

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council  
Executive Committee  
July 29, 2026

RENODA WASHINGTON: Good morning everyone. It is now 10:03. The quarterly meeting of the executive committee for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council will come to order. I want to welcome you guys to our July quarterly meeting. I hope everyone is doing well this morning. Will Ebony Haven please call the roll for attendance please.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Brooke Stewart.

BROOKE STEWART: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: And Ms. Renoda Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Here.

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

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

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. The mission statement for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council 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. Be on time for meetings. No alphabets and side conversations are kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much Ebony. To make sure the meeting runs smoothly and that we all can

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. To help the meeting run smoothly please keep side conversations to a minimum and comments related to the topic we are discussing. For those committee members who are attending virtually remember you must be on camera and have your first and last name showing to be counted towards our quorum. Please keep microphones muted unless called upon by the chair. Electronically raise your hand to request to speak and wait to be called on by the chair. For attendees electronically raise your hand to request to speak. Once recognized by the chair your microphone will be turned on. After speaking the microphone will be returned to mute. Also, the Q and A is to only be used by those needing an ADA accommodation to participate in the meeting. Public 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 who 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 so please be patient. All comments and questions from committee members and the 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 April 30th executive committee meeting which was distributed. The meeting summary will not be read unless a member request it. 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 the consideration of

vendors for the fiscal year 2027 action plan activities. The first activity is activity 2.1.2 creation of early identification of IDD documents. There's one vendor application to consider. The vendor is Milestone Mate LLC. First we will have feedback and discussion from committee members. Afterward we will get public comment. Ebony do you have any insight to start the discussion?

EBONY HAVEN: Like Renoda said, this particular activity you all wanted the contractor to send in proposals in order to create documents to help families and professionals understand early identification of intellectual and developmental delays for children. So Renoda has already told you all that we had one applicant, Milestone Mate. And the executive committee rated the proposals based on certain criteria that are included in the table on the screen. One of the criteria was making sure that the applicant included all the elements that we required when we sent out the solicitation. They rated it on their project summary, their qualifications, their statement of need, the goals and objectives that they included, their outcomes, their action plan and lastly their evaluation strategy. And for Milestone Mate you can see how the executive committee has rated Milestone Mate based on those criteria included in the application.

The total points that an application can receive is 50 and as you can see there were various totals for each of the executive committee members. I didn't get a chance to average it because I was missing a score I think from Brooke. I don't know if you have your score for the evaluation strategy, Brooke, but if you give it to me then I can maybe get the average and then you guys can discuss this particular proposal.

BROOKE STEWART: Okay. Hold on.

EBONY HAVEN: But if you all want to start the discussion I see there is like some differences in the statement of need, the goals and objectives, the outcomes and then the action plan. There were some numbers that were different in those categories for this particular applicant. So I don't know if the committee wants to discuss those but those are areas where you all felt like, it just seems like there were differences in the opinions of the executive committee about those particular criteria.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Committee members, is there any

discussion?

ANGELA HARMON: It's me, Angela. I'm raising my hand.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes you Ms. Angela.

ANGELA HARMON: Thank you. I guess I was on the fence about them. I know they were the only ones that submitted a proposal but some of it is like okay, I'm trying to make sure it would be available to families throughout Louisiana but how is it going to be disseminated. Like after the project ends is it going to be online? I'm not even sure what the milestone platform is. So that was my concern. Is it easily accessible for parents. And once again, like I said, sometimes I know y'all say in other regions the internet may be sketchy or this, that and the other so I was just kind of on the fence. And I do remember sending Ebony my review proposal saying that I wanted to discuss this because I wasn't sure. I know they are the only ones that did submit but I don't want to just take the first thing running I guess. That's my follow-up question. What does it look like when the project ends or how is it going to be set up if that makes sense. So maybe I missed that in reading it because I did read it fast but I don't know.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Angela. Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: I can provide some insight based on the information they included Angela. It seemed to me once they created the materials after they did the focus groups and they tested those materials with like third-party individuals they were going to take that feedback and not revamp but I guess revise those materials. But then once the project is done they're releasing all that to the council. So the council will be able to distribute it however you guys saw fit. I think one of the ideas that came out of the planning committee was that we could get it to the FHF centers because they are the ones that do outreaches to pediatricians' offices, ADA clinics, schools. So we can disseminate the information however you guys would like but it would be ours. Once those documents are created the council can do whatever. You can disseminate however you want. And that's just my interpretation. I don't know if Stephanie or Brenton had other thoughts based off their application.

ANGELA HARMON: Thank you, Ebony.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Ms. Brooke.

