

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

RENODA WASHINGTON: Good morning everyone. It is now 8:41. The quarterly meeting of the executive committee for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council will come to order. I appreciate everyone for attending. Will Ebony Haven please call the roll for attendance please.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon. Ms. Brooke Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Just remember that you have to keep your camera on in order to be counted towards the quorum. And Mr. Erick Taylor. And Ms. Renoda Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: You have three and you have a quorum.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. And hello to the executive committee. At this time we will have Ebony to read the mission statement and the ground rules.

EBONY HAVEN: The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council's mission statement is to increase independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion for Louisianians with developmental disabilities by engaging in advocacy, capacity building and systems change.

The ground rules are 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 i.e. texting 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 should be kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much, Ebony. To ensure the meeting runs smoothly and that we all participate in an orderly manner please adhere to the following rules. For committee members and members of the public attending in person please raise your hand to speak

and wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking. The public members in person will then be called on followed by public participating virtually who have their hands raised. Comments in the Q and A 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 so please be patient with us. All comments and questions from committee members and public may be limited to three minutes 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 before 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.

The next item of business is the approval of the meeting summary for the January 28th executive committee meeting which was distributed. The meeting summary will not be read unless a member request it. At this time the chair will entertain a motion to-- hold on one second. Are there any corrections? If there is no objection the meeting summary is approved as distributed. Hearing none, the meeting summary is approved.

The next item of business is an update of the 2026 legislative advocacy agenda. The chair recognizes Brenton Andrus for the update.

BRENTON ANDRUS: So just a quick update on our advocacy agenda. Just as a reminder we focused on four main priorities this session. And so that was restoring 250,000-dollars for the DD Council budget. It goes to our Families Helping Families centers. 6.8-million for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. 53.6-million to increase those home and community-based service rates, direct support worker pay and creating an emergency alert for people with disabilities. As far as the budget goes and those funding issues, so we've been tracking House Bill one. That is the main state budget bill. That will go into effect July 1st. It was on the house side and it is moving to the senate side now. It has made it through the house. We were able to get the 250,000-dollars restored for Families Helping Families. They did add 2 million-dollars for LRS. So that is shy of what we were asking for but that is additional funding for LRS. And

there was no funding that was added for rate increases or direct support worker pay.

On a positive note, it's not included in our agenda, but there was quite a few community choices waiver slots that were added in the budget on the house side. I think 750. Which is really great for the adult and aging side. For those of you that remember the new opportunities waiver from back in the day when we had that 12-year wait list that is something that population has been dealing with quite a bit so it's really nice to see each year, at least the last few years they've been able to get additional slots for that which is great.

Like I said, the budget is now in senate. We are expecting public testimony to happen in senate finance in the coming days or weeks. We have spoken with senators. There is additional interests out there in trying to get additional funding for LRS. There's also interest in trying to get funding for rate increases and direct support worker pay. That part is getting a little, not complicated, but I don't know how much funding because obviously 53.6-million is quite a large number. The Department of Health has gone before the house and it's my understanding, also having conversations with senators and representatives as well, that they are trying to encourage maybe doing this next year and not this year because they want more information and more data specifically with provider cost reports. They have updated those templates and feel like that will give better information for them to actually ask for funding next year. While I can appreciate their take on that us and all the other organizations that have been advocating for this are moving forward with our original request because the rate study was put out and that's what we're moving forward with. Questions about that I'm sure they will be in the reports that LDH, or OCDD, or Medicaid, or whomever gives later you can probably ask questions there.

