Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Act 378 Subcommittee
October 28, 2026

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Good afternoon everyone. It is 2:52 and I'll call the meeting to order. Rekeesha would you mind doing the roll call?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Not a problem. Ms. Bambi Polotzola.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: I'm here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Jill Hano.

JILL HANO: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Frank Macaluso.

FRANK MACALUSO: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Brooke Stewart. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Here.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Karen Xu. That's four and you have a quorum.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Thank you, Rekeesha. Before we get started I just want to remind all of you of a few 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 your 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 only to 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 that accommodation.

As per order committee members in person and virtually will be allowed to speak first. Public members in person will then be called on followed by public participating virtually who have their hands raised. Comments in the Q and A will be addressed last. As with all hybrid meetings it can be difficult to keep track of all those wanting to

speak in person and virtually. Please be patient. All comments and questions from the public may be subjected to two minutes at the discretion of the chair so please keep that in mind. Depending on time constraints we may also limit the comments to once per issue. Also, comments about a person's character will not be allowed. Finally, members of the public will have the opportunity to provide public comment before each vote and during designated public comment periods. The chair may also use their discretion to determine if comments will be accepted outside of those times.

So we'll go ahead and start the agenda. Everyone should have reviewed the July meeting summary which was attached to the agenda you received via email. There is also a copy in your committee packet if you're here in person. I need a motion to adopt the July meeting summary.

ERICK TAYLOR: I motion.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Okay. We have a motion from Mr. Taylor. Is there a second?

JILL HANO: I'll second.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: So we have a motion by Mr. Taylor. We have a second. Is there any discussion? Is there any public comment? The motion to accept July's meeting summary has been adopted.

Now we will have the LGE spotlight provided by Central Louisiana Human Service District. And we have Mr. Leonard Ford. Leonard with Central Louisiana Human Service District will give a spotlight of the work they're doing in their human service district. Leonard the floor is yours.

LEONARD FORD: Y'all hear me?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Yes.

LEONARD FORD: So for the end of fiscal year 26 we served 167 individuals in our family support program. We expended 96 percent of our budget. Flexible family fund we served 115. We expended 99 percent. Which is great on both fronts. For the first quarter of 27 we have served 92 so far in our IF program which was 20 percent expended of our budget. And 107 served in FFF flexible family fund and expended 25 percent of our budget.

So as far as we do we are not a big LGE but we do serve the consumers who come in for requests. We get a lot of requests and most requests that come into our office we normally fund it either on an ongoing agreement or we have

what we call crisis funds which we help pay such things as utility bills. We buy onetime type of equipment such as wheelchairs. And we do that only if the person is non-waiver because you could get that through the waiver. So we do expend our money. And last year we spent 99 percent of our extended budget. We fear if we leave any money it basically would be around 2,000-dollars. We try to use every penny that's allocated to us. Any questions so far?

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: If you're on waiver will they help pay for your utility bills?

LEONARD FORD: I couldn't hear.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: He's asking about paying of utility bills is that something that you guys do through IFS funds?

LEONARD FORD: Yes, we do. And basically what we do we try to do it as a one-time. So when we help somebody we usually tell them it's a one-time expense. But in some cases we have paid it twice. But we do use the money that's allocated to our IFS crisis funds. We have Families Helping Families as our intermediary for payments. So if somebody do that and our IFS committee approves it then we pay it. Just to emphasis all requests that we get at our region it goes through our IFS review committee. Now if it's something that needs immediate attention our DD director, which is Misty, she will approve it and don't have it go through the committee. But most of our requests ongoing, even one time, goes through our IFS review committee.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Can I add something to that? If you're on the waiver program though you can't use the IFS?

LEONARD FORD: To answer your question yes, we use our IFS funds for waiver individuals because those type of expenses are not covered in waiver funds. Basically the waiver funds is to buy equipment and such things as that. But waiver will not pay for utility bills or any other expenses because it's not included in the waiver funding.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Thank you.