BROOKE STEWART: Hi everyone. So I did research a

little bit the Milestone Mate app. It looks like it's a startup. They had a good write-up on it in Biz New Orleans Magazine in February so I did read that. It seems like it's a startup app. And she does seem to have a lot, like she's doing other things as well going to summits and she seems involved. She looks like a UL grad. I think it would be a good opportunity to fund her just like from what I was able to look and see. It looks like she has a neurodivergent daughter and she's done a few, I guess more than a few people have covered her Milestone Mate app for the child's progress partner. It's a software platform. I think it's just experimental but it seems promising.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Brooke, for that insight. Anyone else want to discuss Milestone? Anyone else have anything they want to discuss? I know Ms. Angela stated her concern was just taking the first one, the only proposal we have for this. How can we address that? Are we able to wait to see if someone else would send something or we have to go with this?

EBONY HAVEN: So just keep in mind that you guys are on a timeline. This project is scheduled to start October 1st. So if we don't choose anyone today we can try to send it back out. And we'll get into this when we talk about the activities that you all didn't receive any proposals for. But the executive committee would have to be given permission and authority to make the decision on behalf of the council if you guys didn't want to go with Milestone Mate. But it's not a certainty that we're going to find someone else to apply for this particular grant.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Right. The chair recognizes Mr. Erick.

ERICK TAYLOR: So that means basically like we already say we're going to accept this. You're saying basically like our time is in October. We got to accept this.

EBONY HAVEN: Well, no. I don't want to say that. You don't have to accept them. But if we send the solicitation back out there is no guarantee that any other organizations are going to apply for this.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I want to reiterate the fact that no one applied for this I think is something you should consider. When you start thinking about if you do want to not go with this group and repost it at that point, as Ebony said, this will come up more in a future conversation in just a few minutes. But at that point you might have to

start thinking maybe it's the activity that is not of interest. And so if you're just wanting to stick this activity back out there with the same proposal I would argue if no one submitted anything for it the first go round who's to say someone would submit again the second round. So then you might have to start thinking okay, it's the activity that I need to change. Not necessarily the proposal or the people applying for it.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Mine is kind of going back to Angela's point. If there was something I guess specific within the proposal, and this goes kind of I guess across any of the proposals, that you wanted to make sure was being done or the council in general wanted to make sure that was being done. For example, that these documents the council would receive for us to be able to distribute or that we would be able to use this information statewide. Things like that. That kind of thing can be, those are things that are going to be done internally when we write the contract. So I don't want that to scare y'all away by reading the proposal if that makes sense. When y'all are reading this proposal. Because that's kind of like the background job of what we're doing on the back end, not really what you're seeing in the proposal. I hope that kind of alleviates a little bit for you Angela.

ANGELA HARMON: It does. Thank you.

EBONY HAVEN: I want to add on to what Stephanie just said. Angela, it did mention in the proposal that they aren't just doing this in their platform. These are going to be actual documents that they create and that they're doing focus groups on and getting feedback from individuals with disabilities and their families or parents. But also just kind of adding on to what Stephanie just said. Whenever I spoke to Erick yesterday he mentioned something about audio and visual for people that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. And then maybe visually impaired will we be able to get the documents in Braille or in audio for those individuals. Again, that's something that we can work on. If you guys see something in the proposal and you're like well, I would really like to see this. That's feedback that you can give us as staff and we'll make sure those things are included in our statement of work with the contractor. Just thinking about their budget. They only estimated that it would take them 9,000-dollars to do this project. However, the council has allocated 10,000. So

in our discussions with them we would say well, can you take that additional 1,000-dollars and make the materials audio accessible and maybe for visually impaired individuals that need this information as well. So again, if you guys have suggestions that's something that we can work with the contractor on whenever we are working out a statement of work with the contractors. I hope that helps.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes, thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yeah, and that's my basic concern is that's what we want, the audio and the video so everybody can hear it. Do we have to do that or do they have to do that?

EBONY HAVEN: So that's something that we can request when we're working things out in the contract period Erick. Whenever we're negotiating with the contractor that's something we can talk to them about. And hopefully they're willing to do that. Again, she only estimated that it would cost her 9,000-dollars and the council has allocated 10,000 so I'm thinking she should be able to do that with an additional 1,000-dollars. That's just my opinion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other discussion from committee members? The chair recognizes Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Okay. I agree with everything y'all saying, I do. That makes me feel a whole lot better. But let me ask you this. So some of the things you said do we have input on like when she said about seeking out evaluations. Would she explain what type of doctors for these parents that don't know. Like when I found out I went to the pediatrician. Like no, you have to (inaudible). So some of those fine details or nuances would that be there or we would have to say hey, make sure you break it down this way. I also kind of wanted to know how would she select her families. I don't know. It just seems like there's little things I wasn't sure about. But I'm not saying we shouldn't go with her because I did look her up as well. But I'm willing to give her a chance. At least she did apply. So I just kind of wanted to make sure even though she was the only one that applied that we also can provide her with some feedback with this before she puts the whole packet together. That's the only thing that I had. So I didn't want to not fund her. I just wanted to discuss it because I wasn't sure about it. That's all.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Angela Harmon. This is all rich discussion and needed when selecting a proposal. I think Ebony did say we were able to provide this feedback, what Ms. Angela stated on the committee, and bring that to her, right?

