Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
Education and Employment Committee
October 28, 2026

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Good afternoon everyone. It is 12:49. I now call the meeting to order. Stephanie please call the roll.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Melissa Bayham.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Ayden Blunschi.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Jude Boynton.

JUDE BOYNTON: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Alaina Chachere. Liam Doyle.

LIAM DOYLE: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Lamar Meda. Julie Tanner. Erick Taylor.

ERICK TAYLOR: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Renoda Washington.

RENODA WASHINGTON: Here.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Brooke Stewart. You have six. You have a quorum.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Thank you. Before we start here are the meeting rules. Raise your hand if you want to speak. Wait until I call on you before talking. Keep side conversations quiet. Stay on the topic that we're discussing. For committee members joining by Zoom you must be on camera with your full name showing to count for the quorum. Keep your microphone off unless I call on you. Click raise hand if you want to speak. Wait until I call on you before unmuting. For all attendees the Q and A box is only for people who ask for an ADA accommodation. It is not for public comment. Committee members attending in person will speak first followed by committee members on Zoom. We will then hear from the public in person and then on Zoom. Please be patient. Hybrid meetings can be hard to manage. If we run short on time comments may be limited. Comments about a person's character are not allowed. Public members will have one chance to comment on each agenda item. Each person has two minutes. Public comment will also happen before a vote or at other times if I allow it. Let's work together to keep the meeting respectful and on track.

Approval of the July summary. Everyone should have reviewed the July meeting summary. A copy is in your packet and linked in the agenda sent by email. I need a motion to accept the minutes.

LIAM DOYLE: This is Liam. I motion to accept the minutes.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Anybody second?

ERICK TAYLOR: I second.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: We have a hand raised.

ALAINA CHACHERE: Hey y'all. I hear a bad echo. I don't know if it's my setup or if it's happening for anyone else who's also viewing from Zoom. Just me. Okay. All right. Thank y'all.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Alaina we have that you're in here twice. I'm going to remove the second one, the one that I don't see you on the screen. I think that might be why you're hearing an echo. Did that help Alaina? Okay. Cool.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Do we have any discussion? Is there any public comment? Is there any objection? Is there any abstentions? The July meeting summary passes by unanimous consent.

We're going to flip-flop here and we're going to do Louisiana Human Development Center, Ms. Constance Alphonse and Dr. Rose Angelocci. The West South Center work incentives planning and assistance WSC, SSC, WIPA and the LSU HDC updates. Next, we'll have an update from the LSU Development Center. Constance Alphonse and Dr. Rose will share their updates.

CONSTANCE ALPHONSE: Good afternoon everyone. So for my HDC update Dr. Angelocci is going to do a presentation on the work incentives planning assistance. We just call it WIPA. It's a question that council members have asked repeatedly over the last year since I've been participating in council meetings about how you get a job and keep your benefits. So she's going to be presenting. I'm going to share my screen.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: So today let's talk about what benefits planning is, you know, and how benefits planning can help make a successful transition to work. Let's go to slide two. So what is WIPA. WIPA stands for work incentives planning and assistance. So it's very intensive services. It could be just information and referral type things all the way to intensive services.

And helping people that are on social security understand how to navigate their benefits as they're trying to return to work. Or go to work for the first time, right. So it's very individualized. It can be very in-depth, implement focused. We look at work incentives that are available to individuals in order to apply to their various situations.

There are WIPA projects throughout the country. There's at least one in every state. Our state we have two WIPA programs. Ours here at the Human Development Center we serve North Louisiana and East Texas. And Lighthouse Louisiana serves the southern part of our state. And I'll talk to you more about how you can get in contact with either project and how all that works. So it's funded by the Social Security Administration. So social security contracts with all of us to provide these services free of charge to beneficiaries. And it's very important for improving employment efforts of people with disabilities on a national level.

Little history. Next slide. So it's part of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act in 1999. So there's cooperative agreements all across the country. So WIPA programs are staffed by what's called CWICs, community work incentive coordinators. But there's also community partner coordinators at various agencies. And we go through like-- they look at us, the FBI looks at us to make sure we're all okay and trusted sources to people. We're dealing with a lot of sensitive information as we work with folks so all of that remains confidential and handled with care.

The mission. So the mission is to promote employment and financial independence for beneficiaries of social security disability programs. Slide five. What can WIPA do for beneficiaries. Here are some of the things that I do as a benefits planner as a community work incentive coordinator as I work with folks. We verify benefit information. Sometimes people don't realize which benefit they're on and each benefit has different rules in terms of how it's impacted by work and earnings. So we help people connect with resources they might need or further information, other agencies that can help them also in this process of return to work. We explain how paid employment affects various benefits. So we try to provide the educational and the counseling piece of understanding the guidelines. We also look at work incentives that are

available and we'll get into that. But work incentives are special rules that allow people to work within certain limits I'd say. And different things that allow you to maybe stay on benefits and get a nice balance between work and benefits. Or at least for a period of time. So I'll be going through those in more detail in a moment.

Next slide. We also support people in reporting their earnings. That's very important to keep reporting regularly so that one doesn't get overpaid or surprised later if maybe they were not due benefits at that time because social security is going to want that money back. So we try to help people avoid that situation. And hopefully we're teaching people to kind of be more in charge of handling their benefits and knowing what to do when.

We also can look at healthcare. That's part of the benefits that go along with social security. Different healthcare benefits and look at how all that fits together. And resolve benefit problems. Sometimes we can help if somebody has been overpaid. We might have some ideas or help straighten out cases. We just try to be good helpers to social security and the beneficiaries. Make sure communication is flowing and help collect some of the documentation that might be needed.

So who is eligible. So disabled or blind per social security's definition of disability. We work with people who are already receiving benefits. Not people trying to get benefits. That's not our area of expertise. Our area is once you already receive benefits we can help with that return to work. And we work with folks as early as age 14 all the way through full retirement age.

We're going to focus on two benefit systems today. One on SSDI and the other on SSI. And I'll explain the differences. So first we're going to start talking about SSDI or social security disability insurance. So this is an insurance-based program that's funded through payroll taxes, the FICA taxes. So eligibility for this particular benefit depends on work history and work credits. That might not be the only avenue there. I'll talk about that in a second. As you work you earn quarters in the social security system. You can earn up to four quarters a year. One can be eligible for disability benefits if they've worked 20 quarters if they're under age 21. Or 40 quarters for anybody else.