LEONARD FORD: Just to give you a highlighted impact on one case we funded we had a young man Landon who is 14 years old. He aged out of daycare and so they stay in a rural parish, Pollock, Louisiana, very rural. So once he aged out they didn't have any providers that served that area like EPSDT. So what happened both parents was having to leave work. They got off at 5:00. Both parents were

having to leave work to come stay with him till the other one got home. Which leaving work kind of hurt them financially. They wasn't getting a full paycheck. So what we did they was looking at possibly placement, out of home placement, community group home placement. So they contacted us. He was linked to children's choice services but no providers had staff at the time to provide those services. Because most of y'all know providers are having a hard time finding available staff.

So what we did to prevent out of home placement the parents found a private company that provides staff. That company was going to charge the parents 18-dollars an hour to provide staff. But the CSP three, Jody, who worked with this family, she talked to the provider and she got the provider to lower the price from 18-dollars to 16-dollars per hour. And so the parents came back to Jody and said Jody we cannot pay that but we can pay-- they was going to charge, the parents was going to be responsible for paying 4-dollars and we was going to pick up the rest. So out of that 16-dollars we paid the parents 12-dollars an hour and they came out of pocket for the 4-dollars.

Now normally we do not pay a rate because we have set rates. We pay usually 10-dollars for PCA services that's very involved, 9-dollars per hour if not that involved and 8-dollars if respite. So for this case the parents was hurting financially so again, we funded them an ongoing PCA contract and we paid 12-dollars an hour towards that which really helped them out financially because they was struggling financially. And we also used some funds to buy him a wheelchair. And since they didn't have Medicaid we actually bought them some wipes also. What we looked at we did that because most of y'all know that our job is to keep individuals with developmental, intellectual disabilities in the community with their families. And this is a success story because guess what, once we did that they threw placement out the door. That is one of our success stories to show the benefits of helping somebody using our individual family support funds.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Thank you, Leonard.

LEONARD FORD: Thank y'all for having me okay.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Thank you. I have a follow-up question. It's a great story. It's great to see that the family was able to stay intact and also to be able to continue to work and make sure their child had quality care.

You said the child didn't have Medicaid. Were they assisted to get the child Medicaid and if so how is that process and how did y'all go about that?

LEONARD FORD: Our staff in the office they was trying to link him to Act 421 funds. Which I think we're still in the process so I'm not sure if it actually got approved. But yes, at the time they didn't have Medicaid but they were linked to the Act 421.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Great. Thank you.

LEONARD FORD: Yes, ma'am. Y'all have a great day.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Thank you. Next we'll have Bernard Brown from the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Supports reporting on the yearend and the first quarter data. Hi Bernard. You have the floor.

BERNARD BROWN: Good afternoon. So I guess we'll start with the end of year page. So if you look on the left side, which has individual and family supports, you'll see overall we've expended 99 percent of those funds that was allocated for IFS. It's probably more like over 100 because we still have a couple of things that's obligated that hadn't really been balanced out yet. So once those obligations are fulfilled you'll see that expended year-to-date column exceed probably 99 percent, probably exceed 100 percent so that's great news. So we know almost all if not more than what's allotted has been expended in IFS. On the flexible family funds side more of the same. You will see for the year we're at 100 percent expended. Serving about 2600 people, almost 2700 people across the state. So that's really cool. Looking at it holistically we are where we're required to be per statute relative to money being expended out.

The next one is the overall compliance report. You will see here according to Act 73 everyone across the state is pretty much in compliance. We're over 108 percent. So you can see LGEs are actually allocating more than what's required of Act 73 to DD services across the board. Either that's through IFS or FFS but the point is is that the LGEs collectively across the state are expending or allocating their 9 percent as allotted by law and then some. Especially Northwest and Central and Acadiana. They're well above 100 percent. So is Northeast. They are directing those funds in compliance with Act 73.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Do we have any questions for this report? Mr. Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: It's not pertaining this but I wanted to ask. It's kind of pertaining to it but I wanted to ask my question. Is y'all still trying to put the waiver stuff as one?

BERNARD BROWN: Consolidated waivers?

ERICK TAYLOR: Yeah.

BERNARD BROWN: Not at the moment but it's something that's definitely still on the horizon.

ERICK TAYLOR: So you don't know when?

BERNARD BROWN: I can tell you this Erick. It won't be a one-year type exercise. It will be a multi-year exercise. A lot of stakeholder engagement. So when we decide to venture that way you're looking at three to five years or more.