EBONY HAVEN: Angela, I'm pretty certain however she's selecting the families that she is going to use it to do those focus groups and get feedback on these materials. I'm pretty certain they're going to know about like all the different types of doctors. But we can also put in that she solicits council members to sit in on those focus groups so that you all, you know, we can put that into the contract. We're listening to all this feedback that you're providing and we want to make sure that when we're working out the statement of work, if you guys decide to go with her, that we would include your concerns to make sure that the project is, the outcomes are based on what the council wants to see.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay council members. Just from this discussion is there any other further discussion? The chair recognizes Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: If we decide to go with them how long would it be?

EBONY HAVEN: So all the council contracts are for one year. So from October 1st this year 2026 to September 30th of 2027.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Again, any discussion from committee members? Is there any public comment? The chair will entertain a motion regarding a vendor recommendation from activity 2.1.2. The chair recognizes Kristen Reed.

KRISTEN REED: The question I have is who has the final approval for the information on the fliers and stuff?

EBONY HAVEN: Are you talking about the documents that she's going to create Kristen?

KRISTEN REED: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: So before she creates the document she's using focus groups to get information that should be included in the documents. Once they're created she's doing another round with those focus groups to get feedback on those materials. Once she produces them if the council isn't satisfied with what's been produced. I mean, and just again, as council staff that's more a management part. We know what the council would like to see so we would make the decision of whether or not the materials are up to par.

And again, meeting the activity that the council, the goal that the council wants to see with this activity. I hope that answers your question.

KRISTEN REED: It does. I was just wondering since the committee had so many concerns if a presentation or something before they become final could be done for the council?

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah, I mean, I guess if that is the will of the council we could ask the contractor to come and present before the materials are finalized. Probably at one of the quarterly meetings I'm thinking since she will be done in September the July meeting would probably be the most appropriate if that's something the council would like to see.

KRISTEN REED: I was just wondering if it was even an option. Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Kristen. Is there any more public comment? The chair will entertain a motion regarding a vendor recommendation for activity 2.1.2. Mr. Erick Taylor. Is there a second?

BROOKE STEWART: This is Brooke Stewart. I second.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Brooke. It is moved and seconded to recommend Milestone Mate as a vendor for activity 2.1.2. Is there any further discussion? Any other public comment? Thank you. We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to recommend Milestone Mate for activity 2.1.2 when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony please call the roll.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

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

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

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

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

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

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Erick Taylor, yes. That's four yeses, zero nays.

RENODA WASHINGTON: All right. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you, executive committee members.

Moving on. The next activity is activity 2.2.3 workforce development and emergency preparedness. There is one vendor application to consider. The vendor is Disability Access Solutions. First as we did with the first proposal we would have feedback and discussion from committee members. After we will get public comment. Ebony do you have any insight to start the discussion?

EBONY HAVEN: I'm going to share that same table that I did for this particular activity. Just keep in mind I always like to remind y'all as a committee that we want to make sure that whoever is applying for the activities that they are meeting what you guys said you wanted in the activity. The activity is to build the capacity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to meet their own needs through workforce development and emergency preparedness training. So again, you guys allocated 50,000-dollars for this particular activity. And I want to mention that Disability Access Solutions their proposal is a three-year proposal although the funding that's included in that application was only for one year. But they are proposing to do this for three years. And the reason is because they think that they should break up the regions.

So in year one they would focus on the southwest region, regions four and five. That's the Lafayette and Lake Charles area. The second year they would focus on North and Central Louisiana. So Shreveport, Monroe and Alexandria. That area. And the third year they would focus on Southeast Louisiana. Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the surrounding areas. So just keep that in mind when you guys are looking at this proposal because next year they are going to submit another one to continue their work in those different regions that they recommend. And that is pretty much I think all I wanted to say. You guys can see how you guys scored this particular proposal. And it got pretty high ratings. I know one of you all scored it only a 27 so you might want to have some discussion. It looks like someone felt like the action plan wasn't I guess laid out well. And then maybe the evaluation strategies weren't what you guys wanted to see. So if you have feedback for us when we are negotiating if you choose this particular contractor we can put those things in the statement of work just like you said last time.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Stephanie.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I just wanted to tell y'all the average of the total was a 42. So 42 out of 50 points total average for all of you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you so much. Committee members, is there any discussion? Not to put anyone on the spot, but just for discussion purposes the 27 score do you mind just sharing a little insight for us on the action plan. I think that's good to consider when we're recommending this Disability Access Solutions. I can't see names, sorry. I don't have my glasses on. But I just want a little insight on the score. Brooke Stewart, do you mind sharing a little bit about that.

