Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Executive Committee
October 28, 2026

RENODA WASHINGTON: Good morning everyone. It is now 10:11. The quarterly meeting for the executive committee for the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council will come to order. Hope everyone is doing well. Ebony Haven please call the roll for attendance.

EBONY HAVEN: 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 so much. At this time we will have Ebony to read the mission statement and have the ground rules read.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. I just want to remind everybody on October 1st we started our brand new five-year plan and you guys have your new mission statement that I'm going to read right now. And it is to help Louisianians with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more independently, make their own choices, be more productive and be fully included in all aspects of community living.

Your ground rules are members must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Be respectful of each other's opinions. Break for ten minutes every one and a half hours. Discuss council business in a responsible manner. Except as necessary restrict the use of electronic communication i.e. texting during council and committee meetings. Silence or turn off all cell phones. The mission statement is posted at every meeting. Be on time for meetings, no alphabets and side conversations are kept to a minimum, done quietly and restricted to the subject at hand.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much, Ebony. To ensure the meeting runs smoothly and that we all

participate in an orderly manner please adhere to the following rules. For committee members and members of the public attending in person please raise your hand to speak and wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking. 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 September 11th executive committee meeting which was distributed. The meeting summary will not be read unless a member request it. Are there any corrections? Okay. 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 review of the feedback received from the federal Office of Intellectual and

Developmental Disabilities regarding the council's five-year plan. Ebony do you have any insights to start the discussion?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes, ma'am. Good morning everybody. We have the plain language version of the federal feedback from the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities included in your packets. And for those who are online it is linked in the agenda and Lauren has it pulled up now. And we're just kind of going to go through it each section and we'll talk about the feedback. The most important thing is that both of your plans were approved by the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Your five-year plan from 2027 to 2031 and your 2027 action plan both were approved on September 30th. And so this is a plain language version of the feedback that was sent to us on September 30th.

So basically the feedback says that the five-year plan and the 2027 action plan were approved and we listed what the peer reviewers liked. So they liked that we had a self-advocacy and leadership goal or that the council had a self-advocacy and leadership goal which is your goal one. They liked that you had a community living goal which is goal two. They liked the education and employment goal which is goal three. And they also liked partnerships and public input. And that particular objective we have an objective included in every goal for public input and partnerships.

So what did they ask us to explain. They needed more, I guess, clarification on a couple of things. Basically they wanted to know how our self-advocacy activities were meeting the three federal requirements. So the first federal requirement is support a statewide organization led by people with developmental disabilities. And so in your 2027 action plan activity 1.1.3-- and you can find your plan in your packet as well. Activity 1.1.3 supports the People First of Louisiana which is a statewide organization led by people with disabilities. So that is how your plan basically meets that requirement.

The second requirement is give experienced self-advocates chances to train future leaders. In your 2027 action plan activity 1.1.3 again meets that particular requirement because it gives experienced leaders for people with disabilities within the People First of Louisiana organization chances to train future leaders

with disabilities. But also you have activity 1.2.3, which is your Youth Leadership Forum, and that forum basically had all of their speakers are people with disabilities. So you have people with disabilities training other people with disabilities to train them to be future leaders. So that's the second way you guys are meeting that particular requirement. And then the third activity is activity 2.2.2 which was your emergency preparedness training. And so within that the contractor is training people with disabilities to become trainers for other people with disabilities in the community as far as emergency preparedness throughout-- I think the first year they were going to do the northern part of the state if I'm not mistaken. So they're going to train people with disabilities to train other people with disabilities in the community on emergency preparedness. So that's three activities in your plan that meets that requirement.

And then the last requirement is help people with developmental disabilities join leadership groups with people from different backgrounds and disabilities. So the activity that's included in your 27 action plan that meets that requirement is activity 1.3.2. And that particular activity provides information and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to take part in diverse leadership and advisory groups. So the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities also utilizes, and when I talk about that particular one I'm talking about the one included in our state, so the new OIDD, they also utilize the council as pretty much a sounding board. They want to get stakeholder feedback from our council and this includes asking for council members to fill vacancies on some of their advisory bodies. So that is how you guys are meeting that particular requirement. So we've already given the feds that information and so they know how your plan is meeting those particular requirements that are included basically in the DD Act. Does anybody have any questions before I move on? Because that's basically what they asked us to explain. How are we meeting those three federal requirements.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any questions so far guys?

EBONY HAVEN: So what the peer reviewers asked us to change. They basically asked us to change some of the wording on some of our activities to basically explain what

the activities are doing rather than focusing on how the council funds or supports those activities. So in a minute, I want to go through all of the feedback first, but in a minute I will show you guys what changes we made to your 2027 action plan to make sure we addressed those concerns or what they asked us to change. So I just want to be clear, this part they're not asking us to change what you guys are doing or the projects themselves, only the wording. So we as staff went through the wording and we changed it up. And I'll show, we'll put that on the screen in just a second. I want to go over the other guidance real quick.