Other ways people are in there that may be of interest

to you. It usually covers a beneficiary whether they retire or they have a disability or they're deceased. Sometimes benefits also might be paid to a survivor. A disabled adult child might be a category where somebody receives SSDI paid off the record of a parent. That's available to people who are over 18 but they've had a disability before the age of 22. They can sometimes be paid off of a parent's record.

SSDI work incentives. So today we're talking about two different benefit systems. So each have their own work incentives. So work incentives help people while being able to keep their benefits and healthcare coverage. It might lower what social security regards as countable income. That might help retain eligibility for some of these benefits. So on the SSDI side work incentives some have to do with time. Like there's a trial work period and extended period of eligibility and then another period of time five years later. So time is a factor in here in terms of how long you're working over time.

Subsidy or special conditions. Impairment related work expenses. Sometimes they're able to do averaging or they look at what is an unsuccessful work attempt. Sometimes if you're working like five months or less they might say that was kind of an unsuccessful attempt. And then there's expedited reinstatement which goes along with the time phases where you can jump back in without a new application should you lose access to cash benefits at that time.

Trial work period. So trial work period is a time where you can really test your ability to work. It's a time when you don't have any limits set on what amount of earnings you can make. It's a time where you would still be receiving your full cash benefit. It's an opportunity to test things out. And the way it's measured they give a certain threshold to each year. This year 1,210-dollars in a month counts as a trial work month. It would trigger the uses of a month. One is given nine months in order to do this in but that does not mean those months are consecutive. You look over a five-year period what's happening. So it can happen nine times. I always tell people nine times. If you go over whatever the amount is for trial work for that year that means you're using up a month and you get nine times. Once you hit number ten that work incentive goes away. Unless you're reinstated at

some point. If you always stay under the trial work amount or you never reach that tenth time in a five-year period you start to roll off. But at some point this is something that can be used up. So this year people can earn 1,210-dollars a month or more. That would be using your trial work month. In here other work incentives don't apply because you don't need them. You can earn any amount, right.

Extended period of eligibility. So this is like the second phase. So if somebody has used up their trial work, say they've hit month number ten and they're over that amount then they start looking at okay, new numbers come into play here. So the extended period of eligibility runs for three years. Once it starts, once the trial work period is over that period of time starts whether you're working or not. So it's a train and it's taken off whether you're working or not. But there's a new measure. They're looking to see if you're working substantial gainful activity level. And this year that amount is set at 1,690-dollars a month. So they're looking at that time as you're finishing the trial work period to see are you above or below this amount. So if you're above that amount at some point they're going to suspend benefits if you're working regularly above that amount. If you're under that amount then your cash benefits can continue. And anytime those things change. Say benefits are suspended because you're earning at a level above what they call SGA. If that changes for you you just notify social security that it changes and then benefits can resume. But it is a process. It's not like turning off and on a faucet. That's a process requiring communication and documentation. And benefits planners can help support you through that process of getting back into the cash benefits during that period of time.

Now there's two different amounts I should mention here. 1,690-dollars is if you're disabled in their eyes. There's a different amount for people that are considered statutory blind. I'm looking for that figure. 2,830-dollars a month for somebody that's considered statutory blind. And it's important for people that have vision issues to understand whether they're considered stat blind or not because that's a big difference.

Third phase is the post extended period of eligibility and this is a five-year period once that three-year period

ends. This is like five years and if you're still kind of under that SGA amount you just kind of continue on working, getting money from your employer and also your cash benefit from social security. If you are above the SGA amount at this point when somebody moves into this phase then benefits are terminated. So there's a difference between suspension and termination. Suspension means you're still eligible you're just earning too much at that time. But once you're in this phase if you're above SGA then benefits stop. But during this five-year phase here you would have an opportunity to jump back in without a new application if something changes for you. And those changes would have to be related to the qualifying disability. And the change would be because of that qualifying disability that your hours may be dropped or that you are no longer working.

So those were all the ones based on kind of time. As you move over time those are all work incentives related to that. Now starting with that extended period of eligibility phase we need to look at other work incentives as well. And one of those was called subsidy and special conditions. So sometimes I like to think of this as accommodations as opposed to saying the word subsidy. Subsidy sometimes social security calls this like a brother-in-law deal. It's kind of when they're providing accommodations or additional assistance. To me it's when you're taking a little bit more of your employers time or maybe your coworkers time to assist you in some way or maybe do something that you're unable to do as part of the job. Maybe you don't work as fast as other people. You might need more breaks because of your disability. Maybe your job duties are modified. Or maybe a coworker might have to pick up one piece of your job that you're not able to do. Those supports can be considered. They might regard you as earning less than what your paycheck says. So employers can kind of rank. It has nothing to do with the quality of your work, or your ability to work or whether you're a good employee or not. This is kind of measuring work effort if you're compared to somebody that does not have a disability. So looking at the overall job and how much of it are you able to do and how much effort you're able to put towards that. And employers can rank you. So like say they say you're doing about 90 percent of the job then social security would look at that employer's

documentation and say okay, we're only going to consider 90 percent of your check of what you earn. Your countable income is only going to be 90 percent of what your check says. So sometimes people can be earning more than the SGA level but if a subsidy is in place then social security regards them as earning less than the SGA amount.

Impairment related work expenses. So this is if you have expenses that are related to the qualifying disability that you're spending out of your pocket in order to go to work. So this is another way to look at countable income. And social security might say oh, you're spending all this money in order to go to work. So then they'll look at what you're earning and they'll look at the amount you're spending to go to work that's related to your disability and that could bring you down below the SGA amount as well. Sometimes that might be medications or therapies, or assistive technology. Maybe people have service animals that they have to care for that help them. There's a lot of different things that might be categorized as an IRWE. And could a doctor back that up. Because you may need some documentation. And of course you would need receipts and everything to support these claims. But I say it never hurts to ask, right. All they can say is no but it doesn't hurt to ask to see if something would be a qualifying expense.

