

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Self-Determination Community Inclusion Committee
July 29, 2026

JILL HANO: All right. It is 12:56 and I would like to call the meeting to order. Rekeesha, would you mind calling the roll?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Not a problem at all. All right. Dr. Barovechio. Mr. Bennett.

BRIAN BENNETT: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Mr. Bennett is here. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Mr. Billings is here. Mr. Blunschi.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Mr. Blunschi, here. Ms. Chachere.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Chachere is here. Ms. Crain.

CHERI CRAIN: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Crain is here. Mr. Hanks. Ms. Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Harmon is here. Ms. Kelly-Aduli.

CHERIE KELLY-ADULI: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Ms. Kelly-Aduli is here. Mr. Macaluso. Ms. Nguyen. Mr. Smith. Mr. Williams.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Mr. Williams, here. Ms. Xu. We have eight. We have a quorum Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Rekeesha. Before we get started can you also read the ground rules.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes, ma'am. I just want to remind you guys of a few ground 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 the quorum. Please keep microphones muted unless called on 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 comments will not be accepted via the Q and A except for those individuals who requested the accommodation. As per 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 will be addressed last. As with all hybrid meetings it is very difficult to keep track of all those wanting to speak in person and virtually so please be patient. All comments and questions from the public may be subject to two minutes at the discretion of the chair so please keep in mind depending on time constraints we may also limit comments to one per issue.

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 the designated public comment period. The chair may also use their discretion to determine if comments will be accepted outside of those times.

JILL HANO: Thanks, Rekeesha. I'm having issues with charging my computer. So now we have to approve the meeting summary. Can you put that on the screen. Everyone should have reviewed the April meeting summary which is attached in the agenda and you received via email. There is also a copy in the committee packet. I need a motion to adopt the April meeting summary. Mr. Billings.

MIKE BILLINGS: I make a motion that we adopt the April meeting summary as submitted.

JILL HANO: Okay. Mr. Billings motions to adopt the April meeting summary. Is there a second? Ayden.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: I second.

JILL HANO: Okay. Ayden Blunschi seconds. Is there any discussion? Any public comment? Thank you. The April meeting minutes have been accepted.

Now we are on the noncontractual updates. Mr. Bernard brown.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Mr. Bernard had to step out just a second so he has asked to go last so if you want to move

on to Mr. Brian Bennett.

JILL HANO: Okay. So Brian, could you please continue our LDH, or start our LDH updates. Will you provide us with updates from Medicaid?

BRIAN BENNETT: Sure Jill. Hi everybody. I'm Brian Bennett representing the Medicaid agency. I'm going to give a few updates related to some legislative items from last session and even one that was tied to a bill from the 2025 session. So I'll start with that one. House bill one from the 2025 regular session allocated some funding for durable medical equipment rates. So we are working right now to increase rates for certain what we call DME or durable medical equipment items and services to align those with the rate that's paid by the Medicare program. Specifically those will include orthotics and prosthetics, diabetic shoes including fitting for the shoes and any modification and compression garments. So the rates for those items will be increased basically to align with what Medicare pays for those items. So they will be the same between Medicare and Medicaid programs as far as DME providers.

Also, in the 2026 legislative session House Bill 222 was passed and that's involving dental services. What that does is it adds coverage of dental procedures for a Medicaid beneficiary if the procedure is medically necessary in order for the individual to be cleared to receive a procedure, a Medicaid covered procedure. So if the doctor or the clinician says this individual needs this type of dental service in order to have, let's say a surgery, that's what this bill provides. It adds coverage just for those services, dental services or procedures that are medically necessary in order for the individual to be cleared for another procedure. Again, coverage and funding for that was provided by House Bill 222. We're referring to that as medically integrated dental care and this will primarily affect our adult population that currently is only able to access denture services through their dental benefit coverage. I think for children, children on Medicaid they already have comprehensive dental coverage and then those enrolled in one of our OIDD waivers or residents of ICFs also have comprehensive coverage. So this would mainly impact those adults that currently only have access to denture services. And assuming CMS approves our state plan amendment that we're

submitting we're aiming for a January 1st implementation date for that.

