

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Executive Committee Meeting
September 11, 2026

JILL HANO: Okay. Good afternoon everyone. It is 2:36 on September 11th, 2026, and I would like to call this meeting of the executive committee to order. Ebony, would you please call the roll?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. Ms. Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Brooke Stewart. Brooke, can you hear me? We're calling the roll. We'll come back. Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: I'm here.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Renoda Washington. And Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

EBONY HAVEN: With you guys it is a quorum. With you three. I see Brooke but I don't know if she can hear us. Brooke, can you hear me?

BROOKE STEWART: Here. I'm here.

EBONY HAVEN: Great. Thank you.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Brooke.

EBONY HAVEN: You have four and you have a quorum Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Ebony. Next will you please read the virtual meeting protocols?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, I sure can. To ensure the meeting runs smoothly and that you can all participate in an orderly manner please adhere to the following rules. For committee members and members of the public attending in person please raise your hand to speak and wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking. 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 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 comment will not be accepted via the Q and A except for those 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 & A will be addressed last. As with all hybrid meetings it may 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.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Ebony. All right. The next item of business is the approval of the July 29th executive committee meeting summary which was distributed. The summary will not be read unless a member requests it. Are there any corrections? Hearing none, the minutes are approved as distributed.

All right. The next item of business is the consideration of the vendors for the FY27 action plan activities. We will begin with activity 3.1.4 which is to create a curriculum for childcare providers and early learning centers to better support children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The council did not receive any proposals for this activity. Ebony, will you please summarize staffs' outreach efforts and the options for moving forward.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. So like Jill said, unfortunately you all did not receive any proposals for activity 3.1.4. It was to create a curriculum for those childcare providers and early learning centers to be able to better support children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I just wanted to kind of tell you guys about the efforts that we made after the council meeting in July. We were hopeful that we would be able to work with our sister agency, LSU Human Development Center.

However, once we were in negotiations with them they basically could not meet the federal match. So with every contract that the council has anyone that we contract with has to put up a match. It's 25 percent. So they have to put up a 25-percent match. And for that match was I think 16,666. It's a weird number. But it's about 16,000-dollars and unfortunately they could not find a way to meet the match so we are not able to work with them on this particular activity.

So we did reach out to some other universities around Louisiana. We reached out to the University of Louisiana in Monroe, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Southeastern, Louisiana Tech and Northwestern University. And unfortunately we just did not have any success with finding anyone to work on this particular activity. So the committee has two options. And so the first option would be to eliminate this activity off your FY27 action plan. Or the second option would be to do something similar like what we did for transportation where instead of conducting the study the staff would do research. But there is a caveat with that particular option. As the staff and I were discussing this we were thinking that if you all were to pursue this particular initiative you would have to choose whether or not you want to pursue like the transportation initiative or the early childhood initiative because we foresee the early childhood care initiative being multi phased but then it costing you all several hundreds of thousands of dollars in that multi phased approach. And it would be the same thing with the transportation study. So we don't think that you would have the budget to do both things and so you will have to choose whether you want to pursue or if you want to pursue and prioritize early learning and childcare providers. So that's all I have Jill. If you guys have questions I will be happy to answer.

JILL HANO: Okay. Any questions?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes, I don't know how to raise my hand on this thing. I'm trying to figure out. But I feel that we need to pursue the childhood Early Steps but put it at a standstill and then we find, let the committee do some more searching and then go from there. Because I think we need to pursue doing for Early Steps for people and not-- haven't we had transportation we was trying to do at one time Ebony?

EBONY HAVEN: Well, I think every year transportation is on. Not as an activity but in your plan you all have that you want to work on transportation. I think, at least this is my first year since I've been here that you guys have actually had an activity dedicated to transportation. But I will say this, whatever you all decide it should be based on the input that you all received during your five-year planning. So the input that we received from the surveys from the community input meetings that we had you all should really consider the information that they provided in those surveys. And so if I were to remember correctly a lot of people wanted to pursue early childhood. And I will say that has been in y'all's plan for a while too. At least the last five-year plan it was in there and you guys didn't put any activities towards it. This year you wanted to dedicate an activity to it but unfortunately the activity that we chose nobody submitted any proposals for it.