Under the other guidance there are new needs and basically it's saying in the 2027 action plan we included an objective that addressed people with disabilities and their families having access to help, tools and supports if unexpected needs or issues happen. That's objective 2.3 in your plan. So after Covid councils were encouraged to include an objective, like your objective 2.3, in every action plan to address natural disasters. So if there's ever a natural disaster like Covid again like a pandemic, or here in Louisiana we know we get hurricanes, all kinds of weather events, flooding and those types of things. So they wanted us to include an objective to make sure we address those unexpected things that may happen. So it's basically just saying they want us to make sure that if something does happen unexpectedly they just want us to document the work that the council decides to do and also state how the results of that work are going to be measured. So we don't have anything happening right now thankfully, but just in case while we're in this action plan, which started October 1st, it ends September 30th, if we have any natural disasters between that time they're asking us to make sure we report what the council is doing and then how we're measuring that work.

And then the second thing was our council membership. So whenever we submitted the five-year plan we also had to submit a roster of our current members including all of your term dates. So currently there are seven state agency representatives that are either awaiting appointment or reappointment. And so we have submitted those names to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions to make those appointments or those reappointments and we are waiting to hear back from them.

I also want to address the vacancy caused by Mike Billings. At the last council meeting you all voted to submit Audrey Gillam as the person to replace or fill that vacancy for Mike Billings. And so I just wanted you guys to know her name has been submitted as well. And so we're hoping those state agency reps and Audrey's, those positions will be filled. So I want you guys to know we're actively trying to get those vacancies filled and those reappointments or appointments.

I also wanted y'all to know that we'll be sending out advertisements because we're going to have a lot of turnover next year so we're going to start early. We're sending out advertisements for new council members starting in November. And then you guys will vote on those members either at the January meeting or the April meeting depending on how far we get. I know the holidays are coming up so the membership committee may not meet before the January meeting but we will at least meet before the April meeting. I can take questions right now, chair, if anybody has questions about any of the guidance.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much. Do you guys have any questions for Ebony? The chair recognizes Jill.

JILL HANO: Thank you. How long on average is it taking between submitting someone's name and the governor to approve membership? Because every time I read them blah, blah, blah is still, I'm not going to name names, but like agency reps and like blah, blah, blah is still waiting for appointment and this person has been on the council for at least a year.

EBONY HAVEN: Jill it just depends. I don't have a set timeframe. I try to get the names submitted as soon as I possibly can. And I will say there was some changes between this administration and the past administration. They require that the agency, whatever agency that the state agency is representing that the agency submit a letter saying that this is the person we want appointed to the council. Once I get that letter I submit it as soon as possible. But I will be honest and say that some of the names that were waiting for appointments I submitted them in November last year. So we're coming up on a year. And these are just state agency representatives. We're not even talking about community members. So I'm not even sure how long it's going to take for Audrey Gillam if they accept her name for her to be appointed. I don't want you guys

to think we're sitting on this. I just followed up with them on Tuesday actually and he assured me, the director assured me that he was going to get the names before the governor and hopefully they will be appointed by Friday. And if that doesn't happen I promise I will follow up again.

JILL HANO: No, I don't want you to have the impression that I think it's y'all sitting. There's a holdup after y'all submit. I had a follow-up question but I don't remember. Thank you, Ebony.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Erick Taylor

ERICK TAYLOR: The thing is by them not recognizing-- I mean, Jill spoke very well. Do that put us in a situation where we're not in compliance with the feds?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes and no. So they recognize that a lot of our membership terms had expired. However, at this time they're not going to penalize us or anything. But I think that they recognize that each state is different so I want to just say this. There are other councils out there that experience the same thing that we're experiencing right now where it's hard for them to get governor appointments. So I think they take it case by case. And if I were to explain hey, we're following up. We're trying to get these appointments completed but there's just a delay with the governor's office they will not penalize the Louisiana council because of that. Does that make sense Erick?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yeah, that makes sense. But then I don't know if you can answer but is they looking for certain things that we need or what they need to do?

RENODA WASHINGTON: The steps? He's asking like what are the steps that they need to take to get this done.

EBONY HAVEN: The governor's office?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think it has more to do-- the only thing the governor, at least that I'm aware of, is they want three names for the non-agency folks he can choose from. But outside of that we don't have any requirements that they give us. We send the administration the requirements that we have to follow through the DD Act and they're supposed to appoint to make sure we're compliant. That doesn't always happen.

ERICK TAYLOR: It's fine, we as the board (inaudible)?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: I'm sorry. For purposes of my notes what activity is the natural disaster?

EBONY HAVEN: It's 2.2.2. Are you looking for the training that Bambi's doing Jill or are you looking for the objective that if there's a natural disaster?

