

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
Quarterly Meeting
Tallahassee, Florida**

Thursday, February 9, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sound check, sound check.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Four minutes and counting, four minutes and counting.

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Can someone speak on Zoom? I want to see if we can hear okay.

>> INTERPRETER: Hey, Carrie, can you say something?

>> INTERPRETER: Hello, testing, can you hear me okay?

>> INTERPRETER: Thank you.

>> INTERPRETER: Great.

>> INTERPRETER: Did you call through the phone too?

>> INTERPRETER: No.

>> We don't have to today?

>> INTERPRETER: No, I don't think so.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Not today; we're going through Zoom.

>> INTERPRETER: Can we do an audio check on Debbe Hagner, please?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, I can speak.

>> INTERPRETER: Thank you very much.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: It's 9:00 o'clock.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: La'Shay? La'Shay? Are we recording?

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Ready, set, go.

>> SEAN ISAAC: You ready? Is everybody ready?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Let's set up the conference call first.

>> SEAN ISAAC: We're recording through Zoom.

[Background noise]

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Go ahead.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Good morning.

>> SEAN ISAAC: La'Shay, we're ready.

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Mmm-hmm.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: The recording is on the bottom between share screen and the closed captions.

[Pause].

>> VOICE: Recording in progress.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Good morning! This is the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing meeting in Tallahassee today, February 9th.

Welcome, everyone to Tallahassee!

It's a nice day before the awful weather hits!

Okay. Remember to wait to be recognized by me or Cory, whether here live, on Zoom, or conference call, or in chat.

And Cory will watch the chat

>> CORY PARKER: Mmm-hmm. I need to log on.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And we'll have a roll call, starting with Mary.

>> MARY HODGES: Good morning. This is Mary Hodges, Department of Elder Affairs.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Good morning, this is Chris Littlewood representing

Association of Late-Deafened Adults, I live in Seminole, Florida, and work for St. Petersburg College.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Good morning, this is Glenna Ashton, representing Florida Association of the Deaf and I live in Boca Raton.

>> CORY PARKER: Hi, good morning, this is Cory Parker, I represent [microphone feedback] the Department of Education.

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: I'm working on it.

[Microphone feedback].

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory Parker, I represent the Department of Education for vocational rehabilitation.

>> CINDY SIMON: Good morning, this is Cindy Simon [microphone feedback] I represent audiologists and I'm from South Florida.

>> ANGIE GREEN: I'm Angie Green, I represent the [microphone off]... I'm Angie Green, I represent the Florida Department of Health.

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Get closer.

>> ANGIE GREEN: I'm the liaison for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Good morning, I'm Sean Isaac and I represent the Florida Department of Health.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Good morning, this is John Jackson, I represent the Florida Department of Children and Families.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe? Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe Hagner representing HLAA Florida State from Port Richey, Florida.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is Karen on Zoom? Oh, okay, Karen is on chat. Karen?

>> CORY PARKER: Where is the StreamText?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Who has the chat screen?

>> ANGIE GREEN: I have it open.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Where is Karen?

[Pause].

>> ANGIE GREEN: Karen says hi, everyone, I am here.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Karen, are you here through conference call? Through chat? Where are you?

>> ANGIE GREEN: I'm Karen Goldberg representing HLAA.

>> CORY PARKER: Where's Karen?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: She must be on conference call.

>> CORY PARKER: Is she on the conference call? She's not coming?

>> ANGIE GREEN: She's having difficulty connecting to the conference call.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. That means we have eight people attending the council meeting; I think that's the most we've had in a while for a day.

The minutes, I don't think the minutes were sent out ahead of time, so we need to take a few minutes to read the minutes from the last meeting to approve it.

So if we can take a few minutes to look at the minutes, please.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, yeah, yeah, the minutes were sent out, along with other materials for the meeting. But in case you need to take a quick look.

[Pause].

>> INTERPRETER: What's that beeping we're hearing?

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): It's chat.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Karen says: So sorry I cannot be there in person, I have a knee injury limiting my mobility, so that's why she's not here.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I'm glad you're able to join us this way anyway. So, good.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Does anybody have any comments on the minutes? Chris, then Cindy.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Good morning. Just checking to make sure, but we were in Orlando at the very top of the meeting minutes say that we were virtual for the quarterly meeting.

>> ANGIE GREEN: I will change that.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It was actually mixed, it was both in-person and Zoom, we had

both, right? Yeah?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Yes, but it was a live meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, it was live, yes, yes.
So strike that. Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: On item number two, where it says that I said that with OTC, consumers are not eligible for refund for purchasing, it should be "may not" receive a refund, because some companies will give a refund if you return it and some are not taking returns. So it's not everybody.

That's why it should be "may not receive a refund."

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So we'll change all to may.
Okay. Anything else for the minutes?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do we have approval of the minutes? Raise your hand or say aye.

It passes. Thank you.

>> CINDY SIMON: Do we need to make a motion for that, to accept the minutes?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Some places do that, some places don't do that. But if you want to do that, fine.

>> CORY PARKER: I move that we accept the minutes with the changes.

>> CINDY SIMON: Second.

>> CORY PARKER: All in favor?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All in favor say aye or raise your hands.

>> CORY PARKER: Opposed?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, thank you. Passed.
Okay. We have the agenda for today and tomorrow.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I don't know where, but we have a...

[Pause].

>> ANGIE GREEN: Karen -- [hand raised].

[Background noise].

[Microphone background noise]

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I don't need a hearing test. Stop!

[Laughter].

>> ANGIE GREEN: Karen has her hand raised.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen, yes? Karen?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen, did you want to say something? She's on chat.

>> CINDY SIMON: Karen says she needs the number to call in.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Look on the front page of the agenda.

>> CINDY SIMON: No, it's not there.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We only have Zoom information; you don't have conference call information?

>> CINDY SIMON: It's there.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. Sean, thank you, he will e-mail you the conference call information.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I am concerned that from 4:15-5:00 o'clock, we have several things there.

Yesterday, the legislative visit was excellent! Awesome! Fun day! And it will take more than a few minutes to tell what happened. We visited 20 offices. And so I want to find more time for that. So maybe during the public comment part, if nobody shows up, we should go ahead with discussing the legislative visit there.

And also during the public comments part, again, if we have nobody showing up anywhere, on Zoom or in chat or conference call, whatever, then we continue talking about the "possibility," possibility of increasing our budget. And we would have to discuss the specifics of what we would want. I will find out later, with the legislative visit.

Any other comments about the agenda?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Do I have a motion to adopt the agenda?

>> CINDY SIMON: I move to adopt the agenda.

>> CORY PARKER: I second.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Second. And all in favor, say aye or raise hand.

Okay, thank you, passed.

And now Angie and Sean?

And we really have to follow the time, because we have a presenter at 11:00 o'clock, so we want to make sure we watch the time before the speakers come.

>> ANGIE GREEN: For the appointments, I got a notice from [NAME] saying the appointments are currently in process and he'll let me know when there is an update for them. And --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Angie, question. Did he say which appointments or who, from who?

>> ANGIE GREEN: No, he didn't say for who. He just said that they're in review. So I imagine --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: How many appointments did he talk about?

>> ANGIE GREEN: He did not say; he just said the appointees are in the review process.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It possible to find out how many and who for which position?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Yes.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. I was just wondering how often we're contacting the Program Office? Because we've discussed before -- it's a hearing phrase -- the squeaky wheel gets the oil and maybe with more contact, there will be a push on the Governor's desk.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Yes, I try to contact him about once a month to find out what's going on. Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And increase that to every week? Two weeks? Especially if we have good appointment applications waiting.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: So, I think Glenna would agree, it was brought up in the majority of offices we visited. Of course we're waiting on appointments. Some of them just rolled their eyes or said "yeah, we know."

So, we did ask everywhere we went, saying we needed appointments.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We need -- we need someone to watch Zoom chat. We have the CART chat, but we also have Zoom chat. So we need somebody to watch the Zoom chat.

>> ANGIE GREEN: I'm watching the StreamText, yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. Do you have anything showing up on Zoom chat?

>> SEAN ISAAC: No Zoom chat.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No? Okay. Okay, Debbe?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Debbe is saying yes, that someone is commenting in chat on Zoom.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: There was a person who joined the Zoom and left because they couldn't hear. She said -- she said thank you for the opportunity to participate, but I'm unable to hear the proceeding, and my ASL is not fluent enough to simultaneously follow along with this. My day job meeting. So I will drop out and have a good -- great meeting. And then Karen Goldberg said that she's trying to get through the phone.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Who was it? What was the name of the person that left?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Janelle Bailey Moore.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, that was the interpreter.

>> JOHN JACKSON: No, that's the mother of a -- the parent of a --

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I don't know, somehow she's using that name.

>> JOHN JACKSON: No, she's also name Janelle.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: She's the parent of a deaf child.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Hopefully she'll try again later. Okay. Thank you, Debbe.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Okay. Then for financial disclosure forms, I just want to make sure that everybody knows that they are due on June 30th, to make sure everybody has them done and in on time, so that there's no problems, no issues.

The Ethics Committee will be -- yes?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Do you have a -- this is Glenna -- do you have a printed form? I thought we had to do it online?

>> ANGIE GREEN: I just have a printed form, because he's going to be here today. And I thought you guys might would like to see it and then write down anything or have any questions, you can ask him about it then. But yes, you fill it out online.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: I know I filed one, but I don't know if it was last year or this year. So is there a way to check and see who's filed already and who still has to file, so there's

no misunderstandings?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Okay.

>> JOHN JACKSON: You can get online and everyone can check the status of their filing and their previous filings. In fact, the Commission really encourages you to do it, because if for some reason you mail it and it doesn't get, you know, and you say hey, I mailed it and they never got it, it's not their responsibility, it's going to be yours. So they encourage everyone to get online and look. And they will show you if they have, in fact, received it and it's properly filed.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Angie, I apologize for the redundancy, but if you haven't done so already, would you just send us an e-mail reminding us to do this?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Of course.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Thank you.

>> CORY PARKER: [Signing, no interpreting].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: My understanding is, the state employees have a different form and we get a different one.

Okay. Continue.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Okay. And then the request for assistance, we've had a lot of those. I broke it down and we had 16 asking for interpreters alone. 14 asking for hearing aid assistance. 8 of them were asking for glasses and vision. We had 17 come in for service dogs or emotional support animals. And then there was 15 miscellaneous and then some other things, with doorbells and assistive living and nursing homes. So those were kind of the breakdown of some of the assistance and the e-mails and phone calls.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. I like that break down, you put it in categories, that's what we want. Thank you.

>> ANGIE GREEN: You're welcome.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Why did you get calls about glasses?

>> ANGIE GREEN: They just... I guess because they think vision and deaf together, a lot of them are... I don't know. They just call me for vision.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So I'm assuming you referred them to the right place.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Yes, yes. And I also get dental calls and things like that. We just refer them to wherever they need to go, so yes, yep [laughs].
It's just the way the phone is set up sometimes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Interesting.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. We also receive calls for some help from Angie about socials, about where do Deaf people go and socialize?

If you can give me some specific areas, places connected to Centers For Independent Living, because they often do gather in those types of places for social purposes.

There's another one, it was a cool group home -- oh, I shouldn't say a "group home," excuse me, that's the wrong term -- residential facility is the correct term for people with mental health issues in Florida who may be looking, they may be seeking resources.

So we've given some -- I've given some help to Angie.

And I'm always here to help, Angie.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Thank you. I appreciate your help.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. All council members are expected to help and whatever. You know, if she doesn't have resources for anything.

Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: I just want to say Karen says that she's getting really frustrated, the number she was given does not work.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen said that the phone number -- I talked all day yesterday! And I was, like, uhhhh! And I have not recovered yet.

Karen is saying that she can't get through on the conference line. Can we tell her to try the Zoom connection?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I just sent Karen a new number, so she should have that in her e-mail. Let's see if that works for her.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Thank you, Sean.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Angie? I need to remember to push the button up and speak up a little bit more so people on Zoom can hear.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, Angie?

>> ANGIE GREEN: The biennial report, Communications Department has finished it up and now it is moving along in the approval process. It looks very nice, it's coming along very well.

And that's all I have, so...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So you're saying it's now -- this is Glenna -- you're saying it's now going through the approval process.

When do you predict that it will be ready for print? What do you think?

>> ANGIE GREEN: That just depends.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Can you estimate?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Probably about a month.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I already have seen a copy. The reason being I helped with some edits, I helped to make some changes, appropriate, better pictures. And I like the product.

Cory also got to see the report. He mentioned that he liked it.

>> CORY PARKER: It's beautiful.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Can we share that copy that we saw?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Just to let the others that didn't see it see what it looks like.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. It's not ready for public release yet, though.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Understood, just for us, just for the members of the Council to see. Is that a possibility?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Sure.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: Karen wrote: I cannot hear clearly through the number Sean gave, it sounds very fuzzy.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I just brought too many things.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I can give you a call, Karen. I did test that number before we got started on the meeting, so perhaps something has happened since then. But I can give you a call to work that out.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. This is Glenna. I have here a copy of the report. The front page is blue, bright blue, with a logo, it's got the name of our organization, it's got biennial report 2023. It also has a shadow or a silhouette, really, of a couple of people at the bottom.

The report itself, we wrote it at the last meeting and then we worked on revisions. It's pretty much the same; just really cleaned up. We made the sentences a little bit shorter. No great changes.

Page two -- oh.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris speaking. I just wanted to make sure that at the different stages, that the entire Council gets a copy of it. I have the absolute utmost

confidence in Glenna and everybody else that has been working on the Reporting Committee, I'm just excited to see it at its different stages. Even though I know it's passed the point where I can suggest any changes, I still haven't seen anything since before Christmas, so....

I look forward to seeing a more finalized draft.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Angie, can we make copies of this that we can actually hand out, maybe this afternoon or tomorrow? Just for the council members only, for them to review?

>> ANGIE GREEN: [Nods head].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So that makes six copies. Yeah, there's six of us here and we can send the others a copy for review.

>> [Noise on Zoom].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So here's what it looks like on page three. Isn't that pretty? Very attractive.

>> CINDY SIMON: Karen wrote -- let me scroll up here -- that it's a shame the parent of a deaf child dropped off because she could not hear the proceedings clearly. This is frustrating, because you cannot have the chat open and Zoom open at the same time. So I'm jumping screens. And then the conference -- hang on, I have to scroll down here -- and then the conference call number is not clear. I have been given three numbers for this morning, and the sound quality is not good at all.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Does anyone have a response to that? AV? IT? How about AV or IT? Anyone?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. Can you hear me?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yes, yes.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes, we can.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, okay. A couple of things. And it's good that I'm not there so I can speak to how frustrating it has been to call in.

The majority of people who would like to attend this meeting are gonna have this exact same problem.

So, I'm at home, leg up in elevation, because I have an injury. And I have the Zoom, which you can't hear through the Zoom, okay; I have the chat, which is on a completely different screen, so I'm jumping back and forth; and then the conference call number is not clarified.

I have been given three different numbers. The first one from Angie didn't work at all.

The second one from Debbe, which is what I expected, because it had the 888 number

and we've used that in the past, that one just plays music, okay.

And then finally, Sean just sent me one and it sounds like it has been put in another room.

Everybody is fuzzy, you can barely clear -- sorry, you can barely hear. And I'm jumping back and forth between chat and Zoom.

Is there a way to hear through Zoom directly, without having to use two computers and [chuckles] a phone?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. La'Shay, is Zoom muted today?

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Hmm?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Is the Zoom call muted for any reason?

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Call music?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Muted.

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: No.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Karen --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm absolutely not able to hear through Zoom at all.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Before the call, Karen, I called the Zoom line using my cell phone. I did not hear an issue with hearing anybody. And we tested it. And the people in the room could hear me as well.

But we can try to work on that during the break. We apologize for any inconvenience for folks who are calling in.

This particular meeting, by request of the Council, we are not using the regular conference call-in line. So that is why that is not working for you.

We are only using Zoom. That was by request of the Council.

I gave you an additional number, because there are multiple numbers when you use Zoom. So if one was not working, I was trying to give you another one, to see if perhaps that would work better.

But there are multiple phone numbers that are options when you're using Zoom.

I don't know why they do it that way, but that's just how Zoom does it.

But as far as the hearing issue and the lack of clarity, we'll have to try to work on that during the break; my apologies.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Where are the captions for Zoom? I think for Zoom, it has automatic captioning that can be enabled?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe, yes. Zoom has their own captioning. But it's artificial intelligence, so I suggest that people have a dual monitor so that they can see the CART on a separate screen.

Now, right now I'm speaking through Zoom, not through my phone. And everything seems to be clear.

Karen may want to turn up the volume on her Zoom, on her computer, her laptop or whatever she's using.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. This is Karen, can you hear me?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. I've turned off my phone. I'm using only Zoom now.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Can you hear us?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We can hear you. Can you hear us?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I hear you a lot better now that I've turned my volume up.

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yay!

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And I hear you a lot clearer than the phone. So the phone is a terrible option for right now.

So, the Zoom is better. Thank you. I apologize if I got frustrated.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Then I'm wondering why we have the other person who mentioned they had a problem joining Zoom as well, the parent? Maybe they weren't familiar with how to handle Zoom correctly by turning up the volume? Who knows.

Do you ever anything more to add?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm good now.

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yay, Karen!

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean? Do you have anything more to add? Okay, no. So, great. Short and sweet! That's nice!

Okay. So next is organization updates, the committee updates as well. Cindy, do you have anything that you want to add about audiology?

>> CINDY SIMON: Our committee did not meet, but the Florida Academy of Audiology is going to be in Tallahassee, making visits next month.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So for the Florida Association of the Deaf, the board is still going through transition. And we have not had any board meetings as of late.

I did help the new secretary with how to handle the minutes. And we're planning to

have a conference in St. Augustine sometime next fall. In conjunction with homecoming. So we'll see what happens.

That's all that's happening with the FAD.

Chris? Do you have anything about ALDA?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. From a local level, we don't have a whole lot of major things happening this first quarter. We are getting ready to have a -- plan for training presentation on a quarterly basis on Zoom and more social meetings. Probably more often as often as once a month like they regularly do.

What we found is sometimes trying to do a monthly meeting, even though we have multiple counties that people are coming to attend meetings, sometimes they're a much smaller group.

So this year, nationally, the convention for ALDA is in San Antonio, Texas, it's not until October, but I'll give any information for anybody that wants it throughout this year.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. And I have a question for you, Chris. I'm curious about ALDA and your chapter. Is it the only one in Florida?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Yeah, there used to be another chapter in South Florida, closer to Miami, but that stopped. So we only have the one chapter. But the beauty of our chapter is we make sure that we do more online or social things online too. So we have members from all over the country that are participating in our chapter. Because there are some national members that don't have a chapter close to them, so they've been getting on and at least being involved with the newsletter and Zoom meetings and stuff like that, so it's exciting that we do that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Thank you. Cory? Do you have anything? Any updates?

>> CORY PARKER: No, not at this moment.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary, from Department of Elder Affairs, as you know this is my last meeting as a representative of the Department of Elder Affairs, and hopefully a smooth transition and another representative by the next meeting. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: They're working on finding a replacement?

>> MARY HODGES: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We need every person we can get on this Council!

>> CINDY SIMON: I just want to say Mary, I appreciate you and I'm going to miss you!

>> MARY HODGES: Thank you very much, Cindy. I will miss this group. Everybody individually and special ways. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. So, John? Anything from you?

>> JOHN JACKSON: No updates at this time.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. And Cory is very busy making sure that everyone has a food order! He's our Mr. Foodie!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen or Debbe? Any updates on HLAA?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: HLAA convention will be in New Orleans this year. We are working on trying to re-establish or do something with HLAA since we've lost Ed Ogiba. There's just two of us on the board, so we need to try and get more volunteers or we're going to just shut it down temporarily until someone else takes over.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. It is becoming a very common problem with all organizations having volunteers to get involved. We get members, but we don't get volunteers willing to work on committees or work on the boards. It's becoming a very common problem; it's a challenge.

>> SEAN ISAAC: You need to talk into the mic.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Did you all hear me all right? Okay. It's 9:45. Oh, we're moving along very quickly. So I would say we go ahead with the committee updates. Okay. Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: I spoke before, I thought I did it already, it said committee and organization, and I gave you both. We have not met and I have no updates.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Bylaws. We worked on it at the last meeting and we have time for it today, so we'll see what happens with the bylaws. And it's something worth asking the speaker about too. Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: I thought we finished it last time and we -- maybe we didn't have enough, a quorum, and we had to wait to vote till this one?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think something like that --

[Talking over one another].