So if it's related to the disability it could be backed up by a healthcare provider. It's necessary for you to go to work. You pay for it. It's not reimbursed by insurance or by vocational rehab. And they look at when you pay it in the month where you're making that purchase. They're looking at it on a month-by-month basis or how frequently. And if it's a big-ticket item they can break that up over time. And these items need to be reasonable in price. It just needs to be the going rate.

Medicare. So Medicare goes along with SSDI. Typically once people get involved with SSDI it takes about two years to qualify for Medicare with the exception of like if somebody has end stage renal disease. There's a few disabilities that kind of call for immediate access to Medicare. But for most folks it's two years in. Medicare you'll hear part A and part B. Part A is hospital. Part B is your doctor visits. Part D is for prescription drugs. When you hear part C plans part C is A, B and D all together. You might have a provider that's providing all of those or

sometimes people have original Medicare which is A and B and then they pay for a prescription drug plan with a particular vendor.

Let's talk about Medicare while working. As long as somebody is drawing a cash benefit they're going to be eligible for their Medicare. It would continue along. But what happens if somebody maybe isn't eligible for their cash benefit at the time because it was suspended or terminated. There is a work incentive EPMC that holds Medicare in place for quite some time. So it might be up to like 93 months following the end of that trial work period. And then even once-- because that's many years that Medicare can last. And even as you approach that time there may still be opportunities to retain that Medicare if there's some high cost in your medical services.

Now it's important to know like if somebody is still receiving a cash benefit they're probably pulling the premium out of the cash benefit before they're giving you your check. But if your benefit is suspended or terminated then Medicare is going to be looking to you for paying that premium. So that might be an arrangement that one would have to make. Let's talk about help with those Medicare premiums. There is Medicare savings programs that will assist paying for that Medicare premium each month. People that get both benefits like SSDI and SSI that's going to be covered. Medicaid sometimes pays for Medicare. Otherwise there are certain formulas that we apply to look at your income, see what your countable earnings are and then see if you're eligible for one of these categories where Medicaid could step in and pay the Medicare premium. So this is a need-based benefit here. SSDI is not a need-based benefit but the MSP, the support paying the premium is a need-based benefit.

Any questions right now or should I keep rolling into the next one?

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: My first question is who comes up with all these rules and regulations?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: That's a good question. I have a feeling some of them are written into laws in legislation.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Is it all federal?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Well, your social security is a federal program. You know, I've never gotten into that side of it. I just do my part and the benefits planning so don't shoot the messenger.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Obviously it's not a state program.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Right. I would think you would talk to legislators at the federal level because this is a national program.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: But you hear incentives, where? Where are the incentives? There are none.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: To work?

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Yeah.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: I always talk to people, you know, it's really good for our mental and physical health. Work is not just about bringing an income. Sometimes it's just an interaction with other folks and things like that. So people want to work for various reasons. It's a gentle balance and I think that's why it's important to get with a benefits planner to see if it's right for you. Social security contracts with benefits planners through the WIPA program in order to help people think about that because they don't want to leave you in a worse financial situation as a result of making changes in your life in attempting going back to work. I think it's finding that balance of what is right for you. So it's very individualized. I try to really get to know clients that I'm working with to find out what is their goal in working. What are they comfortable with. What concerns they have. And is there a sweet spot that makes them feel comfortable. Getting the individual counseling and guidance to make sure it's a good fit for you. And then they can kind of highlight what are some opportunities. What are some of these incentives you can take advantage of. We try to help illuminate what is available to you. That's my best advice on that. I hope that helps.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Well, I'm going to be honest with you no, it didn't help. Because just like anybody else, and this is going to be my last thought on it because I could go all day with you, we have bills to pay. So if we go to work oh, you're working so guess what, we're going to cut you 200-dollars because that's what you get paid a month from working to add onto your check. It doesn't add up.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: It is very frustrating and I do hear that. And a lot of times people are going back to work because they're not making ends meet just with the benefits alone. The benefit that I just talked about, SSDI, that one does not get reduced. It's kind of an all or nothing thing. You're either eligible for it or not. The other

benefit I'm about to talk about is the one that gets reduced based on work. Again, I think it's important for people to see are they really ahead or not. So we try to map that out. And I don't make the rules and I have great empathy for people trying to balance out their financial situation. I understand that.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: There's none at all. And unless you live it, and I'm just saying generalized for everybody, unless you live it and you get a paycheck or a social security check or whatever you have no clue. We have bills to pay, rent to pay so we can have a house, food to eat. Oh, let's not cut into that because they're going to cut that too. Anyway, go ahead Erick.

ERICK TAYLOR: First of all we want to thank you for coming to speak to us. We really appreciate that. SSDI is for people that work, correct?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: SSDI is typically for people that have a work history unless it's taken off of their parents.

ERICK TAYLOR: So that's putting into the system?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Right. I'm about to talk about the other benefit, the SSI side, which people may be picking up from childhood switching into transitioning into adulthood may pick up into the SSI side. Or SSI might be for people that don't yet have enough quarters to qualify for the SSDI side.

ERICK TAYLOR: The SSI is for people that's disabled and can't work, correct?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Well, it's not that they can't work. It just means they're not working at the time and they're not eligible for the other benefit. This is like low income. SSI is a need-based benefit. Maybe I should get into that and maybe you'll have more questions for me about that when I'm done with that section.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay, chairman, so give me another minute after she's done.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Go ahead Ms. Burns.

ADRIANNE BURNS: I had a question about so if you do choose to work and you've decided that that's the right choice for you and if you lose your job for any reason, are you penalized? But also if you lose it based on your disability basically doesn't that kind of become where you have to prove that it is and that becomes like a case or verses-- do you understand what I'm asking?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Yeah, I think I understand. There was

points in time where I told you whether you're working above SGA or not. So during that time when things could be suspended you're just filling it out. You're filling out a paper, a form with social security. And you're always letting them know when you start a job, when you stop a job and if it changes for any reason. And one of the questions on there is they ask like did your job ending was it related to your disability. It doesn't really go into grand detail for you to describe that. I guess in my experience I haven't had anybody kind of challenge that or ask for further explanation. That form doesn't ask for great detail in terms of that.