And I think that's all that I had to provide relative to legislation or items that came up from legislation that we're working on right now.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Brian. Ms. Elliot, you have the floor.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Hello Brian. I've talked to you a couple of times about families that I worked with and myself that have waivers and that have problems with Medicaid. And I just wanted to come back and report I'm doing the Medicaid dance again with Domino and it's going really, really well and I'm getting a whole lot less calls from parents. So I just wanted you to know.

BRIAN BENNETT: That is great to hear, Ms. Elliot. But still I'm thrilled that it's going well right now but if you ever hit another hiccup or if something happens please reach out to us and let us know.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Elliot. Any more questions from Brian? Gearry, do you have any updates from OAAS that you would like to share with us?

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes, ma'am. Thank you, Jill. I would like to provide an update on our PACE, our Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly. Can you guys hear me okay?

JILL HANO: Yes, sir.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: We just put out an RFI on yesterday. No, actually it was on Monday we put out an RFI for PACE. If you recall we had an RFI previously published about three or four months ago for North Louisiana. But this one that went out on Monday is a statewide RFI. We're looking to gain information and gauge interest in opening PACE centers across the state. Also highlighting the rural health transformation grant and being able to open the alternative care sites or satellite locations if you will. Even in areas where there may be a PACE location the goal would be for those alternative care sites to offer services in rural areas. Again, the RFI that was published recently for North Louisiana (inaudible) is the provider or respondent that was selected and they are in the process of solidifying a location in the Shreveport area. Once the location is solidified they will be submitting documentation to CMS to move forward with the process of opening a PACE center in Shreveport Louisiana.

During the 2026 legislative session there were an additional 750 community choices waiver slots added. So we are already working towards filling those slots. I previously mentioned that the department or the agency, we have been working with home and community-based services or HCBS Strategies on information and gaining input as it relates to how we manage our community choices waiver wait list. We've since got a final report from them and we've submitted information to LDH EMT on how we plan to move forward. If you recall our wait list is based upon a first come first serve process and we're going to move to more of an equity-based process based upon need rather than first come first serve. So we have our preliminary overview of how we plan to move forward and our next step is in the month of August we are going to be hosting town halls for our providers and stakeholders. They will be August the 10th we will be in Bossier for a town hall followed by one August the 11th in Alexandria. And then August 14th we will have a town hall here in Baton Rouge kind of providing an overview of how we plan to move forward in our revamp of the process as it relates to our CCW prioritization process. That's all I have.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. Any questions before we move on? Ms. Elliot, you have the floor.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: I'm sorry. So can you tell me the name of the agency you direct and let me follow up.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: At the agency we work with HCB Strategies as it relates to the wait list reduction, is that what you're referring to?

MYLINDA ELLIOT: No. You're from what agency?

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm with the Office of Aging and Adult Services.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. So the follow-up. I don't understand what the relationship is between the Office of Aging and Adult Services and places like-- well, in my parish the Calcasieu Council on Aging. Could you explain a little bit about that?

GEARRY WILLIAMS: Yes. We have some of the same, we work pretty closely with the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs and the Councils on Aging across the state they fall under the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs whereas the Office of Aging and Adult Services falls under the Department of Elderly.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Yeah, okay. That's a big help.

Thank you.

GEARRY WILLIAMS: No problem.

JILL HANO: Is Bernard here in the room?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes, he returned.

JILL HANO: Okay. Do you want to give us your update?
That is a lot of words, OI DDS.

BERNARD BROWN: I just have really one. Well, two updates so it shouldn't take longer than a minute or two. First update is tied to the rate study mini summit. We conducted that summit what was that, Friday before last. We had a poll at the end where you take a QR code and we collected all those results and we're analyzing those now. Next step is to talk to executive management at LDH to finalize what scenario of the three scenarios we landed with on what we're going to take. So once we get that down we'll send out memos and information kind of sharing where we landed in terms of what we're going to do with the rate increase and what next steps look like. So that's the first update.