>> CINDY SIMON: I think I'm remembering that correctly.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think something like that --

>> CINDY SIMON: So we went over it for a long time.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah. Budget, Cory? All right. Budget?

[Pause].

>> CORY PARKER: I'm looking at Sean to help me!

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. We have a budget, we have spent, when you look at the schedule of the -- we have spent in expenses -- we have left \$9,969.

>> SEAN ISAAC: [Nods head].

>> CORY PARKER: We have spent a total of \$17,978.

So, for the remaining time, from now until the next fiscal year, that's how much we have left, is \$9,968. Am I correct?

>> SEAN ISAAC: One clarification there. The total budget for expenses is \$17,978.

>> CORY PARKER: Right.

>> SEAN ISAAC: We've spent \$8,009 in basically travel and supplies.

>> CORY PARKER: Thank you, Sean.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And the remaining budget is correct, like Cory said, \$9,969. That's for expenditures -- I'm sorry, that's for expenses. So travel and office supplies and things of that nature.

>> CORY PARKER: That is until the new fiscal year July 1st?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Correct.

>> CORY PARKER: So we hope that our next fiscal year, we have, well right now, we're looking at just 100,000 coming.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I want more!

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: We are.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So that means that's 9,000, that's the reason for having the May virtual meeting, because we don't have to cover and support contract services and no travel.

>> CORY PARKER: Right, right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And then use up the rest, so...

>> CORY PARKER: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> CORY PARKER: And we're looking at the expenses to go up for the next time. We should have at least \$1,000 left, ish.

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And if we have 1,000 left, I want to spend it, to show them we need more money. I don't want to have any money left! We don't want to be surprised or anything. Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: Eloise, when she was here, had a mantra: Spend it or you're going to lose it! And then your budget will come down if you don't spend it. So if we have 1,000 left, we'll find something appropriate to spend it on.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Angie?

>> ANGIE GREEN: This is Angie. So I'm working on ordering supplies, more memo pads, lanyards, thank you cards, and pens. So I'm working on ordering all of that, I'm getting quotes for those.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And remember I asked about ordering a portable wagon? So that we could put all the things in for an exhibit.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Yes, I'm looking into that as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah. And also maybe if you get a pop-up banner, we used to have one and it broke. It's a pop-up banner. Remember? Get that, yeah. We had one and it broke. Yeah. Pull it up, because one of the future things we want to do is to go to events out there instead of waiting for people to come to us. It's not working.

>> CORY PARKER: Do we have a tablecloth? This is Cory.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, we do.

>> CORY PARKER: Beautiful. Okay, okay.

So, the budget report, I will promise to be better the next time. Sean and Angie and I are training me, you know, for me to figure out things and things we do for housekeeping. So budget is one of them. So we'll do that.

But we're all busy and it's really difficult for us to get together.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hopefully for the next fiscal year, it will be a bigger budget!

>> CORY PARKER: And I will be more specific. I will be more specific.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. We're going to work on that today.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. This is Glenna. The Legislative Committee, there was not much in the way -- Legislative Committee, there was not much in the way of bills

proposed. We might have some interest in HB-61, no SB, this is HB, and you know that means a House Bill, SB means a Senate Bill, you guys know that -- HB-61, this is a Medicaid expansion through a Medicaid buy-in program.

This could help, we assume, it could help more Deaf and hard-of-hearing people who could benefit from that program. There are many -- well... many people, some people, don't have fantastic jobs and benefits, and not good-paying jobs, and so this could be helpful for those who are in that moderate income level.

HB-223, as well as SB-290, this is public school students progress for students with disabilities.

Again, we can see that this would be helpful to Deaf and hard-of-hearing students, making sure that they are making appropriate, adequate progress and looking at what the real needs are there.

Go ahead.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay. I just have a question for you. On the Medicaid expansion, I mean, typically middle-income people are not on Medicaid. So you said it's a buy-in. But if you -- does that mean that -- I'm not sure what that means. But, you know, Medicaid with hearing aids has a set list. You cannot order off the list that they have. That changes yearly, depending on the bids.

So, I'm not sure how this is gonna work or could possibly work with the hearing aids.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: If you go into myFloridahouse.gov and look at bills, you can find that House Bill and you can read the entire language. It's just a summary, it's actually not the full thing there, but my rough understanding, just as a response, is that people who are not currently meeting the requirement to qualify for Medicaid, if they're, let's say, slightly above, they could pay a bit and then they would qualify to join the program. That's the way that I understand it.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Moving onto the last bill. This is SB-394, along with HB-435. This is a bill that has come up year-after-year, it's the same bill related to newborn hearing screenings. They want to -- one moment, please, if I can read my own scribbles -- congenital cytomegalovirus, this is a neurological disorder that can lead to hearing loss.

Yesterday was a fabulous day! I really look forward to discussing that later. Well, maybe we've got a little time and we'll start now.

Web Committee, we have no one for the Web Committee currently. And that takes us to 9:56. Break is at 10:30, so....

Sure, John?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Mary and I just found a little couple things that maybe need to be tweaked in the report, and we're not exactly sure how the Council wants to deal with that, or is that just something we need to deal with Sean and Angela or what?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is it wording? Is it wording, John?

>> JOHN JACKSON: It's stuff missing, it's spelling mistakes. Two things that are missing and one kind of glaring spelling mistake that Mary found [chuckles] that probably needs to be fixed. So... I'll just point them out for the record and we can go from there

and make it easy.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Mary noticed on the statistics at a glance page that Floridians is misspelled; you need an I in there.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean, as we mentioned, it is not ready for public review, so we will go through that in the review process.

>> JOHN JACKSON: No, I believe that, but we might as well put it on the record so just in case whoever is reviewing it, you know, wherever they are, they don't miss it as well.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean, you can tell me that on the side and that way we're not as embarrassed.

[Laughter].

>> JOHN JACKSON: Okay. Fair enough. But I do have one question I can say, I mean, I just know as council members and we've got, you know, who it is they represent and whether it's vacant or whether or not there is an actual representative here, and I'm curious, because there's nothing about the State Surgeon General or Department of Health listed as one of the people. I'm wondering why that is. Because the statute, I just looked it up, still says, so...

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean, you're correct, it should state the State Surgeon General and their designee or appointee and I believe it's in transition right now and I believe that's why it says that.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yeah, you probably need to add it in there, if it's in transition to make sure that everyone knows that the State Surgeon General has an involvement with it.

The only other thing I saw was pros and cons, but the language says pros and doesn't say anything about cons when cons are listed, but that's it, I'm not trying to embarrass anybody, I just didn't know how far along we are and how critical it is we point these things out right away.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. This really shows that we need a copy for the Council to double, triple, and quadruple check everything. So thank you.

So you will have a copy for all of us tomorrow and e-mailed to Debbe and Karen so that we can -- I would like you to make copies, maybe during lunchtime, so that they all can have time to review it tonight and be ready with corrections tomorrow, so we don't have to eat up time with this.

Thank you.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Okay, I will do that. That way you can all make corrections on it and let us know your opinions on what needs to be changed.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Write on the -- write on here the corrections before you forget.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I did.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You did write it?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Not on the last page, I didn't.

>> MARY HODGES: The State Surgeon General.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yeah.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Thank you. See, we need that? We need lots of eyes!

Okay. It's 10:00 o'clock

>> SEAN ISAAC: Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Go ahead.

>> SEAN ISAAC: There are a couple comments in Zoom, can I just read them for the record?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> SEAN ISAAC: First, John Finch states he's using Zoom and didn't have any issues. So that's a positive.

And then I told John thanks for letting us know.

And then Karen Goldberg mentioned that she could hear much better through Zoom. Again, so that's another positive.

And then I said okay, thank you, Karen, for letting us know.

And then Karen said she wished she could be here. Hopefully the knee will be better by May.

And then Debbe stated don't forget that she has the stand that belongs to the Council. And thank you for that, Debbe, we'll work with you to get that back.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you, Sean. Two things. The May meeting will be a virtual Zoom meeting, not in person.

Second, Debbe, the stand, is that the pop-up stand that's broken? Yes? Okay. Does she have to give it back to you or throw it out or what? If it's broken...

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. We'll just discuss this offline and if she needs to keep it or do what.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Cindy? I'm going to use the time from 10:01 to 10:30, before our first break, to start talking about yesterday.

I have -- in the past, we tended to get maybe 10, 15, 20 appointments, and we were on our feet running one end of the legislative building to the other. We'd go to the Senate side, the House side, and everywhere in-between, making as many visits as possible.

And in past years, they smile, they nod, they excuse us.

But this year, it was a very different experience. The schedule that everyone had was

a big miss for the week. This occurred, because last Friday evening they announced special session would be called to order, and so the schedule was out the window.

So, they went into special session that afternoon.

In the free time, they were poking in different committee meetings.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, I sent an e-mail three weeks ago letting them know that I would like to request an appointment.

Now, they can't really say anything until they look at their schedule for each week.

So, I let them know three weeks ahead of time, "We will be there online visiting."

I e-mailed again last week and then on Monday, I made phone calls all morning long, making appointments. And I ended up with only ten appointments.

The rest had to be stop by/pop-in appointments,

So, we had 20 that we were able to do. So that was ten appointments, plus 20 pop-ins, and then three we didn't make.

So, we started with Senator Lori Burman. She actually represents my area. She has a history of supporting Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals and she knew some Deaf people that live in my home area. We took some pictures. She's very supportive. She was the first one to say, "Don't you want more funding, you guys?" And we were shocked!

In the past, whenever we visit with legislators, we would explain the Council, our goal, our mission. Nobody talks about money! But she asked us if we wanted more money. And I said you betcha we could use more money!

We went through our talking points' list. We also saw Senator Gail Harrell, well, we didn't see her, we saw her legislative aide, who explained to us about their budget and what they do and how to submit and what to do now and what to do later.

All day. All of these senators and representatives were saying the same thing: Do you want more funding? Again and again, we were wowed!

It seemed like it was the right time to ask for funding.

So I started shooting e-mails to Sean, his staff, to Cindy, I called her, I said look, we need copies of the budget! We need information!

And they said you only want \$100,000? Go for more! Go for more! And we said okay, fine, how about a million? What I meant to say was a million!

So, we sorta did some quick math and decided that \$175,000 would be a good ask. And they said no, more!

So finally we landed at \$250,000, with their encouragement.

They supported, all 20 of them supported us, whether it was an appointment or a pop-in. Several we actually met the actual senators, some were legislators -- some were legislative aides, but they have the ear of the person that they work for.

So it was a very successful day! Really, really nice experience!

I've got a couple of funny stories, though, related to sign language. Okay, so here's what happened.

In Burman's office, that was actually our first stop, the aide's name was Daniel. He came out and he said, hi... nice... meet... you. And we were, like, look at that! Nice to meet you too! And he was, like, okay....

So we finished the meeting and when we came back out, here's Daniel again: Have... nice... day... and I was, like, what?! Who are you? Where did you learn sign?!

It was the night before, he went on the internet to learn those signs for us! Look at that!

I said well, lucky you went to a good website that showed you the right signs and the

right movements! So, you know, there's some bad sites out there!

But, wow! How nice!

Later on, there was another legislative aide that we had actually met previously. When I e-mailed, they said oh, I took three years of ASL when I was in high school. I said oh, okay, let's see what you got. We went into the office and they froze!

They said my... name... I've forgotten! That was all he had! So I shamed him! I told him what had happened in the other office with the other aide who learned two sentences and the night before, more than this guy three years in high school. So I gave him a hard time. But it was really fun.

Cindy, did you want to tell some stories?

>> CINDY SIMON: It was really -- Glenna and I went to every one together and the reception was the best I had ever seen. And she's right, they asked us if we wanted more money, they said no, you need more, you don't have enough for all that you do in your meetings, with all the accommodations. You need more to go out there and help others. Ask for it and we will support it!

One of the -- but we did have two visits where we went separately. And I went to one where I was supposed to see the legislative aide and she had finished her meetings in advance, so she offered to see me personally.

These people spent so much more time with us than we've ever had before! It was amazing how they sat there and in one place they were discussing all of the art, we were joking about that, it was so beautiful. But they were telling us their stories.

On one of the end ones we went to, she was saying how they had needed a sign language interpreter at the last minute and they were scrambling, because they had no idea where to find it! After she talked about, you know, having their license and be able to be looked at by the police to call it in and see if you were deaf or hard of hearing.

And so I told her, I said, on the way out, I said well, you know, if you looked at the website or called our Council, we could have helped you at the last minute, and she said yeah, I wish I knew!

So the reception, from everyone, the amount of time they spent, and some of them really responded when you knew common people. So they were super friendly! It was amazing!

It was a really good experience!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I wanted to add -- this is Glenna -- the last meeting, Cindy had to leave because she's a teacher and she had to teach a class and so I went on alone, the last meeting was a representative, they needed some help, they were looking for help for a couple of girls in his home counties who have Usher syndrome, and so I told Cory, I said Cory, you need to contact these people!

And then that representative -- that legislator's aide said, you know, I'm actually losing my hearing as well, so I passed her information along to Cindy, so they're sharing information now.

So people were asking us for help as well in realtime!

So, with the budget -- oh, sorry, Chris, go ahead.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. I just wanted to say that I don't think that the Council could have been represented by anyone better than you two ladies, and in what you did yesterday, and I commend you both for that.

It sounds like we got a lot of really good feedback.

I probably would be remiss if I did not mention that when the subject of money comes

up, that's when I think we probably are supposed to be very careful -- and John, jump in if I'm wrong or anything -- but asking for money is kind of lobbying and we're not supposed to do that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: But that's -- but, no --

[Talking over one another].

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: You say what you need.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No, we never asked! We never mentioned money! They brought it up to us! They would say how much do you want? How much do you need? What do you want?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Perfect.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And the answer -- this is all day.

>> CINDY SIMON: Every one of them.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This was all day, again and again, all day, which is why I'm saying, it was such a different experience than in the past.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: I get that. I understand. The only thing that I would just probably be careful in our responses to that and just maybe say well, historically, the Council used to have a line item budget.

>> CINDY SIMON: We did!

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: You did that, perfect, that would be my opinion. But that's awesome.

[Pause].

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I second what Chris is saying. There's nobody better than these two ladies, going in, with an interpreter, explaining to the legislators who we are and what we do. Twenty of them! It's awesome!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And we had other people who went to visit. I know Debbe's gone before. Others have gone before. We always have a piece of paper with talking points prepared, so you know, you know, you're ready to tell our story, according to what's been designed by the council members.

And the State Council, we explained about how the meetings are set up and the contract services that are required, the support services that are needed for our meetings to happen. You know, we've explained that this is how -- we serve this wide variety of citizens in Florida.

And we explained, you know, when they ask about the budget, we explain that yes, we used to, there was a time where we had outreach educators, we had trainers, we had things, we had trainings. But no longer.

And those gave us the ability to go to different events instead of people coming to us.

And we explained all of that, sort of giving them the, you know, the idea about, you know, the expos and things that we do now.

But otherwise, not much outreach.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I really wish that you had had the report in hand ready to hand out. What I've learned from Angie, as I've learned about the approval process and how long that that could take, really, the next time we have a report ready, really we would need the report ready before February, so that we could have it in hand when we go to the legislative session.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. In the past, we did have them ready. But for whatever reason, this time we didn't meet that deadline.

I did mention to all of the legislators that I met with that we would be sending them, if they got the 2021, then they would get the 2023 folder from us eventually.

>> CINDY SIMON: So just to clarify, we actually gave them a folder with the 2021 report, said here is the report, you already received this in the past, and the 2023 is going to be hot off the presses and coming to you in the future, so that they did receive a report and they know to expect the new one.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So related to the budget, like we've said, hopefully we'll find time, maybe today, to say okay, we want a budget.

I think the contract services for next year will probably have to be increased. Am I right? I mean, everything is costing more anyway, across the board. Hotels, travel, cost, everything is going up. Everything.

So, we clearly, the things that we are using now, we will need to increase those, because of -- whatever the percent is, I don't know, but we will need to make those increases across the board so we can have all four meetings in person, plus the Zoom access as well.

You know, people who are Deaf and hard-of-hearing are very visual, and so it's tough on Zoom to participate that way.

>> CINDY SIMON: And remember, when looking at the budget and estimating, if we start getting appointments, if we start filling spots, we only have a few people here. Technically there's supposed to be 17 people here. So now imagine hotels and travel for 17 people! We should always plan for a full council. If it's not, it's not. But we should not be caught shy by not planning that way.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Which means we definitely need to work hard on getting new applicants to apply for appointments on this Council. Whatever group of influence you have, work on those representatives.

I have four. I don't know what happened to them. I know one of them I've heard nothing from.

So that's one goal, to increase to full number on the Council. And also the corresponding costs that would go up, we would need to get that.

Also, we want to -- I forget how many organizations we go to, but we want to make sure that we go to their annual events across the state, which means paying for a booth, paying for the travel there, paying for the swag to give out, paying for, you know, and there's different categories of expense.

And asking for an outreach educator that we lost, once upon a time. That would be a

salaried position, plus travel, plus money to make training materials. And we want to request that.

And then finally seed money, which could be used to start working on an expo for 2024.

Now, the first thing you have to do is put a deposit on a big hotel. And then you cover expenses and you hope to fundraise for the rest of it.

So, if you're hosting an expo, you've got to have seed money right up front. So that's where we are.

Is there anything else that anybody needs to add?

>> CINDY SIMON: I'm not sure you can -- John, you tell me, maybe you know this -- I'm not sure if you can ask for seed money, because that's a nebulous thing that's not, you know, for sure.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, I don't know.

>> CINDY SIMON: So we need to account for it in a concrete way and not in a way that's nebulous and up for interpretation.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, maybe we could call it "expo planning fund." John, take it away.

>> JOHN JACKSON: John is not a budget expert or a financial expert. I'm a social worker lawyer. Thank you.

[Laughter].

>> CINDY SIMON: Or maybe what else you can do, and this has happened in the past, where we did have money left over, we can take the money left over earmarked for other items -- tell me if we can do that -- and put it towards the expo, if we're doing an expo. That way all the money is accounted for and anything left over is spent.

For example, the \$1,000 we expect to have left over, that would go for that.

>> SEAN ISAAC: So, this is Sean. To answer that question, when you say "left over," excuse me, are you referencing from state fiscal year to the next state fiscal year? Because that cannot be done.

When you're talking about budgeting the funding and anything that's not currently spoken for, that can be budgeted for whatever projects you all want.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Maybe one way to use that last remaining 1,000-ish dollars, we could start negotiations with a hotel, we need to visit the hotel as well, but look at their workshop or ballroom space. But that's travel for expo hotel tours.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory, I'm the Vice Chair, I'm in.

Remember, I just hosted a conference, a big one, so you've got someone who brings experience to the team! So keep me on board.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Well, there's a lot of planning involved; we can't wait for our council meeting, we have to make plans for --

[Cell phone ringing].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- and get it started and keep going.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. Yeah, we can, you know, as long as I have time, I need time. That's -- time is on our side right now.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Sean, I've given some ideas for budgets and I'm actually asking for any ideas or additions. Seeing if we're in agreement first.

But then secondly, changing this to a list of questions for speakers who are -- the speaker who is coming, right? We need to you can at that about that?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Correct, correct. The budget can be discussed amongst the council members, and then we can, as staff, take that back and try to work on some actual quotes to find out what the actual purchases will be; yeah.

I did want to make one more additional comment. The funding that you have has to be spent within the state fiscal year. So if you're trying to spend money for a hotel that will occur next state fiscal year, you have to use those state funds.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Understood.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. Just to clarify the question. Glenna is asking if we can use funds for this fiscal year, and you're talking about before July 1, right? To visit projected or potential hotels for the year 2024, but we could make those travel plans before July 1.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. That's a possible idea. We might find another way of using up that money; ordering more swag, ordering more supplies, ordering this and that.

But it's just an idea of a way of depleting the funds.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. So the question to you, really, Sean is that as the Executive Committee, would our travel expenses be reimbursable?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Your travel is reimbursable. The travel does have to be approved, but you understand that process and go through it every time, so... yeah.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. How long is the approval for travel?

>> ANGIE GREEN: It's not very long; probably about a couple weeks, usually, it takes for approval.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. Okay. So that means we need to put it in, like, now. Because we don't really know how long that approval process is going to be. And then we can start to plan. We can always cancel, right, if something comes up.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. On my drive here, to Tallahassee, which is a loong haul, I stopped in Orlando. I stopped at the Florida Hotel Center there, which is as you know connected to the Florida Mall. That's where they used to have the silent weekend events -- oh, we're talking 40 years ago now! But maybe somebody is familiar with it -- I called twice, nobody answered. And I decided, you know what? I'm going to

drive by.