ERICK TAYLOR: I understand we need to continue with that and put it on a standstill and let y'all do more research on it. Thank you.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Erick. Anything else?

REKEESHA BRANCH: There are no other hands raised.

JILL HANO: Okay. Unless I miss something what was more prevalent on the five-year public comment forum?

REKEESHA BRANCH: You have a hand raised Stephanie.

JILL HANO: You have the floor.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Thank you. I just looked in my document so give me one minute. This is the same document that I shared during the five-year planning. It's the top like most important rankings from our survey. And as you can see for most important number two is education and early intervention. Education and early intervention I kind of read the comments and it goes along with what I think the council is kind of looking to do. Like students are suspended or expelled more than they should be, denying services. But one of them was something, I think it said they couldn't get in quick enough. I don't remember where it was though. But like not getting the help they need quick enough.

JILL HANO: Education.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yes, but like getting the resources like at school too. Like not getting the help in schools or programs that they needed like in a timely manner. I

don't remember where I saw that. I know it was on here. Maybe I missed it or maybe I'm thinking about something else. I don't know. But anyway, I just wanted to show this document also because that was the education and early intervention part was like within the top three of the most important things that people have identified as needs assessment. Families do not learn about services early enough and testing takes too long. That was the one I was thinking about. Sorry.

JILL HANO: Okay.

REKEESHA BRANCH: You have a hand raised.

JILL HANO: You have the floor.

ANGELA HARMON: Thanks, Jill. I mean looking, now that you refreshed everyone's memory, it is very important. And I think as such Ebony had mentioned that since it's been a priority maybe we should do childcare. Of course I was looking at it from a different perspective of transportation because I know that's been tossed around as well for a little bit. But I guess we should just try to keep that one as an option and just let y'all do more research and figure out how we can address it maybe in a different way. So maybe we can get someone to kind of send us a proposal or something. That's all I wanted to say.

JILL HANO: Okay.

EBONY HAVEN: Jill, can I have the floor?

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: So just addressing what Angela just said. Stephanie and I did meet with the University of Oklahoma. We met with the University of Oklahoma earlier this week and they are doing something similar to what the council wants to accomplish. And so they kind of told us about their multitiered approach, which is why we do think that this is going to be a multiyear project for you all. And it's going to cost a little bit more than that 50,000-dollars that you all allocated for this year alone. So we wanted to do a little bit more research to figure out where should we start because they started with materials. So we're thinking that maybe you guys could start with materials first. Find someone to develop materials for those childcare providers and those early learning centers.

Then the second tier could maybe be to pilot those materials with maybe a childcare center that's in a rural area and a childcare center that's in an urban area. And

then the third tier or third phase you can expand. That's what we were thinking. And of course we can discuss this with the planning committee. But since Stephanie did show where the needs assessment showed that early childcare and early learning was a priority just keep that in mind that you all should pursue activities that are centered around what the public thought were barriers in the system. And so that was one of the barriers that we found that was most important. And transportation, I don't know if you noticed, but it was like at the bottom of that list.

JILL HANO: Okay. Good to know.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I just want to show this one more time. Just like the first chart that kind of has the rankings and if you look transportation is like five across the bottom. So it's kind of like midlevel. But it's really however y'all want to interpret this too because childcare and early intervention are kind of at the bottom of the other two but it was also brought up as one of the most important, the number one most important thing.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you. Okay, Ebony, will you help me get from A to B?

EBONY HAVEN: So if you go to that third bullet the second paragraph you want to ask the committee about a motion for this particular activity.

JILL HANO: Okay. The chair will now entertain a motion regarding 3.1.4. I don't have a color printer so I think I'm reading my personal notes.

EBONY HAVEN: I can go over the options with them if you need. So the committee, these are the two options. You guys can motion to remove activity 3.1.4 all together or you can move to conduct research similar to what we're doing with that transportation activity. I'm not sure what activity it is right now. I don't have the plan up. But it would be something similar like conduct research on what is needed to create a curriculum or materials for childcare providers and early learning centers to better support children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Now I want to say if you go with option two then it's staff's recommendation that we take off the transportation activity. So those are the two options for the committee so now you can entertain a motion Jill if you want to prompt them.