The next update, this is more of a lookout for y'all. If you remember as part of our value-based payment incentive model we had an incentive tied to support coordination. A support coordination satisfaction survey for lack of a better terms. We worked with the value-based groups to determine and identify questions in that survey. That survey is about to go out if it hadn't gone out already. So what I need from you all is to let folks know that they will probably be receiving emails to their email on file to complete that survey via Survey Monkey. You will probably also get communications or be contacted by your support coordination agency asking you if you received that email and/or trying to assist you in completing that survey.

Why is the survey important. This survey is basically what you all asked us for. It gives us a pretty good assessment of the quality of support coordination in terms of what they're providing, are they checking the boxes for you all. We will take that data, analyze it, put out the findings and then hopefully based on that look for areas of opportunity to kind of enhance that service. So again, just be on the lookout if you know folks. Tell them hey, check your emails because everyone has their own unique link. This only goes to waiver recipients for obvious reasons because if you're a non-waiver recipient you don't

have support coordination. So it will only go to waiver recipients and it should go to the email on file. So if you know you either don't have an email on file, or know someone who doesn't, or if you change your email like reach out to your support coordination agency yourself and make sure they have all your contact information because they're working with us to make sure we get the survey to everyone. That's it.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. Okay, Mr. Doyle, you have the floor.

LIAM DOYLE: Thank you, Jill. How long is the survey active? How long do you accept it?

BERNARD BROWN: I think we're going to keep it up for 30 days. The reason why it's just 30 days is the incentive payment to support coordinators is based on the performance score is tied to the Office of Planning and Budget and that money dries up September 30th. I don't know if there's a better term than dries up. We won't be able to access that money after September 30th.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Liam. Ms. Elliot you have the floor.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Hello Bernard.

BERNARD BROWN: Good afternoon.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: How you doing?

BERNARD BROWN: Depends on what your question is.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. So since the mini summit, or at least at the mini summit, there were a lot invested that didn't agree with the two choices on the poll. Tell me, because I probably just don't understand, how the ones that had a third choice are being folded into this decision-making process.

BERNARD BROWN: That's a great question Mylinda because that third choice wasn't on the poll because the poll was created before the third scenario was created. But we did document that and the documentation we're sharing with EMT does include that, what would I call that, I don't want to call it a stipulation, but would also include that scenario for consideration. Yeah, so we're not leaving it out Mylinda. It is included in what we're sharing with EMT so they will be made aware of the third option.

Because when you think about it, I know that some people are like the third option, what you talking about. So in the mini summit, for those who didn't come, there was advocates that proposed a certain percentage of whatever

was appropriated via House Bill one go directly or be reflected in the minimum wage salary of direct support workers. Just to kind of give you an example. Let's say hypothetically the rate increased based on the amount of money that was appropriated resulted in a 50-cent increase to all the services, right. What was proposed was that a percentage of that 50-cents be reflected in the minimum wage floor. So right now the minimum wage floor for OIDD is 9-dollars an hour. Let's say we said 50-percent of the 50-cents being reflected through rule in the floor that would go up to 9.5. It's a scenario of three but I really look at it as like in addition to the two scenarios that were presented as opposed to this scenario. And I see Brenton and Ebony shaking their head. I captured that right, right?

There was some conversation around the percentage that should go to the wage, the rule. Some people said all of it. Some people said a requisite sample based off of what was in the rate study. So we have to iron all of that out but we captured the spirit of the requests. Does that make sense Mylinda?

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Sure. So is your target still October or has that changed?

BERNARD BROWN: Still October.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. Cool. One more question. The survey about support coordination. I shouldn't have it yet. I should be looking for it, right?

BERNARD BROWN: Yep. And if you don't get it in the next two weeks call your support coordination agency and tell them like hey, do you have my correct contact information. Because those are coming straight from OIDD. If we don't have your correct information in our system you won't get it.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. That was going to be my next little bit was okay, what to do if they didn't get it. Okay. Great. That way I can talk to my families. I appreciate you.