So I went and, sure enough, I found the person responsible for conferences, conference planning, project planning, and I asked that person lots of questions.

Now, I have done conferences lots of times in the past, years ago; I'm not sure what the cost would be today compared to back then. But I asked some questions.

>> CORY PARKER: It's come a long way, baby! It's much more expensive!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I could give you an idea. I don't think that was the best place, really, I wouldn't want to host our conference there, but they only required breakfast everyday at \$35 a person, plus, you know, this and that.

So, I said well, we're a state agency, so there's no tax, yada, yada.

The exhibit tables were \$35 a piece, plus 23%, that's a service fee.

You must have 100 sleeping rooms reserved in a block. So I guess that's looking at 200 people attending a conference. This is rough estimates. I just wanted to know rough estimates from the guy.

Nothing was decided. This was just me and a piece of paper and a pen.

All right. So 100 sleeping rooms.

The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, I thought we don't really want that place because, honestly, the only place for an exhibit hall is you have to go up the stairs and it's more like a ballroom or a balcony area that you come out on, and then you would have tables around the opening of the balcony, and workshops would be in the rooms surrounding that balcony.

If -- if we had the balcony area for booths, we could have up to 30 exhibit booths. And then if you wanted more, you would have to start using those rooms, the surrounding workshop rooms.

Well, I thought, I don't think that's really what I'm looking for. But, again, I was there popping by a rough idea for estimates. It doesn't mean that I'm interested in that location.

Yeah, you actually -- Cindy, you have some more recent information from your conference

>> CINDY SIMON: I actually do. I'm creating a conference for the Misophonia Organization and I have a hotel contract with me. Nowhere, and I've been doing this now for eight years, have I ever had to guarantee 100 rooms. I guarantee 35 rooms a night for two nights. And so, remember, if they tell you 100, it's overspace.

If you do refreshments, you get the meeting rooms and the exhibit for zero. But you have to guarantee a certain amount of food and beverage.

Otherwise, what you're going to do is... um... you're just going to have a price for the meeting rooms that you are going to negotiate.

The bigger problem is AV is very expensive, especially if you're going to have it in every room.

I have a -- I have a company with me that you can look at with all their prices. And we tend to like the Embassy Suites because you have a two-room suite there. They're usually somewhere around 169 a night, so it's not outrageous, and you get breakfast for free.

So if families were coming to see this, you could separate children and parents, you can separate a problem child. They're not spending on breakfast, when they're spending on being there, and they get a breakfast.

So, we tend to have our meetings at Embassy Suites because of that.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Two minutes till break.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. We hosted a conference this past October. If you fill out a form, you can get the tax exempt status. That's the Florida DOR, Department of Revenue, they waive all of the sales tax, first of all.

And again, it's, like Cindy was saying, with the room reservations, you start with a small block. You don't start at 100 rooms, for goodness sakes! But you would start with a small number.

But it is good that you actually, Glenna, went out and asked questions and did a bit of research.

It's true that inflation is on fire, especially if you're serving dinner. If you have a food and beverage and, you know, it's expensive.

But we can cross that bridge when we get there, Glenna.

But it's really good, I appreciate you going and taking a look.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. One last comment on this topic. Cindy mentioned AV. And I thought maybe some of you are familiar with Family Café or DeafNation. Something along those lines, where it's just one big room with rows and rows of tables and chairs, and that's it.

Maybe a couple of workshops.

But I think we should host that, because we have such a wide range of people that we serve. So we would want to aim to have workshops -- if we tried to suit every single person's needs, it would be very expensive. Many two topics.

But if we can find a hotel space, if we can find a convention hall, not necessarily hotel, but a meeting space, a giant room, with tables and chairs, and maybe have, let's say, one, two, three main plenary sessions, some common topic, advocacy, collaboration, maybe a performance. Done.

I don't want workshops necessarily, because that means AV, CART, interpreters, lighting, I mean, it becomes a nightmare immediately.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I have one last comment as well. You know where It's A Deaf Thing, have you been to It's A Deaf Thing? What about that? Could we -- could we use that as a pattern? It's an RFT center.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, I want it to be central as possible, so that people can come from all parts of the state. Also, it needs to be fun, so that they bring the kids, right? We want it to be family fun.

And months May through July, somewhere in that window of time. That's the cheapest months as it turns out.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. So we're looking at 2024. That's good. But it's -- people, I mean, since the pandemic ended, people have been booking hotels and conferences like mad.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Yes, I know reservations are happening already in 2024. We're already behind schedule. And I don't know....

Last comment for real and then we're breaking!

>> CINDY SIMON: So just to tell you one great place that we did a meeting at, which is for children as well, is there are two Embassy Suites in Orlando, not the one on I-Drive but the one on the back road from Universal, so they have access to everything in Orlando. But they were fabulous accommodating us and the children and the suites. And yes, we used, like, two breakouts, where one main session, so the AVs are limited, but they're still expensive.

It depends if you're going to charge for people to come. And what you can do at that point is this is what we're doing this year, is we're making it interactive, so if people can't go there or pay for a hotel, but they want to be at the sessions remotely, we're making an interactive Zoom, in addition to speakers, and even we have speakers from other countries who are going to come in on the screen through separate.

So, you can do that with just two -- and I can give you the papers later if you want to make a copy of a sample.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I want it to be more expo-like than conference like. Conference style makes it a lot more expensive, because you're trying to meet everyone's communication needs where they are.

This is the first time out the gate. We want to make sure we keep it simple.

I'm thinking one big room, expo-style, a stage where we have some featured speakers or presentations.

Okay, break time!

We have a speaker coming at 11:00 o'clock. Please be seated and ready to engage with our speaker at 10:58.

[Break].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is the 1:15 still coming?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes, yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hello! We are back from the break. Sadly, the presenter that is supposed to come at 11:00 o'clock cannot make it, because the special session and it's been a crazy week, so....

So that gives us a....

[Signing and no interpreting].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That gives us time to discuss... sorry, we have some audio concerns. This gives us some time to discuss some other things that are on the agenda.

Lunch will still arrive at noon and that's our slotted time.

And we have our next speaker that will start at 1:15 in the afternoon.

We have plenty of time for lunch before the 1:15 speaker.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Glenna? Glenna?

>> ANGIE GREEN: I just would like to make an announcement that during the lunch hour, the interpreters will not be available because they will be taking their own lunch and

having their own break.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. That's fine, thank you. They do need to rest their hands, their voices, etc. We understand. Thank you.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. The interpreters are joining us for lunch, they did place orders.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, but they're not going to work.

>> CORY PARKER: Oh, oh, oh, okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: They're not working as interpreters during the lunch break.

>> CORY PARKER: Thank you for the clarification. I understand the interpreters will be sitting off to the side. Maybe we'll join them.

>> MALE SPEAKER: I heard you all had some issues? I was told that they were having trouble with the projection?

>> SEAN ISAAC: It's been corrected.

>> MALE SPEAKER: Thank you. Sorry to take so long.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, do you have something to say?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, this is Debbe. Karen suggested that maybe we have one of the council give us a brief presentation? I mean, I'll be happy to give a presentation, but you all know what it's going to be on, it's going to be on genealogy.

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. And that reminds me, Debbe, thank you, it's about public comments. I went to Deafopia and it was hosted at the Sawgrass Mills in Fort Lauderdale, it's a very large facility there, a large mall, it's an outlet mall. And it's a ginormous facility.

And at Deafopia, we had a small little corner off at the mall and they gave us free exhibit tables. I'd say there was probably about 30 tables that we had lined up.

And while I was there, I represented FCCDHH. I brought the tablecloth, the exhibit pens and so forth that we normally give out.

But the main reason that I was there for Deafopia was to collect public comments and I have them in my hand.

I collected 40 public comments while we were there. I have them here on paper with names, addresses, and so forth.

I'd say that was a little bit more focused on Deaf signers. And most of it was in regards to interpreting.

But when we have time for public comments, I will split out the papers amongst the attendees and we can take turns reading those comments. I don't want to read them out

loud, there's 40 of them, and I will share them amongst the Council in attendance and we can read those comments.

We obviously don't need to read every single one, but we can mention the name of every person, as well as their comments, if that's okay.

And again, it was a wonderful example of us being there.

I think it was my second time. Was it my first or second time? But, for sure it was definitely my second time being at that specific event and collecting public comments, which was great.

And also giving the exposure of FCCDHH out to the community so that they know that we're here and what we're all about.

So we could have a budget increase to pay for, you know, exhibit tables and opportunities at FAD, ALDAs, FRID conferences that are coming up, whatever random conferences that are coming up, for CART, for everyone.

So we have 17 representatives here on the Council that we could attend for, you know, statewide events, and I know for sure a few hundred people would show up.

That's, again, Deafopia was 1,000 people in attendance.

The nice part of that event is that it was in Broward County, which is where I used to teach years back. And I saw 20 of my former Deaf students that were there. Which was nice. We also had a group picture, we collected e-mails. It was a really nice event. Lots of hugs!

You never know when we show up at those events, what will happen.

So now it's 11:12. Let's go ahead and follow the agenda and move some things around.

Do we want to start talking about the budget? Or some other ideas? What do we want to do as a group? We have the advocacy letters, we have the bylaws to talk about as well. Our May meeting, we can discuss.

And let's hold on public comments, because there's a specific timeframe for that.

Anyone? I'm open for discussion about how we want to handle the day or this timeframe about the expo or bylaws.

In regards to our own expo, we've got to share some ideas and possibly do that now, because the four of us, in terms of the Executive Committee, there's really no way that we can make things happen just for the four of us if we wait for our quarterly meeting. So we can take advantage of that time now.

Does anybody have any suggestions about what we want to talk about for the remaining 45 minutes on our agenda schedule?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I'm okay with expo planning, as well as anything else we want to fill in.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is everybody okay here as a group? Does anybody else have any ideas? Or do we want to... maybe we should discuss the budget too, because if we can talk about the budget, we've got a deadline for Monday. So I think that the budget should be the first topic of conversation, due to being sensitive on time.

Mary, do you have something?

>> MARY HODGES: No. This is Mary Hodges, I was just going to suggest, I didn't see the advocacy letters on the agenda. Did I miss it?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. We have it tomorrow at 10:30.

>> MARY HODGES: Tomorrow. Okay. Yes, thank you.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. And Karen's in the chat and she says expo would be a great topic and wants to see if one of our council members can present.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. And I'm realizing that we really do need to discuss what we want to include in the budget, how much we think things would cost; just due to the timeframe, it's time sensitive and we've got several senators and representatives that want to see our current budget and really want to see what it is that we want for next year.

So I think we really need to work on that now.

Okay, so, with that, have either of you started, Sean, have either of you done any budget planning for the next fiscal year yet? Do you have any numbers? Anything we need to worry about?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. [Clearing throat] -- excuse me -- the budget will look very much like it does the next year currently. And we are open for feedback and any input that you all have.

So, the current budget lists different categories. One for, of course, staff, one for expenses, like we talked about, travel and office supplies, and then one for contracted services.

And I can give you those breakdowns right now, if you'd like. The staffing won't change. I don't think you all want it to change, because I think you got a good one in Angie, and so that is determined by the Department of Health.

But when it comes to the expenses budget, it's currently \$17,978. And when it comes to the contracted services budget, it's currently \$37,503. And that's really the budget.

The -- just so you have all three numbers, the staffing is 44519, and so that total budget amounts to 100,000.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So, Sean, is that for travel expense as well for the council members? Is that based on the current nine members that we have?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. That is a projection based on the current members that we had going into this year.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So that number we need to actually change to 17 for projections. Because we're supposed to have 17 members, those council committee members, and if there's a potential that we review members now, we will obviously be increasing the members. So it's something we need to work on in terms of trying to be actively recruiting for our appointments.

We should have that budget ready for those people, because we never know what's going to happen. If we get new members and we don't have a budget for that, we should ask for 17.

And if they cut us down in terms of our ask, then so be it. We at least should ask for the maximum, not the minimum. So it should be the 17. That's enough for travel, for 17 members, so if we can get that increased. That's almost double than what we were projecting.

So let's try and double that number.

And I think, Sean, you also mentioned that you were trying to keep the same figure, but the travel is costing more. I mean, if you can imagine contracted services, we need to be

able to build that in into some sort of percentage of 10% increase, something to that effect. So you'll need to build in that cost in as well.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. And I'm reading Karen's comments in Zoom. Karen's mentioning that we should pull for the full council, not what we have now.

The legislative mandate says that we need to keep our maximum number of members on the books, so... that's Karen's comment.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. Can I jump in? I was typing because I couldn't find the hand raise button on Zoom [laughs]. Which I can't remember where it is! So I apologize about that.

But what I was saying, is that, look, if the Legislature is mandating and stipulating a certain number of members, we need to make sure our budget reflects that.

Because the other thing we should be discussing today is recruitment. And making sure that all of our seats have applicants.

And so in terms of budget, yes, I agree with Glenna, we absolutely need to make sure that we're requesting for the full amount that is mandated by the Legislature. Full amount of seats.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: As well as contracting services need to be built in as well. Maybe 10% in addition to that.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you for those comments. Just as a reminder, the expenses' budget is \$17,978, does not only reflect travel for the members, that's also including any type of supplies, purchases, I think Glenna mentioned swag, all that's included into the expenses budget.

Also when you travel and you register for conferences or meetings, that's also included in there. So it's not just as simple as doubling that amount. There's a portion that goes to travel, but there's another travel that should also be reflected with other supplies and purchases as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So Sean, what you're saying is that one portion needs to be the 17 members who travel for meetings, and another portion should be for travel for our outreach events. And even another portion should be for supply and things, is that what you're saying? And all that have needs to be increased for those three portions. So we need to start buying things.

We have nothing now for our exhibit tables.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I'm saying that definitely the budget should be separated by different sections: Council travel, supplies, swag, and so forth.

And yes, those are projections that the Department is making based on previous years of spending. And clearly, we have not spent as much as we might going forward, so...

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I figured out how to raise my hand.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Karen, go ahead.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So, when Bradley -- Cecil Bradley was doing our

budget, he had very nice flow charts that portioned out each of the areas.

Do we still have that?

>> CORY PARKER: No, I'm not Cecil Bradley [laughs].

Say that again. What, do we still have that? No, I'm not Cecil. So I do have skills in that area.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: No, we had, like, an Excel spreadsheet that outlined every single bit of the budget. And we get a report at each meeting.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. We will take a look at that and look at the historical record and what was produced.

I was not privy to any of that information when I started working here. I'm sure that Angie does not have those particular spreadsheets. But we'll take a look at what was provided, okay? And what we'll do is we'll try to provide that to Cory so that he can maintain those and work on those with us.

>> CORY PARKER: Cindy has a copy.

>> CINDY SIMON: It's just one from an old meeting that may have some. I can get you more, I'm sure; it's in my computer.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you for that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, if we could -- do we have a projection board that we can put something up there, like a PowerPoint? So people could see it? And it gives us an example of what it was?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. We don't currently have a projection board here. If we can locate this electronically, we can provide that for members later.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Angie, do you remember when you e-mailed me the budget at one point? Maybe we can open that up and maybe we could share that on Zoom?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Let me see if I can find that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. This is Glenna. While Angie is working on finding that budget document that we shared back and forth, we'll try and share that in Zoom.

In the meantime, we've got travel for four meetings for 17 council members in-person. We also have travel for exhibits, presentations, and so forth.

We will also have a budget for swag items. And then also other items related to exhibits or presentations that we make, whether it's registration fees and so forth.

So new I would like to add to that is a second position for an outreach educator. And I guess that might be the same salary, for 44,000, that we were discussing before.

[Ping sound].

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary, do you have something?

>> MARY HODGES: Mary Hodges. I have a question. Glenna, was the previous -- did the previous budget have a position already in for an outreach? Or is that a new position that we're including in the budget?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. We used to have one, yes. We actually had three. We had Valerie, what was her name, Chris?

>> CINDY SIMON: Valerie Stafford-Mallis.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Her last name is --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Valerie Stafford-Mallis was the first one. Chris, how long -- okay. So it was Stafford-Mallis. And how long did she work as an outreach educator? Chris, Cindy? Ten years, wow, ten years.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: I think, or close.

>> CINDY SIMON: No, I think it's a little bit less. She started part-time and then we voted in the budget for full-time, and then she left to take another job. So that's when we interviewed and got Alysse, it's spelled A-L-Y-S-S-E, but pronounced all-lis.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Her name is spelled A-L-Y-S-S-E. Do you remember Alysse? If I remember right, Alysse, she worked two to three years for us, Cindy, Chris, do you remember?

>> CINDY SIMON: I want to say around three.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: It was about that, yeah, because of the fact that she then passed away.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, she worked about three or four years for us and then suddenly passed away. That was December 2015, if I remember correctly. So, yeah.... And then I think then we didn't have anybody for a short period of time. And then we had Tiffany briefly.

>> CINDY SIMON: But she was -- I don't think she was outreach. She was doing this job.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Tiffany Baylor.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, but she was doing this job. She wasn't outreach. She was doing the job that Angie is here now; she was not doing outreach.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Right, correct, correct, Cindy, you're right, I apologize. So really we only had two. Two. So we had --

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So we had the position, we had the money, and we lost it.

>> MARY HODGES: So this is Mary. So our current budget does not include the outreach position.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Shakes head].

>> MARY HODGES: We want to include. I understand. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes. This is Glenna, that's correct.

And then the only other new thing will be budgeting for the expo. And what type of money would be allowed to ask for and we have no idea, so we'll have to investigate what's permissible and what we're allowed to ask for in connection to the expo.

I'm calling it seed money. Because first we have to have a contract with the hotel and we need to do a deposit. So we'll have to have money, seed money for that, at a minimum.

And then we need money for, you know, planning expenses and so forth. And what the State will allow the Council to do, we're not sure yet.

And then within the expo topic, we'll have to talk about sponsors and we'll have to work on registration and, you know, those are expenses that help cover the other items that come up as well.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I'm wondering a few things. First off, do we have any sort of guidelines -- well, first, let me back up. I know that the Council in its history has never hosted an expo. Am I wrong in that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's correct, this is Glenna, that's correct, we've never hosted an expo.

>> CORY PARKER: So this is Cory. Great. That's new for us. So that means we need to work out with DOH about how we're going to investigate the hosting opportunities. Are there any guidelines for us as a Council of what we can and can't do?

As opposed to jumping ahead and realizing that there are things that we shouldn't do and try to scale ourselves back.

Can we take a look at the guidelines and see what we're allowed to do, what we're allowed to fundraise, who we're allowed to accept money from.

If we get all of that ironed out before and we move ahead with the expo planning, that would help us.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So I'm still thinking about playing with numbers.

>> CORY PARKER: I get that, I get that. I agree, Glenna.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think the outreach educator, we should assume 44,000-ish, because that would make it a reasonable amount of money for someone.

We could get 50,000 if we need to, if there are applicants that are willing to move, we could gauge in 50,000 too.

And Sean, I want you to remember, there are the two outreach educators that we had in the past, they did not live in Tallahassee, they did not have to work in Tallahassee at that time. The first one was in the Tampa area. And the second one was in Orlando. So they are not bound to living in Tallahassee. So that might be helpful for us to recruit

someone.

Maybe we should say 50,000-ish for the budget? Because it will be a training -- it will be a professional person who goes out there and trains and does education to the community and so forth. So they need to be someone who is an experienced speaker and has a background and knowledge and knows about the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community and so forth. And that might be hard to find.

But, again, so if we budget 50,000 for that, we've got also 17 council members, times four meetings in-person, roughly how much is that, Sean?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Just a ballpark, Sean, do you have a ballpark figure?

>> SEAN ISAAC: I'm working on the ballpark, Glenna.

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's great. Thank you, Sean.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. By my estimates, rough estimates, so far that's a total of 100,000 for staffing and approximately 27,000 for the expenses.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Huh? 100,000 meaning 100,000 for Angie, as well as the educator?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Correct.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So then 17 members with travel expenses for live meetings, how much is that?

>> SEAN ISAAC: So the travel, I didn't know if we got to the contracted services yet, but as far as travel is concerned, my rough estimate is about 27,000 for the 17 people.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, that's all? Let's just say 30,000 then. I was expecting more.

Okay, now how much for contracting services for four people, for four live meetings, as well as Zoom? And then think about the 10% increase.

>> SEAN ISAAC: So our current budget is \$37,503, with a 10% increase, we're looking at about 41,000.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Let's just say 45.

All right. And so then travel for exhibits, presentations by individual council members, it doesn't -- outside of the educator, the council members, we've got the swag that needs to be included for that, as well as registration fees.

So there are three things regarding the exhibit concept. We've got swag, registration fees, as well as, you know, whatever those topics are that we think of with regard to travel.