As far as the emergency alert legislation there's several bills that deal with that. So SB34 McMath is probably the main one at this point. It has passed the senate and so it's waiting to be heard in house judiciary committee. And so essentially what it does it does not create like a separate alert in the sense that there is an Amber Alert and there's a Silver Alert and then there's this other alert. But what it does it creates a Bryan's call

sort of monitor or alert within the level two endangered missing child alert, if you will, that already existed. And so that was an alert specifically for children that didn't meet that Amber Alert criteria. Maybe they were not abducted but they are missing. And so what it would do is for those individuals that have a developmental disability if you are within that age range of not being an adult it would create that Bryan's call underneath that alert system or underneath that particular alert. And it would do the same for the Silver Alert. So that is the alert for adults. And if you have a developmental disability it will trigger a Bryan's call specifically under that. So there will have to be some education there about specifically what a Bryan's call means. And that is kind of incorporated into the bill itself as well, making sure people understand that. Or are able to understand what it means whenever a Bryan's call is issued.

There's also HB74 by Representative Michael Echols on the house side and also senate bill 227 by Senator Harris on the senate side. It's my understanding Senator Harris has parked his bill because he's just going to work with McMath and just let that bill go through. HB74 I kind of thought it was going to park for a little bit because session was moving along and it hadn't been heard but it did make it out of the house the other day. So it's going to go to the senate side. I am not certain if they are going to continue hearing it on the senate side or if the senate is just going to try to say we already have one we passed out so can you work together. But HB74 specifically creates a spectrum alert and is more focused on children with autism than the developmental disability population we've been advocating for as a whole. And it doesn't have, I don't want to say it doesn't have a lot of teeth to it, it does, but it's more legislation that directs public safety to create this particular alert as far as spelling out what it would like to see in the alert. In legislation it doesn't necessarily do that. It just says we're going to create this and we need to go do this. Whereas SB34, for instance, specifically has requirements listed about what this alert does. And so that is our four main issues that were on your advocacy agenda. If there's any questions happy to take them.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any questions anyone? Any comments?

BRENTON ANDRUS: And we can drop our bill tracking link in the comments. The new website is a little bit harder to find. We put it on the same page where our factsheets are. And we try to include information about it in our alerts when we send them out so it will stay on people's minds if they want to go look at the legislation we're tracking. Because there's a lot more than just those four issues that we look at and work on. But those are your four main issues that y'all approved in October.

RENODA WASHINGTON: If there's no comments or discussion the next item of business is consideration of the plain language council documents. The chair recognizes Ebony Haven to introduce the documents.

EBONY HAVEN: So last year you all had an activity on your action plan where we not only created a new website, which was all plain language, but we wanted to look at some of the public facing documents that the council has including our bylaws and our policies and procedures. So the contractor that we worked with he looked at our bylaws and he took a look at our policies and procedures and he basically converted those to plain language. Now it's important to note that none of the intent that you all had in your bylaws and your policies and procedures has been changed. The only things that he pretty much changed was some of the flow. He felt like some of the sections didn't flow well so he switched up some of the sections. But again, the content itself is not changed. So those documents are included online but they're also in your packet. And I also, for the executive committee, I linked the original versions of those documents so you all could take a look at like the differences between the plain language version and the original versions.

I also want to add that he not only did a plain language version for the bylaws he did an easy read version as well. The easy-read version makes things even more plain and they have pictures. So the easy read version is very nice especially if you're a visual learner like I am. So it's a very nice version and it makes it very plain as far as what the council does. It goes, of course, our bylaws, go into our committees, the executive committee, our standing committees and all of those things. But basically those documents just have been changed into plain language. So since we are going to replace the original documents with these plain language versions the council does have to vote

on those. I'm willing to answer any questions. Or if anybody went through the bylaws or the policies and procedures and compared it to the original versions and you felt like we needed to change something back just let the staff know and we can make those changes. But that's basically what we've done or what the contractor has done for the council in order to make our documents more plain language and accessible.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. I love it. It looks really awesome. Executive committee, do you guys have any thoughts or anything you want to discuss about the plain language? Anything that you like, you dislike? Ms. Hano, the chair recognizes you.

JILL HANO: Thank you. This is going to be a silly, silly question. You did both documents in plain language but only the bylaws is the easy read?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

JILL HANO: Okay. Just wanted to dot my Is and cross my Ts. I always mean to say it backwards on purpose and I never do.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Hano. Anyone else would like to discuss? All right. At this time the chair will entertain a motion to recommend the plain language council documents.