BROOKE STEWART: I was the 27 score?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes, ma'am.

BROOKE STEWART: Hold on. Let me look.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Anyone want to share the highlights of Disability Access Solutions? The chair recognizes Jill. I will come back to you. Jill.

JILL HANO: Ebony, I did have a question because I noticed when you get the plain language proposals the requested funding was different than the proposals by the applicant and I just didn't understand what that was about. On the title page that Disability Access Solutions submitted it said 50,000 but on the page, the plain language document it said 66,656.67. And I didn't understand why those totals are so far apart.

EBONY HAVEN: Jill, so every contractor that we contract with is required to meet a federal match. So the council is only providing 50,000-dollars. The reason why they included the other number is because they totaled our portion, the council's portion, plus their match. Their match will be 16,667.67. So she included the match that they're going to have to include in her total.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you.

EBONY HAVEN: You're welcome.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jill. Brooke we'll go back to you if that's okay. If you wanted to share a little bit on the action plan.

BROOKE STEWART: I think I must have misunderstood. I didn't realize they were the only applicant for this activity.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Any further discussion from council members on Disability Access Solutions? Any feedback that we need to give to this vendor if it is

selected? Anything that we need to give the staff? Okay. Is there any public comment? All right. The chair will entertain a motion regarding a vendor recommendation for activity 2.2.3. The chair recognizes Jill.

JILL HANO: I recommend that it be brought to the full council that we use Disability Access Solutions for activity 2.2.3 for fiscal year 27.

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

BROOKE STEWART: I second. This is Brooke Stewart.

RENODA WASHINGTON: It is moved and seconded by Brooke Stewart to recommend Disability Access Solutions as a vendor recommendation for activity 2.2.3. Is there any further discussion? Any other public comment? We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to recommend Disability Access Solutions as a vendor recommendation for activity 2.2.3 when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony, could you call the roll please.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

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

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon, yes. 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 four yeses.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you, members.

The last activity is activity 3.1.3 partnership with schools on transition training. There are three vendor applications to consider. The vendors are Bayou Land Families Helping Families, Disability Rights Louisiana and Southwest Louisiana Independent Center Inc. As with the previous proposals we will have feedback and discussion from committee members. After we will get public comment. Ebony, do you have any insight to start the discussion?

EBONY HAVEN: Again, I'm going to focus on the activity because I know these were great applications that were submitted for this particular activity. And you guys have similar scores. Everybody scored these applications

pretty well so I think it's going to be up to you guys to look at those little differences that each one of those applicants brings in order to make a decision for this particular activity. So just keep in mind the council wants to see partnership with the schools to make sure that not only the students and their families are educated on transition but also the educators. And that's on those things including waivers, benefits counseling and job support services. So if you look at the scores for each of these you guys scored them very well. So Bayou Land I think on average probably had 49. Disability Rights Louisiana maybe on average had maybe 46. There were two perfect scores in there. And then Southwest Louisiana Independent Center I would say on average theirs was probably 45.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Committee members, is there any discussion? The chair recognizes Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Can I request that they be read out?

EBONY HAVEN: I'm going to stop sharing this screen and then I'm going to pull up the document, the plain language document that was created for this meeting because there's a table in there that may be helpful in this discussion.

So the executive director from Bayou Land Families Helping Families is here if you want her to kind of give you. But what I was going to pull up now is the document that I sent you all there was a comparison table in that document and maybe that could help answer some of your questions Erick.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Ms. Angela, the chair recognizes you.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes, ma'am. All I was going to comment on is for this particular Bayou Land proposal. I did love the concept of educating the families and working with the teachers and faculty before a student leaves high school. The only thing I wrote a side note, and I'm not sure why now, but the comment was that it was regional. Is it statewide, I guess, or is it regional. And I think that's where my only kind of concern is. And on the side note I did like that one of the other proposals had the little checklist toolbox, toolkit that you could kind of check your list off for transition to make it easier for parents. So maybe some of that idea could be proposed with this idea but I wasn't sure if this was statewide, and I may have just missed it trying to read it, or it was just in that area.

And then once they do this I guess they'll give it to us like the other proposals and we can disseminate it how we want. I was looking for my sheet, Ebony, but I can't find it. But thank you. That's all I had.