When I went to the two visits that I made most recently, how much was that? I'm

guessing... thinking out loud, if we did that six times for what I just did, how much do you think that estimate would be?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Just a rough estimate, maybe 500 bucks per trip. So times five, you said? 2500.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So six times --

>> SEAN ISAAC: Three thousand.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Three thousand. Is that just for travel, Sean? What about buying things?

>> SEAN ISAAC: I think that's included. You're talking about visiting, right? So, yeah.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, the exhibit, when we go to, you know, exhibit or present, we need swag, we need supplies, registration. So you're doing that --

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yeah, 6,000 roughly.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right, 6,000. No, no, no, let's say 5,000, let's say 5,000 and break it even.

Okay, now suppose if we say that it's okay, we've got seed money put aside for, you know, a hotel deposit or whatever for an expo, Cindy, how much on the average would be for a deposit for a hotel?

>> CORY PARKER: Mine was 3500.

>> CINDY SIMON: I was going to say 3,000, I was going to say 3,000.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: 3,000. Okay.

>> CORY PARKER: Mine was four. Let's add inflation.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I'm just going to put down 5,000 for seed money. So I have \$30,000 for 17 members and travel for four live meetings. And then we have to include the Zoom aspect of our live meetings. And then for anything related to exhibits, presentations, swag, and so forth, with registration, that's another line item; let's say six times is 5,000.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Glenna, you said -- you said six times. But my estimate was 5,000. So -- I mean 500 per trip. So that's 3,000.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I'm just being very... I'm asking for the moon here.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Oh, okay, gotcha, gotcha, gotcha.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And remember, Sean, travel keeps going up as well too, so...

>> SEAN ISAAC: It does, it does.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I'm overestimating and the outreach educator is 50,000. We have Angie for another 50,000. And so we're talking about 5,000 for the expo seed deposit.

Adding all those numbers together...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I get 185,000. Is that the same number you guys are coming up with?

And the senators, too, and the representatives, they explained to us about, you know, what the costs are that we should factor in for meetings and so forth, and they said that we should increase it. All of them said 175,000. I said we're at 175,000 and they said no, you need to go higher!

Does anybody else have any ideas you want to add?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Can you -- this is Sean. Can you explain that breakdown one more time, how you came up with the 185?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I can. So I've got 17, 17 members, four --
[Interpreter signing, no interpreting]

>> GLENNA ASHTON: 17 members for four in-person and Zoom meetings.

Travel, 30,000.

The office person, which is Angie, 50,000.

Outreach educator, 50,000.

Contract services, 45,000.

Exhibit-related things, six times a year, 5,000.

And then 5,000 deposit for hotel.

Plus expo planning.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Does anybody think the number should be higher? Or does anybody have any other ideas of things we could do? Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: Well, we could try one more time for that PSA.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, yes! We need to pay for it, right?

>> CINDY SIMON: We had to pay. I actually had, and I gave it to Angie to copy, the original quotes, when we were doing it the first time and then after we went to the Department, the script, the reduced script, when the Department was helping us right it, I have all of that there and ready. They just never finished filming it. So if we start that from scratch, we can get that done.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So that kind of -- that category -- that category for the PSA,

plus the training materials, about making videos and handouts and so forth, we have to pay the other department to do that for us. So how much is that, Cindy? 5,000? 10,000?

>> CINDY SIMON: So I was not privy. I don't know that we were paying the other department. The first time around, Chris was part of looking at the quotes we got and picking who was going to present it. Chris, do you remember what it was? I can look it up, but it will take me a while to find it.

But I'm not sure that we were paying that much when the Department got finished. It just never got finished.

But, you know, because we didn't get to pay for the spots. But we could make a guesstimate.

Let me see if I can find it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary. This may be a question for Sean and Angie, or a comment: There may be an entity on the state contract that does those kinds of things.

>> CINDY SIMON: I think it was just they were doing it for us on their free time. So we really weren't paying for it. What we had to pay for was the spots to put it on television.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: But who knows. Right now we might have to still do that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So with TV or with ads and so forth, plus the training materials, if we want to get that outreach educator, then we'll need to have training materials for them. So let's say 10,000 for that.

That makes it 195,000.

Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary. I was referring to, like, the ads that the Department of Health does for various public service, things on television. I think that may fit in that category.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: That is how we were doing it. Like, right now I notice they're doing the CMV ads all over the place. And CMV is cytomegalovirus and that's becoming a big deal, because they're required for testing for that so we can get these babies at birth, if they do. Cytomegalovirus might be like a cold in a person, you might not know you have it if you're healthy, and your child may have it, and hearing loss, in addition to other multiple problems, show up after birth and could take a year or two to show, and so they're really pushing that now so that we can head off anything going on.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So I think also we need to consider training materials about the -- we need to say that they need to be updated for the old videos, because we have the law enforcement and hospital topics, and we're going to need to add more videos and

more training for other areas.

>> CINDY SIMON: So I can tell you those projects were really expensive to do and getting all the help for it. And doing it properly.

I would like to see one for nursing homes and for rehab centers, where the aides walking out don't look at the individuals, they speak very softly, and I think we need a training for how to work with elderly with hearing impairment, so that they know what's going on and they're not sitting there and lost.

>> CORY PARKER: I agree.

This is Cory. As of this month, we have questions -- this month we had questions -- can you hear me?

>> INTERPRETER: Testing.

>> CORY PARKER: This month we had questions.

>> INTERPRETER: This is Cory, this month we had questions.

>> CORY PARKER: And the questions came from Angie in regards to nursing homes, the nursing homes that are more Deaf friendly, if you will.

But I'm going to generalize it and say they need to be more hearing loss friendly.

So, emphasizing that, I reinforce exactly what Cindy said and that's what we need.

Because we do have a certain percentage of our age-related hearing loss population and it would behoove us to have someone that would be educating that population.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We should also add a separate piece in the budget for travel for the outreach educator as well.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We should add maybe another 5,000 for that educator's travel. And that means if we had another five grand, we're talking 200,000 as a total projected budget forecast.

And really, the odd thing with the senators and the representatives, when we were talking to them yesterday, they said \$100,000 is nothing! 175, that's nothing! Two hundred, 250, that starts to become something. So it was just an interesting comment.

So now we finally made it to 200,000!

And I know that one of the things that I learned from yesterday is that ask for as much as possible, and then if they cut it down, then at least we can still live with the cut.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I want to mention again, inflation needs to be factored in as well. That's probably one of the biggest reasons why if we go to 200, 250, we'd still be in the ballpark. Because if we get it all, we'll use it all.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And what Sean just mentioned in terms of that number, we're trying to round it up. So I think that that's fair for us.

So, Sean and Angie, do you both have enough information to come up with projected budget for whoever does that form or responsibility for us? Do you have enough information for a proposed budget? Or do you need to have more specifics?

>> SEAN ISAAC: I think we do at this point. If we need more specifics, we can certainly pose those to you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That would be great. So then we have a meeting all day today. And then tomorrow morning till noon. So the first thing you'll have to find out is do we, as a Council, do we meet the 5:00 o'clock deadline on Monday? Or is somebody else doing that for us? Because I'm hoping you could make some phone calls, if you need to, in the course of time today or tomorrow to find out if we've got a chance to even meet the Monday deadline?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I am sorry, I misunderstood what you were saying. When it comes to the process that the legislators were referencing, I believe they were speaking about projects that come from the local level that you can apply for.

The Department of Health's budgeting process is different than that. So we can certainly explore to see what we would need to do. And if that's the true way for us to request additional funding for this particular Council.

We could also pose that question to the attorney tomorrow as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Great, so I do think we need to find out the specifics of which way we're supposed to be going with this proposed budget. But there's definitely -- there's no reason why we can't mention these are what we -- mention in the budget these are what we need as opposed to DOH deciding for us.

We should be the one that's deciding what we need and pose it that way.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Understood.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We need to change that course of action.

So I'm concerned about paying attention to time, so I don't want to miss any deadlines. Sure, John? Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary. I was just going to say that the Council's budget would -- should be included in the Department of Health's budget, correct?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's correct.

>> MARY HODGES: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And this is Sean. That's correct.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: So, what came up yesterday, we used to be a line item. And the question was do we want to try to be a common line item again and Glenna spoke to someone who said you don't want to be a line item.

So can you explain that to us, please?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: If we're a line item, the Governor can veto it. And if you're under the DOH umbrella and incorporated into that budget, we're not considered a line item.

So they warned us, it's better to not be a line item. Because once the Governor sees that, we can be vetoed and crossed right out.

But if you're under the DOH umbrella, under their larger budget and we're a category within that larger budget, we're safe.

That's what we've been told happened to us in the past, where we were vetoed as a line item.

Okay. So, now we have a new generic budget, giving us everything that we want for conversation. But obviously that budget is based on the Council, the way that it's set up right now.

The other issue on the table that we have not yet discussed is that several of our members really wish that we were a Commission and not a Council. Which means that we could do a little bit more with our services and that we can do more advocacy to our communities.

So that means that we would have to change our line items or bylaws to make it a separate issue.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Anybody else have some comments? Karen? Debbe? Anything you want to add?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I don't have anything additional to add. I think we're headed in the right direction.

I do think it would be good to see our budget in a grid or X [audio cutting in and out] on the spreadsheet.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I was motioning to Cory that that's something we can work on together for next time, if that's okay.

>> CORY PARKER: That's great. Thank you, definitely.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So let's find out now, Sean, if we have to meet that Monday at 5:00 o'clock deadline. Because if so, if that applies to us, we should find that out now so we don't miss it.

Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: I just sent to Angie, like, an old budget that she could download to see what it looked like. I think this one is from 2017-'18, so it's actually a more recent one. So you can see how it was outlined in the document.

I think Cecil was doing it at that point. Because he took over from Eloise, so.... Hopefully that will help.

>> CORY PARKER: Thank you for that, Cindy.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. We could also ask Cecil directly if he still has something in his own personal computer and he can send it to you.

Because we know Cecil works over at FTRI now.

>> ANGIE GREEN: This is Angie. That would be great; I'll look into that.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Where's the food?!

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: I'm looking at the tracking map and I'm texting the driver.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: He's on his way, the driver?

>> CORY PARKER: No, not yet, they're still at the store. I'm going to text the driver now.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, let's talk about May, May 11th and 12th has to be a virtual meeting, is that correct? Because of the budget that remains?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So that will be --

>> CORY PARKER: Over there, so we just have to -- we just... we'll eat in another room, that's fine. We can eat in here or go over to another room, that's fine.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: There's an old café area that we can -- it's right outside our meeting room, so we can go out there if we need to. We can leave our things in here and eat out there.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, they're still working on the order based off of our tracking; it's a large order.

>> CORY PARKER: They had it for over two hours, that order! I will bite my tongue...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So our May meeting is a full virtual meeting over Zoom, is that correct? So we'll have to have interpreters on the screen, they'll have to be pinned, as well as captioning. Whoever is the host must have the capability to turn on the captioning for Zoom as well.

Plus I think we have to have... the individuals have to have one screen for their Zoom and another screen for CART, right, if they're participating

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): We can put the captions in the Zoom, the live captions, instead, if you would like.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, sure, great, so everything is going to be in Zoom for our May meeting, so make sure you guys check your technology and get yourself situated so you have, you know, one set set aside for the interpreters, as well as the CART is connected to the Zoom captioning as well, and we can make sure that everything works

itself out as a group, as well as individually.

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): We can also do StreamText in addition to Zoom.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, so it's saying it's a separate between? So if you're looking at captions, you can either watch the captioning Zoom, which is AI, so I guess we can do that --

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): No, it will be my captions. I can caption in Zoom as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay.

I'm so sorry. We've got some conversation happening in the room. The least amount of complication that we have, the better.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So, for the sake of time -- I'm guessing we have another 15 minutes-ish.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, this is Cory, I'm going to make a call just to verify that order.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We have another 15 minutes or so. So what I'm going to go ahead and do is, unless everybody here feels like you want a short break before the food arrives?

>> INTERPRETER: [Signing, no interpreting].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Let's go ahead and take a break then and then once the food arrives, we can walk over to our café and have an additional break.

I have 43!

I have 40 public comments that I will read in the meantime.

And we can do that as a group.

Do you want to go ahead and have a break or do you want to move on to public comment? Angie, you mentioned you need to do some things?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Yes. A break would be nice.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So we'll go ahead and take a break. And remember, I'll share the public comments first, we'll all read.

And we'll meet you over in the café, for those of us who are on-site.

Karen and Debbe, we're on a lunch break now. See you soon.

[Break].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Welcome back to the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, we're back in session.

We'll have roll call again.

I have an announcement to make about changes in the agenda for today after our presenter.

Roll call, we'll start with Sean, please.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Good afternoon, this is Sean Isaac and I represent the Florida Department of Health.

>> ANGIE GREEN: I'm Angie Green and I represent the Florida Department of Health as well and I'm the liaison for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

>> CINDY SIMON: Cindy Simon, I'm an audiologist from South Florida.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Glenna Ashton representing the Florida Association of the Deaf from Boca Raton.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Hi, I'm Chris Littlewood and I'm an ALDA-holic.

[Laughter].

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: You're supposed to say "Hi, Chris."

>> ALL: Hi, Chris.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: ALDA is Association of Late-Deafened Adults.

>> MARY HODGES: I'm Mary Hodges, and I can't beat that, I guess I'm an elder-holic, Department of Elder Affairs.

>> JOHN JACKSON: John Jackson, Department of Children and Families.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory Parker represents VR; he's out of the room for a moment. One announcement before we start, because Cindy and -- will not be here tomorrow at all and Chris is leaving at 10:30, I am moving some things up to today that might require a vote.

I am from tomorrow moving up the bylaws, which we started working on and need to finish up today.

And moving up the 2023 biennial report which we will go through line-by-line, and the letters campaign, we'll wrap that up. The Deaf Seniors of America Conference, who will do it? It can't be me.

So all of that will be moved up to today after the 2:45 and we will continue with public comments.

Our presenter today is Steven Zuilkowski, deputy executive director and general counsel for the Florida Commission on Ethics. Welcome!

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Thank you so much for having me. Where should I -- where do you want me to stand? Would it be better to stand over here?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Wherever.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Next to this or where?

>> SEAN ISAAC: That's fine.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Well, I want to thank you all for having me here today. And I understand this is on Zoom. Am I standing in the right spot for the Zoom?

>> JOHN JACKSON: I don't think we're trying to show anything on Zoom.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: [Speaking but cannot hear].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, the Zoom speaker can't see the speaker, they can only hear the speaker.

>> INTERPRETER: The Zoom sound seems to not be on; she was talking and I couldn't hear her.

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Now can you speak?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah. We can only see the --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen Goldberg. Also roll call wasn't called for us.

>> SEAN ISAAC: La'Shay --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, I'm sorry, Karen and Debbe, roll call, please.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. This is Karen Goldberg representing HLAA and I am on Zoom.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe Hagner, I represent HLAA Florida and I'm on Zoom and from Port Richey, Florida.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I apologize. Steve?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Thank you for having me here today, my name is Steven Zuilkowski and I am the deputy executive director and general counsel for the State of Florida Commission on Ethics.

It wasn't long ago that I worked in this building at the Florida Commission on Human Relations not long ago.

So it's a pleasure to be back in the building and thank you again for having me here.

I understand that there were... uh... a lot of ethics questions that maybe the Board had. I have a presentation prepared. I know that there are questions that are important to you and I want to make sure I cover those.

I'm happy to cover your questions first and then do a presentation second. And -- but out of respect for your time and knowing there are certain issues that you wanted me to cover today, I'm happy to answer any ethics questions that you have first, if that's -- because it's been made clear to me that there were lots of questions.

>> CINDY SIMON: I can speak first.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. One of the questions I have is that all of us are a volunteer position. And we volunteer for the Council. And we have to fill out this financial disclosure every year.

Um... the one year I must have -- I think there was a death or something going on, I don't remember what happened, but I failed to sign the financial disclosure. Without any warning, or maybe I ignored the warning, but I got fined \$750.

I'm still to this day very upset at having to pay that kind of money.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Mmm-hmm.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: It hurts.

I just don't understand, there's something as a volunteer and have to come out of my pocket. I didn't make any money by being on the Council [echo].

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Well [echo] let me...

>> INTERPRETER: I think it's that.

>> INTERPRETER: Sean, can you please mute your Zoom?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Test test.

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Let me turn that one off.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Okay. Test one two one two one two. Can Zoom hear me okay? Thumbs up if you can hear me. Great. Great, fantastic. Okay.

So, the question is, you know, for these volunteer positions, and throughout the state, there are a lot of volunteer positions, where they're required to file financial disclosure. Why is there a fine? Is that -- you know, isn't this a lot of money for a volunteer position to be fined?

You know, I'm not in disagreement. The fines are substantial, or can be. The way financial disclosure works, just so we're all on the same page, is every year there are certain positions required by law to file financial disclosure. These are public officers and public employees in the state of Florida.

There are about 4,000 candidates for constitutional offices required to file Form 6 and 6,000 public officers and employees who that file forms. Form 1 for this agency files and I file one as a state government attorney.

These forms are due on July 1 of every year and there's a grace period to file the form up until September 1, and then after September 1, there are fines that accrue of \$25 per day to a maximum of \$1500.

And then there's an appeal process for if there's a fine, there's an appeal process for if there's an unusual circumstance that prevented somebody from filing.

The Commission on Ethics, we send out a lot of notices about these fines, because it's a monumental task across the state to get people to file financial disclosures and it's a difficult task. We send out mailings. We get the addresses from your agency coordinator, every agency has a coordinator who gives us the addresses of folks to file financial disclosure and we try to file -- we try to contact those people at their mailing addresses.

For those people who have not filed by July 1, our agency has something that we call

phone fund day. Everybody on the staff gets a list of people to call and we try to call people statewide to let people know that they have not filed their disclosure.

We don't get to call everybody, but we try to call as many people as we can.

We call probably close to 1,000 people by phone out of the people that are late filers

We send postcards and send out lots of mailings and send out information to lots of people, if we can. It's a difficult task. And some people, of course, are not contacted because maybe there's a bad address, maybe something is going on in their lives, like with the board member here, with a death in the family.

And sometimes there are circumstances that prevent people from filing.

In those instances, with the appeal process being available, when the person does get notified of the fine in the mail, there's a notice about appealing.

I don't know your specific case and whether or not there was or wasn't an appeal or whether or not you were or weren't eligible for it.

But in general, there is an appeal process that's available for folks.

As far as the volunteer position piece of this, we, at the Commission on Ethics, we don't get to decide who is and is not required to file financial disclosure, that's spelled out in statute.

The Legislature has decided that there are certain positions that have immense power and that the public trust requires certain disclosure about what their holdings are, so that the public can figure out whether or not they are making decisions that may or may not be conflicting for them.

For example, if you file a financial disclosure form and you own 20,000 shares of IBM stock and your agency is purchasing equipment, people will know that you might have a conflict of interest if you vote to have the agency purchase IBM software or IBM hardware.

And so that's an easy way for the public to be able to keep track of public officers and public employees conflicts of interest. And so that's the purpose of financial disclosure.

That purpose exists regardless of whether or not the public officer is or isn't paid.

There are lots of positions on state boards and on local boards, particularly on local boards, like the parks and rec board or planning and zoning boards, CRA members, a lot of them are not paid,

And they are all required to file financial disclosure because of the power that they wield and they wield part of the sovereign power and the Legislature has decided that the public is able -- is entitled to keep track of what their conflicts are.

So, that's the reason why certain volunteer positions are required to file.

I hope I've answered your question.

Was there more to it?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes and no. I did appeal it and the way I appealed it was... um... I'm not -- and then they turned it down. They said I still have to pay for it.

I also hired a lawyer... um... to try to challenge it and that failed too.

So... and I know someone else who got fined too.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Well, I'm sorry --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen Goldberg. I don't know if other people got fined or not, but I also got fined. And... um... I had said something along the lines of I don't know what you're referring to, why am I getting [audio cutting in and out] a \$1500 fine, this is absurd. They said that [audio cutting in and out] to notify that [audio cutting in and out] clients. I said [audio cutting in and out] that I had never received a certified letter and then for whatever reason, this woman I spoke with, who was very helpful, actually, I

think it was Kimberly, Kim Hoskins or something... I may not be saying her name right -- but she, I thought, was very helpful. She was able to pull up the certified thing and said she doesn't see my signature anywhere [audio cutting in and out] in fact it had some weird numbers or letters on it, we had no idea who put them there [chuckles] or what that was.

But she was able to take my appeal to the committee and the committee waived it.