Now with that expedited reinstatement piece if you're past the extended period of eligibility in the five-year period again, you might be providing them documentation that you've separated from the company or what not. I think you need to describe your own case and document it. I can't speak for social security and I don't know that they're going back and asking the employer things about exactly what transpired. I can't speak for them. I don't know that but I would retain your own documentation and you have that opportunity to report on the form or in a cover letter to them explaining why you think you should be reinstated.

ADRIANNE BURNS: Thank you.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Again, maybe get with a benefits planner if that happens and just kind of talk it through.

EBONY HAVEN: My question is the SGA, like the 1690 and whatever else it was for the blind, is that gross or net?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: It's gross. I think people also need to recognize it's before tax. And another thing we have not even touched upon, which is a whole other matter, is if people are engaged in self-employment. That's a really other good reason to get involved with a benefits planner and with a tax person. There's a lot of advantages in self-employment. And if it's recognized by social security as self-employment there's a lot of deductions you can take. You have a lot of expenses in order to make money. So for self-employment they're looking at net profit. So W-2 people it's gross earnings but self-employment, net profit.

LIAM DOYLE: So I just want to clarify that SSDI is needs based?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: No. SSI is the need based one. SSDI

is the insurance.

LIAM DOYLE: Okay. We're good.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Go ahead Ms. Burns.

ADRIANNE BURNS: I wanted to ask about if you're engaged in like a volunteer activity which does pay. So say like I'm a commissioner for elections but that's considered a volunteer position but it does pay. As pertaining to that it's considered volunteer but it does pay and then sometimes it can go above 600 depending on if you do early voting. I just wanted to know in general does volunteer activity, which is paid, count?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: That would be something I would want to research. So there's the POMS, which is like the policy manual for social security, we would have to take a peek at that. I think SSI would look a lot harder because they're looking at any income coming in over the other benefits. So there might be different rules kind of guide that depending on the benefit so I would want to research that. I don't want to tell you an incorrect answer there. But that is a good question to raise to think about. If y'all have specific questions feel free to contact me or give me a call and maybe I can point you in a direction of what else to think about in terms of that. Because sometimes they have things, hobbies is one thing that social security kind of defines. What's a hobby, what's a job, that kind of stuff. Definitely something to look at.

So now let's talk about SSI. That's the need-based benefit. So it stands for supplemental security income. So what is SSI. It's a need-based benefit designed to help people meet the needs for food and housing. That's its primary job. This is typically the benefit that might be coming out the first of the month. And the payment is based on the federal benefit rate. And all the benefits I'm talking about now they change with the cost of living each year. It inches up, okay. And your SSI payment changes depending on what your reported monthly income is. So this is a payment that can fluctuate depending on your earnings. It reacts to any income that you have coming in. And then you might see a check eight weeks later that reflects the reporting of that change of when you earned it.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: I want to ask you a quick question. What is the percentage of like when COLA hits, you know that percentage?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: They just published it for this year. I have not gotten a chance to look at it. Two to 3 percent, you know, the SSDI benefits seems to go up 40-dollars or so.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: It's actually less than that.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Each year it's different. It's not a consistent increase.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: It's like 10-dollars.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Like this year a full SSI check was 994. I want to say in the past it was like 967. So it inches up hopefully to kind of give a cost-of-living adjustment in there. But there's a formula that they set. That federal benefit rate is what it's hunching on there.

So who's eligible to qualify. Somebody has to be either 65 or older, or be blind or have a disability that's determined by social security. There's income and resource limits to this. There's citizenship and residency requirements and it's something you would need to apply for. SSI cash benefit. So the max monthly amount this year has been 994-dollars a month for an individual or if there is a couple is 1,491-dollars a month. For people that are 18 or older they're reviewing living arrangements. Sometimes there's in-kind support maintenance. So if they know you're getting some assistance from somebody else that full amount may possibly be reduced. So it's when somebody else provides housing or shelter to you. If somebody lives with their parents at no cost or something they might reduce ones full check by a third. So some people's checks are right now 663-dollars a month because there's some kind of support that's acknowledged in there to cover their housing.

So factors that can change the benefit. Like your monthly amount. It's important. Living arrangements is definitely something that can affect how much you're getting in your check. Your marital status. Any kind of unearned income. Sometimes people get both benefits so that SSDI would be an unearned benefit. Different resources that you have. How much money you have in the bank. Work incentives that we'll talk about where we can kind of show your countable income to be less. And then sometimes, like I said, if they overpay you they want their money back and they can withhold it.

Medicaid. Medicaid goes along with SSI. So in our state when somebody becomes eligible for SSI they become

eligible for Medicaid which is also a need-based benefit. And pretty much kind of has the same income resource limit type things here. Some of the waivers you can earn a little bit more and still retain your Medicaid. And even if you work and you're still eligible for SSI you may be earning over the amount where you would draw a cash benefit but you still may be eligible to keep Medicaid which is important. So it's a good amount. There's a provision called 1619B. The threshold is pretty high. 44,804-dollars. So somebody could still retain Medicaid and earn up to 44,000-dollars for the year and you could still be on Medicaid. But the conditions still have to apply. Like you can't have more than 2,000-dollars in the bank at any given time when they're looking at that. You don't want to hit over the 2,000 or 3,000 if it's one couple. So that's important to know that. Months that you go over you may not be eligible for SSI or Medicaid that month.

Now sometimes there's a myth about people can't own a house or can't own a car. You can have one house, one car. If you're the one living in the house. It's when you get beyond one house, one car that they're looking to see other things that you would be able to sell off for cash. That's where the hang up is. But people can own a house. They can own a car. Now with this in mind the whole idea of resources and assets that you have. Like let's talk about that up to 2,000-dollars in the bank. Achieving a Better Life Experience, ABLE accounts are special savings and investment accounts where somebody can still retain eligibility for these needs-based benefits. They will not count this as a resource. There's some restrictions here. There's some limits as to how much. In 2026 annual contributions can be up to 20,000-dollars. And if you're working I think you can contribute maybe another 15,000 for the year. So this is where if you're earning a good amount and you're still on Medicaid you can push some of your funds, your income into an ABLE account. Or this might be another way that people can give you money. A lot of times I get questions of people maybe wanting to send money as part of inheritance or things like that. This is a possible way because it's not only you contributing, other people can contribute to this account.