JILL HANO: Okay. So does anyone have a motion either

way?

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion that we take the transportation off and go with childcare.

JILL HANO: Wait, can you repeat that Erick. I'm confused.

ERICK TAYLOR: If I'm saying it wrong y'all correct me. I motion that we remove transportation and we keep the one with the childcare.

JILL HANO: Okay. Cool. So Erick motioned for childcare. Is there a second?

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

JILL HANO: Okay. Ms. Harmon seconds to continue with activity 3.1.4 to create a curriculum for childcare. Conduct research on what is needed to create a curriculum on materials for childcare providers and early learning centers to better support children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It's moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? Any additional public comment?

REKEESHA BRANCH: There are no hands raised.

JILL HANO: Okay. Now we will take a vote, roll call vote. When your name is called please say yes if you are in favor. No if you oppose. Abstain if you abstain. Ebony, please call the roll.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. I am just finalizing the motion so you guys can see it. The highlighted part is the new activity. Ms. Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: I'm in favor of it.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon, yes. Ms. Brooke Stewart. Brooke, are you there? Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

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

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Brooke Stewart, yes. You have three yeas or yeses Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. I've never had to say this. There are three yes votes and zero no votes and zero abstentions. The motion passes without objection. Three nays and zero abstentions. The motion is adopted.

The next activity is activity 3.2.1 which is to create and promote a toolkit for employers about the benefits of hiring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and ways to support them in the workplace. The committee will consider three proposals. Team

Dynamics, FHF of Greater Baton Rouge and Capital Area Autism Network. We will begin with the committee's ratings and discussion of the proposals. Ebony, would you please present the ratings chart and average score for each applicant?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. So I'm going to make my screen just a little bit bigger so you guys can see better. So for the proposal from Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge, and this is out of 50 points, the average score for FHF of Greater Baton Rouge was 46. The average score for Capital Area Autism Network or CAAN is 45. And the average score for Team Dynamics was 40.5. The score that they each received. FHF the highest score was 48. So was Capital Area Autism Network. The highest score for Team Dynamics was 50. The lowest score for each of those for FHF was 44. The lowest score for CAAN was 43. And then Team Dynamics the lowest score was 32. That last column just gives you the highest point difference or the difference from those highest averages.

In that second table where it says suggested discussion focus this is where you guys had the most variation between your scores. So for Team Dynamics the statement of need it varied from three to eight. For Families Helping Families the goals and objectives, action plan and evaluation strategies sort of varied from four to six in each category. And then for Capital Area Autism Network I think the greatest variation was qualifications. It varied from five to eight. That may be a good point for you guys to start discussing in those areas where your scores were sort of different. You can see the average scores at that top table, Jill. Again, FHF was 46, CAAN was 45 and Team Dynamics was 40.5.

JILL HANO: Okay. So committee members, what questions or comments do we have?

ANGELA HARMON: For me with Families Helping Families, this is Angela, I think it's on page two. It was like the target and maybe I looked at it wrong. It seemed like it was a little ambitious. (Inaudible) it's going to be more and I'm not sure if I just looked at that wrong. So that was my only real concern about the outreach part or the reach target shall I say. And then for the other one I think I had a question about, like you said, the qualification or the variations. I'm not familiar with that particular Capital Area Autism Network. I guess I

should have Googled more background on them as well. Most of them were, for me when I rated them, they were close. So there may have been only a point or could have been the same. I can't remember now. My two top contenders. Thank you.

JILL HANO: Okay. I have a question Angela. What did you say about target? Page two I don't see the word target.

ANGELA HARMON: It was page two of the eval sheet, not the actual page two of the proposal that Ebony gave us. I don't know what I'm saying. It's on my evaluation sheet.

JILL HANO: Oh, okay.

ANGELA HARMON: Yeah, that's all I was telling you. Under the qualifications portion.

EBONY HAVEN: Jill, this is Ebony. Can I say something real quick?