JILL HANO: For a natural disaster.

EBONY HAVEN: I don't think that word is included in the plan.

JILL HANO: Objective 2.2 covers that?

SPEAKER: Yes.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I just want to clarify I guess what you were asking Jill. For activity 2.2.2 it's an emergency preparedness training. So that is a training specific for emergency preparedness and that's what we were talking about when we were talking about self-advocates going out and training other people with disabilities. So that was that activity. But then when we were talking about kind of like if an unexpected need happens, like a natural disaster or something like Covid, it doesn't say natural disaster because we didn't want to be too specific in case it was something like Covid they said to kind of use the word unexpected need so that's the objective.

JILL HANO: Thank you.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: You're welcome. I just wanted to clarify that.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Stephanie. Any other discussion? Any questions? If there's no further discussion or questions. Next, the ratification of the updated 2027 action plan. The chair will entertain a motion to recommend to the council to ratify the updated 2027 action plan.

EBONY HAVEN: Before anybody makes a motion I kind of wanted to walk you guys through changes that we made to the plan. And so Lauren, if you scroll up a little bit. So just remember what they were asking us to do was change the wording. Not change the projects themselves. They don't want us to focus on the funding, or the TA or the support that we're giving contractors. They want us to focus, when we're listing it in our plan, on what we're actually doing. So you'll find a lot of the activities that you had in your action plan had this same wording. We're going to provide funding, support and technical assistance to whoever.

So basically the staff and I would work together to come up with wording that would actually explain what the activity is doing rather than focusing on the funding, or the support or the technical assistance. So for example,

in activity 1.1.1 that is our LaCAN activity. Our grassroots advocacy network. And so we basically took out that wording provide funding, support and technical assistance and we changed it to strengthen the council's grassroots network so people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families receive information, training and resources to advocate for systems change. So the activity itself is not changing. We're still doing the exact same thing they just wanted us to clarify the wording, to change up the wording. So we just took out that top part, if that makes sense, and we basically changed it to a word to show what we're actually doing.

And so if you look at activity 1.1.2 we did the exact same thing. We just took out that wording provide funding, support and technical assistance and we just basically explained what we're doing with activity 1.1.2. We're conducting a variety of advocacy events that advance training services and policies that benefit people with IDD. So it's the same thing. We're not changing anything you guys are doing. We're just changing the wording.

If Lauren keeps scrolling we did the same thing for activity 1.1.3. That is the People First initiative. And so again, we just took out that provide funding support and technical assistance and we said what we're doing. We're strengthening the statewide advocacy network by providing them all those things. You can keep scrolling Lauren. 1.2.1 is Partners in Policymaking. So instead of that provide funding, support and technical assistance we said conduct Partners in Policymaking and support the alumni network to increase the knowledge and advocacy skills. Same thing that was there. And leadership of people with IDD and their families.

Again, the same thing for 1.2.2. We're just partnering with Families Helping Families instead of that provide funding, support and technical assistance. I'm not going to read the whole thing to you guys, but any activity where we had that beginning of provide funding, support and technical assistance we just changed the wording just to show what you guys are actually doing. If you go through the rest of it you will see that those are the only activities that we clarified for the feds because they just kind of felt like that's already understood that we're providing the funding, the support and the technical

assistance. So we didn't need to list it in the actual activity so we should focus more on what we're doing. So I'm happy to answer any questions about that chair if anybody has any questions before y'all make a motion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any questions before we make a motion? The chair recognizes Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: So basically y'all just said don't focus on the dollar percentage. Just basically saying know actually what we're doing so nobody just say dollar percent. Focus on actually what we're doing.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Yes. Clear.

ERICK TAYLOR: It's clear in black and white.

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other questions or discussion? At this time the chair will entertain a motion to recommend to the council to ratify the updated 2027 action plan.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: A motion from Erick Taylor.

BROOKE STEWART: I second.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Seconded by Brooke Stewart.

JILL HANO: Can I ask a question or do I have to wait?

PARLIAMENTARIAN: You can go ahead and ask.

JILL HANO: Does this include the changes we made at the September 11th council meeting? Okay. Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: It is moved and seconded to recommend approval and ratification of the 2027 action plan based on the feedback from the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Made by Erick Taylor. Seconded by Brooke Stewart. Any further discussion? Any public comment? We will have a roll call vote. If you are in favor of the motion when your name is called say yes. If you are opposed say no. If you abstain say abstain. Ebony can you 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. Mr. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes.

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

and zero noes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: All right. Thank you. The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you, members. The next item of business is the consideration of the updated council meeting protocol. The chair recognizes Ebony to start the discussion regarding the updates.