EBONY HAVEN: So Jackie has her hand raised so I'm going to allow her to answer that question Angela.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Ms. Jackie the chair recognizes you.

JACKIE PIERCE: Hi. Good morning. This is Jackie from Bayou Land. To respond to Ms. Harmon this would be open statewide. Obviously my reach is a lot easier within my region but I do have several people that I collaborate, several organizations that I collaborate that would be willing to share fliers, provide information. And of course I'm part of the Families Helping Families network so I would lean on them a bit for support if necessary as well.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much.

JACKIE PIERCE: Yes, ma'am.

RENODA WASHINGTON: I did personally think all of the proposals were very great. But Bayou I think you had more of a comprehensive approach with the things that we are wanting for the activity. So that's something to look at as well. They were really great proposals but Bayou did have just a more comprehensive approach to the things in the activity. So let's kind of look at that too. Ms. Jackie the chair recognizes you.

JACKIE PIERCE: Thank you. This is Jackie again with Bayou Land. And I did want to say that I am able to kind of look at it from both ends of the table because I do have experience as a special education teacher so I understand how the schools can work with the families, how the schools can work as a unit to support and build foundations for gainful employment after high school.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Jackie. Job well done. The chair recognizes Erick Taylor. The chair un-recognizes Eric Taylor. Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: I just want to make sure all of your questions are answered. Do you have the comparison table? Are you looking at it and if you have any questions. I think Mr. Phillip is here from Southwest Louisiana Independent Center so he can answer questions as well. I do have a question, Phillip, if you can. I want to clarify that as well because I think the way Jackie's proposal read

it seemed like it was for local, it was just like local partnerships but she just clarified that it would be statewide. In your proposal I noticed that you would work with the Lafayette Parish School District and so I just want to also clarify that for the committee members, if you can, if your proposal is statewide as well. Because I think the way it read was that you were going to focus on Lafayette Parish. So if you can can you provide a little more information for the committee.

PHILLIP CREDEUR: Yes, thank you, Ebony. This is Phillip with Southwest Louisiana Independent Center. And yes, when we developed the proposal it was focused on the Lafayette region, so region four because that's where we would mainly start out at. We do have partnerships with the other centers for independent living but I haven't got any verbal confirmation that they would be willing to assist in this so I didn't want to overcommit and under deliver. But we do have partnerships through the Statewide Independent Living Council and the other two SILs that do statewide programs. We would not possibly, out of our Lafayette office, be able to go throughout the state and hit all the schools because we really want to focus on being in the schools and educating the educators and the counselors. So we wouldn't have the resources to do that across all parishes in the state. But as far as disseminating the information, the information would be available. I recently updated our website that's about to be launched where we're releasing resources on a digital level so all that would be made available statewide as well. But with our activities of being in schools that's why we focused on Lafayette because that's the school system we can get in and really develop this to extend possibly in the future to encompass more of our state and more parishes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Phillip. The chair recognizes Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: So the question I asked is that all right, I really got my questions down where I know so what I want to say it don't really need to be read now. I just wanted to give the question, if I'm making sense to y'all, what I needed to really understand if that makes sense.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Erick Taylor. Thank you, Ebony and thank you everyone else for discussing. Any other public comment? Or any other discussion from committee members? Committee members is

there any discussion on anything further that you would like to discuss with these proposals? No hands raised. Any public comment? The chair will entertain a motion regarding a vendor recommendation for activity 3. 1.3. Ms. Angela.

ANGELA HARMON: I would like to recommend for activity 3.1.3 Bayou Land as a vendor.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Angela. Is there a second? It is moved and seconded to recommend Bayou Land Families Helping Families. Okay. It is moved and seconded by Angela Harmon and Erick Taylor to recommend Bayou Land Families Helping Families as the vendor for activity 3.1.3. Is there any further discussion? Any other public comment? We would now have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to recommend Bayou Land Families Helping Families as the vendor for activity 3. 1.3 please say yes when your name is called. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony, would you please call the roll.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

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

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

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

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

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

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you, members.

The next item of business is the consideration of council membership.

EBONY HAVEN: Before we go to that I do have, I have an update on the activities that you all did not receive proposals on. So for activity 2.2.2 that was your transportation study. You also didn't receive any proposals for activity 3.1.4, which was the curriculum for childcare providers. And lastly, activity 3.3.1 and that was the job fairs. However, yesterday we did receive two proposals after the deadline. And I realize it was after the deadline however under normal circumstances I would have told the applicants that they should apply next year

because they missed the deadline. But there were two reasons I wanted you all to consider the applications. The first reason is because this person applied for activity 2.2.2 and activity 3.2.1 the job fairs and the transportation study. And the council did not receive any proposals for either of those activities.