ERICK TAYLOR: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

BERNARD BROWN: Yeah. We're just trying to handle more pressing things like rate adequacy and making sure the stat debts can stay funded appropriately and things like that. Once we kind of get all that settled then we'll divert our attention back to the waiver policy and looking at ways to continue to improve and enhance our waivers.

ERICK TAYLOR: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Stephanie.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I'm looking at the IFS funds and the percent expended year to date. Is there a certain threshold they should be at? And is everybody that's reported like is this the end of the year report or are we still waiting for numbers to be reported? And if this is the end of the year should everybody be at or near 100 percent or how close to that fully expended amount are we looking at? Because is a number like 96 percent an okay number or at what point is it close enough?

BERNARD BROWN: Great question Stephanie. I don't want to mess it up but there is a threshold they're supposed to meet by the end of the year. I think it's 98 percent but I'm not 1,000 percent sure so forgive me for not having that upfront. But I want to call out Central Louisiana specifically. If you look at their year-to-date expended is 96 percent expended but they have another 24,000-dollars, almost 25,000-dollars obligated. So when you add that to that 723 they'll probably be at more like 99 percent expended. The only reason it's in that collum is because that bill hasn't been paid yet but it's still obligated meaning they have to pay it at some point.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Thank you. I was looking at the notes. They didn't have anything in the notes so I was just seeing that low percentage and not seeing a note. Thank you.

BERNARD BROWN: If you look at Florida Parishes they have an outstanding obligation of 37,000 and their balance is only 3700. So they would have expended about 33,000-dollars more than what was budgeted to them in the fiscal year. Yeah, it should be final, and it is for the most part, but when you add you just have to add that obligated column to those totals.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Brenton.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Just to answer the question it's my understanding as long as they spend 95 percent or more of their funding it would not trigger a corrective action. But if it's below that there would have to be a corrective action submitted to the department.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: And that's based on the total which is on this back page showing the Act 73 compliance report. Any other questions for Bernard for the fiscal year 2026 end of the year expenditure report? Okay. We can move on Bernard.

BERNARD BROWN: All right. So this one is IFS requests for FY26. Can we scroll to the bottom. I don't know do y'all want me to go region by region or can we just look at the total? It's up to y'all.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: I think Bernard I would want people to look at that report-- and just for everybody to know this report and the next report is we get these every year at our October meeting to review and look at the type of requests and the type of services that the LGEs are providing. And so it's really up to us as committee members or the public to look at these numbers and ask questions about it. The way I approach it is if I see some type of discrepancy or some type of number that just kind of seems out of line with all the other numbers that are being shared like I'll ask questions about that. So everyone should be looking at this report and if you have any questions you can ask Bernard. But if not, Bernard, you can just share what you want to share about the report.

BERNARD BROWN: All right. I think for me the biggest thing to highlight here is the funding percentage. If you

look at the funding amounts whether they're fully or partially funded it will give you insight into any funding trends or like how many people are being denied and deferred or things of that sort. So it's really important to kind of focus on that. But when you look at the amount of requests that each region has received, the amount that we'll review and the percentage that was funded they're really close to funding most of all of the requests. There's very few requests, in comparison to the numbers received, there's very few requests that are deferred or denied. Just looking at it you're looking at what of the 4700 that was received only about 100 of those were actually denied across the whole state. So that's not a bad percentage. So they are effectively managing those funds and making sure they administer it to as many people as possible.

I think that's something to really kind of focus on. And that's on that bottom line folks that we're going through now. And I know you can't see the title of the column but where it says 100 that's the number of denials across the state for the fiscal year for IFS. And then that 202 is requests that are closed. So basically any complete request or closed for some other reason. I think that would be important to see because there aren't a lot of denials that are happening relative to the number of requests. Any question on this one?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: My question is about the request denied. I understand there's reason for denial but the correlation between on some of the LGEs they have some listed as priority one but they're denied. So like if they were the highest priority what was the reason for them being denied. I see that for region two, region five. Those are the only two regions. But I guess I don't understand the process maybe of how that works.

BERNARD BROWN: It can be a bevy of reasons. It can be that the request may be something that can't be funded or could be funded through another source so they deny it and they go through the process just to be sure it's assessed appropriately. I don't want to speculate. I'm sorry. But maybe we can add that to get the denial reasons on the report from regional offices just so we can get a better feel for it. But just top of mind I would think it's probably denied because it's either the location of a service or it's something that's not allowable because of

some reason even though it's a high priority.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Okay.