EBONY HAVEN: For those who are online the updated protocol are linked in the agenda and Lauren is sharing them on the screen right now. And for those who are in person they are included in your packet. So based on like some observations that we made in the last year or so the council staff and I looked at the virtual meeting protocol and we thought that we should update some things just based on those observations that we've made over the last year. Most of the information is the same except for a few sections that I'm going to go over. They are just rearranged in a more plain language version way. And so I want to go over the sections that we sort of clarified or added just based off the observations that we've made over this past year. Brenton just noticed in section one there needs to be an update so I'm going to let him go over that real quick.

BRENTON ANDRUS: So in the fourth bullet, and thank you Stephanie for catching it, where it says meetings will be livestreamed, recorded and kept on the council's YouTube channel. We were going to talk more about this later but it also comes up in the document you're seeing here. We are making a transition from Zoom to Microsoft Teams. This is something that we have to pay for through our designated state agency, which is the Department of Health. We have no choice. We have to pay for Microsoft Teams. So instead of us paying for Zoom and Teams we're just going to start using Microsoft Teams and it can be very different. So part of what is happening in this document as well it's going to say Zoom or Microsoft Teams or a virtual meeting platform. It's not going to be very specific. But what we noticed in that bullet meetings will be live streamed and/or, is what it's going to have to say, recorded. Because at this time based on the way LDH handles their Microsoft meetings account we are not able to live stream on YouTube. What we're going to have to do is record the meeting and then put it up on YouTube when the meeting is done. So I think y'all will need to consider adding and/or because if LDH decides to give us that permission, because

it's not as easy, at least as we understand it, of them flipping a switch just for the council. It's a whole agency wide thing and that's a security thing on their end.

So if they give us the ability to live stream at some point we'll be able to do it without updating the meetings or if not we'll have to record it. I know that might upset some people. Unfortunately we don't really have control over the live stream aspect of it. But just as a reminder if you are someone that watches it on YouTube you will be able to watch it when the meeting is over. We'll make sure within a certain timeframe we'll get that up on YouTube so that can be our public record of our meetings. But we don't engage in the YouTube video anyway. So if you're watching it while the meeting is actually happening if you have questions on YouTube we don't monitor it so we're not able to answer. I think we might have comments turned off because we aren't able to engage with you. So I don't think it's drastically different as far as the public input that y'all would want to receive. Because we always encourage people to join us in the virtual meeting platform we use to be able to provide that feedback. So that is a change y'all would have to consider in addition to what Ebony is going to talk about.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Ms. Mylinda Elliot.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Good morning. So we'll still be able to have accommodations for people to participate with the new system or not?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yes. Everything should remain the same it will just be on Teams instead of Zoom.

MYLINDA ELLIOT: Okay. I wasn't sure I understood. Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Adrianne Burns.

ADRIANNE BURNS: Pretty much the same question. So as long as we have a Teams account we would be able to access it, right? That's my understanding. I know it's the same question.

RENODA WASHINGTON: You don't have to have a Teams account.

ADRIANNE BURNS: Thank you.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Adrianne I think as long as you register for the meeting I don't think you have to have a Teams account. Once you register you will receive a link

just like when you receive it through Zoom. You will receive a link and you can log on. You don't have to have a Teams account.

ADRIANNE BURNS: Awesome. Thanks. Perfect.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Since you're doing it live will there be more people able to access by it being live?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes. So the answer is yes. More people will be able to access it when we live stream. But with Teams we're just not able, the way that LDH has their account set up, and we've already asked them about this, we won't have the capability to live stream anymore. We will record the meeting and put it on YouTube but if anybody wants to participate they're going to have to register and then log on once they get the link.

ERICK TAYLOR: You saying we're going to go on live but then there will be more people to participate but then y'all still going to lose?

BRENTON ANDRUS: No. Actually in Teams we may even have greater capabilities. I think with Zoom we can have 500 people. Teams might be 1,000 or something. But there will be no reduction in the amount of people that can participate in the meetings. Because right now everyone can join this Zoom meeting. As many people that want to participate in the meeting can participate now and just as many in Microsoft Teams. The only thing that will change is just for the people that prefer to just watch it on YouTube instead of participating in the actual public meeting they will not be able to do that.

ERICK TAYLOR: Where our rules going to stand when a lot of people join? Where would our rules stand say like if we got an open meeting, we got open comments, what would your rules state with that?

BRENTON ANDRUS: It's all the same.

ERICK TAYLOR: There will be a limit on the open comments? If we got a whole bunch of people.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I understand what you're saying. So the rules would not change in that our rules currently are the chair can determine who comments-- not who comments, but if you had a chance to comment the chair can put into place everyone gets one comment. We can limit to three minutes. Like right now we don't really limit comments unless we really start getting bogged down but all of your rules and your policies and your protocols it's up to the

discretion of the chair to implement--

ERICK TAYLOR: The chair can say I'm going to take five comments so we won't be bogged down with a whole bunch of comments because we'll be here all day.