You can have up to 100,000-dollars in these ABLE accounts to remain eligible for SSI. Contributions for others and investments are not counted as income. And you

can use the funds for qualified disability expenses. And I don't think some of these would be hard to justify. Education, transportation, employment supports, assistive technology, healthcare. Those are some of the categories under which you can use that money that you set aside in these accounts. And there's a website here that you can look at to go get more information on how to establish an ABLE account. You just can't walk into your local bank to do it.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: I'm going to stop you right there for just a second because we have two questions and then I'll let you continue.

ERICK TAYLOR: First of all, you're saying we can save up to 2,000-dollars. You can actually save up to 3,000-dollars, correct?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Yeah. Those are the resource limits to retain eligibility for SSI. In your personal bank account if you exceed those limits in your account that's where you may lose eligibility for SSI or Medicaid. And that's why it might be important if you find yourself earning to where you can start saving money you may want to save it in something like an ABLE account instead of your bank account.

ERICK TAYLOR: Another question I have for you if we get a raise on a check I notice they give you the food stamps but they give you a raise and then they cut the food stamps all the way down.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: It's all a balance. And I don't feel like I have enough information a lot of times to calculate food stamps because there's a lot of other bills and factors that go in there.

ERICK TAYLOR: So they count that. If I get 80-dollars' worth of food stamps and they cut me down and give me 200-dollars' worth of food stamps what would that cover?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Right. I see a lot of folks who get the bare minimum of food stamps sometimes. I mean, the rule of thumb is the more income the less eligibility for food stamps.

ERICK TAYLOR: Another question I got. I don't mean to cut you off. They want the Ticket to Work but then they got so many loopholes to do the Ticket to Work so people out here that do get SSI is scared to work because dam if you do, dam if you don't. If I go to work and then this

don't work like I want it then I got to wait almost six months or three months to get my check back. So how you going to survive and you don't have that?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: I think the important is immediate communication with social security if you have a change.

ERICK TAYLOR: Okay. But if you have communication with SSI or whoever the caseload is so full for them you at the bottom of the list and by then your people that gets the rent paid they don't want to hear that. You're out the door. (Inaudible) to make yourself more safe.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Understood. I think on the SI side you have a reporting window. And I'll talk about that in a little bit. But I think make sure you do timely reporting. And if it's not a complex reporting you should be able to use some of the automated systems, which should make the check reflective sooner than later. It's a big system and I know it's very complex. And things do not happen instantaneously that's for sure. There are different ways that we can help try to get reporting and things in a timely fashion just to kind of help them out to make sure you get paid timely.

ERICK TAYLOR: We could talk all day about this.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: I know. I hear the frustrations. I really do. And unfortunately I can't really do anything.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: We have another question.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Hey, Dr. Angelocci. It's Melissa Bayham with LRS. Good to see you. I know you are like the bearer of bad news here and I've even heard the secretary of the Department of Health talk about the benefits cliff. So we all know in government that there are some issues in terms of how different benefits are structured that can be difficult for people. But wanted to ask a question because I'm hoping I know the answer. For the ABLE accounts for transportation could someone pay their car note with the funds in their ABLE account?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: I would think because transportation should be covered. I don't think it's very hard of a stretch to make a case. Just like social security. You can buy a car if you had a pass plan, right. That could be a legit expense. Transportation is a real expense. If you can't get to where you want to work you can't work.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Right. Which is why I wanted to mention it because I know a large portion of everybody's income goes to transportation. And so that could be a way

people with disabilities put money into those ABLE accounts because they can't save lot of money in their savings accounts and use their ABLE accounts to pay those. That would be a good way to kind of work around that.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Yes. And I even think ABLE accounts and having a pass plan at the same time. Kind of move money, move money. Kind of shift things around. I've even heard rumors like somebody could use their funds to build a swimming pool because it's good for their health. I don't think it's that hard to justify how you utilize that money.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. Great.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Good point. Thank you for bringing that up because that's a huge piece in there.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Thank you so much.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: So how does work affect SSI. So they don't necessarily, you know, they're not using all of your income. We have to calculate what's called countable income here. So generally a countable income is calculated roughly by looking at your gross monthly wages and we subtract 85-dollars. 65 from one, 20-dollars from another. It depends on if you have the other benefit as well like unearned income or not. But essentially 85 is getting knocked off here and we take that number and divide it by half. And then once you divide that number in half you're either integrating work incentives that might apply or we're just seeing what that number is divided in half and comparing it to what your total check is. So like if you were getting 994 we're going to walk through an example in a second. Essentially for every 2-dollars you're earning they're reducing your check by 1 dollar. So roughly that's kind of what's happening.

So right now 2,073-dollars is kind of this breakeven point on SSI. So if your earnings are below 2,073-dollars this year you might get an adjusted SSI payment, your wages from your employer and your continued Medicaid coverage. If you're earning more than 2,073-dollars in a month what you're going to get is no SSI payment because you're over the threshold there. You're going to get all your income coming from the employer and you'll have your continued Medicaid coverage.

Constance you want to do that check reduction calculation for me?

CONSTANCE ALPHONSE: Yes. It's your gross monthly

wages minus the 85-dollar exclusion that Dr. Angelocci talked about will give you that subtotal amount. And then they divide the subtotal in half and that's going to be the amount of your SSI check. And so you can contact the CWIC worker, which is Dr. Angelocci, to help you do that calculation instead of doing that yourself.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: And I think on the next slide we put some numbers in.