BROOKE STEWART: I make a motion, this is Brooke Stewart, to accept the plain language documents presented today.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Stewart. Is there a second?

ERICK TAYLOR: I second it.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you. It is moved and seconded to accept a motion to recommend the plain language council documents. Is there any discussion from committee members? Is there any public comment? Are you ready for the question? The question is the executive committee recommends approval of the plain language and easy read version of the council bylaws and policies and procedures made by Brooke Stewart, seconded by Erick Taylor. When Ebony calls your name please respond with yes if you are in favor of the motion or no if you are opposed to the motion or abstain if you are not voting.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano, yes. Ms. Angela Harmon.

Ms. Brooke Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Brooke Stewart, yes. Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. You have three yeas, zero nays.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. The yes votes have it and the motion is adopted.

The next item of business is the consideration of the new council meeting schedule. The chair recognizes Ebony Haven to start the discussion.

EBONY HAVEN: So for those of you online the document that we're going to be referencing was not in the agenda but it is online under the executive committee agenda. So of course you all know that we tried out a new council schedule this quarter. In lieu of the Wednesday meetings that would have occurred on yesterday we had the committee meetings throughout the quarter. Actually this month April 1st was the self-determination and community inclusion committee. On April 8th we had the education and employment committee. April 15th we had the Act 378 subcommittee. While this quarter has been going through there have been a lot of concerns that were brought up about the schedule and so this is something that I thought was important to bring back to the executive committee. Now before we get to the council meeting expenses and options for our schedule I kind of just want to again give a little bit of background for everybody. I know that we have some new members that are joining us. But I do want to give a little bit of background as to why we were doing this.

We're doing this to basically make sure that we're utilizing our funding correctly. According to the DD Act only 30 percent of your budget, your federal allotment can go towards administrative costs. The other 70 percent has to go towards the state plan. So the reason I was bringing this up is because we're close to that 30 percent already in administrative costs if we're not over. Because I'll just say I've learned that some of the things that were being coded to the state plan should have been administrative costs. So we're probably really over on the administrative costs. Only 30 percent can be utilized for administrative costs.

So the reason I was bringing this up is because of all

the changes that were happening federally. And federally you know there's been talk about eliminating the USEDAs, taking money away from the DD Councils and the PNAs. And so I wanted you all to be proactive just in case we don't get all of our funding, our \$1.38-million we needed to be proactive in eliminating or reducing some of those administrative costs. Well, that isn't hypothetical anymore and the reason why is because they've already started to reduce our federal allotment. Now since I've been here and I think since Brenton has been here, and he's almost been here for ten years, or been here for ten years, the allotment was \$1.38-million. Last year the allotment was 1.37-mill. It was reduced by 3,290-dollars. So I know that's not a big number and so I didn't even mention it last year because I thought it was one of those fluke things that just happened. Well, we got our federal allotment for FY26 and it's reduced by another 9,150-dollars for a net reduction of 12,440-dollars. So we're already starting to see reductions in our federal allotment while costs are continuing to rise. Food costs are continuing to rise. Hotel costs are continuing to rise. All of those costs are continuing to rise and they are reducing your federal allotment. And so again, this is why I was bringing this issue up and why we needed to kind of change the schedule because we wanted to try and reduce some of those administrative costs.

So before we get into that document does anybody have any questions about that part? I didn't include that in the document. I kind of just wanted to let you guys know.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Did you say 12,440-dollars?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, I did, Jill. It wasn't just Louisiana. Let me make that clear. It was councils across the board. So of course those with higher allotments than Louisiana, let's just take California, their allotment was reduced by 76,000-dollars. So we've been told by ACL that those reductions are due to administrative costs on their end. So they're reducing our funding to cover their administrative costs but they have not increased our administrative ability or our administrative percentage for your federal allotment. It still remains at that 30 percent. So if they continue to decrease your allotment that administrative percentage will continue to decrease. So I just want to put that out

there because I know everybody's wondering why we're even considering the change. Well, it was hypothetical when I first brought it up but it's a reality. They have started to decrease your federal allotment. Now 12,000-dollars it may not be a lot but I can tell you that our NACDD dues that we pay every year are about 11,000-dollars so that's basically that money right there.