BRENTON ANDRUS: A couple things. One, I don't think it's really going to change your meetings that much. We don't have that many people, at least from what I can tell, that stream live on YouTube. We have a lot more people that view it afterwards but not during. Ms. Ramona might know more, but I don't think we could not take a public comment. But we can limit the comments if we notice it's off topic. At the chair's discretion we can stop the commenting from that person. We can allow people to have a comment on the topic we're on but limit the time and that would help. But it's a public meeting so I don't think we can tell someone you can't.

ERICK TAYLOR: You can't make a number and say we're going to take five people?

PARLIAMENTARIAN: So the organization can make a decision in advance that we're only going to take X number of comments or we're only going to take comments for X amount of time. But once you're in the comment period you cannot change that while you have people in the queue waiting to comment. So you get to determine how to do it but it needs to be done before the period is over.

BRENTON ANDRUS: That's consistent with the rules you already have in place and the chair will determine if we're going to limit.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay. Thank y'all very much.

BRENTON ANDRUS: But I really don't think this is going to impact your meeting. What's on your agenda will impact more than whether YouTube is live streamed.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other questions?

EBONY HAVEN: So section two we didn't make any changes again. We just sort of switched that up so it could flow a little better. But section three some of that information in there is new. So that is addressing member attendance, quorum and virtual participation. So when a virtual member is counted as present. So this is when a virtual member can be counted as present. The member joins the live video that shows the member's face and first and list name. Staff confirms the member's attendance at the start of the meeting. I want to clarify. If you're not

here at the start of the meeting when the roll call is done and then you join the meeting you can still be counted as being present for that meeting. I wanted to clarify that. The member can hear the meeting, be heard when speaking and take part in the discussion and voting. So that is when a virtual member is in attendance that we can count you as a part of the quorum. If you are having technical issues where we can't hear you or you can't hear us then you can't be counted until we get those technical issues worked out. So we wanted to kind of add some clarity about that.

And then we wanted to add some clarity about when a member is temporarily absent. So if the member leaves the meeting or steps away for more than a short time the member cannot hear the discussion or cannot be heard when needed. The member turns off their video when the video is required and staff cannot confirm the member is still present and the member is not available to take part in the discussion or vote. So those will be instances where the person is temporarily absent and we can't count you towards the quorum. So staff will know when a member leaves and returns. A member who is temporarily absent may not vote until the member returns and the staff confirms attendance. And the way we can confirm attendance is if you have your camera on and your first and last name displayed and you're not having any technical issues. We can hear you, you can hear us and then you can unmute to vote.

And then the last part of that particular section that we added just based off observations. So I want to make sure everybody knows some of this information that's going to be included here is for safety purposes. So I'll just kind of go through it and if anybody has any questions I can answer. Members attending virtually have the same responsibilities as members attending in person. They must pay attention, be prepared and be able to take part throughout the meeting. Members must join from a safe place where they can stay in one spot and pay attention. A member may not take part in the meeting while driving or operating a vehicle. A member who is driving may listen to the meeting but the member will not be counted as present and may not join the discussion or vote. The member may take part again after the vehicle is safely parked and staff confirms the member is present. Members should choose a place with as few distractions as possible. Members should not do other activities that keep them from paying

full attention. Short or un-interruptions are understandable. A member who needs to step away should tell staff and be counted as temporarily absent. We kind of went over that part already.

And then I want to make this clear because this was a question I got. Disability-related needs or approved accommodations will be respected. Because of a person's disability they may need to move around. They may need to recline. They may need to receive support or take part in another way and we understand that. We don't want to make it seem like anybody with a disability related, you can't move, or you can't go to the back right there, or you can't step away from your camera. We understand that and those accommodations will be respected. Chair I'm willing to take any questions about this particular part if anybody has any questions.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: As far as like the disability related needs do those have to be approved?

EBONY HAVEN: No. We were just saying if you approved accommodations, like that can be anything outside of like if I need to move around or just take a break for a second. Anything I guess substantial would need to be approved. But anything as far as like reclining or just even getting help from a worker or something like that you don't need that approval.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Because I was going to say that's going to be kind of difficult to get approval for help when we need it right then and there. Or if we need to move real quick or adjust. Okay. Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other questions on this particular piece?

EBONY HAVEN: Section four. Again, this particular section was already included but we wanted just to make sure that we provided clarity especially since we are now having two virtual meetings per year. And even though our meetings are considered virtual the chairs still are required to be in person. So that isn't part of this protocol. This is part of the law. So the law says that anybody that's going to chair outside of a chair that has a disability if you don't have a disability then you have to be in person to chair the meeting. And so we just wanted to make sure that we provided that clarity in this section. So that's basically what that section is. I can take any questions if anybody has any questions.