BERNARD BROWN: Yes, ma'am.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. Any more questions?
Brenton.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Bernard I had a question. I guess a follow-up from the mini summit. We had talked to some providers that mentioned they didn't have the updated cost reports. I know there was a conversation during the mini

summit about how they don't have to wait until November. They can get them in as early as they need. Actually spoke with some folks yesterday, they still don't have those cost reports. And so I guess I'm trying to understand ultimately it boils down to we as the council we're thinking of our advocacy agenda. This is obviously something that I think we need to continue working on because we haven't achieved what we're looking to achieve yet. And so we're going to have to start piecing together that part of what our ask is going to be. I know the cost reports are something that's important to determine how we need to move forward with that. I know I am concerned if things aren't in until November we're not going to have a great ask for budget purposes if you will. But if there's multiple providers from multiple agencies that are telling me they don't have the cost reports I don't know was that emailed to them. Some are telling me it's not even on LDH's website. It's on the website of the people that did the ICF study and not even the ones that did the HCBS study. So I guess I'm just trying to figure out when is everybody supposed to get the cost reports or have they already got it?

BERNARD BROWN: They are already there. They're in the same spot that the cost reports have always been in for the last decade. There's not a secret spot. So that tells me two things, and I'm not going to fuss, is that most of the providers never filled them out anyway if they don't know where to find them, right. They never changed the space. But just to be clear, I believe, and Brian I hate to put you on the spot, if you go to the LDH site and you go to the provider resources section I think there's a link that brings you to where all of those documents and the instructions and the guides are housed. They're right, I think it is housed under (inaudible). It's a portal that they made specifically for HCBS providers in Louisiana. So it's not like a general (inaudible) site. It's a dedicated site to us. But that link is on LDH's site.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Where the other cost reports are?

BERNARD BROWN: Same spot, yep.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And is there any training or anything on these new cost reports?

BERNARD BROWN: All the providers should have already been through training. They had multiple training sessions. But there's recorded, I believe there's

recorded webinars as well. The recorded webinars and additional information should be there. I just want to make sure that's clear. There's the old training material and then there's some new training material but I don't know (inaudible) for everyone because they've had pilot groups so I'm trying not to confuse some things. They've done pilot groups with providers so some providers have been trained and actually completed the cost report. Based on the feedback that's how we were able to publish it. Did I miss anything Brian or did I misspeak?

BRIAN BENNETT: That's true as far as I know. I was trying to find the link really quick just to see what was on the website. That's what I was looking for.

BERNARD BROWN: Yeah, I have it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I guess I'm confused. Some have been trained if they were in the pilot or they've all been trained?

BERNARD BROWN: Some if they were in the pilot but the instructions and the training material is on the website on the cost report. So you don't have to wait is what I'm saying.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Got you. And so I guess nothing has changed in the last week or two since we had the mini summit. Y'all are still doing a placeholder in your budget?

BERNARD BROWN: That's my plan, yeah.

BRENTON ANDRUS: For 28's budget. It will be 27 session but for the 28.

BERNARD BROWN: Just so we're clear when I say both I mean the rate increase per the rate study as well as the state general fund swap of the stat ded.

BRENTON ANDRUS: And is that just the stat deds of what was done this session dealing with rates or you looking at all the stat deds?

BERNARD BROWN: The primary issue related to the next fiscal session, the next session, especially since it's a special session, is the NOW fund. If you remember we started all the major rate increases and the money appropriated for waiver slots tied to the most appropriate waiver. All of that was started out of the NOW fund. So that fund isn't a revenue generating fund meaning it doesn't come from tax revenue like the DD trust fund. So if there's not a surplus in the state budget that fund won't get funded. So what that means for that fund is is that the money that's appropriated out of that fund if it

outpaces the balance then we don't have the money to cover it. Which means several of the-- like the night rate increase, the \$2.50 increase, the complex care rate as well as some waiver funding will go away. So when I say both I mean both like the NOW fund trust replacing that money and the rate increase. And I was saving that for tomorrow.