So I kind of just wanted to put things into perspective before we started to have the conversation about the options. Does anybody have questions? I know Melissa has her hand raised.

EBONY HAVEN: The chair recognizes Melissa.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Hi. Melissa Bayham with LRS. Just a question. I know we already have our projected budget for FY27. Do y'all have that yet? You may not. In the president's budget.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. We're reduced in the president's budget, yes. It was the same as it was last year. The USEDs have been eliminated in his proposed budget and the DD Councils and PNAs are reduced. Now we have gotten very good feedback from house appropriations. They had a Dear John letter where I think we had a record number of Congressmen and women who supported that letter. I think it was 85.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I was just curious. 12,000 is for FY26?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

MELISSA BAYHAM: And 27 you have the same budget or you don't know?

EBONY HAVEN: We don't know that yet.

MELISSA BAYHAM: We have a projected.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah. We don't know that yet because in the president's budget he's recommending reducing the councils and totally eliminated USEDs as he did last year.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you. Any other discussion or comments on what Ebony just shared? We want to make sure we get as many questions as we can so that we can truly make a decision on what we're going to do. Ayden, the chair recognizes you.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Thank you. Hypothetically if someone was to vote for number three.

EBONY HAVEN: Well, wait before you say that. Let me get to those options so everybody can hear them.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Okay. I got you.

EBONY HAVEN: So nobody has any other questions about our appropriations or our federal allotment? Okay. So if you look at the first section on that document where it says average annual meeting expenses I want to address something real quick. I started in April 2025 because in January we had unusual costs. We had your council retreat, which was a little bit more than our normal January meeting. But we also had to move that meeting to a hotel. Which we were getting free space at our office but unfortunately that space was taken away and we had to pivot really fast. So we had to have your meeting at a hotel. So I did not include those January costs. And this is only costs for council meetings. This does not take into consideration any ad hoc meetings that you all have that we cover costs for.

So if you look at the average annual meeting costs based on April of last year all the way to the meeting that you had in January these are all the average costs that we've spent on mileage, rental car, hotels, breakfast and dinner, Wednesday lunch and Thursday lunch. It basically adds up to the average meeting expenses being about 2,500-dollars per meeting. We know you all have four meetings per year so 25 times 4 it's 10,000-dollars. So on average for your quarterly council meetings only we're spending about 10,000-dollars.

So in order to reduce administrative costs for council meetings we have three options for the council to consider. The first recommendation is the recommendation that you all tried out this quarter that a lot of people had concerns about. And that was to hold the committee meetings at different times throughout the quarter instead of the Wednesday before the council. So what are the expenses that will be eliminated for that option. The rental car expenses will be eliminated, hotels, breakfast and dinner and Wednesday lunch. On average the annual expenses that you all would save are about 5,840-dollars. So that's option one right here.

Option two is two in-person meetings and two virtual meetings. We would hold those annually. So I want to be really, really clear about this part. Nothing in the schedule would change. So you would have your Wednesday committee meetings and your Thursday meetings for the full council. The only thing that would change is two of the meetings will be considered virtual. But just because we're calling those virtual does not mean that you can't

attend in person. What it would mean though is that we would not cover the expenses. We would not cover the hotel, the rental car, the breakfast and dinner. We wouldn't cover lunch on Wednesday or lunch on Thursday. The two virtual meetings we wouldn't cover any of those expenses. But for the other two meetings that are in person we would cover those expenses. Again, just because we're calling those virtual does not mean that you have to attend virtually. You can still come in person we just will not be covering those expenses. If we look at the expenses that are eliminated all of these expenses are eliminated twice a year. The annual savings that you all would save is 5,000-dollars. So it's not as much as recommendation number one but it is a significant amount of savings that you would save. Any questions on option two? Or option one? I didn't ask for questions about option one.