JILL HANO: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: I was just going to let the committee know that there are representatives from Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge, CAAN and Team Dynamics here so if you guys have specific questions they are here to answer any specific questions that you guys have. So Angela, if you wanted to know more information about CAAN Drew is here. Drew Walker from CAAN, he's here so he can kind of tell you a little bit about his organization. I met with Erick yesterday and I think he had the same questions.

ANGELA HARMON: Thank you, yes.

JILL HANO: Are y'all waiting for me? So does Drew or Ms. Sharon or Greater Baton Rouge want to speak?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Drew is unmuted.

JILL HANO: Okay, Mr. Walker, you have the floor. And can you please introduce yourself because I've been on the council for nine years and I am not familiar with your organization.

DREW WALKER: Absolutely. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak with y'all and for the consideration that you gave our proposal. I am Drew Walker. I am the executive director of the Capital Area Autism Network. Our history is that we were founded by a study that was published in 2016 by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation with support from the Wilson Foundation and from SSA Consultants that looked at gaps within the autism community. It made 25 recommendations on how to fill those gaps. It was all volunteer based until I joined the organization at the end

of 22. And I am not surprised that you have not heard of me because we have been--

JILL HANO: I'm very sorry. I say inappropriate things.

DREW WALKER: No, that's not inappropriate at all. So we are tasked with serving as a backbone organization to pull cross sector agencies and service providers together to solve those gaps that exist within the autism community. We have autism in our name but I do have a little bit of an expansive definition of that to include other types of neurodivergent such as ADHD or anxiety and things like that. I'm also very collaborative and interested in working together with other organizations in different disabilities. So Epilepsy Alliance, Down Syndrome Awareness Group. Different things like that. So that is who our organization is. We are a backbone organization. We are not a service provider. We do have a lot of really good connections across the Baton Rouge area but also statewide through my involvement with Autism Society of Louisiana. So that's kind of our background. Is there anything else that I can answer?

JILL HANO: Any questions for Mr. Walker?

REKEESHA BRANCH: There are no hands raised at the time.

JILL HANO: Okay.

REKEESHA BRANCH: We have a hand raised Jill, Ms. Stephanie with GBR.

JILL HANO: Okay. Ms. Stephanie, you have the floor.

STEPHANIE ASHFORD: Good evening everyone. My name is Stephanie Ashford. I'm the executive director for Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge. I wanted to address Ms. April's concern. Are you talking about the number of employers that we plan to reach at the 500 number? Is that the one you were talking about?

ANGELA HARMON: Yes, that's what I was talking about.

STEPHANIE ASHFORD: I just want to explain that. Yes, it was a typo but at the same time being that it's on paper I came up with a plan to make it happen. The plan is because we are Families Helping Families with some networks around the State of Louisiana, we cover of course region two our seven parishes, but we are partnered with our sister organizations and work with them in their communities to identify at least 50 employers in those areas to help with identifying so we can address making sure we do the employer toolkit in all those areas since it's a statewide

initiative. So that is the goal and the direction we will go to partner with them as well as other agencies like the Chamber of Commerce. But we know in some of those rural areas it may be smaller but that means in NOLA and here in Baton Rouge we may be able to reach more to balance those numbers out. But that's the direction we plan on going. That's the strategy we have in place being that we have to cover the whole state.

ANGELA HARMON: Thank you for clarifying that because I just thought it was, like you said, a pretty big target. Thank you.

ERICK TAYLOR: Can I have the floor?

JILL HANO: Yes, sir.

ERICK TAYLOR: I have a couple questions that I seen. On the application she had breakdowns of what they going to do at a certain time and what they going to do in this time. I feel like is that a bit too much what y'all trying to handle at one time? I just need a clarification. Do you have, how can I say this where you would understand me. I mean, it was a lot on there that y'all trying to cover and I'm just trying to figure y'all got a goal and plan. It's not in front of me. Overall my question is do y'all think that's an overload at one time y'all trying to do?

