



Executive Committee Summary

Thursday, April 30, 2026

8:30 AM to 9:45 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, Brooke Stewart, Erick Taylor, Renoda Washington

Members Absent: Angela Harmon

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

Others Present: Mike Billings, Brenda Cosse, Mylinda Elliott, Rebecca Fruge, Landon Hanks, Lynsey Hebert (Transcriptionist), Nicole Learson (Parliamentarian), Christina Martin, Ashley McReynolds, Kelly Monroe, Jacki Pierce, Bambi Polotzola, Chrisha Pool, Susan Riehn, Julia Tanner

Renoda Washington called the meeting to order at 8:41 AM. A quorum was established.

The [January 2026 Executive Committee Summary](#) was approved and accepted by unanimous consent.

Update of the 2026 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Mr. Andrus provided an update to the Council's four items included in the Council's advocacy agenda:

- House Appropriations Committee restored funding of \$250,000 for Families Helping Families and added \$2M for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) in House Bill 1 (HB1). However, there was funding added for rate increases or Direct Support Worker pay. HB1 will now move to the Senate.
- There are several bills that are requesting an emergency alert system for individuals with developmental disabilities. Senator McMath's bill SB34 is the main bill and includes specifics for the emergency alert that align with the Council's advocacy. The bill has passed the Senate and will be heard in the House Judiciary Committee next.

To keep track of those issues and all other issues the Council is following, please see our 2026 [LaDDC Legislative Tracker](#).

Consideration of the Plain Language Council Documents

The Committee reviewed the new plain language versions of the [Council Bylaws](#) and [Policies and Procedures](#). These new versions will take the place of the original versions and be included on the website. None of the intent of the original versions was changed, but some of the sections were rearranged to allow for better flow. The Committee also reviewed the [Easy Read](#) version of the Bylaws as well.

MOTION PASSED: The Executive Committee recommends approval of the plain language and easy read versions of the Council Bylaws and Policies and Procedures made by Brooke Stewart, seconded by Erick Taylor. **Motion passed without objections or abstentions with 3 yeas and 0 nays.**

Consideration of New Council Meeting Schedule

Lastly, the Committee discussed the Council meeting schedule. The Council tried a new schedule this quarter by having the committee meetings each Wednesday starting April 1st instead of the Wednesday before the Council meeting. Although the schedule was agreed upon last quarter, there were a lot of concerns expressed. Therefore, the Executive Director presented the [DD Council Expenses & Options](#) including the average expenses for Council meetings for the past year along with 3 options for the Council to consider in order to reduce administrative costs.

MOTION PASSED: The Executive Committee recommends Option #2 (2 in-person and 2 virtual meetings) as the new meeting schedule starting in July 2026 made by Brooke Stewart seconded by Jill Hano. **Motion passed without objections with 2 yeas and 1 abstention.**

There were no public comments. Mrs. Haven announced the Full Council Meeting starts at 10:00AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 AM by unanimous consent.