So the last recommendation that we had was recommendation three and it would basically mean that we would conduct our committee meetings on Wednesday. The schedule wouldn't change. Well, slightly. We would still have committee meetings on Wednesday and the full council would meet on Thursday. However, during the committee meetings we would have the state agency representatives do their reports in those committee meetings instead of the full council meeting on Thursday. So the full council meeting would be from 9 to 12 on Thursday because we would eliminate all of the state agency reports because they're going to be giving those in the committee meetings on that Wednesday.

So just to give you guys a visual of how that would work. If you look at the reports move to Wednesday on this side. We have for the self-determination and community inclusion committee Medicaid would give their report in there. Disability Rights would actually be in both committees because sometimes they have education items that they are reporting about as well. The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs will be in SDCI. LSU Human Development Center will actually be in both committees as well because of public health. OCDD or the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Aging and Adult Services. So those would be the committee reports in SDCI. For the education and employment committee we would have the Department of Education like

we already do. We would have LRS or Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. Again, we would have Disability Rights and LSU Human Development Center and the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. So the schedule for the Wednesday would not change. The only thing that would change would be that those committees would have those reports included in them instead of the full council meeting on Thursday. If you look at the expenses that would be eliminated the only thing that would be eliminated is the Thursday lunch. So on average the savings for option three are 2,260-dollars.

So those are the three options. That summary of recommendations it basically goes over-- like it's a quick reference if you want to look at the three options. What are the annual expenses for those three options, the annual savings and what expenses will be eliminated. I do want to go over one of the key takeaways one more time. Council members can choose to attend in person during virtual meetings for recommendation number two but the travel won't be reimbursed and meals won't be provided. So you can still come in person. I want to really make sure I drive that home because I know we're considering that a virtual meeting but everybody can attend in person. So those are the three options that I wanted to bring before the committee. I'm willing to answer any questions. But if you all have any recommendations we can take those as well.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. This is a question for option three. Just clarity. So the chairs, if I get the report and everything, how is that going to look? Maybe I'm missing something. I kind of got thrown off when we read this. So the chair, because they have to get the reports and all that kind of stuff, is it going to-- I don't know if I'm making sense.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think I understand what you're saying. So like in your chair's report where you then have to recap on Thursday everything that the department said. I don't think that's the case. I think if you want those updates from the department you need to attend those meetings and the chair's report is kind of what we do now with some of the other committees. We acknowledge we had those reports. You can go online and find those reports. If you want to rewatch the meeting on YouTube. And then we'll just discuss out of the committee more contractual, and decisions made, and motions made as opposed to the

details.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And I would say those agency reports they get much more time I think in your council meeting to discuss their reports than they would get in the actual committees. So staff would have to have that conversation based on things that the committees would want to hear about. Like what parts of their report they should cover as opposed to reading the whole 14 pages that they might send in.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you. Is there any discussion on the schedule? Ayden, you want to go ahead with yours?

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: I'm still thinking on it.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Jill, the chair recognizes you Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Okay. Quick question, because I was initially going with option three, but now I'm going to keep y'all guessing. Who knows what she's going to pick. She might resign. Before this even came out I was thinking about the committee reports because, especially Medicaid, LRS, OCDD and Department of Ed, they speak in the committees anyway. So I know that sometimes they end up talking about the same thing twice. So I think that's good. But my only concern is that our mandate, and I'm realizing that I'm tweaking what I originally thought, but the DD Act mandates LSU and Disability Rights LA. I was thinking since those are federally mandated if we want to tweak option three, have DRLA and HDC present on meeting day, on full council. But maybe not because I see that they're both at both committees.