STEPHANIE ASHFORD: I'm very strategic in the direction that I plan to go with this initiative if we're given the opportunity simply because we do have the staff. Since I've been there we went from a staff of 7 to 12 and we're about to increase to 15 because we see the need in the community and we want to do more to really address the concerns and create solutions for our families that we hear from and we talk to on the regular to know this is definitely a concern of theirs. So with these ideas a lot of it is once we develop the committee these are topics of discussion that we can determine whether we want to include in the toolkit. But it at least gives everyone a starting point of something to talk about and have a discussion so we can get our brains going and come up with a plan to actually put this toolkit in place based on these conversations that we will have.

And then the advisory council of course once we determine which are the topics we need to address and put in the toolkit and present it to the council for approval to make sure we're heading in the right direction as well. That's in alignment with the goals and objectives of the

proposal. And we have great partnerships also with the agencies we're already working with because we do hire individuals with disabilities at our organization so we hear the concerns of those individuals when they're there. We know that transportation is an issue. We know that even some of them especially have an incident, not an incident, but we have an individual right now we hired her and she's in a wheelchair but because of her benefits she could no longer keep her job there because they were saying that she can't work because of her type of disability that she had. We know that's a frustrating situation for individuals with disabilities as well. They want to work and they're capable of doing something but if they're still limited by the system how can we get past that in regards to whatever policies are being implemented or changed so that people can really have the opportunity to thrive in their jobs and work.

ERICK TAYLOR: You saying y'all want to build a team with people with disabilities and you want to have families with parents involved and stuff like that?

STEPHANIE ASHFORD: Yes, sir.

ERICK TAYLOR: I'm correct?

STEPHANIE ASHFORD: Yes, sir. We will have individuals and self-advocates. We will have families. We will have employers and stakeholders involved with this council. Individuals from organizations that deal with workplace disability. We already have a list of individuals that we plan to contact, some of them we already have been in communication with in regards to this initiative and they're very excited to be a part of it. EBR school when it comes to transition services they definitely want to be involved. Capital Area with the Aging, we already partner with them. There are definitely other organizations as well but we are willing to put forth the effort. We have a very strong team of individuals that are very passionate about what we do to help individuals with disabilities in our community.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay. I thank you very much because when I looked at it I said that's a bit much on the paper but I appreciate you coming in to talk to us where we can get an understanding of it because 500 people that kind of pushed me out my wheelchair. I'm glad you explained that part. I understand what you're saying. I'm just speaking out. And if I'm out of line. I just feel like somebody

need to be coming out to speak to the board too so we can get a better understanding because that's like putting people that's with disability in a box. Because a lot of us do want to work and a lot of us do want to make changes but if you put us in that box where okay dam if you do, dam if you don't. But my question is what happens when the checks do stop and we don't have skills to work.

STEPHANIE ASHFORD: Yes, sir. And we have to make sure that every individual has an opportunity to get those skills through career building, through on-the-job-training, job readiness programs as well as job placement. All of that is very key making sure that the skill set is there and each individual is equipped before we place them.

Another thing I was about to bring up because that young lady was only 21 years old. She just turned 21 and this was her first job that she had an opportunity. She was doing data entry for us and she was doing a great job. And you can just see the difference in her now because she just feels like well, what do I do now. So we want to make sure we address those concerns of our families as well.

ERICK TAYLOR: Thank you very much.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Angela and Erick. So Angela, I did some digging. This 500, you got that number from the proposal comparison? Okay.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Jill, I think Ms. Stephanie has something else she would like to add.

JILL HANO: Perfect. You can continue.

REKEESHA BRANCH: She's asking if you can come back to her. She lost her train of thought for a second.

JILL HANO: Sure. Now I just have papers everywhere so bear with me. I'm so sorry y'all.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I have my hand raised. I'm sorry. It's Stephanie.

JILL HANO: Stephanie.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I also just wanted to let the committee know that Ms. Sharon Delvisco is on the meeting also from Team Dynamics. So I didn't know if y'all wanted to have her also talk about their proposal since she's the last one. And then that way if y'all have any questions for her y'all can ask those.

JILL HANO: Okay, Ms. Sharon, you have the floor.

