is incredibly powerful. So if there's ever an opportunity or there's moments where we need self-advocates or there's a moment for them to be called please connect with us because we keep in touch. It's kind of a small world. We track and follow our delegates and our alumni. But we look for those opportunities to connect people with resources but also opportunities like this as well. If there's something that comes up please reach out to us. We would love to make that connection.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much.

BERNARD BROWN: Were you aware of the OCDD (inaudible). We have a self-advocacy group. (Inaudible). They meet once a month. Email Erin Powell. (Inaudible).

SPEAKER: Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you for that, Mr. Brown. Any other comments or questions? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from LRS. The chair recognizes Ms. Melissa.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Hi everybody. Melissa Bayham, director of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. My report is on that bright pink. You will notice I think I had reported in our last meeting that our name, not Louisiana Rehab Services but the Workforce Commission name was changing. So October 1st it did change so you will see our new logo Louisiana Works. So we are officially Louisiana

Works. I know they posted it on Facebook this week on social media. So I think at some point I think there might be an official press conference or something about it. But we have officially changed to Louisiana Works. And the employment and training staff with Department of Children and Family Services have moved physically to Louisiana Works and we have integrated those programs in the Office of Workforce Development.

One thing that's not in my report but I wanted to notate it is we did have some leadership changes this week. So the Assistant Secretary Osmar Padilla of the Office of Workforce Development has moved into the deputy secretary role. So the new assistant secretary for Office of Workforce Development is Jessica Vallelungo. She recently had joined the department in the secretary's office as the director of strategic initiatives. Prior to that she had a long history with the Department of Education. But she now is the assistant secretary of the Office of Workforce Development which is the office that LRS sits in. So those are our leadership changes that just happened this week.

Just wanted to give some highlights from my report. As you all know because of advocacy efforts LRS was able to obtain 4-million extra state general funds during the last legislative session. And we are (inaudible). We are continuing to hire staff. We still do have some challenges with recruitment and retention. We are actively working with our human resources department to submit another request to the department of civil service for a special entrance rate so we can increase our starting pay for our rehabilitation counselors. So we are actively working on that to try to recruit some individuals for our rehab counselor position which we stay between ten and 15 vacancies at any given time.

Also, the third paragraph of the legislative and budget section talks a lot about our funding. So we were able to keep 41.9-million of our federal funds. So we were allocated 72-million and with the additional funds that we did receive this year we were able to draw down more federal funds than we've been able to draw down since 2008. So thankful for that. We still returned a lot of federal funds but I'm happy to report we weren't number one this year. We were number two. But Georgia is number one. We're not number one this year. Just wanted to mention

that. And hopefully next year we won't be on the list. That's my goal is to not even be on the list. Because not all states send back federal funds, only a handful, and we're obviously one of those. So hopefully at some point we won't be.

Some other updates. I wanted to mention Sara. Sara is a communication software that we've been trying to procure for several months now. We did receive the final approvals from the Office of Technology Services this week and so that should start moving a little bit more quickly. And that particular communication software will take some of the administrative burden off of our rehab counselors when it comes to scheduling appointments, getting documents from customers, having customers sign documents, reminding customers about appointments. Just some things that this technology will be able to do to allow our counselors to have more time actually meeting with customers. We're really excited about that software.

We also, our state plan has to be updated in 2026 so we are working on our state plan updates and those will be made available for public comment at some point early next year. This is the workforce innovation and opportunity act combined state plan. Meaning it's the state plan for workforce programs, vocational rehabilitation and adult education. So we have to come together to update that particular plan. And we have a separate section just for vocational rehabilitation but once that plan has been updated it will be available for public comment. And y'all will be notified when that is available but that probably won't be until January or February of 2026.