BERNARD BROWN: Sucks that I have to speculate on that Bambi. I'm sorry. Great question.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Do we have any other questions about this report? Okay. Our next report is expenditures by service.

BERNARD BROWN: So this one I'm going to go to the bottom again y'all because it's each region. It breaks it out for your specific region. I would encourage you guys to kind of review that. For the sake of time I will just go to the overall view which is on slide 11 on page 11. This is not sorted by the amount so you kind of have to comb through. But just at first glance PCA was the highest expended service. One of the highest expended services across all of the categories at $2.5-million. So that one's there. What's another high one. Vocational and employment supports is really high at 800,000 is probably next. And then the other, and I felt like I remember one time folks was asking for the detail or the breakout of others but that can be so much stuff. It's rolled up for a reason. But cumulatively all the other expenses total about 600,000. Almost 650,000. Diapers is really high even though it's in the waiver. It's still about 350,000. Incontinent supplies.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Stephanie.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: It wasn't that it was hard because it was all bundled up. It was because we asked, I don't remember his name, Herman. Herman looked into it and he came up with like ten new buttons that they were able to use. And now they have these new buttons. And I'm just noticing on every one of these that a lot of them that are all the same have zero across the board. And now I'm wondering are these those ten new buttons that these regions have not been trained on to code or however this is done. Instead of let me just click other every single time, because that's what they're used to doing, instead of hey, I need to click, I don't know, whatever it should be because now there's this new button that exist, or new category, or whatever you want to call it now that was just created and nobody has told me that I need to now click it instead of clicking this other. Because I see a lot of zeros in the same places in all the LGEs across all of these reports.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: And thinking of the other not all of them are using other. Looking at the total isn't necessarily the best way to look at it. It's the individual LGEs is where you see the discrepancies. So I'll pick on my region, region four. Other is 164,000 and then vocational supports is zero. And I know that they provide vocational supports. And so where is that going and what's in other. I have some other ones to look at but it's particular ones that are using other it seems a lot and not using some of the other categories. Region eight seems to be a large number of other. Brenton you had your hand up.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I guess at first I was waiting to see if Bernard would answer the zero-dollar ones or not. But I guess I can take a stab at it based on what I think it is as to why you see zeroes. So the categories were added while the year was in process. And so all this data that's being pulled is from the previous year so I would hope that once those new categories were added Herman would have done the training, or whoever is responsible for doing the training, to make sure those categories are being used. So I think you're going to see that more reflected next October when we look at FY27.

But I do think going back to the other it is starting to increase. And I know in past years we've spoken that there's a lot of different reasons for that. I know when Tanya was here there was a really big push at one point in time at one of the trainings to really get the IFS teams at all the districts and authorities to truly understand, I think she had a whole training about it, because I want to say we might have even seen some of the slides that she used. But to really get them to understand that a lot of times you're checking other simply because you're trying just to move forward quickly as opposed to really analyzing what category you're using. But I wonder if there's been any sort of turnover that might attribute to that.

But the other category is creeping up and for our purposes we can't do things like what we worked with Herman on to change up those categories if we don't know exactly what they're spending the funding on. So it seems like yeah, we're starting to get another uptick in issue with them just checking other instead of the other options they have to check. And so where's the issue there. Why is that happening. Is there another training that's needed.

Is this something that somebody needs to follow up on. Because I think Tanya back in the day when we had this issue it was monthly she was pulling this thing to see what was going on and reviewing I guess some of the requests that were received and how they were coded to really get the LGEs onboard with understanding what truly should be an other. Which if I'm not mistaken there weren't many things that they should categorize in other unless it was something that maybe hit three areas under once and they didn't really understand where it should go as a priority.

BERNARD BROWN: Brenton you're right. This is FY26 that that update was made in that fiscal year, so you probably wouldn't see it on this report. But because the report was ran this year, this fiscal year those buckets are there so that could be a reason why.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Because it shows in the fourth quarter there's not really zeros and to some extent the third quarter gets a little better. It's the first two quarters you see a lot of those zeroes.