And I'm not trying to scare anyone. I'm just trying to make sure everyone's aware to be transparent what risks exist out there. Especially to the DD council you all worked so hard to get that NOW fund structured the way it is it's important to share like long-term stability of that fund. And I would think we intended, you all specifically, to have that fund produce money for recurring obligations. Meaning like for bills that come every year. I think that's not what the desire of that fund was for or maybe it was. I wasn't intimately involved when we got the language reworked. But it's important to note that there's several obligations out of that fund that have an annual bill. And we need to make sure we make an effort to start moving that means of financing or that money to other funding so we don't have to lean on the NOW fund to cover those bills. Any questions on that?

JILL HANO: Ms. Mylinda you have the floor.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Thank you again. I appreciate it. So I understand some things in the past that were recurring came out of the NOW fund. But in the past legislative session the money that the legislators appropriated that didn't come out of the NOW fund?

BERNARD BROWN: No, ma'am. It came out of a different stat ded. A different fund.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. So there's questions about the amount of money in the NOW fund for some things that we already worked on and then more money for rate increases. Okay. I think I understand. Does that sound right?

BERNARD BROWN: I'm not sure. That's right. I'm just joking.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: All right. Thank you. I appreciate y'all.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Mylinda. Any other questions? So we're moving on to contractual activities. It's in your packet in your status report. Stephanie would you like to start us off?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I will start with Partners in Policymaking. So Partners in Policymaking that's

activity 1.1.1. They had 22 applications for the 2026 Partners in Policymaking class. In June they had 18 participants graduate. Six of those were self-advocates. We are right now planning the debriefing, which is just kind of like their end of the year come to with the Partners in Policymaking coordinator to plan the next Partners in Policymaking class. So 2027 class. The 2027 application will be coming out soon. The hope is to have it out at the beginning of August. I believe Rebecca wanted to have it out August 1st. That was when I spoke to her last that was the date that she gave. She was trying to confirm one last date with the hotel so I haven't gotten an update in a couple of days so I'm not sure if she was able to confirm that date yet. But I will definitely have that update at the next council meeting.

And once that application goes out it's usually out for 30 days. So the application goes out for about a month. So it will be out until September and then sometime in September or October is usually when they have a selection committee. So for policymaking to pick the selection committee they have a selection committee where they have a committee of participants that select the next partners class. And then those selected and alternates they receive the agreement and things like that with the dates. And it begins in January. Once I have all of those dates and everything confirmed after our debriefing the website will be updated. We'll be sending out that LADDC News with the dates, and the application, and the graduating class picture. We did send out in the annual report the picture. No wait, that was last years. Sorry. Trying to keep the years straight. So we will be sending out an LADDC News with the graduating class, their picture, as well as the application for the upcoming class once we have those dates set in stone with the hotel. Are there any questions about Partners in Policymaking? I know I gave a lot of information but there was a lot that happened in the end.

I'll move on to YLF. I'm also going to give a lot about that too. The YLF also just happened. It happened, I don't know, at the beginning of July. Maybe a couple weeks ago. There were 18 staff. I think when I was there I believe there were ten delegates total. It was July 9th through the 12th at LSUE, so LSU Eunice. And they had-- it was great. We are also planning a debriefing coming up. Rowan was out of town so we're trying to plan a debriefing

coming up. Again, kind of like the same thing with the Partners in Policymaking with figuring out just like what worked, what didn't work, things they would change. With the Youth Leadership Forum I got there on a Thursday. It started on Thursday. It lasted until Sunday. Every day they had different sessions. They ranged, and I know in the previous quarter like I think in the first quarter the status report we kind of give more information about what the different sessions are about. But there's sessions on dating and relationships, disability history, there's a capitol day. They met with the secretary of state to learn about voting rights. They were able to actually do a demonstration with the voting machines and learn about voting accessibility. That's just to name a few of all the great sessions they did have.

And then also it is hosted on a college campus so they get that real-life college experience away from home and on a college campus. So it was a great weekend all around. I had fun. I didn't even sleep there. Are there any questions about YLF? I'll have a better update once we do have our debriefing scheduled. But like I said, it was just at the beginning of July so really the update will be more on the quarter four status report. But because it just happened I did kind of want to give y'all an update and let y'all know about it. But once we have that debriefing I'll tell y'all more about what's upcoming within the next YLF session and things to look forward to and all that kind of stuff.