In terms of pre-employment transition services I did want to provide an update. Last meeting I had mentioned that we were trying to contract for staffing in certain regions for preemployment transition services. And we have been able to secure two contracts. So we have Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans is going to serve our region one which is the New Orleans region. And then we have contracted with Easterseals for our region seven, which is Shreveport. So Families Helping Families is still in the process of hiring but Easterseals has hired three rehab counselors to assist with preemployment transition services in region seven. Those are the main highlights but if anybody has any questions or if there's a topic you would like me to discuss I would be happy to

do so.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Questions from council members?

BROOKE STEWART: I just have a question about the budget that you mentioned and how Louisiana's number two in returning those federal dollars back because they're unused. And I wanted to know do y'all have any priorities in like your planning or the next year to spend down those dollars? Because I know we're always asking for more money but how are we going-- like why are we returning funds and do you all have a wait list? Why are funds not being used?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. So thank you for that question, Brooke, because they're not unused. So we have a state match. So our funds do not just come to us from the federal government. The federal government allocates a certain amount of funds for each state. For Louisiana it's 72 million-dollars but it requires a 21.3 percent match. And so you have to have that state match to draw down those federal funds. So for the last probably, definitely seven years, that's how long I've been the director, we generally get in the neighborhood of 8 million-dollars of state general funds. In order for us to be able to draw down all of our federal funds we would need 19 million-dollars of state general funds.

BROOKE STEWART: Okay. I'm understanding now. I think I missed that piece. It's because we don't have that 21-million that's why we're not able to use that state general fund match.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. We don't get allocated enough state general funds to draw down our full federal allotment.

BROOKE STEWART: Okay.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. So this year we were able to get 4-million extra so we're right under 12-million so hopefully with additional state general funds we'll be able to draw down.

BROOKE STEWART: Okay. Thank you so much for clarifying. I'm sorry if you had mentioned that. I'm just trying to follow.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm glad you asked because I don't want that misconception out there. So thank you for asking.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Do we have a quorum? Can I request a recess?

RENODA WASHINGTON: We're scheduled for a break at

2:30.

JILL HANO: Okay.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Ms. Cherie, could you please turn your camera on? All right. Is there any other comments? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. All right. If there's no objection the meeting will recess for ten minutes.

{Recess}

RENODA WASHINGTON: All right, guys, we're back on. Everyone turn their cameras on. The meeting is back in session. Could everyone turn their cameras on.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Dr. Patti, you have a question?

PATTI BAROVECHIO: I had no audio. It just came back. So not sure if it was supposed to have audio or not but it wasn't transmitting any sound.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. We just muted while we were trying to get a quorum.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Thank you.

{Recess}

RENODA WASHINGTON: We have a quorum guys. The meeting will now move back in session. The next item of business is the report of the Office of Public Health. The chair recognizes Dr. Patti Barovechio for the report.

PATTI BAROVECHIO: Good afternoon everybody. I am usually that bright orange paper. And as you can see it's a rather long report and that's because the Bureau of Family Health administers the title five federal maternal child health block grant program here. And so we have several programs that are designed to support children and youth with special healthcare needs and their family to access services and supports they need so they can thrive in their communities. As you can see we have some subspecialty services that are provided in areas of provider shortages and these are for pediatric subspecialists. We also, as you scroll down, you can see we provide medical transportation when Medicaid transportation is not adequate to meet the family's needs. Over this last quarter we issued over 101 stipends. We also do provider workforce development so we do a lot of technical assistance training. We do a lot of presentations and professional conferences. And we also host three quality improvement toolkits for Louisiana providers to promote best practices in the medical home healthcare delivery

model. You can keep going. I'm going to try to hit just the high points.

Our BFH family resource center does outreach and provides needs assessments as well as resource and referral linkage to families of children that are identified through birth defects surveillance. Additionally, people can self-refer and call into the center for literally help with any resource need. But we are designed to support families that are connected in some way to bureau programs. But they will help literally anyone who reaches out via email, text, Monday through Friday 8 to 4.