The second reason is because the applicant is the executive director from Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge and she was just hired as executive director. She might have been getting acclimated with her new position and she just didn't have the time to submit her proposals before the deadline. But I at least wanted to give you all the opportunity to review her proposals and determine if you want to move forward. Or the council staff had come up with suggestions because we didn't think we were going to have any proposals for those activities. I can give you those options that we came up with as staff or you guys can decide to review the proposals and make a recommendation to council. It's up to the committee.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Committee members what would you guys like to do?

EBONY HAVEN: And we can take them one at a time. If you guys want to hear the options that the staff had for the transportation study and then you can decide whether or not if you want to review and maybe do a recommendation on a transportation proposal or go with the recommendations from the staff.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Committee members would you like to hear the recommendations from the staff? The chair recognizes Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

JILL HANO: I would.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. So everyone agrees that we're going to hear the recommendations made by the staff.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. So for activity 2.2.2 that's the transportation study. After we did not receive any proposals for that particular activity the staff reached out to other DD Councils across the country and we also did a little research on what was already being done in Louisiana. And for Louisiana we found that the Department of Transportation or DOTD they actually completed a plan in 2022 that identified the needs of transit in Louisiana. Now the plan doesn't really give us any sort of advocacy orders but it does share some really good information about

the needs. And that includes people with disabilities. And it also looks like they may have had planning organizations in place that are meant to continuously look at solving these sorts of issues to improve transit but we're not exactly sure when they meet. So we would actually have to do a little bit more research. Now the information that we received back from the other councils was that the council may not have allocated enough funding towards this particular activity. Y'all allocated 45,000-dollars. I'm going to give y'all an example. The Ohio council responded to our request and they actually put a total of 125,000-dollars in their transportation study. They did it in multiple stages. I think the first stage they gave 50,000. The second stage they gave 75,000-dollars. So you all only put 45,000-dollars towards this particular activity.

Other councils that reached out, Tennessee, their equivalent to our DOTD, which is the Department of Transportation, they actually worked with them to create the nation's first Office of Accessible Transportation. So they did some advocacy with their legislature and they actually got an office created to look at this specifically for individuals with disabilities. So bottom line, we were going to suggest that you all change this particular activity to allow the staff to do more research to determine number one what type of money you guys should be allocating for this particular activity. And to see if it's more of an advocacy thing since Louisiana already has something sort of in place. So we were going to recommend not doing this activity, taking that 45,000-dollars and maybe allocating it towards another activity that you already have and allowing the staff to do more research and come into the 2028 planning committee with that research so that they can make a decision and a recommendation to the council for the next action plan. So that's our suggestion. The other option is that you all review the application that was submitted yesterday.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. Council members keep that in mind what she just mentioned. I'm going to take Stephanie's hand is raised and then we're going to come back to that. Stephanie.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I just wanted to also mention that when the state that Ebony mentioned, I don't remember what it was, when they did their study that was 50,000-dollars

I want to say that was like 2021. So we have to also remember inflation. So 50,000-dollars in 2021 that's probably closer to like 70,000-dollars now. And I'm just ballparking. That's why our recommendation was for that research to look into cost and to see kind of what that range would look like for what a study of this kind of like proportion would cost the council. And just to make sure whatever contractor we use would be able to get us the information that we would actually need and want.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Stephanie. The chair recognizes Jill.

JILL HANO: I just perused the two proposals from Greater Baton Rouge and they do look really pretty. They're esthetically appealing.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jill. Any other committee members would like to discuss the council moving forward with this particular activity? The chair recognizes Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: I recommend we do research until we find out (inaudible).

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. So we have one committee member so far that feels that we should allow the staff more time to research. Anyone else agree with that? The chair recognizes Angela.

ANGELA HARMON: I do agree with that. But like Jill just said, you know, looking at it, because I did review it last night, and looking at the key facts it does sound really well. Like it's a really good plan. It just may be a bigger task than what we're thinking. Now if she can collaborate with the CATS and whoever already did the survey it might give her a little bit of an upper hand as far as maybe not taking as long for her to propose. But I'm with Mr. Taylor too. Maybe we should just let staff do a little more research. But this was a really good proposal. Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ms. Angela. Any other council member agrees to allow the staff to conduct further research? Any public comment?

EBONY HAVEN: So what we're recommending if you look on the screen, activity 2.2.2, right now in the plan that's approved it reads provide funding support and technical assistance to complete a study on transportation needs on barriers throughout the State of Louisiana for individuals with IDD. We're recommending that you guys change this

activity or just say conduct research in order to complete a study on transportation needs.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. Give me a moment. Is there a motion for staff to conduct research needed to complete a study on transportation needs and barriers throughout the State of Louisiana for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be presented for the FY 2028 action plan? Okay. Is there a second?