SHARON DELVISCO: Thank you very much. I appreciate it. First, I would like to say thank you for the

opportunity to participate in the process for the submission of the proposals. This is an exciting topic for Team Dynamics to be involved in. We just finished a year-long agreement with Florida Parishes Human Services Authority to get their Capable Employment Initiative up and running for them. And I have been involved with people with disabilities for over 35 years. My son is on the spectrum and I am a person with a disability myself. And I'm very fortunate to work at Team Dynamics because it allows me the opportunity to apply for opportunities like this when they become available.

I guess one of the things that I recently did was I completed the Virginia Commonwealth University employment specialist certificate program. My very first job in the field 35 years ago working with folks with disabilities was as a job coach for employment specialists and it's just really close to my heart. I've always been interested in making sure that folks with disabilities work and have the support that they need in order to work in the community. I just appreciate the opportunity to participate. And if you guys have any specific questions. I'm not sure what questions people might have had about the information included about the need for the benefits of a program like this. I think this is a necessary resource. I think the toolkit is a great idea. I think that multiple employers in the state have just never considered recruiting and hiring and supporting employees with disabilities because they don't understand how it works. And if the toolkit was provided to them and they could get simple, straight forward information in advance that would just answer easy questions for them. I think that they would become involved in the process of supported employment and hire people with disabilities. I think it's just a lack of awareness about the supports that are available and the resources that can be provided to them. If you have any specific questions I'm here for you.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

EBONY HAVEN: Jill, you can ask if any of the committee members have any other questions and if they don't you can ask if the public has any questions or comments.

JILL HANO: Okay. I'm sorry.

EBONY HAVEN: You're fine.

JILL HANO: So committee members, do y'all have any other questions for our three contractors?

REKEESHA BRANCH: There no hands raised at this time Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay. So no public comment?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No, ma'am.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Rekeesha. Y'all, can I step away for like a millisecond?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. We'll just pause the meeting while you step away for a second Jill.

JILL HANO: Okay, I see I have a hand raised.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Yes, ma'am. We have Mylinda Elliot with her hand raised.

JILL HANO: Okay, Ms. Mylinda, you have the floor.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Good afternoon. I have to admit that three in the afternoon is not my best time of day so excuse me if the question is slow today. I'm always concerned about asking certain kinds of questions so if this is inappropriate just ignore me and go on. I noticed one of the applicant's volunteered that they had personal and professional experience around employment, supported employment. I'm wondering, I may have missed it, but I'm wondering what kind of background the other two applicants' have. Like I said, if it's inappropriate just ignore me.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Stephanie has her hand raised Jill.

STEPHANIE ASHFORD: Stephanie Ashford, Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge. I have over 25 years of experience, first of all, in nonprofit. I've also, in other states, worked with the mayor's office very closely. We created employment programs to help provide this same type of service for youth in those areas. I also have done job coaching myself. I also have, just as an employer and having my own business before, I have worked with making sure that the training is in place so that individuals not only get the right onboarding and orientation that they need. I worked at another entity where there was an individual who was disabled. He was Deaf. So I wanted to make sure that whenever we had meetings that he was accommodated so we always partnered with the Deaf Resource Center to make sure they came out to meetings or anytime that we needed them to come out to that organization to interpret so that we could make sure we could communicate with him appropriately. Very passionate about what I do to help people and remove any barriers or challenges they may have so that they can have the best outcome that they desire for their life.

REKEESHA BRANCH: And we have another hand raised, Mr. Drew Walker.

JILL HANO: Okay, Mr. Walker, you have the floor.

DREW WALKER: So my experience with disabled employment is as a coworker my board of chair is a former executive director of a nonprofit and was involved with hiring disabled individuals in the place where I worked. And so I would be relying on her expertise as far as HR and that sort of thing but we also do have a number of self-advocates who are connected to our organization who have expressed some frustrations and some concerns with their current employment situation that we are hoping to help address through advocacy on their behalf and a little bit. So that is what I would say is my experience. And I just want to reiterate that whoever wins this award or is awarded this opportunity it is a vital program, a vital effort. It was at the GODA quarterly meeting at the last one this specific issue came up of how to help employers understand. Whoever is chosen for this opportunity I look forward to supporting that work however I can. Thank you so much.