Next up we do have, the bureau has a Families Helping Families project and we collaborate on a lot of different things that support children and youth with special healthcare needs and their families. In fact, there is a resource information workshop which is a provider training coming up in November that Families Helping Families region three and region ten are sponsoring. Please reach out to me and I'll be happy to link you up with that link to register. But it's on behavior analysis and they've got a really strong content expert providing training on that topic.

Next up we do the early hearing detection and intervention program following the national standards. Hearing screens for infants by one month of age diagnosis by three months of age and then referral and enrollment in early intervention by six months of age. And so they also provide supports. They have family to family peer support through Hands and Voices. So if you know of a family who has a child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing there are a lot of supports available through bureau programs for them. Next up.

Keep going. The Bureau of Family Health also administers the state's genetic disease program. Often people refer to this as the newborn heel stick. So we work to ensure that all children in our state receive genetic screenings at birth. I mentioned already we do birth defects monitoring surveillance for the state. And again, those children that are identified with a birth defect receive an outreach call or their families do from the family resource center. You can move on.

We also administer the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf which offers a lot of supports across the life course for individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of

Hearing. If you have anyone that is in need of those resources please refer them to LCD. Next.

We also sponsor the maternal infant and early childhood home visiting program. This is a no-cost program provided. We have administered two different models. The nurse family partnership as well as parent as teachers. There are eligibility. If a family is eligible for Medicaid that usually is one of the criterias and they would be eligible for these services. PAT they can engage with services after the child is born whereas the nurse family partnership or for first time moms, and I think they have to be enrolled by 29 weeks gestation. But a really great program. They provide health education and coaching. They support families in building positive parenting skills. Lots of coaching and support available through that program for families.

And then for our Louisiana primary care providers, or really any providers that's serving pediatric or perinatal populations, the bureau sponsors the Louisiana provider to provider consultation line which is a no-cost provider to provider telephone consultation opportunity. So if you have a client that you need help with developing a care plan or making referrals you can speak to a licensed mental health specialist. And if it's around diagnosis or Medicaid management they will link you to a pediatric or parental qualified psychiatrist. Scroll on down.

And then partners for family health. We have a data center on our website. That is where BFH host a lot of really great reports. There's things like the Louisiana birth defects monitoring networks report, child death reviews, perinatal maternal death reports. So lots of great information if you're interested in health outcomes, birth outcome mortality and injury indicators at state, regional and parish level you can find a lot of that information there.

We do, as I mentioned, administer the block grant. We just completed our needs assessment year and submitted our application for the current federal fiscal year. We are actively implementing as October 1st is the first part of the federal fiscal year.

Close to the end. And then we also are administering the project SOAR which is an early childhood comprehensive systems grant doing a lot of work around promoting developmental screening and developmental health. And

especially promoting improvements in the early childhood developmental screening well child visit space. A lot of great work in that area. We've worked with families as well as providers to really develop a strategic plan in order to strengthen that service system.

I think the last thing on the list is the young child wellness collaborative. That is actually the advisory body. It's a cross-agency council that serves as the advisory body for the early childhood comprehensive systems grant. If there's any questions or if I omitted something important please let me know.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Dr. Barovechio. Are there any questions from council members on the report? Any public comment? All right. Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report from the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. The chair recognizes Bernard Brown for the report.

BERNARD BROWN: All right. So I'll get started with something that's not on (inaudible). It's a beige color. I'll start with something that's not on the report. On January 20th OCDD will be hosting a developmental disability summit at L'Auberge Casino. You have to register. The informational bulletin is actually on the OCDD website now. Just know that spots are limited. It's a one-day conference, the whole shindig. It will also be live-streamed as well for those who can't attend in person you can attend virtually. (Inaudible) it on YouTube. So we'll work that out. But we're excited about this. It will be structured with morning sessions that are like general (inaudible) a panel. We will have keynote speakers. And then the afternoon is going to be broken out into three tracks. One around wellness and co-occurring DD diagnosis and behavioral. Another will be around assistive technology and self-advocacy. And third will be around person-centered and some general type topics. Really excited about that. (Inaudible) put out a cool video similar to what (inaudible) did at some point.