So, it just... um... I think this blindsided [audio cutting in and out] blindsided a bunch of us about the financial disclosure. And we understand there's rules and you have to follow things, but it felt like, look, we're volunteering, we're making no money, why are we getting hit with this ridiculous fine?

I was fortunate that my fine was waived and I'm unhappy to hear that Debbe's was not. None of us got a call, I never got a call, I guess I wasn't one of the privileged 1,000 [audio cutting in and out] but the real question is how can we do this better so that we're in compliance, all of us as a Council, so that nobody is hit with such a, I'll be honest with you, it's a ridiculous fine for a volunteer position.

And it really is a deterrent to serving as a volunteer council member and we're already struggling with keeping our numbers up.

So, you know, that was one of the reasons we really wanted to have you come and speak [audio cutting in and out] or someone from that office, to really help us on this Council.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Yep.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Not ever have this happen again. I hope that helps somehow.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Well, allow me to, you know, I -- we at the Commission -- I should tell you a little bit about the Commission on Ethics and maybe launch into my presentation and focus on the financial disclosure and that will help and that seems to be a focus of interest for this board.

The commission on -- oh, yes?

>> CINDY SIMON: Hi. I guess the question I have is many years ago, and we would have to go look it up in the CART for when a certain person was Chair -- someone got on to discuss this with us and told us that we did not have to fill it out and nobody filled it out that year. And then when they came to us, we were able to show the CART where we were told we didn't have to, by someone from the Department.

And so it was waived, no one got fined that year. But after that, we have filled it out.

But that's kind of conflicting, you know, one says no, you don't have to, and another says yes, you have to.

And so you didn't file with all good intentions because you just heard someone tell you "You don't have to do that."

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Yeah. I'm not aware of the particular circumstance, of course.

>> CINDY SIMON: It was a number of years ago.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: But, you know, it sounds like somebody might have made a mistake about what your filing situation was, and it looks like they waived the filing

requirement for that year, which I think is probably a fair result, all things considered.

The law does allow for, if your coordinator doesn't put you on the financial disclosure list of people who have to file, then the law doesn't allow you to be fined in that particular year, so that was the right outcome for that particular year.

Because you do serve on a state board, there are certain state boards that are required to file. And it's my understanding that this is one of them, under the Section 112.3145 of the Florida Statutes.

Yes?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It's my understanding, there is a difference between board and council. A board, like you mentioned before, has power, where a council, we have no power. What's the difference?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: I'm going to pull up the statute on my phone. I'm not being rude, I'm not taking text messages here, but let me just pull it up here so that... I can give you the specific citation that I'm looking at.

Because you're right, I think that this is an important discussion to have. And I see that it's a major concern for this particular board here. So bear with me just...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We're not a board. We're a council.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: I'm sorry, this particular council.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We're not a board, we're a council. And there is a difference.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Okay. The section of law that I'm looking at is Section 112.3145 subsection 1c2.

Required -- it calls -- it defines state officers. There's three classifications of people who are required to file: State officers, specified state employees, certain state employees, and local officers.

So in the definition of a state officer, it says, an appointed member of each board, commission, authority, or council having statewide jurisdiction, excluding a member of an advisory body.

So that's the -- that's the definition that's being applied.

>> CINDY SIMON: Did you say --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We are basically an advisory.

>> CINDY SIMON: We are an advisory body and that's how it's described, I believe, in the statute, I think.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: So maybe this is something that deserves a closer look.

So, advisory body is a term that's defined in the Code of Ethics, it's a board or a council that has no ability to make any final determinations and whose budget represents less than 1% of the body that it advises.

And so if this council is an advisory body, and I can't make that determination from the podium, but that's something that we can look at, if it's an advisory body, and if there isn't some other definition for state officer that would bring this council into the definition of state officer, then it might be the case that that definition wouldn't apply.

Without... I'm unwilling to do that type of research on the phone from the podium, but I would be happy to look into this.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Our statute, I don't have the number, 413.271, and it quotes that in the role of the council to serve as an advisory and coordinating body in the state, to recommend policies to address the needs of the Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deafblind and it's recommended to improve the coordination among the public and private entities that provides services.

So the first thing it says is "advisory."

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Like I said, you know, I won't be able to make the decision from here. I'm going to look at that. I'm going to look at our definition. I'm probably going to have to reach out to whoever your financial disclosure coordinator is for this particular Council to figure out why you were put on the list in the first place. And then I can -- I would be happy to even come back before you and talk to you again a second time or as many times as it takes to make sure that everybody, whatever the right outcome here is, that everybody understands.

And then if there are further obligations, that you understand what those obligations are.

It's very important to me that everybody knows exactly what's supposed to be happening.

In back?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, you can do a follow-up with the investigation as to which one we are actually under, a council or an advisory, and let us know the determination, that means that Debbe could get her money back?

>> CINDY SIMON: That was my question.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: We do do that, yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: We do do that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I would like you to follow-up on that, and Angie, be in contact with him to see where do we fall.

>> CINDY SIMON: That was what I was going to state too, could she get it back.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory has a question.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Hi, this is Karen. I'm raising my hand, I'm trying [audio cutting in and out].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Pushing the button again.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen, go ahead.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Can I go ahead and share or ask?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, Karen, yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you. I always struggle to find that little button on Zoom.

I was fortunate, because it looks like there was a number of errors that happened in the Department of Ethics contact, the Commission on Ethics contacting me because of this delinquency and the Commission did, in fact, waive the entire amount of money/penalty.

There's among us, who is very, I think, pretty upset still, that the fee was -- the penalty was still on there.

Is there any way to have another appeal?

I don't think it's fair. And we risk losing that valued member of our Council because of it.

What are the options at this point?

I'm not an attorney. I don't even play one on TV [laughs].

But any help you could give us, would be great.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Of course. That's a great question. And, again, without having her particular case file in front of me, I would have to go back to the office and look at her case file to really understand exactly what happened.

I'm not up-to-date as I stand here today before you, I'm not up-to-date on the specific case. So it would be difficult for me to say what could and should happen and whether or not there is or isn't anything that could be done.

There's an only amount of options that are potentially available, depending on what's in the case file. And so it's difficult for me to say at this point.

But I can make a promise that I'm going to look at it and I'm going to get back with you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Thank you.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Madame Chair, there's somebody in the back who has been raising his hand.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. As far as I know, we did not have a financial coordinator. I said this is Debbe. I don't think we ever had a financial coordinator. Unless...

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: I'm pretty sure -- every agency has one. There are something like -- I think there's just over 1,000 coordinators across the state.

Now, your coordinator may be somebody at the Department of Health. But there is somebody who is adding -- it didn't happen by accident that you ended up on the list; somebody put this body on the list and that person, the only people that can do it are coordinators.

There's a special log into our electronic system for coordinators. Only coordinators can add people. So there is a coordinator.

If you go to the Commission on Ethics's website and if you look up your own filing information, one of the things that will be there is it will say who your coordinator is. I'm not able to do that from the podium, but that information is readily available and I can get that as soon as I get back to the office

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So a financial coordinator is not somebody who is connected to a board or council, it's somebody from your Commission on Ethics. Okay.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Oh, no, I'm sorry, no, ma'am.

>> CORY PARKER: Hold on. Do you have a question?

>> JOHN JACKSON: I can get to it, but it takes us in a different direction.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: The coordinator would be somebody either at the Department of Health or somebody associated with this board. I don't know who it is. Maybe Angela knows?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do we have somebody?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Sean knows.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I was going to say this particular incident happened previous to myself and Angie working with the Council. But last year, I did serve as the coordinator and made sure that the council members here were all the list. Now that coordinator is officially Angie.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Oh, okay.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Yeah.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: So I will reach out to Angie, in addition to looking into everything, and if you want to invite me back for your next meeting, I would be happy to provide in-person update on what I've learned.

And of course I will reach out to -- I'm sorry, I forget the last name, is it Ms. Hagner? I will reach out to Ms. Hagner about her specific -- the specifics of hers, because just because that's not necessarily something that she might not want discussed publicly, so I'll reach out to her first.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: John? John?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yeah, thank you. I work at the Department of Children and Families and I've been there for about 20 years and I've been on this Council for about 17 years. Over that said 20 or so year period, I have been filling out these forms, because I think I make two different lists, in fact, for being on the Council and also for my position at DCF.

It seems like without any kind of logic or anything like that, it seems like randomly one year my disclosure is for DCF and one is for this Council. I never get one for each, I just get one that shows up in the mail. Do you have any kind of explanation for that?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Yes.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Okay. I've been wondering about it for years.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: So, as you can imagine, we have a computer system that handles certain things. One of the things that it handles is people, like yourself, where they have multiple positions. Some positions require the filing of a Form 6 and some require the filing of a Form 1.

The Governor, for example, is a Form 6 filer as a result of his position as governor. But he is also the member of several boards, several statewide boards that are Form 1 boards. So he's another individual who has two positions and two different filing requirements.

You are in two different positions but you have the same filing requirement.

We have a computer system that prioritizes all the positions in the state into different categories, to make sure that the person is getting the proper form.

Your two positions are in the same category and so one year -- so only one position is going to be listed on the form and because they're equal, some years, one will be listed than the other. But you only have -- you only fill out one disclosure form per year and that's true for everybody, regardless what position they're in.

Even the Governor, he'll just fill out the Form 6, he doesn't have to fill out the Form 1, because the 6 covers it.

The same for you, you file one form for both positions that has the dual form requirement

>> JOHN JACKSON: I was always curious.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: It was just a computer thing.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Okay.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I'm going to assume that that means the same thing for me as well. The DOE, Department of Education and VR and the Council, I'm assuming that's the same form to cover all three, correct? I just want to make sure that I have that correct. Thank you for sharing that.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Because none of those positions are constitutional offices, you wouldn't be required to file a Form 6 for any of those. All those would be Form 1 positions and you would be in exactly the same situation was the gentleman in the back.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I think we on Zoom, there's someone else that's using my name on Zoom. He was called Boogeyman and finally he got out, okay. I was hoping that someone didn't hack into the Zoom. Okay. It's okay, he left.

>> CINDY SIMON: So, I'm not sure if I remember this correctly, but I've been on this Council since I believe 2008. The first few years, I never got any notice to file. No one ever came. And then all of a sudden, out of the blue, I suddenly got notice to file.

Is that something where they may have changed what we were doing and suddenly decided?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: It could have been a change to the statute.

>> CINDY SIMON: It hasn't changed.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: No, our statute.

>> CINDY SIMON: Oh.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: It could have been -- there's lots of different reasons why that might have happened. Hard for me to know. I wasn't with the agency back then and I don't have any institutional knowledge as to why that might have happened, why the board might have been -- I'm sorry, why the Council might have been on one year and not another.

Again, like I said, as far as where we are right now, I promise to be looking into that.

[Pause].

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: If there are other questions of the Board, I would be happy to answer them. But if you want to, I could do a discussion about how to fill out the form for financial disclosure and what's required.

It sounds like that might be of some interest?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Mary, Department of Elder Affairs. So just to make sure, if we completed the filing the form in January 2022, we're due again January 2023?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: That's correct. So, the form that you would have filled out in 2022 would be a disclosure of your 2021 financial picture.

The form that you will be filling out this year, which is you can fill out as early as January, but it is due in July of this year, would be for your 2022 financial picture.

Most people don't -- although you're allowed to file in January, most people do not, because they haven't yet really thought about or filed their taxes, and the income section of the form requires you to figure out what is -- the disclosures that are made on the income section is gross for the purposes of federal income taxes and most people haven't figured that out until April when taxes are due and so people tend to file sometime between April and July.

But you are absolutely welcome to file starting in January, which is -- it sounds like what you've been doing. But you would be filing for the previous calendar year.

[Pause].

>> MARY HODGES: Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. As a reminder, if you resign or are asked to leave the Council, you have to do another paperwork called a final, final financial disclosure. You might want to let people know about that.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Yes.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I had to file for 2022 and then another same similar for the final financial disclosure.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Yes. Let me talk about that. There are three instances where you might have to file a financial disclosure form.

We've been talking about the annual filing, which I think most of you are familiar with, which is somebody puts you on a list, you're due to file by July 1 for the previous calendar year, and that's an annual filing that gets made every year you get served on the Council or in a position that's a state officer, right.

The other two instances where you might be required to file is if you're not a Form 1 filer and you enter a Form 1 filing position.

So, for example, if you were to enter into -- if you weren't a Form 1 filer and you became a Form 1 filer, like if I became a government attorney for the Commission on Ethics, then I would be required to file within 30 days of the start of my position.

We call this the initial Form 1 filing. It would be filed for the previous calendar year. There are no fines associated with a late filing for that, the statute does not account for any fines for filing that late.

Late fines are only associated with the annual filing, the filing that we've been talking about.

The third instance where you might have to file a financial disclosure, like the council member suggested, is within 60 days of leaving a Form 1 filing position.

In that instance, you would file Form 1F, meaning the F is for final, it's a separate form, it's available on our website.

Usually your HR board -- your HR department or your appointing authority will usually supply you with the 1F for certain boards and certain HR departments, they do that.

But it's available on our website regardless.

It's within 60 days if you do not go to another Form 1 filing position. For example, I'm a Form 1 filer as a state one level government attorney and if I leave this position and I go back to my former employer down the hall, the Commission on Human Relations and I become an attorney over there, that's another Form 1 position. If I leave one to go to the other, I do not need to fill out the Form 1; I just continue with my regular annual filings whenever they are due.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Mary, Department of Elder Affairs. So you're filing an annual form plus the 1F if you're leaving?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: That's a great question. So, the annual form, which is due in July of every year, is a disclosure of the previous calendar year. So let's say... let's say you left this board, this council today, let's say this council is required to file Form 1. If you left today, you still have -- I don't know if you did or didn't file for a previous year. Let's say you didn't file, right, you would have a Form 1 due by July for last year, 2022.

Additionally, you'll have a Form 1F for the beginning of 2023 up to the day where you left your position. So that would be your disclosure for 2023.

So they wouldn't overlap, because they cover different time periods. The annual filing for the previous calendar year, the 1F for the current calendar year up to the day where you resigned.

>> MARY HODGES: Gotcha.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Angie?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Karen has her hand raised.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe?

>> ANGIE GREEN: I'm sorry, Karen.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen? Go ahead, Karen.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Hold on one second. Am I on -- can you hear me? Sorry [chuckles].

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. I received an e-mail a year ago from Kim Holmes, that's her name, from the Commission on Ethics, she was extremely helpful for me when I got [audio cutting in and out] helped me out throughout the whole process and it was waived and everything.

She let me know that [audio cutting in and out] things are changing between 2022 and 2023; that starting a particular way of filing. I sent that e-mail a few minutes ago over to Sean and to Angie so they can have it.

And I'm going to try to open it and just read to you [audio cutting in and out] you what it says, because it mentions forms, and I'm not good with forms. I don't know any doctor who likes forms.

Okay. So, this one says council members are required to file 2021 Form 1 by July 1 of 2022, okay, and she went over that whole thing.

Um... oh, where did it say... um... she said where I could find that form.

Beginning January 1, 2023, all Form 1 filers, I guess which is who we are, will begin filing electronically through the new electronic financial disclosure management system.

And it says the filers will receive a registration link by e-mail in March 2023 to register to access the form to file.

Is that correct?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: It was correct at the time. There's been a --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay [laughs].

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: There's been a statutory change since then.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Awesome.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: So, as you will recall, there was a special session at the end of the -- the legislation session last year and the budget was held over during that period of time.

In the appropriation bill for the budget, they moved when electronic filing for Form 1 would begin.

So, it is currently set to begin July 1 of 2023. So -- and I believe, and I don't -- just based on the fact that that -- the development of that computer system is -- and that was going to be part of my presentation today, but the short version of this is the computer system, the development of it, Form 6 is taking longer than previously thought.

The implementation of the Form 1 system will be delayed, although in statute currently right now, it is set to go live July 1, 2023.

So, your form is due before July 1, if you're a Form 1 filer, it's due before July 1. That will be a paper form. And then next year, potentially, depending upon what happens with the statutory changes and what they decide to do with the go-live date for electronic filing for Form 1, you'll be kept in the loop, for sure.

Kim is right. The expectation is we will do exactly what we did with our Form 6 filers. We will send more than a reasonable amount of e-mails to everybody to keep everybody abreast of what is happening, to let people know that they have a filing requirement.

With Form 1, again, there are 36,000 people across the state that file Form 1. A lot of elected municipal officers, for example, currently file Form 1. Elected officials across the state file Form 1. All the county employees in positions that have those requirements file Form 1. There's a lot of people to file Form 1 and a lot of people to reach out to so the system will go smoothly, the expectation is this might be delayed and you will be notified when that happens.

And certainly your coordinators are going to be getting a lot of information as well, and your coordinators are an excellent resource for getting any information, if you're unsure about anything, you're always welcome to call us at the Commission on Ethics.

There's a couple of resources I should tell you about at the Commission that are probably important, especially given, you know, the interest level in financial disclosure and ethics with this council.

We have the program coordinator, her name is Kim Holmes as you've already heard. Kim is an excellent resource and state treasure and very knowledgeable on financial disclosure and what's going on. She is great about returning phone calls and voicemails and e-mails.

It's very difficult to get her, because she's always on the phone with somebody else, but she's very diligent about getting back to people, as you've already heard.

The other program that we have at the Commission, and again, we are a Commission of 22 employees with statewide jurisdiction over all of us, there's only 22 of us doing this.

We have an attorney of the day program, where the attorneys on staff will answer the phone live and answer ethics questions, including questions about financial disclosure or any other form that needs to be filled out or any other ethical obligation that you may have as a public officer.

And so we're available to answer all of those questions. We pride ourselves in being able to get responses on the attorney of the day hotline same day or next day, depending upon how much research is involved in the particular issue.

And so, yeah, I know a lot of agencies you call somebody and you get a voicemail or

you get an automated system, there's a live person that picks up the phone and you get forwarded to an attorney's desk. I challenge you to call an agency and ask for the attorney and get one. But you get one on the Commission on Ethics and we're able to give you ethics guidance you can use in realtime.

This is particularly useful if you have a gift law obligation and somebody is presenting you with a gift that you don't know what to do, you know, or something like that, where you have -- or you have a conflict of interest situation and you don't want to overstep that this is happening in realtime, you have a -- perhaps you have a job opportunity where you need to get back to somebody who is giving you an offer and you don't know that's a conflict and you have a short deadline and the stakes are high.

That's what our office is there for, to make sure you are in compliance with the state's obligations and you know exactly what it is expected of you.

So those are the resources available for public officers like yourself.

We want to make sure you're on the right side of things.

You know, we have two missions on the Commission. Unfortunately [chuckles] the mission that some of the stories that I've been hearing today are on the enforcement side of the ledger.

And we have a whole education and training mission, which is why I'm here today, and we much more enjoy talking to public officers and public employees ahead of time to give people the guidance that they need, either by making visits like this or talking to folks on the phone.

We have an entire formal opinion process for questions that are too complicated for the phone, where our board will weigh in with binding advice for the public officer to make sure that they're all set.

Those are our two purposes. That's the only reason the Commission on Ethics exists for enforcement and education. So please use us, if you have any questions at all, we would be happy to take your phone call.

We probably do, statewide, 80 phone calls a week on the attorney of the day hotline.

Kim receives probably that many just for herself for financial disclosure.

We do 20 formal opinions a year, more or less, and we write, as a staff, dozens and dozens of letters to public officers at the staff level, making sure that they're clear, for something that doesn't rise to the level of needing a formal opinion but it's more like a simple phone call that's possible to deal with.

There are things we try to do to make sure people are clear on what's required.

I encourage you to call -- you can ask for me, I'm the general counsel there, I will take your phone call. I take phone calls just like every other staff attorney there. So you can reach out and always ask me questions; I would be happy to chat with you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Two questions before I forget. So you said something about that the computer system will go live July 1st, so that means we're doing a paper form now?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Yes, ma'am, yes, Madame Chair, the paper form for disclosing your 2022 financial interest will be on paper.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So -- okay. So the whole Council, so you understand, you have Form 1 in your packet and you need to fill it out now or fill it out and mail it. Right?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Well --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I mean before July 1st.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Depending upon my research.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. But play it safe....

The second question, I have a second question, is you have 36,000 forms all being sent in. Does anyone ever look at them?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: That's a great question. So, for the Form 1s -- I'm sorry, I'll start with Form 6. For Form 6s, we review every Form 6 before we post it on our website. The reason we review the Form 6s is because the disclosure on a Form 6, and if you're not familiar with it, I think you would be surprised, it requires people to put a lot more information than what's being asked of you on a Form 1.

There's a lot of information that goes on a Form 6. And people, because of the amount of information that's required, I think people get confused and start putting things, like, bank account numbers or investment account numbers and things like that. Things that we do not need, do not ask for, and do not want.