CONSTANCE ALPHONSE: So here's an example. You have wages. So you earn 1,000-dollars and so then you get your SSI check which is $536.50 so total you're going to have $1,536.50. So that would be the new amount. So there was that 1,000 minus the 85 which equals 915-dollars. And then the 915-dollars is divided by 2 which is equal to $457.50 which is what they reduce your SSI check by because you were over that amount. And so then basically what you're getting in SSI is that $536.50 and when you add that to the 1,000-dollars that you're making from employment that gives you the 1536.50.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: So notice you're ahead. Instead of 994 you're getting 1500 or so. But some coming from social security and some coming from your employer. The important thing is to look at that outcome later. Now what can also affect that countable income figure is the use of work incentives. So I want to mention a few. There's a student earned income exclusion, which I'll talk a little bit about in detail in a second. Impairment related work expenses. We've talked about a little bit. That is one work incentive that is common to both benefit systems. Both of them look at expenses that are related to your disability in order to go to work that you pay out of pocket for. Blind work expenses. So on this side people that are considered statutory blind cannot only claim expenses for things that are related to their disability itself but it's a bit more broader because they look at taxes and uniforms. Just all kinds of different expenses that may count under that so it's a much broader category than impairment related work expenses because some of them are not necessarily related to blindness itself.

And then there's a plan to achieve self-support or PASS. And this is a way that you can set aside money, have a plan in mind that's going to get you to the goal you want and you're able to set aside funds and get some of those funds kind of replenished because they know you're saving

up for something particular. Which hopefully ultimately is something that's going to help you maybe not be as dependent on benefits later on. So it could be an educational goal. It could be you need a car to get to work. So you might be saying I'm saving up for a car so I can go do this job. Different things like that. So PASS is something that's a plan that a benefits planner could help you work through to see if they can make that work for you as well.

Student earned income exclusion. Just to mention this. For people up to the age of 22 if they're a student regularly attending school and they are working sometimes any income they're getting from working may not have any impact on their SSI check because they're allowed to earn up to a certain amount totaling within a year or verses a month. We have to look at some of the figures here. Here's the exclusion amounts. 2026 people can earn up to 2,410-dollars a month. But there is an annual limit. The limit is over 9,000-dollars. I don't see it on there right now. 9,700-dollars for the year. If they're working at a rate of earning 2400 a month eventually within the year they're going to cap out and then it will impact their SI. That's a nice way for young people to start saving up money and getting ahead for that period of time.

Reporting. It's just important to report timely. As people earn money you should be reporting by the sixth of the month after the month that you've had earnings. I always tell people write a cover letter and tell them that you're working. Call them first. Tell them you're working. Follow that up by a cover letter. Attach your paystub. After they are listed on your record you can report. Get a My SSA account because you can report wages there. That's another way to report wages. You can send things in writing, by mail, by fax or call things in. But always be prepared to backup things in writing. Anytime you're dealing with self-employment or if you want to claim any work incentives you need to put all that in writing. There is automated telephone systems. That's for people on SSI only, not on the other benefit. And that's for simple things when you're only reporting what you earned. If you don't have complex things like work incentives or self-employment you can't report it through those mechanisms. A lot of the computer stuff can't handle the more complex situations so you don't want to go those routes

of using the apps. The app is for SSI. The automated telephones for SSI. The My SSA account could be for either. If you get more than one benefit you need to report it twice. There's separate kinds of systems there. I say report and let people know immediately if your situation changes. I've listed just some resources here but I encourage you to get a My SSA account.

We're almost done. Here is the final message. Paid employment and social security benefits do not have to be mutually exclusive. Sometimes you can have both, right. It's possible to work even full-time and keep your healthcare, Medicaid or Medicare, in almost every case. It's possible to work and get ahead financially even if benefits are reduced or ceased. It's possible to get benefits back if they're lost due to employment. Like I said, there's two programs. I handle North Louisiana. Lighthouse Louisiana handles South Louisiana. We have a little breakout here but basically what you need to do if you want to get services is to call the Ticket to Work Helpline and they do a quick intake with you and send the referral to the appropriate program based on your ZIP code. So you get directed to us at LSU or to Lighthouse Louisiana depending on your ZIP code.

If y'all have any questions let me know or feel free to email me or call me if you want to kind of discuss an individual situation and I can try to help point you in the right direction.

LIAM DOYLE: Thank you so much for coming today and presenting. I really appreciate it. This is a really important topic. Can we get a copy of these slides?

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Yeah.

CONSTANCE ALPHONSE: I'll email them to Stephanie now for you all.

ROSE ANGELOCCI: Thank y'all for the opportunity. If you have any questions I know it's a very important topic. It's difficult to navigate the situations. There's a lot of decisions to be made. And we're all here at WIPA happy to help provide information and guidance.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Dr. Angelocci thank you so very much for this. Very informative and I think something that everybody needed to hear. So thank you again for doing this for us and getting us this information. I really appreciate it.

We're actually running short on time so because of that

we're going to hear from our agency reps tomorrow at our full meeting and we will skip the contractual updates as well. This information is available in the status report under activity 3.1.5. And thank you again, Dr. Angelocci, for this information. I appreciated it.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: We still have a little bit of time so if we did want to keep going we have about 20 minutes. So we can keep going in the order. I know as long as we still have a quorum I don't want to just end when we do have the time. If that's okay with the chair. As long as we still have a quorum. So let me just double check. Yeah, we have a quorum. So if we want to just keep following the agenda. I know Liam had to go so we can just skip his stuff. He did say he will have somebody tomorrow to go over his information. But if we did want to move onto the next person. Alaina does have her hand raised.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Yes, Alaina, go ahead.

ALAINA CHACHERE: I just wanted to say I have to hop out of my vehicle really quick but I will be right back. I didn't know if that was going to affect the quorum but I am coming right back.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: It should not.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Ms. Bayham it's your turn.

MELISSA BAYHAM: All right. Good afternoon. For the sake of time I think I want to spend the time in this particular committee meeting going over what is going to be the second page of my report tomorrow, which are the changes that we recently made in our technical assistance and guidance manual. Those are the changes that we made to services. So I think this would be a good meeting to kind of go over those in depth and take any questions that you might have.

And some of these are not necessarily changes but just clarifications or just better guidance to our staff. But the first one is about documentation for legal authorization to work. So our program, because of federal requirements and different state requirements, you do have to be legally authorized to work in the United States to receive services. So this was basically just giving our counselors better guidance on what documentation they should be collecting in order to make sure individuals meet that particular requirement. So it's nothing new but we just provided better information so that we're getting enough information but not too much information to make

sure that we meet that particular requirement.