All right. So to the report. First we'll touch on the waiver amendments. We did do another round of waiver amendments. There's no substantive changes to the waiver amendments. Basically it was a lot (inaudible) some our waiver services. Just a continuation (inaudible). So that's out with CMS.

We received all the public comments already. Of course when we get approval we'll let everybody know. But as far as like changes or impacts to waiver recipients (inaudible).

The VBP technology grant. We talked earlier today about the program. One of the initiatives was tied around technology for providers. That application deadline ends tomorrow on October 31st. It will probably take, depending on how many we receive, it will take us a couple months to manually review those applications and award (inaudible). So realistically mid to late January before we start announcing awards.

Quarterly activities. So our my place money follows the person administration. That's the entity for OCDD that helps with transition out of institutions. We worked with, so far this year we worked with 43 individuals, transitioned them out. We also have a value-based program (inaudible) support coordination helping them switch to a person-centered planning approach to planning development. Paid out about a million dollars on that MFP to help build capacity for our support coordination agencies to make it more person-centered planning plans of care.

Jumping ahead to Pine Crest. The census is at 432. As you can see we're continuing to outpace our discharges meaning the census at Pine Crest is growing. I'm sure that will be a topic for another day. I know for some that's positive but for others (inaudible). It can be a topic for another day but just know we're working with Pine Crest to assist them with individuals in that facility that may be ready to transition out of Pine Crest or wanting to transition out of Pine Crest. (Inaudible) I'll kind of try to have more information about our efforts to assist in transitions.

Central Louisiana. They're pretty much on par with their census. One thing I do want to point out I know (inaudible) Louisiana supports and services. This is for medically fragile kids. It's not like Pine Crest. (Inaudible) tied to transition but not necessarily related. You all know that OCDD resource centers we provide (inaudible) activity. That is where we step in timely when notified to prevent people

that are in crisis from having to be institutionalized, right. So so far this year that resource center worked with about (inaudible) individuals either by consultation or direct service, right. Ninety-five percent of those (inaudible) were able to remain because the intervention provided was successful. Another 98 percent were satisfied. Even people that were still institutionalized were still satisfied with the services from the resource center. We have nurses, psychologists, associates, allied health, OT, speech. We have all those people on staff. (Inaudible) provider agencies to provide direct consultation to recipients especially in those areas (inaudible). So that work is really important.

Let's jump to the waiver information. Continue to add more people to the waiver. If you look at year over year for the last two years we are up by a thousand individuals in the waiver. And this is not everyone (inaudible) but these are the people that are actually receiving services. Meaning that we're paying claims. We may have close to 50,000 in the waiver, but not everyone in the waiver is receiving services. Again, another conversation for another day but that's important to point out. You see that the tier waiver model (inaudible).

I want to give a shoutout to our SUN team. Just in the last quarter of 2025 from July to September (inaudible) 61 percent of those or 765 were initial screenings. So those people who are coming through the system for the first time. That's a good chunk of people. And if you look at the breakdown of zero, one, two, three and four we're at about 34, 35 percent receiving (inaudible). That's on par where we're generally at year or over. There were a couple of years where we saw an increase that was coming (inaudible) 22, 23. We were at about fifty percent (inaudible) because of Covid or coming out of the public health emergency and they were going into the waiver. But now we're seeing the urgent and emergent (inaudible).

And lastly with Early Steps. That's our early intervention program. To date we have about 6,000 kiddos that we're supporting in Early Steps. We average about 1200 referrals a month. So people are

getting the word out. We receive a lot of interest in those early intervention services. The great part about Early Steps is we're about 54 percent of those kids who matriculate in the Early Steps program don't need waiver services. That means that the intervention that's happening helps them develop the skills necessary (inaudible). Otherwise our early intervention (inaudible) 2/3rds of the 6,000 kids served receive waiver services. Pretty special. And that's my report.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much, Mr. Brown. Are there any questions from council members on the report? Chair recognizes.