JILL HANO: Okay, Ms. Mylinda, does that answer your question?

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

JILL HANO: Now the chair will entertain a motion right, Ebony?

EBONY HAVEN: That's correct.

JILL HANO: For activity 3.2.1 we saw the scores, we read the proposals and talked to the vendors so now it's motion time friends, acquaintances, coworkers, whatever, colleagues.

ERICK TAYLOR: Is there a motion on the floor?

JILL HANO: We need to put a motion out there. Now we literally select, we motion to select one of these contractors.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion that Families Helping Families.

JILL HANO: Okay. Is there a second?

ANGELA HARMON: I would second the motion of Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge getting activity 3.2.1.

JILL HANO: Okay. It has been moved and seconded to select Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge as the contractor for activity 3.2.1 for the FY27 action plan. Is there any further discussion? Any public comment?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No, ma'am. No hands raised at this

time.

JILL HANO: Now we will take a roll call vote. When your name is called please say yes if you are in favor and no if you are opposed and abstain if you are abstaining. Ebony, will you please call the roll?

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. I want to just remind everyone if you want to vote and be counted towards the quorum you have to have your camera on and your name shown. Ms. Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

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

BROOKE STEWART: Yes.

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

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Mr. Erick Taylor, yes. Ms. Renoda Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Renoda Washington, yes. That's four yeses and zero noes.

JILL HANO: Okay. The yeses have it with four to zero. So the motion is adopted.

The next item of business is the ratification of the FY25-27 action plan. The committee has considered the remaining activity changes and contractor selection. Ratification will confirm the action plan is amended by the committee's actions today. Committee members, is there any discussion? Okay. Rekeesha, any public comment?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Stephanie has her hand raised.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Staff member Stephanie. Sorry, just to make the distinction. I just wanted to tell y'all that I have the plan of like what y'all discussed, the research for the transportation, which is going to change the activity number for the next activity. And then I removed the funding for the 3.1.4 and changed the wording here to the conduct research that was in the motion. And so that's the only changes from today that y'all made on the plan. So I just wanted to let you know that I have it up so if there's something that you have a question about just let me know so I can scroll to it.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Stephanie.

REKEESHA BRANCH: We have a hand raised Jill. Ms. Brenda Cosse.

JILL HANO: Okay. Ms. Cosse, you have the floor.

BRENDA COSSE: Good afternoon. The plan is effective or it's going back to the full council? And when can the public see the plan? Thank you. Y'all have a blessed weekend.

JILL HANO: Ms. Brenda, in July the executive committee was granted authority to ratify the action plan because this takes affect before our next council meeting. I was just so excited I knew the answer. I don't know what else you said.

EBONY HAVEN: Jill, this is Ebony. She also asked about when the public was going to be able to view the plan. So once the executive committee ratifies the plan today we can have it up. There shouldn't be a delay. It wouldn't be up no later than Monday. So it will be available for the public to view the full plan with all the changes no later than Monday.

BRENDA COSSE: Okay. Thank y'all.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Brenda. Did we ratify it? No.

EBONY HAVEN: You need a motion.

JILL HANO: The chair will entertain a motion to ratify the FY27 action plan.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion.

JILL HANO: Okay. Motioned by Erick. Seconded by?

ANGELA HARMON: I second it.

JILL HANO: Thank you, Erick and thank you, Angela. It has been moved and seconded to ratify the plan as amended. Is there any further discussion?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No hands raised.

JILL HANO: Okay, so no public comment. So now we will take a roll call vote. When your name is called please say yes if you're in favor. No if you are opposed. And abstain if you are abstaining. Ebony, please call the roll.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Angela Harmon.

ANGELA HARMON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. 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. Ms. Renoda Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Washington, yes. That's four yeses

and zero nays.

JILL HANO: Okay. The motion is adopted. Is there any public comment on an item not previously addressed?

REKEESHA BRANCH: No hands are raised.

JILL HANO: Okay. Thank you, Rekeesha. Are there any announcements? Okay. Any further business? Hearing none. If there is no objection the meeting is adjourned. Hearing no objection the meeting is adjourned at 3:53. Thanks everybody.