ANGELA HARMON: I'll second it. This is Angela.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. It is moved and seconded for the staff to conduct research needed to complete a study on transportation needs and barriers throughout the State of Louisiana for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be presented for the FY 2028 action plan. Is there any further discussion? Any other public comment? We will now have a roll call vote.

EBONY HAVEN: Before I do the vote can you clarify who made the motion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: It was Erick. We will now have a roll call vote. 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. Ebony would you please call the roll.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

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

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon, yes. Ms. Brooke Stewart. I think we lost Brooke. Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Erick Taylor, yes. You have three yeses.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted and will be presented to the full council for approval. Thank you. committee members.

EBONY HAVEN: Let's go to activity 3.1.3 the curriculum for childcare. I'm happy Stephanie's back because we actually reached out to two organizations directly including our sister agency LSU Human Development Center to determine if they would be interested. They responded they were a little confused about the cost share. So we explained the cost share to them and they are considering applying for this particular activity. I also reached out to another organization that one of the other DD Councils

recommended to us so we do have two people that we've reached out to that may be interested in this curriculum. At this time we don't suggest that you all make any changes because we're hopeful that at least LSU would apply for this particular activity.

I will say that if they decide to apply the council will have to get the executive committee's authority and permission to approve that application so that they can start the work because we're not going to have it before the council meeting tomorrow. Or we're not going to know before the council meeting tomorrow.

And then lastly, activity 3.2.1. Do we need to do anything on that Nicole?

NICOLE LEAROSN: Yeah, the recommendation is to allow-- because the deadline is passed, right?

EBONY HAVEN: Uh-huh.

NICOLE LEAROSN: So the recommendation would be to allow the executive committee to have authority to view any applications that come in after the deadline and to review and select vendors for any applications that come in for activity 3.1.4.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Stephanie.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Could we say for both of the next two because wouldn't it be the next two activities?

NICOLE LEAROSN: Well, because they're two separate things if someone doesn't want one but wants the other both of them would fail.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I understand.

NICOLE LEAROSN: So you should probably separate them out just to make sure that everyone wants this one and everyone wants this one.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I understand. Thank you for clarifying.

EBONY HAVEN: Repeat the language Nicole.

NICOLE LEAROSN: That the recommendation to the council regarding activity 3.1.4 is to give the executive committee authority to review and approve any vendor applications that come in after the deadline. I think that covers it because there was a deadline. It gives the EC the authority to review them and make decisions.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: This is out of order now so I don't know but like how does that work with the transportation study?

Like from my understanding if we're moving it to the 28 action plan so what if we still have this action plan with two activities that are not going to be addressed this fiscal year. How would that work?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Good question Jill.

EBONY HAVEN: So Jill, you guys have decided-- well, the executive committee is recommending to the council, the council still has to approve, that the transportation study be taken off. So that 45,000-dollars you all are going to have to reallocate to another activity. I will say that tomorrow you all were going to have to ratify the plan anyway based on public comment that you all received. So at this point tonight I'm going to make the changes to the action plan based off the recommendations that you all are making but it still has to go before the full council.

JILL HANO: Oh, okay.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. And it was already on the agenda for you all to ratify the plan based on those public comments. If you all were going to make any changes based on those comments.

JILL HANO: Okay. I didn't realize that. Did we get any public comment?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am, I sent them to you.

JILL HANO: Oh, you did?

BROOKE STEWART: I sent them to the council I think last week if I'm not mistaken. I sent you guys the original version and a plain language version of each one.

JILL HANO: All right. My bad.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jill. Is there a motion to provide the executive committee authority to review and approve applications for activity 3.1.4 submitted after the deadline? It was already up there but it was a motion by Erick Taylor. Is there a second?

ANGELA HARMON: I'll second it. This is Angela.

RENODA WASHINGTON: It was moved then seconded by Angela Harmon. Is there any further discussion? Any other public comment? We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to provide the executive committee authority to review and approve applications for activity 3.1.4 submitted after the deadline when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony, could you call the roll please.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

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

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon, yes. Ms. Brooke Stewart. I think she's still gone. Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Taylor, yes. You have three yeses.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you, committee members.

Next I need a motion to recommend that the executive committee have authority to review approved applications for activity 3.2.1 submitted after the deadline.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion to approve.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Is there a second? Is there a second?

ANGELA HARMON: I'm sorry. What y'all said? What you seconded?