RENODA WASHINGTON: That's a good question Jill.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Assuming I heard correctly yes, HDC and DRLA are mandated to be on the council but most of the representatives are mandated to be on the council. And so if you give DRLA and HDC the opportunity to present on Thursdays you would likely have to extend that same opportunity, just out of fairness, for the others.

JILL HANO: Okay. I'm sorry. That's not what I meant. I meant to say, and I didn't even realize this, but I meant to say since they're the DD network partners. Sorry.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Got you.

ERICK TAYLOR: But my thing is is this how long we been seeing this before this should be coming. Was coming up

that we need to do this. How long have they been saying before we were invited to the table, before this even been brought up. How long it was a concern that we might have to do something like this?

EBONY HAVEN: I'm pretty sure that I brought it up in the October 2025 meeting Erick. That was the first time I brought it up. I'm pretty certain. Yeah, I brought it up in October 2025. And again, at that time I didn't realize that you all were going to continue to get a reduction in your federal allotment. Your federal funding. It was really hypothetical. I wanted you all to be proactive just in case we were reduced funding but it's a reality now. And so I'm not sure what's going to happen for FY27. But I do know for FY26 you all have been reduced a net 12,440-dollars.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Mr. Taylor, does that answer your question?

ERICK TAYLOR: Why didn't we put this in place just in case something came up like this? Why we couldn't do a trial basis at the beginning before something came of it so we wouldn't have to put something on the table like this?

EBONY HAVEN: If I'm understanding your question right the option that you guys trialed this past quarter was recommendation number one. That was a trial run that we got a lot of concerns about, which is why we're bringing this back to the table. So a lot of people had a lot of concerns about not having the committee meetings on Wednesday and having them throughout the quarter. So now we're going to have to choose either option two or three. Or if you guys want to continue with option one that's something that the committee is going to have to make a decision about which one you all want to recommend to the full council.

RENODA WASHINGTON: And I appreciate you doing that Ms. Haven because you did bring this to us prior. And so now that you're saying it is reality it shows you and the staff's expertise in the wellbeing of the council. So I appreciate you doing that. And so executive committee we just have to-- we're now in discussion. As Ebony stated already we have to choose something to bring to the full council. I think that Ebony has made it clear on the reason of why so we now have to choose something. Brooke Stewart, the chair recognizes you.

BROOKE STEWART: Thank you. I really like the two

virtual and two in person. I feel like it's the best of both worlds. And I think it alleviates some of the pressure for like the parents and you know like the working parents. You may have had issues attending all four because you wanted to be in person but if you can just put these two virtual, the two in-person options I think that would be the best option for the full council.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much, Brooke. Great discussion.

EBONY HAVEN: Let me just clarify something. I know I mentioned the 30 percent for administrative costs a little earlier. I just want to clarify that that has always been the case. We have always been restricted on our administrative costs to the 30 percent and 70 percent has to go towards your state plan. So I don't want you all to think that that's something brand new. That's not. It's always been that way. The reason I brought it up today was because that 30 percent is starting to decrease. And so I just wanted to make sure that everybody understood that part.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. The chair recognizes Ayden.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Oh, boy. Okay. I was for option three in the beginning. And just want people to understand we're a diverse group of people on this board. Some are parents. Some are council members, board members. Some of us also have people that we depend on to bring us to said meetings. Not all of us can drive. And not all of us can get to meetings. So I just want the people that can drive and do things that others can't to take that into consideration as well.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much. Appreciate that. The chair recognizes...

MIKE BILLINGS: I just have a question for Ebony. What was the total savings with relocation and having a conference room here and not having to have an onsite conference room?

EBONY HAVEN: I would have to look at that Mike because for the last year-- well, outside of that January council meeting, because we did have to pivot to the hotel, we haven't had to pay for like hotel costs. The library was free. So I would have to look back a couple of years to get you those numbers. I know when I first started they were spending an astronomical amount of money at Embassy

Suites. I know that we have been saving money for sure. We were hosting the meetings in our office on Corporate initially but when he rented that space out we had to pivot to the library. That was also free. So I would have to go back and look. I can get you a number though.