BERNARD BROWN: We'll definitely work with them to make sure that they are appropriately categorizing the expenditures. And we'll add this to the quarterly review because I don't think this breakout is normally included in the quarterly review. This is the first time y'all saw it like this, right?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: No. This has been going on for two or three years now, right?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Oh, longer than that. We've probably gotten this over the last five years.

BERNARD BROWN: I must have just didn't present it last time. My bad.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. I mean, it looks slightly different because it's just displayed in a different way than it used to be but it's all the same.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: And Bernard it's the same conversation that we have year after year. It's like this report if things aren't coded the right way then we can't ask the questions to see if there's anything that needs to be done at the LGEs, or any supports or any advice because it's not coded the right way so we don't have good data it seems. So that is really something that needs to be corrected. And then we only see it once a year so we'll have this same conversation in October of next year.

BERNARD BROWN: So y'all only see this once a year?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Yeah. It's annual.

BERNARD BROWN: Should it be quarterly?

BRENTON ANDRUS: So I have asked that question and the biggest complaint we always get, and I don't know if complaint is a fair statement, but the biggest issue we have whenever we get quarterly reports is we always hear the same thing. We didn't get all of our invoices in yet so this isn't accurate. Next quarter is going to be more accurate. And so we could get it quarterly but that has also come up if we do get this quarterly how accurate it is going to be. But that's up to the committee if you want to start looking at it quarterly. That might be a good idea even though you know it's not accurate you might see some trends. Especially in some of these areas where you know waivers should be covering some of these things so why are those increasing. But we are going to probably run into the same issues as you do your other reports where it's not going to be completely accurate.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: So Bernard if I can just highlight some things. If you look region by region some regions might just have particular issues that they deal with or something particular in that region. If you look at region one 550,00-dollars goes to PCA. That is way more than half of their budget. So why is PCA so high. It may be that it's just difficult to get provider agencies in that area. I don't know. But that's something that's disproportionately high compared to other regions. And then if you look at region two you have household furnishing and household assistance is over 400,000. Like it's like 60 something percent of their budget. So I would ask what's happening in region two that's making housing such an issue. If you go through these things you can see particular things in each region that in my experience when we brought these questions to the regions they had reasons why they were so, you know, what was the issue in their region, but like if we don't have good data we can't really drill down and ask those questions of what's going on in those regions.

BERNARD BROWN: Yep.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: I think Ayden had his hand up first and then Landen.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: I don't know who I need to ask so anybody who wants to answer please do. These categories, how do I ask this question. What are these categories for

for the numbers as far as like the different services and all that? Where are the numbers coming from? Does that make any sense?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: This is the IFS fund. If you go back to the report that we just looked at here on this page the dollar amounts that you see here it's broken down by the categories of types of expenses. If you're looking at the IFS, the individual family support funds for each region here and then this paper that they have on the screen right now this is just the breakdown of what the expense type is.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Like just say for example the PCA is just that number. Does that go into their wage that they're paid or that's completely not even close?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: My understanding for PCA on this is whenever it's not going through the waiver. It's whenever the LGE is paying for that personal care assistant directly to the person, the family and not through the waiver.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Got you. Okay.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: So Kelly was just asking about why is some of the PCA, why is it paid and not going through the waiver. From previous conversations about that is sometimes it's like with what Leonard had talked about earlier there was a child that was waiting to get Medicaid and so that would be PCA, personal care assistance provided to that little boy and their family. So this is usually the type of thing is for people who may be in limbo waiting to get their waiver, or don't qualify or going through some different things.

KELLY MONROE: But if they get this will that mean that their needs are being taken care of and that's why they're not going to get the waiver?

BERNARD BROWN: No, not necessarily.

KELLY MONROE: Because they're receiving some type of service.