The next activity is activity 1.1.8 and that's the abuse, neglect and exploitation training. I also have a little card. It's just a summary of all of their trainings so far. So they did have one at the beginning of the month in Lafayette but at the time I didn't have the data. I did just receive it. I just didn't have the time to input the data yet before this meeting. So right now they have scheduled all of their trainings so far. I did send out an LADDC News that on June 5th for all of the July trainings for the action against abuse and their other activity, which is their transition to adulthood that Team Dynamics puts on. So it's just like a little snippet of all their trainings in July and then I'll do another one for all their August trainings just so that way I'm not sending out one for every single training. I sent those out. They have one coming up today and then the next ones are in August

in Monroe and Shreveport. Are there any questions about the action against abuse training?

JILL HANO: Mr. Bennett you have the floor.

BRIAN BENNETT: I just had a quick question. Is the vendor producing any training materials or are they just in-person workshops?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: The action against abuse?

BRIAN BENNETT: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: They have materials. They do have resources. They have power points.

BRIAN BENNETT: Just if any stakeholders wanted to share the training with any individuals would that be possible or do you have to attend an in-person training in order to access it?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: At this point I would say you would have to attend it until our contract is up and then we can make them available. Because we do have access to all of those training materials and we can make them available to the public, yes.

BRIAN BENNETT: Okay.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: The action against abuse materials and resources that they use for the training he was asking like if stakeholders wanted that information if they would have to attend that training or if they could be made available. And I said at this point they would have to attend until our contract is up but once it's done it can be made available on the website.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. I mean if Team Dynamics produces that information. I don't know what-- I haven't actually been to this iteration of training so I don't know what resources they leave the training with. But those we can ask for them to be able to allow us to share that.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yeah. And some of it is scenario based. Like they go over scenarios. There's some videos. I did the training last year. I don't know how much of it has changed just because I have not gone to this years. But yeah, I can talk to them and find out, Brian, and if it is something that they can kind of package for us I can make it available.

BRIAN BENNETT: Okay. Thank you.

JILL HANO: Rowan you have the floor.

ROWAN DEJEAN: Hi everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am your Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum coordinator and I just wanted to say thank

you for funding training like this. I do want to say that I would really love personally to see more self-advocate and family attendance because through YLF we have really seen the prevalence of abuse in our community. So whenever you run a summer camp in Louisiana all staff are what's called mandated reporters. So if our staff hears any disclosure of abuse from any of our delegates they are mandated to report that. So we specifically train to identify what a disclosure sounds like, right, and how to go through that reporting process. And in our four years of running camp with an average of 10 to 12 delegates a year we have had five mandated reporting incidents varying in levels of severity. Which if we have a total of 45 delegates over those four years, right, we're looking at one in eight delegates, one in nine delegates facing abuse at home. So this is a pretty significant issue that we know is backed by statistics. And really this is happening within our family units. I think with this information it's really important that we really get more self-advocate and family engagement. Thank you.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Rowan. Any more questions?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: The only other thing that I would like to add, and I agree with what Rowan says completely. I do want to just state that the activity specifically does say to educate and train individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. That is the main point of this activity. And I know that it also includes caregivers and families. I'm the person that does all of the reporting, like the federal reporting in case y'all didn't know. I probably talk about it all the time though. And it's all the time that when I am looking at the numbers the number of self-advocates is also the lowest. It does not matter what the activity is, it doesn't matter who it's geared towards it is the lowest number of participants. And speaking to other councils it's kind of across the board. I don't know. I know we just need to really brainstorm with the council and other people, maybe other councils, other council members on how to get a good reach. I know I'm kind of going off on a tangent but that really just made me think about it Rowan. That is one of our biggest struggles is really reaching individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and making sure that they're aware of these opportunities and actually going to these activities and trainings. Any trainings

that we're putting on and knowing about the opportunities that are available. So other than that that is all that I have for my reports. Unless you have any other questions.