The next bullet point, the next two have to do with our financial need status. I'm really excited about these changes. We wanted to make these for quite some time but they're in our state rule so we had to go through the state promulgation process. And what we did was we basically changed the rules around financial need so that if we ever get into the position where we have enough funding and we have enough staff we could potentially turn off the financial needs test for services. So it's an option based on our budget and our staffing level. So right now we still have a financial needs test for many of our services but when we get to the point where we can turn it off we can. Whereas before the state rule the way it was worded we always had to have a financial needs test on certain services.

We also changed some of the requirements of the financial needs test and that is in effect right now. So on our previous form, because of what was written in our state rule, we had to look at an individual's, their family's assets which could include savings accounts. Just different kinds of assets that they may have had to be calculated when looking at financial need. So we removed that so now we're only looking at taxable income. And we also can reduce that taxable income still for any disability related expenses. And so that is an easier calculation. Meaning it's easier for our counselors to calculate but it's also easier in terms of we don't have to consider those assets the way we had to consider them before.

The next section is not a change. It's really just boring things we had to do because the way the feds changed some of our reporting requirements. Orthotic and prosthetic devises I as a rehab counselor believe it's assistive technology. And so the way our state rule is written assistive technology is not based on financial need. But at some point in sub regulatory guidance RSA, the feds, had put prosthetic and orthotic devices under a new section called diagnosis and treatment of impairments. And then subsection of that it was under what we call physical restoration. And physical restoration is based on financial need. So in order to align our practices with the federal reporting we just had to change the category of prosthetic and orthotic devices so now it's considered

physical restoration. It's nothing new, nothing changed. Just how we're coding it is changed so that was why we changed that particular procedure.

The maximum amount for assistive technology assessment we increased that to 650-dollars. We've been doing a lot of rate setting. The next couple of bullets have to do with home modifications. This is not a change just a clarification on what LRS can and cannot do in terms of home modifications. We also changed work-based learning to one placement at 240 hours. And we increased the classroom activity sessions to 105. We also increased our orientation mobility rates for assessment and instruction. The assessment for orientation and mobility is now increased to 450-dollars and instruction is now 90-dollars per hour. And then the orientation and adjustment section has a lot of different rates for residential and nonresidential and those have all increased. Those are the changes in our technical assistance and guidance manual that I wanted to go over. Does anybody have any questions about those? I can go over the rest of my report tomorrow.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: That will work. Thank you so much. Now we're going to have Louisiana Department of Education, the LODE update from Ms. Lauren Wells.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Lauren sent an email. She was not able to make it but we do have Ms. Karen Davenport here.

KAREN DAVENPORT: That's what I was about to say. I'm Karen Davenport. I'm the director of instruction and intervention in the division of diverse learners and I'm also the project director for the disability innovation fund grant. I guess proxy for Dr. Wells. So she sent me the report and I can read it to y'all. Is that good?

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Yes, ma'am.

KAREN DAVENPORT: So our special education advisory panel update is they met on September 2nd, 2026, at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. A quorum was present and the panel approved the minutes from its June 17th, 2026, meeting. The panel received information on reports focused on key statewide special education priorities including Louisiana state performance plan and annual performance report with discussions centered on the upcoming target setting process, and stakeholder engagement and the division of diverse learners compliance framework highlighting the division of diverse learners

approach to technical assistance and support for school systems.

Finally, the panel discussed the local special education advisory council report including guidance and communication processes. Dr. Wells did email this out to some of the people on the council where it has the links to the guidance and the communication. And that's designed to strengthen local stakeholder engagement. The guidance was developed in response to recommendation from the previous SEAP meeting and establishes a more consistent process for collecting local SEAP reports, reviewing the information, submitting and ensuring appropriate follow-up occurs based on identified needs and feedback. The meeting provided SEAP members with updates on the continued efforts to strengthen IDEA implementation using data to inform statewide improvement efforts and engaging stakeholders in decisions affecting students with disabilities. No public comments were received. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. and adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

The division of diverse learners. We hosted a leadership collaborative on September 3rd, 2026, at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. More than 145 participants attended including special education leaders from school systems across Louisiana and family engagement partners committed to supporting students with disabilities and their families. The collaborative provided a full day of professional learning, discussion and networking centered on strengthening systems of support for diverse leaners. Participants explored strategies for leveraging family and community partnerships to strengthen meaningful family engagement, connect families with available resources and build collaborative systems of support for students with disabilities. Professional learning also focused on applying IDEA instructional and behavioral practices to address challenging student behavior through strong instruction, proactive supports, disability informed decision-making and appropriate procedural protections. Participants considered how system leaders strengthen local behavioral support structures while maintaining the focus on access to meaningful instruction and improve student outcomes.

The afternoon focused on strengthening local dispute

resolution practices through early communication, collaborative problem solving and leadership practices that builds trust and strengthens partnerships with families. Participants explore strategies and resources for addressing concerns early and supporting timely student-centered resolution before disagreements escalate to formal disputes. Throughout the collaborative participants engaged with colleagues, family engagement partners and state and national experts to reflect on current practices and identify opportunities to strengthen local systems.

The day concluded with participants identifying leadership actions and next steps to apply the learning within their school systems. The collaborative provided a meaningful opportunity for statewide learning and collaboration while enforcing the division of diverse learners continued commitment to supporting system leaders, strengthening family partnerships and improving educational experiences and outcomes for students with disabilities across Louisiana.

And the 2026 pupil appraisal institute was held on August 14th welcoming approximately 90 participants for targeted professional learning designed for pupil appraisal professionals, assessment staff, related service providers and other district personnel. The institute addressed key priorities impacting the identification, evaluation and support of diverse learners including the federal 1 percent alternate assessment participation cap, Louisiana's dyslexia framework, tiered monitoring, identification of students with Deaf-Blindness and gifted identification. Through state, national and district expertise the institute provided participants with practical guidance to strengthen compliant evaluation practices, improve identification and decision making and support access and outcomes for diverse learners across Louisiana.

A dedicated pupil appraisal institute charter day occurred on August 24th welcoming over 65 participants for support or responses specific to the needs of charter school evaluation teams and leaders. Professional learning focused on recent updates to bulletin 1508, determination process data, Louisiana's five step dyslexia referral process and the state's tiered monitoring framework for alternate assessment participation. This

focused convening strength in charter school teams understanding of state and federal requirements while providing practical guidance for using data strengthening evaluation and referral practices and planning appropriate supports for students with disabilities.