So if we scroll down because sections five through eight are basically just the same information that we had in the previous protocol. Again, some of the flow may be a little bit different because we wanted to make it as easy as possible, plain language accessible. So if you skip down to section nine. And if anybody has any questions about any of the other sections that I'm skipping just ask and we can go back to that section. So section nine I don't know if everybody was here but in July 2025 we did have an incident at one of our council meetings and so we wanted to put this in the virtual protocols so that everybody's on the same page. We all know what to do in case something like that happens.

Respectful participation. All participants must act in a professional way. Comments must stay focused on the agenda item being discussed. Disagreement and criticism are allowed. That part right there I think Erick noticed that part right there and he thought that criticism should not be allowed but disagreements should be allowed respectfully. So I don't know if you guys want to change that part. That was his recommendation when he read through this. Disagreements are allowed respectfully and we can take out the criticism part if you guys want to take that part out.

ERICK TAYLOR: Yes, because I think that cause more issues if it's allowed because then that's opening the floor for somebody to say anything they want. And I don't think if y'all saying on the second line where you're saying the comments is allowed I think you'll bring more issues at the table.

EBONY HAVEN: Got you. If the committee is in agreement or if you guys want to take that part out we can definitely make that change where it just says disagreements are allowed respectfully. And we can take out the criticism part.

ERICK TAYLOR: I feel like this can carry over outside and then we got more issues that don't need to be brought.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. So we can make that change, chair, if the committee is in agreement.

RENODA WASHINGTON: What about just having it everything staying, if you put it that everything stays focused on the agenda in that part as well. Just to kind of keep the focus on what we're doing. Everything staying focused on the agenda item as well.

EBONY HAVEN: So do you want it to be disagreements are allowed respectfully if they are focused on the agenda? How do you want to word it? Above it says the comments must stay focused on the agenda item being discussed. So do you want us to include that same information?

PARLIAMENTARIAN: So typically you always want to stay focused on the agenda item.

EBONY HAVEN: So should we say disagreements are allowed respectfully on the agenda item being discussed.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Disagreement on the agenda items are allowed.

EBONY HAVEN: Okay. Got you. We can make that change.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any members of the executive committee have any discussion on that? The chair recognizes Ayden.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: I think all of this needs to be bold and highlighted because some people read it and still don't comprehend what that means.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Adrianne Burns.

ADRIANNE BURNS: For me, disagreement, I have the opposite thought. That disagreement was more the problem because criticism they have different kinds. They have constructive criticism. They have different kinds that I looked up. And it's not always a negative. It can just be like hey, I noticed this in the line of any issue or anything like that. I didn't feel the connotation for criticism was negative. I thought it was more just like getting to the right place. But that's just my two cents. Sorry. Apologize.

RENODA WASHINGTON: No need to apologize. Maybe if you are to identify the type of criticism. But I get what you guys mean though just based on the observation from previous meetings. I get that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I actually agreed with what Ms. Burns said. And I think that's what I had in my head. There are different types of criticism. I don't think it was taken in that way. But looking at it though if the intent of this whole document is to be in plain language I would agree with removing criticism. I do think that word may go past that general sixth to eighth grade reading level in comprehension that we try to aim for when we do make these plain language documents. And I think I can understand how disagreement can be interpreted. I think that's probably

one of your more plain language terms that you can use for people to understand that I am allowed to not agree with what you're saying.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much. The chair recognizes Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: If we're thinking in terms of-- never mind. I know now. Never mind.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any other discussion? The chair recognizes Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: I'm not saying put it in bold. The way I'm looking at is I'm thinking in a different context in a wrong way. That's all I'm saying.

SPEAKER: Understood.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: What if we scratch this part out and say in different wording like only healthy debate is allowed. Or keep all debates or disagreements in a respectful manner. Well, never mind. I'm done.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I would think what you're trying to say is accomplished with disagreements on the agenda items are allowed as long as its respectful. Debate could be plain language but in the context of how you were saying it I think it might lose some of the understanding. I understand trying to wordsmith it. What I caution y'all to do though is removing any sort of idea that someone can't disagree with something you're doing as a body. The public does not have to agree with your decisions. Similar to how you don't have to agree with the recommendations they give you. They don't have to agree with the recommendations you make. And I think that does need to be captured because that's going to happen throughout a respectful meeting process. I think you want to focus more on the behavior, what you were doing. Respectfully they can engage with you. They can disagree with you. Some of y'all don't even agree with the decisions that some of your peers are making. I think you want to leave that open in there so people don’t feel like I can only join the meeting if I agree with what they say. So I caution you about going down that path. Not saying you're doing it but you're kind of teetering in that direction of not wanting the discourse and you need to be able to allow that as a public body.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: I wholeheartedly agree with you but can we add like something in a healthy manner? Isn't that in

Jurassic Parliament where debates must be handled in healthy manners?