JILL HANO: Any questions for Stephanie? Thank you, Stephanie. Now Rekeesha, can you give us an update on the next few activities.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes, ma'am, I sure can. So the first one I have an update on is LaCAN. So LaCAN currently has 5,989 individuals registered for the council and LaCAN to receive information and action alerts. Since October 1st we've had 16 action alerts with 1,535 actions taken. We've had a total of seven yellow shirt days. 189 people in attendance to those yellow shirt days. And we had 12 testimonies given. They also participated in Disability Rights Day. They had 58 people in attendance.

As far as trainings on June 25th LaCAN and FHF directors participated in the legislative session (inaudible) to discuss ideas and strategies to improve advocacy activities and its effectiveness for the 2027 legislative session. They also continue to host two LaCAN leader conference calls per month to discuss current concerns and issues and develop advocacy strategies. For legislative visits they did a total of 73 and 42 of those were key member visits. They also completed a total of 170 informal visits in addition to those legislative visits. And that was with legislators to discuss their advocacy agenda.

And it is actually community input time. So we have community input meetings scheduled for all regions. These meetings provide an opportunity for members in the community to have an open discussion about the issues and concerns they have in their region. So this what you guys use as recommendations for you next legislative advocacy agenda. So please make sure as members of the council and leaders in your community you'll attend and participate in your regional meeting. So please get with your regional leader for more information. And the dates and times of all of those meetings are actually also on our website. So that's all the updates I have for LaCAN. Any questions?

If not I will move on to Families Helping Families. So since October the 1st there have been 25,735 individuals with disabilities and their families supported. Over 40,628 information and referrals have been completed. 325

trainings have been conducted with 6,397 attendees. 436 outreaches have been conducted at hospitals, pediatricians, school districts, applied behavior analysis clinics and also physical therapy clinics. Within the next few months we'll be conducting audits with all Families Helping Families Centers. The results of those audits will be provided at the next quarterly meeting.

Since our last quarterly meeting Families Helping Families in Acadiana, the Lafayette area, they are currently in search for a new executive director. If you're interested and would like to apply you can go to their website. I'm sorry. Not their website. You can email them at info@FHFACadiana.org. So until someone is hired Ms. Harrell Bergeron is serving as the interim executive director. On the flip side of that Families Helping Families Greater Baton Rouge has hired a new executive director. That's Ms. Stephanie. So we would like to definitely welcome her to the team. Any questions for Families Helping Families?

I'll keep the ball rolling. The next contract we have to discuss is with LSU. I know the last time we spoke in the last quarterly meeting we had not really gotten any information from LSU. So since then we have some good news. They have been working. So for the first initiative, which is the HEART initiative. That's sex education. Just to remind you guys the council contracted with LSU on this initiative to develop a universal designed comprehensive education curriculum for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families and professionals to navigate through sexual development, build healthy relationships and achieve lifelong sexual health. They agreed to draft and create materials and host three workshops to include 15 to 20 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, caregivers and experts. And also to pilot lessons in at least three Louisiana school districts.

So since February they have completed recruitment fliers for their workshops. They completed the (inaudible) team recruitment. And they are currently in the process of working on creating workshop protocols, drafting curriculum lessons and materials and recruiting workshop sites and participants. So according to the coordinator they are on track to meet the deliverables of

this contract and we'll keep, of course, reporting out to make sure you guys are updated on this initiative.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Rekeesha. Any questions? Ms. Mylinda.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: I must have hit it by accident. I'm so sorry Jill.

JILL HANO: Don't be sorry.

REKEESHA BRANCH: So I'll keep going with the last initiative I have. That's women's preventive health, the HER initiative. So just to remind you guys the council contracted with LSU for this one to develop plain language and visually supported resources to address critical gaps in women's health identified by the CDC which is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NHI which is the National Institute of Health. They agreed to draft ten health toolkits. Three fully validated and available online and in clinics and seven for future pilots with 100 plus downloads and 30 plus QR statements to be distributed and shared to over 200 Louisiana women with intellectual disabilities.