BERNARD BROWN: Not necessarily. It's a lot of different reasons. It can be that the need for PCA is intermittent or episodic where it's not a long-term permanent need for it. Like Bambi said and like Leonard alluded to it can be getting a PCA in place until they're certified into the waiver. It could be a lot of different things. Just depends, right. It could be just keeping on track with the episodic nature of it or like intermittent just for a little while there may be people who may not need it forever. They have something happen where they just

need assistance in the home while they heal or they maybe had a surgery or something. Until they can get back to supporting themselves fully needing that PCA in place. But that's kind of one of the many reasons it can be requested. And just to keep that in mind too. This isn't what the LGEs are prioritizing to spend money on. These are the requests that are coming in for those things. Just to keep that in front of mind is that these are the requests that are coming in.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Going off of what you were saying Kelly it might have been a few meetings ago we had that conversation of I think someone in the public made the comment of like because I was getting something through IFS they were saying my needs were being met and they're not supposed to be-- because IFS is not meant to be an ongoing service. You're getting help in that time of need but it should not, at least that's what was told to us in this meeting, that should not be counted.

BERNARD BROWN: So it gets tricky, Brenton, it does. Let's say for instance if you have a long-term need, right and you're getting it met with this intermittent service that's a different situation than I have an intermittent time limited need that can be met with flexible family from the IFS depending on the nature of the need and support. It does get tricky there. And I know you heard Leonard say like we cover stuff just until a waiver is in place. That's not 1,000 percent true. But in practice that happens most times. So Kelly to answer your question there are instances where you have a need that's highlighted then it's being supported by another outlet. But when the SUN assessment is done they are looking at the persistence of the need and calculating the urgency as well.

BRENTON ANDRUS: If we're factoring IFS into the SUN that's just wrong. That should not play into it because you're using that and it's just going to deny someone else a priority that they might have when we could move this person into let's say whatever they were getting through IFS was the difference between them getting a waiver or not. And so year after year we're just going to let them potentially get this service through IFS?

BERNARD BROWN: Yeah. Sometimes yes Brenton.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I'm just throwing that out there.

KELLY MONROE: I think it's worth reminding the people who do the SUN assessments because I know of two of them

personally that I had to call and say hey, we're not supposed to add this. That's how I know it is happening. Maybe it's worth reminding because the turnover is pretty great.

BERNARD BROWN: Not supposed to add what? I'm sorry.

KELLY MONROE: Not supposed to take IFS services in consideration as being receiving what they need.

BERNARD BROWN: That's not true. You can but it depends on the circumstances around the IFS supports. You're right. If I need PCA every day for the foreseeable future and a screener comes in and you're getting it through IFS there's no need that is incorrect. You're right. But if it's situational where I'm receiving IFS intermittently or if I need PCA intermittently and I'm getting that met through IFS supports then that is considered. That's the point.

KELLY MONROE: No, I get what you're saying that you're not supposed to. I'm just saying I know of two circumstances where it did happen. And maybe just a reminder to people every now and then like hey, don't forget we can't add this. This can't be included. That's just my opinion.

BERNARD BROWN: If it's a long-term need, yes. If it's a long-term situation, yes.

LANDON HANKS: I do agree with Kelly on that thing. I did have a question to backtrack what we're referring to as to inaccurate information or not up to date what you brought up. Mr. Brenton you brought up how we're not having updated information. Could you perhaps go back (inaudible).

BRENTON ANDRUS: And similar to how our contracts are here with the council too everything is coming in the month after of what you're billing for. October right now we're just getting invoices in for September. So whenever they're pulling their reports to send us the data depending on what time of the month they pull that report it may not capture all of the information from that previous month because they may not have submitted that information yet to the departments. So it's always a little bit off, which is why we do in this committee you'll see in July it's not quite a yearend report. So in October you bring it all up again because it is an official year-end report because all the invoices should have come through by that point. It's just a matter of how it's submitted. You're always

submitting for that reimbursement until it comes a little bit later so that's why it kind of throws it off.

LANDON HANKS: I thought that was interesting how we were seeing issues (inaudible). I thought that was factoring into that. I was a bit curious about that.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah. And for our purposes, unless we move all of our meetings a month later, that's just how--

LANDON HANKS: No, absolutely. I just wanted to make sure I was clear. (Inaudible).

BRENTON ANDRUS: No, not on them. It's just the way the calendar works.

JILL HANO: I might be overcomplicating, oversimplifying, over something. This list of services, this is services provided by the individual and family support program, yes? Okay. And then my next question. I'm confused because (inaudible) is it kind of like IFS verses the four waivers that I am accustomed to kind of thing like either or?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Did you say IFS and waivers or either or?

BRENTON ANDRUS: You can have one or the other. You can have both. It's all meant to support you based on your need.