EBONY HAVEN: So it would depend on what the committee wants to do. So right now we have disagreement on the agenda item being discussing. So Jill is recommending that you take out respectfully and put in a healthy manner.

JILL HANO: Wait, I don't see the word.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah, that's part of our changes Jill. That's on our side. We just don't have the changes on the screen. We're going to make those changes. We're writing them now. We don't have them on the screen but we're going to make those changes.

JILL HANO: So these are your proposed amendments?

EBONY HAVEN: Yes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The chair recognizes Adrianne Burns.

ADRIANNE BURNS: I just wanted to make the suggestion, not that it's my place or anything, what about instead of taking away in addition. Disagreement and constructive criticism are allowed. When I looked it up criticism comes in two broad varieties, constructive and destructive. Constructive criticism is based on more accurate perceptions of circumstances or behavior and the conveyer is motivated by a sincere desire to help the recipient improve. That's just an idea. But if that's too advanced for what you guys are trying for. It was just an idea. I figured I would share it. Thank you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much. Read what you have, Ebony, please.

EBONY HAVEN: I have disagreement on the agenda item being discussed is allowed respectfully. That's what I have.

BRENTON ANDRUS: If you want to consider trying to incorporate an element of the constructive criticism or feedback you could do something people may disagree or suggest ways to approve an agenda item but they must do so respectfully. I don't know if I'm sold on the approve the agenda item part because it's almost like a suggestion of changing an agenda item. But I think in the context when you put everything else together it kind of works itself out. That if you want to include that element of criticism still in there. Disagreeing but also suggesting ways of improving this topic you're on but it has to be respectfully. That sentence may help you.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Could you say that again please.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Sure. People may disagree or suggest ways to improve an agenda item but they do so respectfully.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Executive committee what do you all think about that statement? The chair recognizes Ayden.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: That's good.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Does anyone have any objections to what he just shared?

EBONY HAVEN: So chair we can make that change.

RENODA WASHINGTON: That's fine.

EBONY HAVEN: We'll make that change and then once we get to the motion we'll make sure it will say something with the updated changes that the executive committee made. So just to kind of go through that section a little bit more. Personal attacks, slurs, threats, harassment, profanity aimed at another person and insults meant to shame or demean someone are not allowed. Behavior that seriously disrupts the meeting is not allowed. And a participant may not let another person speak, vote or take part using the participant's name or device. We're just trying to make sure all of those things are kind of spelled out. And then this warning part is also new. The chair may warn a participant who does not follow these rules. If the behavior continues the chair may end the person's speaking time, mute the person or remove the person from the meeting.

And then if you go down a little bit further, Lauren, there is another section on immediate removal. A participant may be removed without a warning for a threat, hate speech, behavior that creates a safety concern or a behavior that seriously disrupts the meeting.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I just had a short recommendation maybe or a suggestion only because when I read it I got confused and I had to ask what this meant. Under the respectful participation that last bullet when I read it I don't know if it was just because it said participant twice. I did not know what that meant. But I guess clarify for me and anybody else who read that and was like what the heck does this mean. It means like you can't log in under an alias when you're signing in. Like I can't log in under Lauren Brown and vote in a committee that I'm not in if that make sense. I can't log in under Erick on this committee and vote for him. That wouldn't happen because you have to show your face and things like that but that's what that's saying. But I couldn't speak for him or take part

in that meeting as him. So I don't know if there may be another way to say that just without using participant maybe twice. Just because when I read it I was like I don't know what this is saying.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you for that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You could consider to better clarify, which that was the intent of what Stephanie was speaking of. You can do participants' must use their real names and may not pretend to be someone else during the meeting. That's basically don't be an alias. You have to be yourself. And that is stemming from that incident we had in July.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I do think that's better. Like I said, when I read it I was like a participant may not let another person. Like just as I was reading it I really was like participant, participant's name. I don't know what this means. And when she explained the situation I was like oh, I understand.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think part of it was also let's say if I'm on virtually and I need to step away or something and I would say oh, Ebony, I vote yes, tell them I said yes. That kind of thing.

EBONY HAVEN: Yeah, we'll make that change.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Stephanie. Any other question or discussion?

EBONY HAVEN: I can keep going because I have two more things and that's it. Go back up just a tab bit where it says fair enforcement.

RENODA WASHINGTON: When it says removal, what does that look like?

EBONY HAVEN: For which one, the warning or the immediate?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Immediate.

EBONY HAVEN: Like if a person is on virtually and they are engaging in any of those types of things, threats, hate speech, behavior that creates like a safety concern we would immediately remove them from the virtual.

RENODA WASHINGTON: What about in person?

EBONY HAVEN: In person that won't look like anything for you as staff would take care of that. I will say we do have a security officer on the grounds. But yes, as your council staff we would take care of that.