And so we have a policy of attempting to look at the Form 6s and redacting that information from the Form 6s and we do that manually on our staff. It's an incredible undertaking, because the public expects, particularly with the Form 6s because it's constitutional officers and candidates for offices that people are filing, that the forms are made immediately, and we edit and redact -- I'm sorry, not edit, but try to redact those forms for sensitive information the next day.

With Form 1, where that information is not being requested, we do not look at the Form 1 for that information. The Form 1 is just listing the -- usually a description of an asset, not the value of it. There's less information that's being required. The threshold for disclosures are higher. The assets on Form 1 is \$10,000 if you use dollar value thresholds. On Form 1, it's only \$1,000. That's a lot of routine transactions that gets captured on a Form 6 that would never touch a Form 1.

So we don't look at the Form 6 -- or Form 1 for that reason.

The other thing that's going on with the Form 1 -- or with all the forms, really, is we do not audit these forms for compliance. Again, we're only looking at the Form 6s for sensitive information. But we are not auditing the forms for compliance, meaning we do not know, usually, whether or not the form was filed correctly.

We do not know whether or not, for example, a disclosure of a particular investment that you have is a proper disclosure.

For example, if you have a piece of real property and it is -- and you don't disclose it, we wouldn't know. At the Commission, there's no way for us to know that you failed to disclose something or that you disclosed something accidentally that's above the threshold for disclosure or below it when it was the other way around.

So, we don't have the ability to audit the forms.

Also, because we do not have the authority to initiate complaints on our own, we can only initiate an investigation and a complaint when -- we can only initiate an investigation when the public files a complaint with us.

There is no really public purpose for us to look at these forms and auditing these forms, even if, you know, because there's nothing -- there's no enforcement mechanism that comes from it such an audit. We don't have the ability to initiate our own investigation on that information.

Again, we're a state office of 22 people. When the 36,000 Form 1s come in, we look to

see who it's from. If you're familiar with it, you'll know that forms that are printed for you specifically, they have a bar code on them, we scan that bar code and then we make sure that it's attached to your particular database entry. It gets scanned. We review the scan to make sure that it's scanned properly, that it is an accurate -- that it's not crooked or a blank page or something like that, and that's about it.

But because we wouldn't -- we have no ability to know what you've put down on the form, if it's right or wrong. Without investigating, I mean...

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Yeah, this is Chris speaking. The question I had was the system goes online to submit the forms electronically July 1st.

However, if I'm not mistaken, in the past, I have filed a PDF via e-mail or online. You can still do that this year, right, before July 1st?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Yes, sir. So, with the Form 1, you are able to scan -- and it's in the instructions, right above where the signature line is on the Form 1, you can scan your Form 1 and e-mail a PDF of your form to an e-mail address. That e-mail address is serviced by a member of our staff and we take that form and attach it to your entry in the database and that form is then associated with you. The same way as if you had brought it to our office yourself or had mailed it in.

So yes, you can continue to do that this year.

Whenever Form 1 electronic filing does go live, we will no longer be accepting paper forms. We won't be staffed for paper forms anymore.

As you can imagine, handling paper forms is quite the undertaking when we're talking about as many forms as we're talking about, and considering that people don't just submit the forms, but they submit many, many attachments with the forms.

As a result, we won't be staffed anymore, we won't accept any paper forms and we expect it to say, because it says it now, paper forms won't be accepted

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: And of course that will be your next logistical nightmare when you switch over.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: We expect some growing pains, as we did with Form 6. But the nice thing about having the Form 6s go first is we're ironing out a lot of the things we expected. Our technical team works all the time on this computer system to make sure that things are working properly and we've learned -- our technical team has learned a lot over the last year about matching people's expectations to what the electronic system actually does.

And so I think you will have a smoother -- I expect you'll have a smoother entry into the electronic filing than maybe occurred last year for the Form 6 filers.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Does anyone have anymore questions related to the financial disclosure?

I think you want to ask about the [indiscernible] we don't -- tomorrow, are we going to ask about the money? Oh, okay, Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Mary, Department of Elder Affairs. I was just wondering if there were any other... um... discussion he can give us or any other information about their office and what they do that might have some impact on our work here with the Council? Other than filing form disclosures.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Of course. So I think the main area where -- the main area of what I thought I might be talking about today, I was planning on giving you a presentation about where the touchpoints with your Council and our office might be.

The main areas would be financial disclosure, gift law, conflicts of interest and conflicting contractual relationships, and voting conflicts, and there are prohibitions that I know none of you would ever perform, but there are prohibitions on misusing one's position for a corrupt purpose.

That's the area where we get the most complaints, so I think it's important for you just to know what that is, even though it's, you know, nobody's planning to take a corrupt act, of course. But just understanding what it is.

Lastly, and I don't know if this, to what extent this Council has staffed, but there's a prohibition on nepotism that I plan on talking about, just so everybody is clear on nepotism.

But those are the areas that we regulate that might be touchpoints for this particular Council. And we can always do a presentation on all of those whenever you want.

>> GLENNA ASHTON:

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): I did not hear what you said.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gift law, what is that? Gift law.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Okay. Briefly, there are several prohibitions about -- regarding the acceptance and solicitation of gifts. So, for example, and I think -- we can all intuitively know that you cannot accept a bribe, right, where someone is offering you a thing of value intending to influence your judgment. There's a law among many, in the Code Of Ethics that would prohibit you from doing that. A bribe is a quid pro quo, you do this, I give you that.

There's another one about accepting things of value where somebody gives you a thing of value where there isn't that understanding that your influence should be judged -- or should be affected. But the thing has been given to you with -- and you know or maybe should know that that's the expectation.

That's called, in the code of ethics, that's called unauthorized compensation,

And the thing that I would encourage you to do is when somebody gives you a gift, you ask yourself, why are they giving me this? And if it has anything to do with your official position where they might have a matter coming before you or they might have something to do with your official judgment of your decision-making authority, then you don't accept that, because that could be unauthorized compensation.

Separate from those, there's something called the gifts law. The gifts law -- so, the definition of a gift is anything of value that you receive where you didn't give greater or equal consideration within 90 days.

So, if somebody gives you something and you didn't pay them back within 90 days, or pay them something for it within 90 days, that's going to be a gift.

There are three categories of folks that you want to think about when you get a gift. First category is relatives. For relatives, which are basically everybody that you would consider to be related to you, but also some people that aren't technically related to you, like your fiancée, somebody you're engaged to be married to, or a roommate, somebody you share household expenses with, under the definition of relative, they're included.

You can always receive and accept a gift from a relative, regardless of the value of the gift, and you never have to disclose a gift from a relative on Form 9, which is the gift

disclosure form.

That's the first of three categories of person.

The second category is a vendor, a lobbyist, a principal of a lobbyist, a firm of a lobbyist, or political committee.

You can accept a gift from those entities if the gift is less than \$100. Less than or equal to \$100. And you do not need to disclose it.

You are not allowed to solicit a gift from those entities at all, regardless of the value. And you cannot accept a gift from them valued more than \$100.

There's no gift disclosure form from a gift of these entities because you will never be accepting anything over \$100 from them. Another way to put it would be the law doesn't require you to tell on yourselves if you do. It's already a violation if you took the thing, if it's over \$100, there is no disclosure requirement.

So that's vendors, lobbyists, principals of lobbyists, firms of lobbyists, and committees, political committees.

The last category is for everyone else. These are your friends, your acquaintances, your co-workers, people you know.

You can always accept a gift from this category of everybody else. If the gift is valued at more than \$100, it must be disclosed on Form 9.

Now, these requirements we're talking about with the gift law are requirements for two types of people: People who file financial disclosure, they're called reporting individuals in the law; and state level Executive and Judicial Branch procurement employees, people who have spending authority above I believe it's \$20,000 or \$25,000, something like that.

So, if this board is required to file -- I'm sorry, if this Council is required to file a financial disclosure, they would be reporting individuals and you would be subject to the gifts law, and so if you got a gift, like I did once from a friend of mine who I knew from college, long ago, before I ever became a public employee, he doesn't even live in this state and he has nothing to do with my public position or with any government activity in the state of Florida, but he bought me a flight on an airplane to go visit him. And I accepted the flight. And the flight was worth more than \$100. Even though this person has nothing to do with my Florida life and my public life, this is a disclosable gift. I can accept it, but it must be disclosed on a Form 9 and I did disclose it and that's how that would work.

So, a lot of people get confused, because they think they only disclose gifts related to, like people they know from their public life or something like that.

And when I say it's the category of anybody else, anybody who is not a vendor, lobbyist, principal of a lobbyist, political committee, or relative, I mean everybody else. So that's the gift law, in a nutshell.

There are a couple of other requirements relating to gifts from political committees where if the gift is not authorized under Chapter 106, which is one of the state election laws, there are requirements around that.

I think that's pretty esoteric for this information, but if you have a gift from a political committee, definitely call us and we would be happy to chat with you about what your obligations are.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: I'm sorry, this is Mary, Department of Elder Affairs. How long does that apply after you leave a position?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: The gift law? If you're not a public officer, you're no longer a reporting individual, then you don't have that requirement, it stops immediately.

It's a requirement for, again, people who are actively reporting individuals or state-level, meaning Executive and Judicial Branch and procurement employees, people with purchasing authority above a certain amount.

So, if you left public office, you would no longer be subject to the gift law.

There are certain requirements that extend past your public office holding. These are called revolving door prohibitions or post-employment restrictions. Some of those won't apply to you, but they're in the Code of Ethics.

One that would apply, there is a prohibition in the law that says that you cannot take information that's confidential or not available to the public and disclose it for the benefit of somebody else.

This happens a lot in the context of shade meetings, if there's a shade meeting that this Council might hold, let's say this Council was involved in some litigation, you met with an attorney in a shade meeting outside of a public -- not a public hearing, but in an executive session, if that information is confidential and not available to the public, it would be a violation for somebody to disclose information discussed in there for the benefit of somebody else. Let's say this board was in a lawsuit and the information about settlement thresholds of the board -- of the council was disclosed to the other side. Clearly that's not in the public interest and that information is not available to the public, disclosing it for a corrupt purpose to benefit it for the other side is against the Code of Ethics so that obligation persists as long as that information is public if you are in the position or if you leave the position

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Angie.

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): I'm sorry, I didn't hear Angie.

>> INTERPRETER: Debbe has her hand up.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: What happened with the Zoom?

[Pause].

>> INTERPRETER: Maybe it's too cold outside.

[Laughter].

>> INTERPRETER: Zoom is gone.

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: Yeah, it's connecting.

>> VOICE: Recording in progress.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: What I was saying was that my position has expired in 2018. I did not fill out the financial disclosure and why do we still have to fill it out even though we have not been reappointed?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: That's a great question.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: We should not be fined for that. So that's where the confusion is and the upsetting part and all that.

What's a kick in a gut is it's so long to appoint us.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: To be clear, the Commission on Ethics is not an agency that reports to the Governor, we're not in the Executive Branch, I don't speak for the Governor and I'm not here for him today.

I know the law does allow for appointed board members to hold over and continue to serve and to continue to exert the power that the statutory constitutional authorities that they may have, they continue to do that until the vacancy is appointed again.

So, as long as somebody is in that position, exerting the authority of the board, council, or commission, they continue to be a public officer, just the same as somebody who is not holding over.

And with regard to financial disclosure, the perspective of -- it seems the prerogative of people who wrote the statute was that the public is entitled to certain transparencies about the people who wield and exert that authority.

[Pause].

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Can I ask a question?

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Madame Chair?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cecil.

>> Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Cecil Bradley and I was on this Council until 2021 and I come forward with a question about the meaning of authority. The Council actually doesn't have authority, they are an advisory council only.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: I'm well informed of that now. That's been made pretty clear to me in my talk. One of the things I told the board -- or the Council is I would look into what effect their advisory authority would have on their requirement to file.

>> CORY PARKER: Zoom is frozen. Okay.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: So I will be looking into that and reaching back out to Ms. Hagner, Ms. Angie, and if the board wants me back to talk, honestly I would be very happy to come back.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Anymore questions?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Anything else you would like to discuss, now that you got to know what our Council and what else you think you might want to share, now that you know what we are as a Council? Advisory Council.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: I think we've covered a lot of good ground today, particularly on financial disclosure. I'm glad that we were able to talk about gifts today, of course.

You know, in -- if we do this again, and I would encourage you to invite me back to do it again -- I would love -- and I have respect for your time and I know you have a full agenda today -- I would love to talk to you more about conflicts of interest, how those work

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You still have 15 minutes, though. Go ahead.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Oh, great. I'm sorry, I lost track of where we are.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, no, I'm sorry, yeah, 2:30. But are we okay? Yeah, go ahead, take a few minutes.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Fantastic. All right.

The code of ethics have two provisions in it what we call conflict of interest statutes, okay,

The first one -- so each of those two statutes has two prohibitions in it. So there are four total prohibitions that I'm going to discuss with you right now.

The first prohibition -- the first statute concerns doing business with your agency. There is a prohibition against -- if you -- if any of you are in your private capacity, either owners of businesses or employers of businesses, this is something you need to think about, the statute prohibits you from acting in your official capacity as a member of the Council, for example, to buy, rent, or lease realty, goods, or services from an entity where you are an owner, an officer, a proprietor, a director, or a partner.

And that makes sense. And I think we all intuitively know that.

The other prohibition on that statute says in your private capacity, with that as a -- in association with that business entity, you cannot sell, rent, or lease realty, goods, or services back to your agency or to any agency of your political subdivision.

So, my understanding is that this entity is part of the political subdivision of the Department of Health, is that correct?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: So you wouldn't -- let's say I was a member, a privileged member of this Council and I had the business that cleans offices, let's say. I would not be able to sell office cleaning services to this Board -- to this Council or to any agency of the Department of Health.

So, that's the first statute. Those are the two prohibitions on that.

The second statute, like I said, also has two prohibitions, the first one prohibits a public officer or a public employee from having employment or a contractual relationship with a business entity where that business entity is either doing business with the agency or is subject to the regulation of that agency.

So, for example, with the cleaning, the office cleaning example, if I have employment with an office cleaning business or with a staffing agency or something like that, and that

business entity is doing business with my agency, that would be a conflict of interest for me. Even if I don't own the business. Even if I just work there.

This is also true for contractual relationships.

So, if any of you are attorneys, for example, and let's say you work at a firm, the firm has clients. As a member, as a partner or an associate of a firm, you have a contractual relationship with every client of your firm. And if your firm -- if the client of your firm is doing business with your agency and you have a contractual relationship with the client, that could be a conflict of interest.

So, that's the first prohibition under that statute. The third one we've covered so far.

The last one is it would be a conflicting employment or contractual relationship for a public officer or public employee, if that contractual relationship or that employment tempts them to dishonor the public responsibility. That's the language from the case law.

Effectively what it means is it makes them less than objective in their position.

Now that's -- when the case law talks about a temptation to dishonor a public responsibility, that talks about what affects your opportunity, regardless whether you have the strength of character for that temptation, for example, let's say we did a formal opinion once for somebody who was running for State Legislature -- this is decades ago, a few decades ago -- and this person was presented with the opportunity to contract with an organization where the terms of the contract were that he would take certain positions, once he was elected, and if he failed to take those -- to keep those positions after he was elected, then he would be liable for liquidated damages.

And there were thousands of dollars.

And we said that that's a conflict of interest, that it impedes his ability to be objective in his position. It would tempt him to dishonor his public responsibilities. Once he's in his role, he is making decisions objectively and it would be hard to do that if the decision he makes has the potential to cost him thousands of dollars out of his own pocket.

Who could possibly be objective in that scenario if it's going to cost him thousands of dollars that they owe because of this contract? Clearly the contract is in conflict and that's why you don't see those types of contracts in this state, because they're a conflicting contractual relationship.

Other examples of that might be, like, if somebody appeared before their own board to represent somebody. For example, if one of you stepped away from the table to make a presentation for a client of yours, you know, and there was some sort of vote that needed to occur on that matter, it would be very difficult for you to be objective in that situation where you're representing a paying client before your own board. That would impede your objectivity and we would say that's a conflicting contractual relationship.

There are many other examples and it's very difficult to figure out, you know, what types of examples might be relevant for each of you, because you all come from diverse business and personal backgrounds. Which is why I would encourage you if you think you're in a situation where something like that might -- a discussion about that might be relevant, to call the attorney of the day on the Commission on Ethics so that we can discuss your conflicts with you.

For every -- for all four of those prohibitions that we discussed, there's probably a dozen and a half exceptions.

And those exceptions are narrowly tailored, but sometimes they do apply to people. And in order to figure out if they appropriately apply to you, our legal staff would be able to advise you on that.

And so these things are complicated. We try to get -- reach out -- we encourage people to reach out to us ahead of entering into these type of contracts so that they're advised ahead of time on what to do.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. That's good. I want to really thank you for coming, because we've been wanting to hear from the Commission on Ethics, we have so many questions and I think it covers a lot and answers all our questions.

So I want to thank you very much for coming today!

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: I want to thank you for having me here. I know that, you know, Angela -- or Angie, as I've heard her being called today -- Angie has been fantastic with coordinating this with me so that I am -- I knew what topics you might want to discuss and just making sure that this was scheduled around my schedule, because this was not the first presentation I did today, I did one for a group of property appraisers this morning and just scheduling this was great. So I really want to thank Angie for everything, for scheduling this.

I will be in touch about the things that -- the homework that I have. And I'll be in touch with Ms. Hagner to make sure that she's adequately advised on what her options are and what's going on with her situation.

But I know I've said it a million times already, but if anybody has a question about their ethical obligations, please give us a call, ask for the attorney of the day, or you can ask for me and we'll make sure that you get sorted out.

Thank you again for having me today.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you.

[Applause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you very much!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Now we'll take our break now, it's 2:30, and we'll take a break at 2:50, we'll come back and start again at 2:50.

>> STEVEN ZUILKOWSKI: Thank you all.

[Break].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Hello. We're back.

>> VOICE: Recording in progress.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We're back, after a long break.

Before we do the public comments, we're going to do the few things that we moved up.

First will be -- I'm going to start with the shortest things, hopefully. Deaf Seniors of America Conference, June 25-June 29. In your folder -- where is it...? -- it's the very last page in your folder, with a big picture, they are offering a group of \$127 to send it in on February 28. I am already involved in DSA, because I'm on the Workshop Committee, so I cannot man the exhibit table. I thought about asking if Debbe would be willing to man the exhibit table for us? I don't know if that's allowed, now that Debbe has resigned from the Council.

But this is national and they'll have about 1,000 people going and about 200 are from

Florida. This is all senior citizens and all Deaf signers.

I don't know if you want to do that? Do you think it's worth doing that or not?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. For me, I would say no, it's not worth it, because of the point of having the exhibit table is to hear public comments and because these are all Deaf senior citizens and they're all Deaf signers, I believe the public comments would be very similar to what I already collected last December, so I don't think there will be anything new and different.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So... Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary with Department of Elder Affairs. And I think this may be the first time that I've seen an event that is senior friendly or senior oriented. And I'm wondering, in regard to targeted comments from a specific population, it might be interesting to see what types of issues they may phrase or what kind of...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, like I said, I already collected public comments and a lot were from senior citizens too, and I know, from my knowledge of the Deaf community, it's going to be the same issues: Interpreters and healthcare.

>> MARY HODGES: Okay. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: On the other hand, just to let you know, there's another Deaf organization, and there are a lot of Deaf organizations.

Okay. So that's done.

Next would be the letters. What, Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean, I was just going to ask, do you know if this is a Florida-based organization?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It's national, it's national.

>> SEAN ISAAC: National.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And they expect about 1,000 to attend. And I saw the list of attendees, and about 200 are from Florida. And I looked at the names, I know a lot of them and they're, like, eh....

But you need to be aware of, since we have so many different organizations.

Next is the letters. I know that we worked on the letters the last meeting, and Karen did kind of like a final version.

And did you ever send out the letters?

>> ANGIE GREEN: I'm sorry?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Did you ever send out the letters?

>> ANGIE GREEN: I never received any letters. What letters?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The last version that Karen did.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This one, when she rearranged it and had a column here. This is my copy. She had e-mailed -- Angie had e-mailed it at the last meeting, the one before, and this one was the law enforcement letter and we were going to use this kind of format on this letter, so....

You know, we had one for law enforcement, one for -- yeah.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Captioning on television.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Those were the only two letters that were finished. Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Yes, this is Mary, Department of Elder Affairs. First, are those in our packets?

And second, were those letters finalized and approved? I thought we were still discussing them.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I think the last version that Karen did was the one that we all agreed on. And we had an address and everything for it, and I thought that one would at least be sent out.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, is it still an ongoing project, Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: I think so.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. So... is there anything you want to discuss connected with the letter? That's on your committee.