MIKE BILLINGS: I was just curious.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Did we have any other comments or discussion?

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: One more thing and then I'm quiet. I just want to say that the ones of us on the board with a disability we're more than a number. We are human just like everybody else in this room and we deserve our voice to be heard. I personally think that if we can be here in person we're seen versus if we're on virtual we're not seen as much. So that's something else I would like for people who can make it to meetings to understand how important it is for us to be here in person instead of virtual.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: And that's all I'm adding.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Ms. Haven, could you share with us what it will look like if we go over budget or we do not adhere to an option or choose something that's flexible or that will work to reduce expenses. What would it look like.

EBONY HAVEN: So the federal government we do have to submit our program performance report which does have our financial information on there. But every year when we do our state plan and we submit our state plan I basically have to project administrative costs and then what costs are going to be towards the state plan. And so if you all go over that there are like consequences. Number one your federal allotment could be taken away. Your federal funding could be taken away. Or they could make us pay it back. That's another option. Or we could be under a corrective action plan. There are a lot of options that the federal government could take if they determine that we have exceeded administrative costs. Again, this is something that I have to submit to them every year what do I think our projected administrative costs are going to be and what do I think-- or what our projected state plan costs.

RENODA WASHINGTON: I just want us to look at the bigger picture. I know this will be a change for us but it's about what's best for the council. I don't want any of those

things to occur. So what do we do. Just wanted to kind of add that on, what will be the consequences. So executive committee, let's consider all of the information that is being shared, and let's take a quick pause and let's just see what would be the best thing for the council. That's the decision that we're making. And I know that we all have feelings and things like that but what will be the best, the best recommendation for the council is what we are determining. So with that being said, any other questions or discussion? Do we have any hands raised? The chair recognizes Ms. Brenda.

BRENDA COSSE: Good morning.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Good morning, Ms. Brenda.

BRENDA COSSE: Thank you so much council. I think that last comment was the best. What is the best for the council. As a former council member and a parent of a child with a disability we want to do what we can to continue these meetings and so that everybody could be well informed. We thank the council for their dedication over the decade and thank you so much for this discussion. Have a blessed day.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Brenda. You too. At this time the chair will entertain a motion. The chair recognizes Brooke Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: I would like to make the motion to have the two virtual, two in person. That option.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Recommendation two. Thank you, Brooke. Is there a second?

JILL HANO: I'll second.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jill. It is moved and seconded to recommend option two for the new council meeting schedule. Is there any discussion from committee members? Is there any public comment? Are you ready for the question? The question is on the executive committee recommends option two as the new meeting schedule starting in July 2026 made by Brooke Stewart, seconded by Jill Hano. When Ebony calls your name please respond with yes if you are in favor of the motion, or no if you are opposed to the motion or abstain if you are not voting.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Hano, yes. Ms. Angela Harmon. Ms. Brooke Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Abstain.

EBONY HAVEN: You abstain?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor abstains. So that's two yeas, one abstention.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The yes votes have it and the motion is adopted. Is there any public comment? The chair recognizes Ms. Hano.

JILL HANO: Okay. So with this will the committee meetings go back to, like everything's going back to normal? Like the committee meetings are going to be the Wednesday before, not this one meeting a week?

EBONY HAVEN: Right. That's correct, Jill. Everything is going back to the way it was. Wednesday committee meetings, Thursday full council.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other public comments? All right. Thank you all for your comments, questions and concerns. At this time we will have the announcements. The chair recognizes Ms. Haven.

EBONY HAVEN: We have our full council meeting in about 15 minutes right after this meeting. It starts at 10:00. So see you guys in 15 minutes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. Is there any further business? Hearing none, if there's no objection we will adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objection this meeting is now adjourned at 9:44. Thank you, executive committee, and everyone who was in attendance. Have great day.