SPEAKER: I have a question and you might not know the answer. You said Central Louisiana Supports and Services. That's for children. What age children?

BERNARD BROWN: It varies. It's interesting. There are adults there too. They were there since a child. But anywhere from three and up.

SPEAKER: I'm just curious. I actually have a mom she has a kid who just turned a year old who's in a facility in Texas. She's moving from Texas and I was just curious what we might have for her when she comes back here.

BERNARD BROWN: (Inaudible). Reach out to Acadiana Human Services District (inaudible).

SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

KAREN XU: (Inaudible).

BERNARD BROWN: It's not the same as Pine Crest but it's been around. This one was also a special school district so it was under the Department of Education about five years ago and moved under OCDD. So it's kind of operated (inaudible) the special school district but they are in fact (inaudible).

KAREN XU: (Inaudible).

BERNARD BROWN: I can't give you a general of what falls into that criteria but they generally deal with medical complex like not bed fragile (inaudible) might have some other things but not necessarily like fragile. You know what I'm saying? (Inaudible). Does that make sense?

KAREN XU: (Inaudible).

BERNARD BROWN: No, no, no. Not (inaudible), it's just different. They tend to focus on different (inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other questions from council members? Public comment? Hearing none, the report

requires no action and will be placed on file. The next item of business is the report of Bureau of Health Services Financing. The chair recognizes Ms. Tangela.

TANGELA WOMACK: Good afternoon everyone. Bureau of Health financing or Medicaid. Our report is in the blue. I won't read each detail but there are some highlights I want to start with. On page one is programmatic updates. The department has created a beneficiary advisory council and it supports and advises (inaudible) advisory council. They've had two meetings. The last being October 14th. There's a link in that section to where you can find additional information. And it also tells you when the next upcoming meetings will be. Any minutes will be posted there. You can find all the information there on the beneficiary advisory council there. And it's made up of members who have lived experience with Medicaid.

The next section talks about the Medicaid physician reimbursement increase. So as of July 1st the department received appropriation from the legislature to increase the physician reimbursement rate to 85 percent of the Medicare rate which was a big part of increasing our access in care. So that is current. You also have a link here to the current fee schedules.

We also want to highlight, and you'll be seeing some communication going out on our website and social media. Just to remind people that we have the Louisiana health insurance premium payment program. We do have some qualifications or you have to become eligible. What this program will do is pay for your insurance premium. Say you have employer-based insurance but some of your family members qualify for Medicaid. Depending on the cost of your premium verses the Medicaid we may be able to reimburse you for your premium. That is a service or an insurance coverage that's available to you. And additional information can be found at lahipp@la.gov.

Medicaid is doing some open enrollment changes. Beginning next year March 1st any member on Medicaid can switch their plan, if they're with an MCO you can switch to an MCO up to two times a year. Or a calendar year. But that will begin March 1st. Without cause. So if you have, if your doctor switches to an MCO you don't have to have a reason. You can switch up to two times a calendar year beginning in March. But until that time right now you're able to switch as a Medicaid member starting October 15th

and it will end December 2nd. So you are still able to make those changes right now. But beginning next year you can change up to two times without cost.

We now offer our Medicaid card and your MCO cards on La Wallet. To sign up for that you'll just need your driver's license, you'll have your date of birth and input your social security number and then you'll be able to have your Medicaid card at hand.

Moving on to some programmatic updates. Our self-direction program as of October 1st there were 3,047 individuals enrolled. And then figure one provides a breakdown based on the waiver. At the bottom of page three looking at our Act 421 TEFRA option. So since inception in 2022 there's been more than 3100 children covered and table one page four shows current enrollment is 2,651. It also talks about the number of applications we've received as well as those approved. And this goes for September of this year.