>> CINDY SIMON: No, because Gina was --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. So... we're good.

Remember, the next meeting is a virtual meeting in May, so it will be more difficult to work on the letter, trying to do it virtually.

All right. So that's off.

All right. So the last thing we will definitely work on and the bylaws and we'll hold that and see if we have time for that.

Does everybody have a copy of the bylaws? I would like to go through the biennial report, to see if we have any questions on that, and then if we have time, the bylaws.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, I was just wondering, we spent so much time on those bylaws, we went through them line-by-line, the only thing we didn't do on it was vote. Unless people want to go through it again, I think we should vote on it, accept it or not, and be done.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. The bylaws are in your packet, and the ones that have colors in it, red and green, so just look at the color part.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: One thing I want to change is that number... hmm... the legal authority. All right, where's -- oh, Cory not here. Okay.

Remember we had the big discussion about deafblind. Is it supposed to be deaf hyphen blind or deafblind? I was going to ask Cory about that.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Just so you know, when I was going through our report, I had the same question in my own mind, and so I did the Googles and the Googles say no hyphen when describing an individual.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I want to double-check with Cory, because of his background. So we'll -- okay.

Page one is fine.

Page two, interpreter definition.

Page three, part C, we talked about having a conference.

And then the membership. Number 12 was secretary of Department of Children and Families Services, change that to FTRI. We never discussed that, how to deal with that. Children and Family Services, if I remember correctly, the good reason why it was included because of a huge case that happened a long time ago, right?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Do you mean why they were included in the statute?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Why you're a member of the Council, the Children and Family Services. The only thing I could think of that I remembered, there was a huge case with Deaf families, something about, like, the Deaf children were taken away from Deaf parents or something like that, and DCF got in big trouble for that. This was many years ago, around the time this was set up.

And I don't know if the question of whether we should include FTRI or not? I don't know. We never did discuss that.

Before we do that --

>> CORY PARKER: Yes?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: In the bylaws, should it say deaf hyphen blind or deafblind?

>> CORY PARKER: In the bylaws, our bylaws, probably --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Which way should it say?

>> CORY PARKER: It should deafblind, capital D capital B.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We're not capitalizing anything.

>> CORY PARKER: Then leave it lower case, deafblind, all together.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No hyphen.

>> CORY PARKER: No hyphen.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Then we have to fix that. No hyphen there, so we have to go through to make it deafblind.

All right. So...

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. From a technical writer standpoint, the most important point is that we're consistent throughout.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: So we have to make sure that if we're not going to hyphenate it, it's the same throughout all of our documents.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Right, yes. I just said that we need to go through it and find it. So, John

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I want to know how you feel about the role of the Department of Children and Families Services being on the Council?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Well, how I personally feel is it makes perfectly good sense. The Department of Children and Families touches people's lives in many different ways, adult abuse, child abuse, benefits like Medicaid and foods, what they used to call food stamps, and we have a mental health section and a substance abuse section and we have a domestic violence section.

I really can't see why anybody would not want the Department on the Council, for starters.

I don't know historically why the Bush Administration included the Department on the Council, and why it was included in the statute from the beginning. I cannot tell you why; I have no history of Deaf and hard-of-hearing issues until I got on the Council.

However, I somehow missed the part about us changing bylaws and stripping out DCF in exchange for something else, which you absolutely cannot do legally.

Bylaws cannot change the law. And so, I mean, if you want to do it, this is supposed to be or a legislative change that the Council agrees on, then, okay, everybody gets a vote.

But you can't make the bylaws something that the law does not allow or otherwise call for.

So, again, not knowing where that came from in the bylaws, whose idea it is or what the reasoning is behind it, you know, you can write I guess anything in your bylaws. But if you follow your bylaws instead of the law, you break the law.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> JOHN JACKSON: But I would, now that I've answered y'all's questions, maybe y'all can answer mine: Where did that come from? And, you know, that's kind of, like, pulled out of my rearend or someone's rearend at this point. Where did that come from? Who put that in there and what the hell is it about?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I don't know, maybe we've been working on the bylaws on and off and people are putting things, so, yeah, we will leave that in. And the FTRI, it will take that out.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I mean, I have no objection to FTRI being added to the statute. You know, I don't object to any agency being added.

And like I said, if the agency -- excuse me, if the Council as a whole wants to vote on some sort of resolution that we should dump DCF from the Council, then the Council does what the Council does, everybody gets a vote.

But I'm not, at this point, when the Department, when this Council first started and I was the first and so far only representative from the Department, when the Council first started, it was somewhat hostile to the Department and I feel like, or at least many, many members of the Council were, and I felt like there's been a lot of work done and etc. to make that not happen, and so now I'm a little bit concerned that we're getting back to that after 17, 18 years.

And so I would really like someone to point out what the origin of that is. Just so I don't, you know, just for my own clarity. If I have to report back to my Secretary, that the Council's after us again, I would kind of like to know what's up.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Well, it's still in there, it's still in there, it's still in there, okay.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. I was just going to reiterate what John was saying and go beyond DCF. We cannot change anything in the bylaws, at all, that is already stated as part of the legal authority under 413.271.

If it's already stated that it has to be that way in statute, then we can't change anything in the bylaws.

The bylaws have to reflect that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So the membership we leave. The membership selection we can leave alone, except for the changes we did to update it.

And the appointments in terms of office, we had a little bit of discussion about Section 2, part 2 in red, in addition the applicant must be recommended by the organization to be represented.

We had some discussion about that, because some people, on their own, applied, and either they were already a member of that organization or they joined. So...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think... um... when we asked the question about the Appointments Office, I think the answer we got a long time ago was that yes, they do check to make sure that the organization knows about the applicant. Right?

So we don't need that sentence then.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is --

>> CORY PARKER: What are the page numbers --

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. From my recollection, it was told to us that yes, they do check to see if they're part of that particular agency, but that is also the responsibility of the Council, is what I recall.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I'm sorry, what did you say again?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I said yes, the Appointments Office did confirm that they do check to ensure that that individual is a part of that particular organization.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: But it's also what the part of the Council and the staff needs to do as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So do we leave that sentence?

>> SEAN ISAAC: [Nods head].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes? Okay.

Now, Section 3, I remember we had a discussion that we couldn't demand it, we had to have 17 full representation of all 17 members must be maintained for an effective council governance, and the governance appoint must be done expediently and there was some discussion about that, I remember.

I remember you saying well, we can't demand. John?

>> JOHN JACKSON: It just does not seem like a statement that belongs in the bylaws, you know? I had the same concern.

I mean, you know, it's kind of a worthless statement. The Governor's Office must be done, or the appointments must be done... I mean, what does that say? It's not what a -- it's not terminology I'm used to seeing in any kind of bylaws and I don't know what value it is having in there.

Now, language in the bylaws about requiring more, you know, consistent communication with the Governor's Office, obviously or something like that, but I don't know what that sentence is there for; I don't know.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think one of the things is that I heard about some council/board or something, they had in their bylaws that they must keep the group full, they can't have any vacancies, they have to keep it full, so I thought that if, you know, the Appointments Office has been slow to do any appointments at all.

And if they know they have to work to help to keep the Council full, then maybe that would help us.

This is just something I heard.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. If that's the case, then we are in violation, at least in the past year, because we obviously don't have 17 members.

But we still also don't have a collaboration with the Governor's Office yet. So that partnership, I don't know... I just don't know.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Drop it?

>> CINDY SIMON: Drop it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Drop it. Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: I don't think you can demand anything from them.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> CINDY SIMON: You can request.

>> MARY HODGES: [Shakes head].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, we'll drop it.

Okay. Next page. That's just words.

Next page. Section 5, procedures, minutes, meeting arrangements; definition, procedures, we don't have anything.

Section 2, we don't have anything. I don't know if it's because there was nothing to change or we didn't finish it.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary, Department of Elder Affairs. I'm wondering back on page number -- we need to put page numbers on the documents.

>> CORY PARKER: I was just saying, that page numbers would help.

>> MARY HODGES: On the previous page where we were talking about appointments, I wonder if we could have something there, instead of thus the Governor's appointments must be done expediently, maybe does the Council -- the Council must petition the Department or something like that to consult the Governor's Office or....

Something that we have the ability to do versus the Governor's Office having to do. That we have a responsibility for trying to ensure that we have 17 positions filled. Something to that, you know, that we would have a responsibility for saying we have a vacancy in, you know, for example, the Department of Elder Affairs has a vacancy. So we, as a Council, would ask the Department of Health to move to communicate the Department of Elder Affairs that your representative on the Council, we need an appointment from your office, for example, and, you know, that kind of thing. That we move it up, versus seeing what the Governor's responsibility is here. What would be our responsibility as a Council to try to facilitate having positions filled.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: Do you think it will be something like it would be the Council's responsibility, upon a vacancy, to contact the Appointments Office monthly to review the status of the vacancies?

If you have to have something there, that puts it back on us. But it also makes us call them at least monthly. So they may get tired of being harassed and just do it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So what's the wording to put down?

>> CINDY SIMON: We could probably go back in the CART, but it was probably upon a vacancy on the Council, it will be the Council's responsibility to contact whoever it is, the Office of Appointments, the Governor's Office of Appointments, whatever, monthly regarding the status of that vacancy.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Mary, Department of Elder Affairs. I was thinking that we could contact our liaison, which would be Angie or Sean, because we don't -- we're not to be contacting the Governor's Office, but maybe it be their responsibility to ensure that -- I don't know that the Council is --

>> CINDY SIMON: You're right, there is --

[Talking over one another].

>> MARY HODGES: -- is fully --

>> CINDY SIMON: But they're going to do it as representatives of the Council.

>> MARY HODGES: Absolutely.

>> JOHN JACKSON: This is John. That's right, but bylaws are controlling us and our behavior and five years down the road, maybe there is hardly anyone hear that's still on the Council, a new council member could read that and think okay, I'm going to start calling the Governor's Office every week.

So I think what would be best is to say it's the responsibility of the Council, through support staff, or whatever is the best way to describe your functions, and then the rest of what the sentence that was proposed

>> CINDY SIMON: There you go.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. This is Glenna. So that's something to put in your handbook as part of procedures to follow-up on appointments, rather than the bylaws, but put that in the handbook, one of your duties is to follow-up on appointments when a council member lets you know that they have recruited somebody to apply.

Is that better?

Okay. So --

>> SEAN ISAAC: Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I know this is a critical, critical issue that weighs heavily on the Council. But I have to say this: We all serve at the pleasure of the

Governor, whether we're public employees or the Council.

And so I think the best posture for this Council is to do something that aids, helps the Governor's Office to make these appointments. Whatever that is.

I don't personally know what that is in this particular situation, but I think it's very important for us and crucial that we continue to foster a positive relationship with the Governor's Office and to find out what those things are that can foster member appointments, you know, quicker appointments. I think that's the posture we want to aim to. I just wanted to make that comment.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Does anybody have anymore comments on the bylaws?

>> CINDY SIMON: I have one.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: On the same page as that, just above it is that in addition, the applicant must be recommended by the organization to be represented.

I brought this up last time. So, there are some which may not be part of an organization. A parent of a deaf child may not be sent in as part of an organization.

There are two audiology organizations. I happen to belong to both.

So, you know, from that end, you may not have an organization, per se, that is represented, versus a profession.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: People only apply to actual organizations on the Council. It would not apply to individuals. Such as a parent.

>> CINDY SIMON: Then the --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The parent and the deafblind. You said for membership that said individuals -- it says an individual who is deafblind or a member representing FADB or a child or person with hearing loss, that is "or" and there are two options.

>> CINDY SIMON: Where are you looking?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Section 1 under that, so it's "or" and it's saying an individual or an organization.

>> CINDY SIMON: That's the sentence I'm talking about.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And you're concerned about you want it to be recommended by an organization --

>> CINDY SIMON: Well, I'm saying --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And they don't have to be an organization, they can --

[Talking over one another].

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay, it makes it sound --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It's an "or" --

>> CINDY SIMON: It sounds like everybody has to be from an organization and yet we have positions that are not organizationally connected.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, like audiologist.

>> JOHN JACKSON: That's only a couple.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, so you can say "With the exception of, parent of a deaf child, audiology, hearing instrument specialist."

>> JOHN JACKSON: Well, it's got to be in line with the statute.

>> CINDY SIMON: No, that's are all on there.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I know, but I don't know how the statute is worded as far as audiologists.

>> CINDY SIMON: It says audiologists.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I don't know.

>> CINDY SIMON: Who is licensed under the statute.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I counted, it's only five actual organizations mentioned out of 17.

>> CINDY SIMON: Oh, so maybe we should just list, must be recommended from, you know, if representing the following organizations, and then list the five organizations.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

[Pause].

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I'm looking at our council members that Angie printed out for us, and it lists different members. I don't know if this means what -- I don't know what this means in terms of the law, but it says A.G. Bell represented, an individual who is deafblind, hearing aid specialist representative, parent of a -- a CART represented. A parent of a children with hearing loss. A FAD represent. DCF rep. Are these the actual people that is mentioned on the law or is this just something that you abbreviated? I don't know. But we do need to take a look at that, because we didn't just put someone on that doesn't have that capability.

Just because a person shows up and says I'm deafblind and I want to serve on your Council, what if they don't have the skills to do that.

Or to be disruptive or, you know, you can't just let anybody in, you know.

So -- go ahead.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Practically speaking, I agree with you. The problem is when we're dealing with legislative interpretation, we can't put anymore requirements than what has been put in statute.

And so, for instance, an individual who is deaf and blind, I understand your concerns. But the statute simply says an individual who is deaf and blind. It does not allow for any other vetting, as far as I'm concerned as far as, you know, someone's personality -- I don't know how else to describe it, but you know what I mean? -- I'm trying to give an example and the mix would be the parent of an individual who is deaf, there is nothing that says that it has to be a moral parent or nothing that says the parent can't be a felon or the parent can't be... you know what I mean? And that's the problem we run into.

If we tried to put these extra requirements that were just based on what the Council wanted, not only would that be in violation of the law, but it actually might bring -- simply missing the political requirement, it might bring some bad publicity down on the Council we don't want.

The lesson is, unfortunately, we have to go with the strict interpretation.

If all it says is a parent of a child who is deaf, then that's the only requirement.

>> CINDY SIMON: However, whoever is applying must fill out an application, and that application has to be reviewed. There are qualifications for it and their experience is going to be in that application.

And so --

>> CORY PARKER: Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: -- they don't have to be accepted, but there must be a application for it and that would be part of the vetting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And it's a really long application, so they have to be really motivated.

>> CORY PARKER: Okay. But speaking from the perspective that you're saying, John, what Cindy said is not applicable.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Absolutely, because it's the Governor or the statute also says who will make that determination, and so --

>> CORY PARKER: We make the determination. Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: No, no, the Governor's Office.

>> JOHN JACKSON: No.

>> CORY PARKER: The Governor's Office, they have no idea.

[Talking over one another].

>> CINDY SIMON: But they get the application that this follows this.

>> JOHN JACKSON: There are definitely flaws with the way that the selection process is in statute. But, you know, like laws in general, there are going to be, not using the term necessarily correctly but we all understand what I say when I use the term loopholes.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes.

>> JOHN JACKSON: And there's also the concern about the ability of the Governor's Office to vet and the thing is they might have to fill out an application, but it's pretty much discretionary on the Governor's part, and there might be individuals, you know, who's -- maybe their personality isn't really vibe with everybody on the Council. They might be people picked simply because who they know, because that's the reality of politics and governing.

So it's unfortunate, but I think what matters is that, I mean, we had a guy, a deafblind rep towards the beginning of this Council, really great guy, I mean, as a person [chuckles], he was a really great guy, but he really made it hard for the Council to operate.

And the thing is, and the problem is is that, you know, he met the statute qualifications and, I mean, we got what we got and that's just kind of the thing, you know?

And it's unfortunate. But, you know, the thing is they can make really good appointments as well, but it could be two people that are really suited that are appointed to the Council, but they happen to have a history with each other that's not such a nice history and it goes back [chuckles]... you know what I mean? We've had that on the Council too. People don't like each other from their other dealings outside of the Council in their various organizations.

And so it happens.

In the end, though, the statute has to be followed, but the statute, the requirements that the Council has no real pick on who's going to be on the Council. It's up to the Governor, with the exception -- he is supposed to consult with the five or six organizations that Glenna pointed out, but what that means, you know, consultation could be, you know, called them up and said hey, is this person actually a member of your group, that could be the consultation, all right.

And the ones that's not part of the organization, the Governor picks, there is no criteria who the Governor picks, the Governor just picks. The only people who the Governor picks are the four secretaries of the agencies who designate their own people who don't want to show up. And the reality is I believe those are all executive organizations because the Governor does have some tie to, so --

>> CORY PARKER: That makes sense.

>> JOHN JACKSON: If the statute doesn't put a limitation, the Council cannot put their own limitation, and so unfortunately, you know, you know, with all the lemonade, we'll get a little lemon -- I think I turned that around -- but you know what I mean.

>> CORY PARKER: Be happy that we have no people coming in with motives of disruption, you know?

That's my whole idea. Not just unqualified, when they come in, they're thinking this is a place where we can complain all we want to do and nothing gets done.

So, when we look at our pool of people to invite to apply, we're considering specifically their skills. We're thinking of people who have experience and leadership potential, so... yeah...

>> CINDY SIMON: I think it's a moot point --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do we leave that sentence, in addition the applicant must be designated by their organization to be represented of FAD, HLAA, ALDA, FRID, and A.G. Bell, and all the rest are just... Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary. And I'm just thinking, before I speak, I think it would probably be redundant, to say -- I was going to say based on statutory requirements or something, but we probably don't need that. Because the statute is very specific about enlist the membership and how to get appointed and everything under statute.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Drop it!

[Laughter].

>> MARY HODGES: Right. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Drop it!
Are there anymore discussions or changes before we take a vote on it?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do I have a motion to accept the bylaws as amended?

>> CINDY SIMON: I move. I move to accept the final version as amended today.

>> JOHN JACKSON: As amended today. Second.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. All in favor? All in favor of accepting the bylaws as amended today, February 9?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory, aye.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think we need --

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: I'm abstaining from voting, because I'm still not comfortable with making changes to the bylaws where by statutory authority, we're required to keep them as is. And I think some places, it's a very --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Like where?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Well, many of the things we've just talked about --

>> CORY PARKER: Chris? We haven't closed discussion. We have a motion on the floor. We can't jump back into discussion.
So are we suspending the motion or are we going back into discussion?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: Chris, just remember --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We're going to continue the discussion.

>> CINDY SIMON: Chris, I just want to remind you, we amended them when Sherilyn was Chair and no one had a problem with amending, like, the time when people were going to come in, etc., so I think this may have been just pruning like that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. For the first...

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Excuse me, this is Chris. The time that people were going to come in for what?

>> CINDY SIMON: What? No, no, I'm saying back when Sherilyn was Chair, we did an amendment and we changed dates, like when the Chair would start would be a month sooner rather than later, etc.

So, you know, and we had no problem amending, you know, reviewing the bylaws. Review of bylaws is very common for an organization, as long as we're not changing the statute, then we can do this.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The bylaws, all the pages, except one, were all just cleaning up the language or putting in things that were missing, like interpreter definitions.

The only page that there's a really big difference is the third page, where we added hosting a conference and then we added for members four, five, and six, and additional option, who can be on the Council, like an individual who is deafblind or some of the representing organizations that we... um... and five, a parent of a child with hearing loss or a member representing Hands & Voices. Number six is the --

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, but --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No longer exists or a member -- we're adding a second option.

>> CINDY SIMON: No.

[Talking over one another].

>> JOHN JACKSON: No, I'm sorry, I did not read the bylaws before coming in, Mary pointed them out to me, and I appreciate. I move as a Council table or voting on bylaws or agreeing to any amendments to the bylaws before we look at this a little bit better, because there's a lot of the same problems and I think that's what Chris is getting at, and, again, I should have been more thorough at reading this, although, again, I'm very curious where some of these changes came from and why. But right now it's clear that the bylaws are a mess. And what the changes are, I think we need to think a little bit about that.

Because I think I know what we're trying to get to. But I don't think we're doing it necessarily in a legal way and I don't think we have the time left today, at least, if we're going to do public comments, to really weed through this and get into -- get into all the technical aspects.

I really do think that the Council should -- well, let me ask: Is there any specific reason

why these bylaws need to be amended? Is there a need to amend them right now? Is there some sort of a deadline? Are we under a gun or something like that?

>> CINDY SIMON: No.