JILL HANO: Okay.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Some people that have a waiver they may also use a service in IFS. Some people are utilizing IFS and they don't have a waiver yet. It's not an either or. It's kind of a both if you need it.

JILL HANO: Okay. Can one replace the other?

KELLY MONROE: Yeah, if you're getting IFS and you get the waiver then yeah, if you want it to.

JILL HANO: Okay. Is there like a manual online?

BRENTON ANDRUS: There is an IFS manual.

JILL HANO: Bernard want to bring me one? I think those are all my questions.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: We'll go with Ayden then Erick.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: As far as like you mentioned the SUN assessment how can they base a person's need with a SUN assessment if they haven't even looked at the person if it's over the phone?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: So the SUN assessment is outside the scope of this committee. That might be a question for the next committee meeting.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: That's fine. I'll be right here.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Erick.

ERICK TAYLOR: What is the difference of the IFS and the NOW waiver, what is the difference?

BERNARD BROWN: Well, the largest difference is this isn't a Medicaid service. Or this isn't a Medicaid service. It is a pot of money allocated to support the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. So that's the biggest difference between this IFS services and waiver services. That's one. So the eligibility requirements, the financial and medical pieces of it. You don't have to go through those rigmarole, right. These dollars in part support individuals that have either imminent needs or that may have needs that can't be met via Medicaid services and/or give folks the flexibility to support people in crisis in urgent matters as well. Because one of the things that the LGEs have the flexibility to do with these funds that we can't is they can disperse these funds and get supports in place for someone in crisis when we don't have that option because I cannot give Medicaid dollars to someone who isn't Medicaid eligible. They don't have those hoops to jump through with these funds.

ERICK TAYLOR: So you have to have a slot for them to actually step up, correct?

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yep. You have to have a slot and you have to be eligible to have the waiver. Because there's folks that may have a statement of approval for developmental disability but cannot get eligibility for Medicaid services that need supports. It doesn't fulfill the need but it helps to support that person. These funds.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Okay, guys, I apologize. Time has gotten away. We only have ten minutes left and Brenton wants to prolong it.

BRENTON ANDRUS: You were talking about with your reports do you want us to start asking for this quarterly, to kind of do with your IFS flexible family fund report, do you want quarterly and then yearend or?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Is that an undue burden? How difficult is it to produce this report?

BERNARD BROWN: Don't worry about that part. We'll figure it out if that's what y'all want to do.

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't want to speak for the department but Tanya told me (inaudible).

BERNARD BROWN: Yeah, if that's what y'all want to do

we can make it happen.

BRENTON ANDRUS: Yeah, I mean it's up to y'all if you want to request that because that will put it on our radar to ask every quarter.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: I wrote some notes for each LGE like questions I have about specific issues. Bernard if I give those to Rekeesha and she can follow-up, and add to anything and send that to you for you to be able to follow-up about there's specific issues around each LGE that seems outside of the parameter.

BERNARD BROWN: Hold on one second. So sorry about that y'all. I thought she was still outside my door but she's not. To answer your question Bambi send that to Pam Sun. So I do have an announcement to make. Forgive me for not doing it earlier. You know Herman retired. You know Tanya retired. We recently hired Pam Sun into that regional coordinator role which was previously held by Tanya and Pam. So she will be moving forward the person presenting on Act 378-dollars working closely with the LGEs around policy on how these funds are dispersed and would be the person, Bambi, you should send that email to.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Okay. Rekeesha will do that. We can move on. We'll move on to that last report Bernard. That's the first quarter of this fiscal year.

BERNARD BROWN: Yep. So first quarter we already kind of talked about why the numbers look different. Brenton touched on it. It has a lot to do with when those expenditures are sent out. I would just call your attention to what's obligated right now to date in FY27. If you look at the bottom line about 5 million-dollars of the money is already allocated. Of the 8 million that's budgeted about 5 million is already kind of obligated out to individuals and this is just for the first quarter. I would pay closer attention to that until we kind of get to midyear and the third quarter to look at what's expended. But just to hit the high points over half of the budgeted amount is obligated already through the first quarter.