So since February they completed recruitment fliers for their workshops. They completed the topics for HER health toolkits and they're currently in the process of creating workshop protocols, creating a visual and plain language guide and creating three complete toolkits. According to the coordinator they are on track to meet the deliverables of the contract. That's all I have.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. So I have a question. What order did you talk about like because the last updates was that 2.12 or 2.31?

REKEESHA BRANCH: It should have been the last one was 2.31.

JILL HANO: Okay. Cool. Thank you. Any questions before we move on to our final activity? Brenton, do you want to take us home?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. So this is activity 2.1.3. This is the navigating the system co-occurring disorders activity that we partner with the Arc of Louisiana to do. This is the (inaudible) year of this activity. It's actually the final year. It's not continuing next year. So if you haven't been to one of the trainings yet and you're interested in attending certainly now is your chance.

For those of you that may not know this particular initiative really focuses on educating the attendees of

this training on those services and supports that are provided on the behavioral health side, the developmental disabilities side and managed care services as well. And really just making sure you kind of understand how to navigate each different system based on the particular needs that you have. And this year there was a wellness component that was also added that just focused on general wellness and understanding kind of how to make a wellness plan for yourself.

To date there have been 138 individuals trained. Almost 70 percent of those, right at about 94 are individuals with disabilities, which is great. There's really been a push this year to focus on folks with disabilities and not be so heavy on our family members and our professionals. And this contractor was able to do that by going to provider agencies and hosting trainings there, looking at day programs. Really trying to bring that training to where individuals are as opposed to waiting on them to come to you.

This quarter they were able to conduct trainings in the Houma Thibodaux area, the Greater New Orleans area. They also did a training in Northwest Louisiana, kind of Shreveport area. They are currently in the process, some of the areas that they have left to go would be the Central Louisiana area, Alexandria, Pineville, that central area. They're looking at getting those trainings scheduled. They're also going to go to the North Shore area. Next Wednesday on August 5th they have their region four Acadiana area training that's going to be happening. And they also have a statewide virtual training that's going to happen on August 13th. So for those people that can't actually go to a training or maybe you missed one that was near you you can attend that virtual training that's going to be on August 13th. So you can go to our website and check out the latest news section and that is going to have the LADDC News articles that we've shared for those two trainings, August 5th and August 13th. Those are also on our Facebook page. And it will tell you how to register for those. You can scan the QR code and click the link to get registered. These trainings are free. You just need to register that way they know you're coming and they have room for you and they have the materials for you.

We continue to get good feedback from participants particularly around the wellness component. Everyone

leaves this training with a wellness guide or a wellness plan. So you can actually create your own plan and bring that information to your family, your support coordinator, your doctor if you want to just so you can kind of understand exactly what areas that you should focus on for good health and what areas you may want to focus on. There's been a lot of great feedback. A lot of folks say they've been able to go and advocate on their own behalf after attending this training on their own health needs. So really getting some of those outcomes we're looking for with this particular component. That's all I got.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Brenton. Any questions for Brenton before we move on? Rekeesha will you please provide the announcements.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Please note that after this meeting our Act 378 committee meeting begins starting at 2:45 followed by education and employment committee meeting at 4:15. Also tomorrow is the full council meeting. It will start at 10 a.m. It will be in this same room. Those that have registered to participate virtually should have the links to the meeting in your email. That's all the announcements we have so far.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Rekeesha. Does anyone on the committee have any other announcements to make?

EBONY HAVEN: Jill I'm not on the committee but can I make an announcement?

JILL HANO: Yes, you can.

EBONY HAVEN: I didn't announce this at the executive committee meeting but I want to make sure I announce it at each other committee meeting we have today. The executive director of Medicaid will be here tomorrow for a presentation about the upcoming work requirements, the changes that are going to be made to Medicaid. And so I encourage everyone to attend. Tell your friends and family to attend. Just so you have that information and if you have any questions he will be here at our meeting to answer questions for you guys. Please be in attendance.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Ebony. Is there any public comment? All right. I hereby adjourn the meeting at 2:09. Thank y'all.