Mr. Brown mentioned the money follows the person program. So Medicaid works with both OAAS and OCDD on this program. And he gave the numbers for OCDD but through this calendar year we've helped 154 participants between the two programs transition (inaudible). The applied behavior analysis program. Our ABA services, you can use to treat autism spectrum disorder, is provided through our MCOs. And if you scroll down at the top of page five it has a breakdown based on the six MCOs. We talk about our Chisholm class members, the prior authorizations submitted and approved.

And on the last service, the EPSDT support coordination. So that's for any Medicaid eligible children under the age 21 who are on our developmental disabilities request for services registry. They qualify for the support services through EPSDT. And this support coordinator will help with ensuring that our members are receiving all the services they qualify for. They will assist with conducting follow-ups and scheduling other appointments for members. That concludes my report. And I'm happy to take any questions.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Angela. Are there questions from council members regarding the report? Any public comment?

KAREN XU: (Inaudible).

TANGELA WOMACK: Which one are you referring to?

KAREN XU: (Inaudible).

TANGELA WOMACK: Okay. So that's the number of Chisholm class members. That's just the number of kids who received those services. The Chisholm class is a result of a lawsuit to the department where they wanted us to implement the autism services to have them available to Medicaid members. It's not saying that's a total number received there. It's just those kids are counted in the Chisholm lawsuit. Did that answer your question?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other questions from council members? Any public comments? Hearing none, the report requires no action and will be placed on file. At this time we will have public comments. The public comments can be on any area of concern or question. Each person will be recognized by the chair and will have three minutes to speak. Are there any comments? I recognize you Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Okay. I have a question and it took me all day to remember it. So when y'all get y'all's office if we have the meetings at the office space I really am enjoying these 10:00 meetings. Are y'all going to go back to whatever time it was because I really like the 10:00 meetings?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Y'all passed that motion to do the standing committee meetings throughout the quarter. So I assume January's going to be probably similar to what we've had this round of meetings. But after that if you have meetings kind of throughout the quarter I don't think we would have to start them at 8:30. I think we can start them later. Because we usually try to do about 10:00.

JILL HANO: Like the full council?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't see why not. Y'all have been doing 10 to 4 since we've been at the library and that seems to have been enough time for y'all. It also gives enough for driving time for people who are coming in.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other comments? At this time we will have announcements. The chair recognizes Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: Just a couple of announcements guys. One is the next council quarterly business meeting is January 28th and 29th. There's a survey as we always have at the back of your folder. Please fill that survey out and leave it on the table. The staff and I will pick it up before we leave. And I just want to thank my staff so much. We're understaffed right now. It's only five of us today. So I just want to send a special shoutout to all my staff for

working so hard and just making sure the meeting runs really smoothly. So thank you for that.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I just had a quick reminder. I mentioned it and I think Brenton mentioned it yesterday at the committee meeting. But at the January committee meetings you will be recommending activities for our 2027 action plan during standing committees. So just a reminder to maybe look over that plan that you approved for the next five-year plan to look at those goals and objectives and come up with some ideas during those standing committee meetings for recommendations for activities.

JILL HANO: We have ethics training?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. And I will send out a reminder about that. You all have to complete your ethics training by December 31st. Thank you for the reminder, Jill. I will make sure I send out a reminder for everybody because you will be fined if you do not complete that training. So I will make sure I send out a reminder.

RENODA WASHINGTON: I just want to acknowledge those members that are rolling off the council. Ms. Christi Gonzales, Tony Piontek and Ms. Vivienne Webb. I want to thank you guys for your service and contributions to the council. Vivienne, it was great working with you. It was great working with Ms. Gonzales and Mr. Tony. Let's give them a handclap for their services. I recognize staff. Bridgette, we send our condolences. Her mother passed but on behalf of the council wanted to give her a card. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you, Ebony, for the announcements. Anything else? Am I missing anything? Thank you, guys, for joining us on today. If there's no further business? Hearing none. If there's no objection we will adjourn the meeting. We are now adjourned at 3:37.