And finally, we also hosted, the division of diverse learners hosted the first session of the 2026/2027 English learner institute on August 26th bringing together over 75 participants for professional learning and collaboration focused on strengthening supportive English learners across Louisiana. The institute addressed beginning the school year with strong systems for L support, strengthening tier one instruction using English language proficiency test data to inform instruction, federal program updates and resources to support implementation. The institute provided educators and leaders with actual strategies and resources to translate state guidance and student data into effective classroom and system level practices then improve access to high-quality instruction and outcomes for English learners. Thank you.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Stephanie you had a question?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Yes, I had a question about the compliance framework. So for the compliance framework so I was at that SEAP meeting and I know that there were four different tiers I think that they were called. Can you just kind of explain that to some of the committee. Like just explain the framework a little bit to them that may not have been there so they know what the compliance framework is and kind of what it entails.

KAREN DAVENPORT: Absolutely. So of course Dr. Wells can go more in depth with all the things. But more or less I'm going to say it's internal, though we let people know what it is, it's more a way to guide us as the consultants and things like that in how to provide support to the districts. And it's also a way just to let districts know it's not like a rating or a got you. It's just to go hey, here are the districts. Y'all don't have anything that seems to meet support so you're going to get our basic level. Of course can they get more support, absolutely. Then if they're needing more because there's been some issues with like just different things whether they had an audit on like writing the class statements on IEPs, something like that then we can provide additional support. And then there's ones if you have a district that's involved

in dispute resolution, things like that. So we just have this framework outlined so that we can give them targeted support. Again, they can use it. They don't have to use it. But it's where we're actually going out and providing them things and getting calls. Like we're doing calls. Every so often we're doing calls with the different LEAs to help support them.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: So I now have another question. So the compliance framework that was rolled out so they don't have to use it? So the LEAs don't have to use this compliance framework that was rolled out that have these supports that are supposed to keep them in compliance?

KAREN DAVENPORT: No, no, no. It's not like that. Like for instance, whenever you have data that is reported y'all know how that goes. It's not necessarily current data when we're looking at things, right. It's from the past. So sometimes you have a district where they maybe considered tier three which would mean some individualized supports in a certain area. Well, maybe they've already addressed all those things. If they've already addressed it, they've already handled it they're not necessarily needing that level of support but it's still offered to them anyway to help strengthen them if needed. Does that make sense?

STEPHANIE CARMONA: I guess. But who's saying if they've addressed it or not? Is this self-reported?

KAREN DAVENPORT: Yes. So those things are addressed. Like when we get from our monitoring team who checks for IDEA compliance yes, there is things (inaudible). Districts have addressed it. If they've handled it. Things like that. And like I said, Dr. Wells we all do it but it is absolutely her baby so she can speak a whole lot more to it and more in depth.

STEPHANIE CARMONA: Thank you for answering.

KAREN DAVENPORT: Absolutely.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Does anybody have any questions? Do we have any public comments?

BRENTON ANDRUS: I don't know if it's public, or more of an announcement or just in general to share with not only this committee but all committees. I challenge everyone that is on this committee to go back and look at the work that the legislative ad hoc committee did a couple weeks ago I think it was. There was a lot of information shared in that meeting. And I don't know that you need to

necessarily go back and look at that meeting but look at the documents. I think that was also sent to y'all in an email, or at least encouragement in an email, to go back and educate yourself on some of those things before you vote tomorrow on the official agenda.

But this committee and a lot of our other committees we tend to just get a lot of agency reports that you're also going to get tomorrow and we need to shift focus back to completing work and not just getting updates. And so I encourage you to look at the information that was shared in the community input meetings and start looking at, in the particular document I'm thinking of there are things highlighted that rise to maybe greater importance based on community feedback than others. But in general there's a list of topics in there. As far as this committee goes there's a lot of education topics. There are a couple of things that are more employment focused. But start looking at those things to bring to this committee, to ask Dr. Wells to bring to this committee to start having those discussions. Because these are things that we see every single year that folks want to address legislatively, or administratively or through some sort of advocacy and this committee should really be looking at those things and start doing the legwork so we can start getting that information together so at some point in time we can start addressing these things legislatively. Because it's really hard for you to get a topic that you feel is really important today and automatically come up with a bill tomorrow that you want to run. There really needs to be some focus and discussion around it and that's what these committees are for. Tomorrow is where you get your updates from your agencies. These committees are meant to work and to put in work and have those discussions about policies. Like Stephanie was doing. What is the compliance measure. You had a question why is it done this way. That's what we need to focus on. We're also going to talk more about this in the retreat.

But I don't want it to wait until the retreat for you to have that idea because in January we need to start having these conversations because we need to start getting work done in committees and not just getting updates. Otherwise you're duplicating your efforts today and tomorrow. That's my soapbox, my high horse, whatever you want to call it. But go back and please look at those

documents. We can also send you the link but it is on the website to look at so you can get an idea of some of the feedback we received. And let Stephanie know. As soon of this meeting is done we start planning for the next. What topics are important to you. What questions do you want asked. We can compile that information and send it to Dr. Wells. Send it to Ms. Bayham. Whoever else. There might be things that Constance can distribute from LSU HDC. So wherever we need to direct those questions they can bring in folks from their agencies. Like we saw today someone that can answer some of these questions and get the ball moving on that discussion.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Thank you for that. That was really good. Any announcements?

ERICK TAYLOR: I just want to thank y'all for finding somebody to get some of the questions we wanted answered.

AYDEN BLUNSCHI: Yes, absolutely. It's very much appreciated from all sides. From everybody to everybody, thank y'all for everything you guys do. All the hard work and listening to our frustrations and our ups because we do have ups. But I appreciate everybody. That includes everybody online. So thank y'all for everything. Tomorrow we will have the full council meeting at 10:00 right here in this room. Do any committee members have any announcements? If there are no announcements and no objections we will adjourn. Are there any objections? Hearing none, I adjourn this meeting at 2:35.