RENODA WASHINGTON: A motion to recommend the executive committee have authority to review and approve applications for activity 3.2.1 after the deadline.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yeah. I'll second that. Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much, Ms. Angela. Is there any further discussion? Any other public comment? We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to recommend that the executive committee have the authority to review and approve applications for activity 3.2.1 submitted after the deadline when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony, if you could please call the role.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

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

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

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

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Erick Taylor, yes. You have three yesses.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you, committee members. The next item of business is the consideration of council membership. Ebony, would you like to start that discussion?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. So we have had a resignation. He

did share the email with us. Mr. Mike Billings, his last day is going to be July 31st. And normally we would send out our advertisement to advertise for members to apply to the council for council membership. However, instead of having a membership committee and sending out an advertisement this year we recommend you all considering resubmitting the names that were submitted for council membership last year. They were approved at the October meeting last year. And the reason why I am recommending that is because those individuals, the individuals that were put on the council were governor recommended. And so the recommendations that the council submitted to the governor last November those individuals, I don't want to say they weren't considered, but the governor chose to appoint other people that weren't recommended by the council.

One individual in particular is Audrey Gilliam. She's from Shreveport and currently the council has no representation in Central Louisiana or North Louisiana. So Ms. Gilliam lives in Shreveport, she's a parent, and you all recommended her last year. And so my recommendation would be to, or my suggestion to the committee for consideration is to consider Ms. Audrey Gilliam submitting her name again to the governor's office for appointment because she would satisfy the federal requirement that you all have to have members in every area of the state. And currently you have no members in the Central Louisiana area on up to the north part of Louisiana. So that would be my recommendation instead of you all advertising for another spot to fill that vacant seat once Mr. Billings' time is over on the 31st.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. The chair recognizes Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: I recommend that she be considered.

RENODA WASHINGTON: So the motion will be to approve the resignation of Mike Billings and recommend reconsideration of Audrey Gilliam to resubmit her application.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Is there a second to the motion that's on the screen?

JILL HANO: I'll second it.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jill.

NICOLE LEAROSN: For clarification the second part is

a recommendation to the council or are they approving to go ahead and do that? Just for clarity. In other words, does the council have to give a thumbs up on this?

EBONY HAVEN: I would say yes.

NICOLE LEAROSN: Okay. And the second part is a recommendation to the council for resubmission of Audrey Gilliam?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. It is moved and seconded to accept the recommendation of Mike Billings and recommends resubmission of Audrey Gilliam to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions for council membership. Is there any further discussion? Any other public comment? Okay. We will now have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to accept the resignation of Mike Billings and resubmission of Audrey Gilliam to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony can you call the roll please.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: I don't accept his resignation but yes.

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

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon, yes.

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

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Erick Taylor, yes. Three yeses.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. And we'll re-present it to the full council. Thank you, committee members. The next item of business is the consideration of council members' absences. If there is no objection we will go into executive session. Hearing none, we are now in executive session. It is 11:36.

{Executive Session}

RENODA WASHINGTON: All right. It is now 12:31. The meeting will come to order. I will now entertain a motion regarding the council member absences. The executive committee recommends council staff draft a letter to Pasqual Nguyen to be sent by certified mail requesting resignation in writing by August 20th, 2026. I will now entertain someone making that motion please.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Erick

Taylor. Do I have a second?

JILL HANO: I'll second.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jill. It is moved and seconded by Jill Hano to recommend council staff draft a letter to Pasqual Nguyen to be sent by certified mail requesting resignation in writing by August 20th, 2026. Is there any discussion from committee members? Is there any public comment? All right. We will now have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion to recommend that council staff draft a letter to Pasqual Nguyen to be sent by certified mail requesting resignation in writing by August 20th, 2026 when your name is called say yes. If you oppose say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony could you please call the roll.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

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

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

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

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Erick Taylor, yes. You have three yeses.

RENODA WASHINGTON: All right. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted and will be presented to the full council.

Is there any public comment? At this time we will have announcements. The chair recognizes Ebony Haven.

EBONY HAVEN: The only announcements that I have are the rest of the committee meetings that are today. Unfortunately we ran over so the self-determination and community inclusion committee will meet at 12:45 to 2:30. The Act 378 subcommittee meets from 2:45 to 4. And the education and employment committee meets at 4:15 to 6.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Ebony. I must go back to put this on record. Regarding the executive director evaluation overall the executive committee gave positive feedback to our executive director. Thank you. I just wanted to insert that. Is there any further business? Okay. Hearing none, if there is no objection we will adjourn the meeting. The chair recognizes Jill.

JILL HANO: Can the chair eat during a meeting?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, Jill.

JILL HANO: Thank God.

RENODA WASHINGTON: All right. Any further business?  
Hearing none, if there is no objection we will adjourn the  
meeting at 12:35. Hearing no objection this meeting is now  
adjourned at 12:35.