But just to go back to the fair enforcement. Just to be fair these rules will be applied based on a person's

behavior whether the council agrees or disagrees with the person's opinion or not. So this is all fair. If they are engaging in any of that type of behavior this is the consequences. So we just kind of wanted to make sure that was spelled out because when that incident occurred in July last year there was no protocol in place. So we just wanted to make sure something was in place for that.

And then the last thing that I want to mention is section ten. Again, some of the stuff is the same from other sections but I want to point out the second bullet and it's saying virtual backgrounds. Virtual backgrounds can be used if they're appropriate and don't make it hard for us to see the participant or see the participant's full name. So just kind of wanted to make sure that we talked about that particular section because that particular bullet is new. So if anybody has any other questions I can take them, chair, or any suggestions?

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any questions or suggestions? All right. The chair will now entertain a motion to recommend the proposed updates to the meeting protocol.

ERICK TAYLOR: Motion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: We have a motion from Erick Taylor. Do we have a second?

JILL HANO: I second the motion.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you, Jill. It is moved and seconded to recommend approval of the proposed updates to the council and committee meeting protocol with the changes made by the committee made by Erick Taylor and seconded by Jill Hano. Any discussion from committee members? Any public comment? When Ebony calls your name please respond with yes if you're in favor of the motion, or no if you're opposed to the motion or abstain if you are not voting.

EBONY HAVEN: Ms. Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Yes.

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

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. That is four yeas, zero nays.

RENODA WASHINGTON: The yeses have it and the motion is adopted. Thank you everyone. The next item of business is the consideration of the council retreat. Once again, Ms. Ebony.

EBONY HAVEN: So this particular item you guys won't have to vote on. This is more of a discussion between the council staff so we can make sure that we are carrying out your council retreat and meeting your expectations for that council retreat. Just remember your council retreat is January 26th, 2027. And just based on the feedback that we've gotten from this committee and the council in past discussions we basically came up with an outline for your retreat but we want to make sure that the outline that we have currently it's meeting your expectations. And if you guys have any suggestions for us, any additions or if you want to take something away based on that outline you can. I don't have anything to present for this particular section of the agenda but we were thinking as a staff since you guys wanted to focus more on advocacy, and LaCAN and your advocacy agenda for 2027 we came up with a theme called How to be Present, Advocacy in Action. And so here are the ideas that we have so far.

We were thinking it would be really good if we got a guest speaker on advocacy. We're going to do sort of a mock round table. Brenton and I will present the agenda items that you guys are going to vote on tomorrow. We'll present those to you at your retreat. And then we would have a discussion of the different ways that you can get involved in advocacy and we were planning on inviting LaCAN leaders to come to that portion. So we would break out in small sessions. The LaCAN leaders would meet with you guys to discuss ways that you guys can participate in the upcoming 2027 session that's going to start in April next year.

And then for the afternoon session we were thinking we would have a session kind of like what we did last year but the staff would do it. Just kind of clarifying the staffs' roles and giving you guys helpful tips on how to prepare for the council meetings and your committee meetings. So that would be in the afternoon. And then the advocacy portion would be in the morning. Which is basically for this agenda item looking for your feedback. Like if you guys like that outline. If you have suggestions. Are we on the right track. So I'll just give it back to you chair and allow committee members.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Executive committee what do you think about that agenda? Do you have any suggestions? Anything you want to add? Take away? Okay, this retreat is for us. Is this something we would like to have? An icebreaker.

EBONY HAVEN: We can add an icebreaker, yes.

RENODA WASHINGTON: All right. Any other suggestions, discussion on the council retreat? Are we satisfied? Okay.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Do you guys want anything in particular from the LaCAN leaders in their portion? I know they'll be there to kind of help you learn about advocacy and also kind of let you know the way you can support, coming out to the capitol. But anything in particular?

JILL HANO: Maybe like the history of LaCAN.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Got it.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Any public comment? At this time we will have announcements. The chair recognizes Ebony Haven.

EBONY HAVEN: So the only other announcements that I have are the rest of the committee meetings that are going to occur today. Education and employment starts at 12:45 and it goes to 2:30. Then we have Act 378 subcommittee that starts at 2:45 and it goes to 4. And then last we'll have the self-determination and community inclusion committee and that starts at 4:15 and goes to 6. And then tomorrow the full council will meet from 10 to 4. So those are the only announcements.

I will say this one thing. There is a guest speaker that will be at the education and employment committee. I sent an email about it but this particular presenter will be presenting on SSI, SSDI, the ticket to work and like the worker planning assistance. And so if you guys are interested in hearing about that please come to the education and employment committee. Again, it starts at 12:45. I think she's going to be a great speaker. And she'll be able to answer some of the questions that some of our council members have had in the past.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Thank you so much, Ebony. Thank you to the staff. Is there any further business? Hearing none. If there are no objections we will adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objection this meeting is now adjourned at 11:36. Thanks, everyone.