And then on the flexible family fund side you'll see here that the obligations is about 4 million of the 5.5 is obligated over there on the flexible family fund side. Because we're in the first quarter I think that's the important pieces to kind of highlight. Come down to the second page of this report you'll see, obviously because this is cumulative, only 21 percent of the total 9 percent

requirement has been expended.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Do we have any questions about this first quarter report from OIDD? Okay. Do we have any other questions for Bernard? All right. Thank you so much Bernard.

BERNARD BROWN: All right. Bye y'all.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Next, we will have Marcia Booker to provide the report for Office of Behavioral Health.

MARCIA BOOKER: We're going to look at the FY26 report. If you look at that report everybody on the CCR side everyone except for Central Louisiana and Northeast Delta met the 95 percent. If you go down to the bottom Northeast they gave an explanation when it came to a couple barriers and they came up with action plans to correct that for the FY27 year. Flexible family everyone except for Northeast Delta reported the required spending. I'm sorry. Everybody met the spending for flexible family funds. In supported living, the next tab, all LGEs expended (inaudible). Anybody have any questions?

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Do you have any questions for the Office of Behavioral Health report for fiscal year 2026? Not seeing any questions.

MARCIA BOOKER: FY27. Almost all the LGEs are on target to do what they need to do. You see increased spending with ICHSA where they had the extra funding (inaudible) under consumer care resources. And under Northeast Delta and CLHSD did spend (inaudible) with an action plan. FFF funds, all LGEs reported at least 90 percent of their slots being filled. So they're in good standings. And the supported living tab most of them are close or at their 25 percent spending. Anybody have any questions?

REKEESHA BRANCH: Who did you say was under an action plan?

MARCIA BOOKER: Northeast Delta and central Louisiana.

REKEESHA BRANCH: Thank you.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Any questions for Marcia with the Office of Behavioral Health? You're getting off easy today.

MARCIA BOOKER: Thank y'all.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Thank you. Kelly you have two minutes. Kelly with the Arc of Louisiana.

KELLY MONROE: It's just one quarter so we're good. So everybody has one in their packet I'm assuming. If not

we're going to roll through it anyway. So this last quarter we served 41 people on the state personal assistance program. Below are some of the demographics that you guys usually ask for. Of the 41 eighteen of those people were African American, 24 were Caucasian and 1 was Hispanic. Twenty-six of those people were male and 15 were female. There were people served in every region except for region eight which is kind of strange. And it shows you how many people were in each one of those regions. Everyone received support coordination but 35 of those people received personal care assistance. Four of them received utility assistance or some type of rental assistance. Five were medical supplies. And three were home modifications or vehicle modifications. So what we spent on this quarter was a total of $175,964.17.

If you go to the next page you will see that 67 people are still on the waiting list and then you will see below that where you find the people on the waiting list with the highest being in region two, which is unusual. They didn't have everything completed. There were 11 applications that were incomplete so I couldn't tell you about all of the waiting list demographics. But to the best of my knowledge of those 67 people on the waiting list 34 of those are male and 43 are female. If we were to serve everybody, all of the applicants, we would need $1.8-million to serve everyone on the waiting list.

And on the last page these are the people who were on the waiting list these are some of the services that they do receive. But again, we don't have, 11 of those we may not have all the information on so that might not be included in this last chart. Any questions?

LANDON HANKS: Do you happen to know why you guys (inaudible)?

KELLY MONROE: Honestly we had some people in region eight and two of those people passed away. And it's such a small contract we just didn't have, the next person that came up just was not in that region.

LANDON HANKS: The reason I'm asking (inaudible).

KELLY MONROE: Yeah, no they definitely need it. There's not really that many applicants. There's only three on the waiting list in region eight. Probably because they don't know about the program to be honest. Not that they don't need it. Anyone else?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I think I know the answer but I need

a reminder. It is first come first serve, right? Y'all just go in order?

KELLY MONROE: Yeah.

BAMBI POLOZOLA: Okay. So that's all our reports. And please note after this meeting our self-determination and community inclusion committee will meet at 4:15. Also, tomorrow is the full council meeting which starts at 10:00 a.m. It will also be in this same room. Those that are registered to participate virtually should have the links to the meeting in their email. Does anyone on the committee have any other announcements to make? Do we have anyone wishing to share public comment? So I hereby adjourn this meeting at 4:03.