

Executive Committee Summary

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

4354 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd. Ste. 200

Baton Rouge, LA 70816

LIVE Streamed Via YouTube

You can watch the meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/@LADDCouncil/streams>

You can view the meeting transcript [here](#)

Members Present: Jill Hano, Angela Harmon, Brooke Stewart, Erick Taylor, Renoda Washington

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brenton Andrus, Rekeesha Branch, Lauren Brown, Stephanie Carmona, Ebony Haven, Bridgette Talley

Others Present: AnnMarie Bihm, Mike Billings, Ayden Blunski, Bernard Brown, Brenda Cossé, Amanda Daigre, Kathy Dwyer, Mylinda Elliott, Nick Fears, Nicole Flores, April Hampton, Lynsey Hebert (Transcriptionist), Chanel Jackson, Nicole Learson (Parliamentarian), Christina Martin, Kelly Monroe, Jacki Pierce, Susan Riehn, Margaret Thomas, Marilyn Thornton, Damon Vincent, Garry Williams

Renoda Washington called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM. A quorum was established.

The [October 2025 Executive Committee Summary](#) was approved and accepted by unanimous consent.

Update of the 2026 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Mr. Andrus discussed with the committee the reasoning for the staff's decision to remove the Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) item from the 2026 legislative advocacy agenda. Since this issue is still very important, staff recommended referring the matter to the Education Committee to allow continued discussion with the Department and other stakeholders.

Consideration of Council Member Retreat

The Committee also held an in-depth discussion regarding the Council Member Retreat. Staff recommended holding the retreat in July 2026, but the committee discussed the possibility of combining the retreat with the April meeting, with a focus on LaCAN and advocacy training. The Committee also discussed participating again in Disability Awareness Day on May 4th. Another option discussed was holding the next retreat in January 2027 with a focus on training members on advocacy before the 2027 legislative session. The Committee did not reach a consensus and agreed to bring this item to the full Council for guidance.

Consideration of New Council Meeting Schedule

Ms. Haven presented [Council meeting expenses for 2025](#) and explained the decision for changes to the Council meeting schedule was driven by budget considerations. The Council's funding has remained level at \$1.38 million while costs have increased due to inflation. To help manage these rising costs, in October the Council voted to have standing committee meetings throughout the quarter in lieu of the Wednesday before the full quarterly Council meeting. A [draft schedule](#) was provided for the Committee's review. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee was unable to determine the most effective meeting schedule and agreed to refer this item to the full Council for a recommendation.

Consideration of Council Code of Conduct

The Committee also reviewed a [draft Code of Conduct](#) developed at the Council's request to establish clear expectations for member behavior during meetings. The draft was modeled after the New York Council's Code of Conduct. One recommendation was made to expand the definition of serious misconduct to include unwanted behavior, touching, or comments of a sexual nature. Staff will make this revision.

MOTION PASSED: To accept and recommend the proposed Code of Conduct to the full Council made by Brooke Stewart, seconded by Jill Hano. **Motion passed without objections or abstentions with 4 years and 0 nays.**

Annual Executive Director Evaluation

Finally, the Committee conducted the Executive Director's annual evaluation. The Chair distributed a survey to the full Council to gather feedback for the evaluation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:45 AM, the committee entered into Executive Session by unanimous consent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONCLUDED

At 12:18 PM, the committee ended Executive Session by unanimous consent and the public meeting was called to order at 12:20 PM. A quorum was established.

Ms. Washington stated based on the feedback received, the evaluation was very positive overall with no concerns.

MOTION PASSED: To recommend a 3% raise for the Executive Director to the full Council made by Erick Taylor, seconded by Brooke Stewart. **Motion passed without objections or abstentions with 4 years and 0 nays.**

There was one public comment made by Mr. Damon Vincent, the founder of Train Unique, an adaptive fitness organization for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mr. Vincent shared information on the services they provide and where they are located in the state. He also wanted information on how to become a service provider within the waivers. Mr. Brown stated he could assist but the process was not easy. Ms. Haven stated she would share Mr. Vincent's information with the Council and announced the remaining committee meetings for the day.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 PM by unanimous consent.