>> JOHN JACKSON: If not, I say we table it, because we don't have been the time for all the mistakes we've seen right now, very concerning some of them, because they counter the statute, and maybe we should back off and take this up in a future meeting, or if we have time tomorrow, because we have kind of added some time for us.

But I don't think we should vote on this, Madame Chair.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We can't work on the bylaws tomorrow, because we would not have enough votes tomorrow, with two people leaving. So we'll just table it and put it on the agenda for the May meeting. And then if people do their homework, to review the bylaws. Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I'm trying to remember which meeting, if it was the Fort Myers, that was the first meeting, and then we had another meeting and they are another meeting, and in all three of these meetings, I can't remember, I'm not sure if Chris had come to those meetings?

But those meetings, we had open discussion and amendments and all of these changes were added.

So that's where, Glenna, now we arrive today thinking that we were done.

So I wish that we had the opportunity to review and to have those discussions here again today, because, Glenna, looking at the finished product, because we had those three other meetings with those changes, two or three meetings, where we actually spent time and opened it up and really looked at it and gave feedback about those bylaw changes.

Am I right? Does anybody else remember that?

So that's why -- I don't remember any deadline. But I remember that's the amount of time that we spent on the bylaws. And that's how we got to this today, a finished product.

Am I right, Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, I thought we were -- no, we had -- I remember we worked on the bylaws. We did all the changes on the screen and people were contributing things and stuff.

>> CORY PARKER: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And we went through it again and I thought we were completely finished and then there was still some discussion about some part that we didn't finish discussing.

>> CORY PARKER: This isn't a new thing.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And we didn't vote on it --

>> CORY PARKER: And so this is this history, you know, it's not everything, but that's how we got to this point today. Just to clarify. We had been discussing it. Mary had her hand up.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. Proceed as you see fit. And I know we've talked about this in several meetings previously and I know what Cindy is saying, that it's typical for organizations to review their bylaws and make changes and updates.

But many organizations don't have a state statute that guides their bylaws the way we do.

Like, for example, in the statute, it still calls HLAA The Self-Help for the Hard of Hearing, so there's certain things we can't change.

I mean, we can talk about in the mission for HLAA, it talks about previously known as SHHH, so that probably is okay.

But what I've consistently said in all of our discussion is anything that we're going to change in the bylaws cannot be anything that the statute requires us to say or changes the wording that comes from the state statute. That's all I'm saying. And that's why I'm reluctant to vote on this because we need to compare every word and make sure that we're not changing stuff that's already in the statute.

What clearly needs to happen is the statute needs to be updated. But we don't have the authority to do that.

So, we kind of limp along with what we have. And I understand that.

But... [Sighs]... the laws have restrictions. And I think that's the point I've been trying to make.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> CINDY SIMON: Mary.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary? Go ahead.

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary, and I defer to Chris.

>> CINDY SIMON: All right. I just want to -- I don't think -- I agree we can't change the statute. And I think in a couple of places, she wasn't trying to change the statute, but it said if something doesn't exist anymore, then the closest thing to it will replace it.

It says -- it does say that.

And I think that's why she said, if it's, like, if it's not a parent of a deaf child, you know, Hands & Voices, I don't think you can just pick one organization. If there's more than one that does it,

So any other -- you can change it to the generic "Any other organization" where this would be your whatever.

Do you see what I'm saying?

You're not changing it, it's still the parent of a deaf child.

But at that time, other than A.G. Bell, and I think we name A.G. Bell --

>> MARY HODGES: In statute.

>> CINDY SIMON: In statute. And technically, they are usually the parent of a deaf child.

>> CORY PARKER: Does that go along with what you're saying, John?

>> JOHN JACKSON: I'm not quite sure. I mean, I'm not sure where you're saying -- I

mean --

>> CINDY SIMON: No, I'm just saying some of the wording she thought was thought to be in line with it, because you're keeping that same member, but somewhere it says, you know, like if they don't exist anymore, then the next closest, you can be replaced by the next closest organization. That's all I'm saying.

I believe that was there somewhere and that's where that came from.

There was a lot of stuff that was originally put in there that was taken out because it was not in compliance with the statute.

It was just trying to tighten it up more than it was to ensure.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Time out. It is 3:50, we have used up all the public comment time. And Cecil wants to make a public comment. So we will table the bylaws until we're ready to look at it again, in whatever meeting.

We really need to get to the report, after Cecil's comments.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cecil?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: I'll come up to the podium. This is Cecil, I'll come up to the podium if it's easier for everyone.

Can you guys see me okay from the Zoom?

>> CORY PARKER: Who's on Zoom? There's nobody on Zoom. Karen is. Debbe might left.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe left, she's not -- she's not on anymore, she left for an appointment at 4:00 o'clock, she's gone.

>> CORY PARKER: Yeah, so both of them --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen, I don't know what happened to her.

>> CORY PARKER: Karen and Debbe are gone.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, Cecil?

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: [Off mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cecil is going to make a comment.

>> SEAN ISAAC: [Off mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Cecil Bradley, a former council member, he used to represent VR, he is now the director of FTRI. Welcome, Cecil!

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Thank you, Glenna, it's nice to see everybody again. I have

served with you for a while. I think it was from 2021, gosh... I retired in 2021. It's nice to see you again. Your discussion, of when I was on the Council, so it's great discussion.

But I would like to give some brief public comments about the statute, the Florida Telecommunications Relay, Telecommunications Access and Systems Act, which is the Florida State 417.701-708, the Florida Statute. That's what drives us. That's what drives us in regards to communication for people with hearing loss as well and people with speech impediments.

So, some of you are aware of the fact that the law is antiquated. And it was created in 1991. Created and passed in 1991.

So, that's how many years ago, if you can count, that makes this law antiquated.

So if you realize there is a lot of terminology in that law that is quite old.

So secondly, at that time there were no mentions of the internet. There were no mentions of wireless services. There were no mentions of what we actually use today.

All of the comments were landline-based.

You can envision picking up a phone and dialing as we used to.

If you'll remember the public telephones that we all used to dial and put money in and you pulled out that TTY, the archaic system we don't use anymore, and now everything is mobile and we use FaceTime with each other. There's automated audio captions now.

But basically, the law needs to be changed. And there's no concern about that.

I think that for a long time, when I was on the Board of FTRI, I think we were talking about a lot of hot topics with James Sorensaul (sp) but we do want to change the law. And we did at that time. But we didn't have the capability to do so.

So, I became a director last year in the fall of 2021, so I guess that was a year and a few months ago.

And I did mention that I agree, it's my mission to change the law. And I'm still doing that.

I took some time to understand a little bit more about the law and understand about the dynamics of how legislation works and so forth.

But I was very fortunate that I started some conversations with several staff of legislators that are out there, and two of them are local. One is a senator and one is a representative here in Tallahassee.

And plus there are two committees that I have been involved in: The Senate committee on the regulative induction on the Senate side and the subcommittee, the committee on -- the committee on cyber, those are the two committees I have been working with and talking with their staff.

So there are four people that have been mostly communicated with and we have sent letters, called them, and we've finally met with the Senate Committee on regulated induction, I think it was about two weeks ago. And it was a discussion and all of our points we weren't there for money, we weren't there to stand for or disagree with issues that were happening, but that we were there for with the flaws in the law and there are some things that needed to be changed.

Because basically the law, in accordance with the Public Service Committee, their attorneys viewed the law that we had no other options. We had no choices that we had to keep the laws that were happening now, that there was some changes that we could make in terms of to technology, but in terms of amplified phones and some other things, like Bluetooth or things that we could adjust.

But for Deaf people, when you talk about TTYs and TTDs, those are 40-year-old terms and devices we no longer use and we're stuck with that wording.

I mean, if you could remember the way it used to be, we had to take things home and plug them in. But when you're talking about how technology is changing and how the

satellite is really how we communicate now, if you think of VoIP, if you've heard of that terminology, that VoIP is coming more of a commonplace of how we communicate through internet lines, instead of analogue to digital, I mean, analogue is not something that we communicate much with anymore.

But the point is that you're talking about sounds and messages that are no longer the same from the beginning to the end. Only when you're talking about, not only TTY users, but people with amplified phones and so forth. The changes are out there.

And again, I have to tell you, as a Council, the landlines have gone by the wayside, well over five years now. According to two reports, from the Public Service Commission, PSC, report, from 2020 and 2021, they projected the decline of the landlines and I would say it's happened pretty quickly.

So I do perceive in the next five years that brings us to a critical point, and I think that's why I'm here and you think we need to take this push.

But of the four legislative staff that I have been talking to and their committees, the interesting thing is that one of the legislative houses they said it was not possible, there was no room for us to adjust the bill. Possibly next year we can take a look at that.

But the Senate committee side, there is some good people there and they have one staff member who focused specifically on the PSC, legislative things on that legislative side, but everybody agrees the law needs to be changed very clearly.

I think the points are where the specifics that need to be changed, everybody seems to support that concept.

But I also want you, as a Council, to be aware, because the legislative session has already begun. As of this month, you've got the legislative committees that are meeting. This is the months of February, March, and April, where legislative sessions are the most active.

So the committees have suggested to start being a little bit more involved in May of this year. They're going to try and focus on specific issues within bills that are on the table now, and in May they can focus a little bit more about our concerns.

I'm going to still stay in contact with them, those four people that I have been communicating with, and things will happen more in May.

What I've learned about is next year there will be some larger changes on these pieces. There is legislation sessions adjusted in 2024, and they will be meeting in January and February of 2024, so that changes our timeline, that brings some challenges for us when it comes to bills that need to be proposed.

So not only do you have to introduce them by November or December or early November/December, which means that we have to start working now, and May is our timeframe throughout the summer, where we really need to be more active.

So I just wanted to let you guys know as a Council, start paying attention to what's going to be happening from May. I'm not sure of those four people who are going to be sponsoring our bill, who they're going to be able to talk to to get that sponsored, but we have to have sponsorship for the bill.

And we're focusing on the one committee, of the Senate side, I'm excited talking to the senator who will introduce this bill. I'm not sure how, but as soon as I get the information, I will let you guys know immediately; I will contact your organizations, your people. I'll let you know. I'll... we're here to improve the law and if you can recall, Senator Wise, I'm not sure if you remember him, in 2012, it died in committee, right before he retired, but there were some changes in place, and FAD and FRID and some other organizations were out there working really hard as well, but that did die in 2012.

So I mentioned that we're going to be proposing some additional language and making those changes based off of what we were thinking of in 2012 to have in May of 2023.

But the largest challenge is funding and how do we fund that.

With landline disappearing, how will FTRI continue to support the program?

So we're looking at different approaches at this time. We're going to try different investment opportunities to try to extend the program.

There's the possibility that maybe we can have a compromise with some legislators. Because if you keep in mind that the Public Service Commission, they don't have statutory authority to oversee the wireless providers.

We're under PSC and they focus on phone companies.

The wireless carriers, we don't see them. We don't oversee them. So you see, we're in two different camps. Who's overseeing the wireless program? And we know that PSC can't.

The wireless carriers may not want to be involved, so that brings a larger question of funding.

So, currently we take money from your phone bills, 10 cents a month. And that is reducing from 10 cents to a little bit cheaper than that. But we're looking for long-term investments to try to extend the program until the legislative session resolves the issues.

But the Senate Committee warned me that they don't want to hear anything about increases because of the tax. When you talk about taxes, it's a large issue and that's a challenge for us.

But the important thing is we've got to fund the program. We have to keep the funding going, and that's something that we're active on. And I'm very optimistic that we will write a proposal for next year. And I wanted to advise you as a Council and keep you informed.

I'm also going to be communicating with the community and the legislators and so forth.

Now, our outreach manager will be attending certain events. We have flyers going out there explaining the law and some things that we're hoping to change.

But that's about it. I just wanted to share that with the group. Are there any questions?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You mentioned in May, we'll know a little bit more. Are you going to be participating in the Deaf Seniors Conference this summer? Are you going to try to share this information and promote that law there? Because I can help you go and rally there.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Yeah, we are having a table there, but I think more of just to explain a little bit more about our program and have some information on the exhibit table.

But I think in May of 2023, we're going to really try to be aggressive in meeting the legislators at that time.

I would be happy to share some more information with you at that time.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you.

>> CINDY SIMON: Cecil, have you found any other states that have done these changes that we can maybe pattern after?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: And I can let you know, Cindy, there are -- for other states -- it's interesting -- that's an interesting question -- there are other states that have been allowed to provide wireless devices, if I believe.

I think in 23 other states, they have provided that opportunity for wireless. But it's through their current landline program, their antiquated program.

I think I'm using the wrong word, but it's about funding for the phone companies and

Florida has not yet been able to change that state law.

They -- it's called a pilot program in those states.

We are also proposing a pilot program. And that's going to be as of this summer and fall.

But the PSC told us, or told me, last year to make a resolution that includes the budget for a pilot, so we can give out iPads and i -- what do you call it? -- tablets as well. So we will be doing that. Fingers crossed.

But I have already broached one other department and there's a potential involvement there, there is waiting to see what the options are. But right now, PSC is willing to participate, but we're not approved because the budget year starts in July and we have to put that in the May or June meeting.

So I'm optimistic.

The reason why the pilot is something I'm optimistic about is because once we start with that program and we move on to the legislation and it gets passed and whatever we started actually becomes more permanent.

But other states have done it and their pilot programs have worked and it seems there aren't a lot of, I would say of pilot programs, I think there's about, maybe, 200 a year, maybe, of iPads and tablets that are given out. It requires an eligibility something we're considering, because it is an expensive pilot and we're looking at a variety of options

>> CINDY SIMON: Thank you.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. Cecil, please keep us posted, and any way we can support you, we will.

Now we will take a -- it's 4:07, so we need to take a break right now.

>> ANGIE GREEN: We have --

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can take a break.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So it's 4:08 now, we'll take a short break, ten minutes, 4:18.

[Break].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Time, time.

>> VOICE: Recording in progress.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Welcome. Please introduce yourself and the other two that are here, please, for the record.

>> Absolutely, my name is Anna Simmons, I'm the bureau chief for family health services. Michelle Peart is here with me and Shay Chapman, I'm sure you all are pretty familiar with, she has helped with the Council for many years.

We are here today to give a few recognitions to some council members.

The first recollection we would like to give is to Mary Hodges. Mary is retiring! Very jealous

[Laughter].

>> ANNA SIMMONS: I have many more years, but we wanted to recognize you for the time you've been on the Council and your contribution from the Department of Elder Affairs and everything you've done. We have a little certificate for you.

[Applause].

>> CORY PARKER: Go Mary!

>> SEAN ISAAC: Photo, photo, photo.

>> ANNA SIMMONS: Oh, photo. I thought you said blow it up.

[Laughter].

>> CINDY SIMON: I am an audiologist.

[Laughter].

>> ANNA SIMMONS: The next person we want to recognize you guys have heard up, hopefully, and she assists with the Council a lot, we have Michelle Peart if you want to hop up here. Michelle Peart is a jack of all trades within our division, and fields a lot of e-mails from the public.

So, any time someone in the public e-mails the Council, Michelle helps facilitate the process of getting the e-mail to us and for us to work with you guys to draft some answers, so we want to take a second and recognize Michelle who supports the Council and for you guys to put a face with a name.

Michelle, we have a certificate for you.

>> Thank you!

[Applause].

>> I appreciate it and I enjoyed sharing your resources and everything for people who are really looking for some kind of help and stuff, so it's at least a life-line out there to get them going.

>> ANNA SIMMONS: Let's get a picture.

>> Thank you.

[Applause].

>> ANNA SIMMONS: The third person we want to recognize is Debbe Hagner. She has helped with the Council for many years. We have a certificate for her, we're going to mail it to her, she's left and I know she's not here. I think Glenna, they mentioned you might want to say something?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: He was the former Chair and former Vice Chair on the Council. And she has gone to manned our exhibit table for us and this is just another award for her. She's very active leadership role that she has done for HLAA also.

>> ANNA SIMMONS: So thank you guys so much!

[Applause].

>> ANNA SIMMONS: Debbe, if you can hear it. Thanks for having us here today to present a couple of recognitions. Thanks for all you guys do. And I hope you enjoy the rest of your meeting!

>> CORY PARKER: Thank you so much.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We have moved several things --

>> CORY PARKER: [Off mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We have moved several things from tomorrow and today and we'll do the public comments tomorrow.

Now we will talk about the biennial report. I hope you have had time to look at it over break or whenever. John and Mary were helpful and started to make changes.

On this blue page, the Floridians is spelled wrong.

[Pause].

>> ANGIE GREEN: Can you write all the --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Write it down?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Write all of the errors and then I can --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, I will mark up this copy.

Okay. On the first -- did anybody notice anything on the first page with the introduction?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The first page with the introduction, did anybody notice anything?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Remember, this is just proofreading, editing -- not editing, but just proofreading for spelling, really wildly inaccurate information or wording, small changes. We cannot do any major changes. We're running out of time.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Nothing on the introduction page? We actually have

one page that's okay?
Introduction, what?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. One thing on the introduction page, I did notice that we're listing that we are overseen by the Department of Health under Section 413.271 of the Florida Statute. It's listed as plural for statutes there; it should probably just be singular, for Florida Statute, because it's one statute that we're governed by.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It says comma. I don't know... John?

[Pause].

>> JOHN JACKSON: Boy...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: In the first paragraph, in the first paragraph of the introduction, Section 413.271, comma, Florida Statute, with an S, is that with or without an S?

>> JOHN JACKSON: I would leave the S.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Our lawyer says leave the S.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So anything else on the introduction page?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Statistics, so far we found one missed -- misspelled word. Anything else you notice for the statistics page?

[Pause].

>> MARY HODGES: Glenna, this is Mary. I was just wondering, can we number the pages?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, this is going to be a -- are we numbering the pages?

>> ANGIE GREEN: They were supposed to be numbered. Yes, I'll make sure that they're numbered.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Add page numbers.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Yep.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Nothing else on the stats page? Okay. Now on page four, over-the-counter hearing aids.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You wrote pros and cons here. Oh, I see that was left out.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes. Here is a list, because at the very last section before the lists, it says here, a brief list of pros, and it should say pros and cons; yes.
Okay, got it. Anything else on that page?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Anything else on page five, the continuation of over-the-counter hearing aids?

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: It's just clean up of language in one sentence. Where it says education on OTC and prescription hearing aids is critical for the best decision to ensure they receive... that's very ambiguous.

Maybe to ensure individuals chooses the correct treatment that properly addresses their needs for their hearing loss?

Yeah?

>> JOHN JACKSON: This is John. My suggestion for that was just going to be to take out the words "for the best decision." And otherwise leave the sentence.

>> CINDY SIMON: Oh, okay, that's fine.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I mean that was also to see -- I'm just thinking of ease.

>> CINDY SIMON: I'm good with that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So education on --

>> CINDY SIMON: But who is "they"? Who is "they"? Okay, that's the question in there, "they "come out of the blue --

>> JOHN JACKSON: You're right.

>> CINDY SIMON: That's why you can't do that.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Just put individuals.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, that's what I was going to say, that's the issue.

>> JOHN JACKSON: But for the best decision or whatever --

>> CINDY SIMON: It's critical for... um... [reading to herself] it's critical for individuals to ensure they choose the best treatment for their hearing loss?

>> JOHN JACKSON: I would say, if you're going to say for individuals, I would say also get rid of ensure. So aids -- education on OTC and prescription hearing aids is critical for individuals to receive the correct treatment to address their hearing loss.

>> CINDY SIMON: But they're making the choice, so that sentence doesn't make sense properly.

How about education on OTC and prescription hearing aids is needed in order to make an informed decision?

>> JOHN JACKSON: That works too. Short and sweet.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Repeat the sentence again, please.

>> CINDY SIMON: Education on OTC and prescription hearing aids is critical -- what did I say there? Can we scroll back a second? A critical for a... let me see here if I've got it....

Okay. Education on OTC and prescription hearing aids is needed to make an informed decision.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Short and sweet.

[Pause].

>> CORY PARKER: That's good.

>> CINDY SIMON: That's what I always say to my patients. I will explain it, you make the decision. For information. That was my only suggestion.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So the new sentence is: Education on OTC and prescription hearing aids is critical -- is --

>> CINDY SIMON: Is needed, I think.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is needed to make an informed decision. Okay. That's one. Anything else? Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary. And I'm actually on the page before, going back to the first page for over-the-counter hearing aids.

The third paragraph, one, two, three, fourth sentence that starts with Deaf and hard-of-hearing can find this difficult to navigate. See that?

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah.

>> MARY HODGES: I would suggest that we say individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing may find this difficult to navigate.

>> CINDY SIMON: That's fine.

>> CORY PARKER: [Off mic].

>> CINDY SIMON: Where do you want to delete it?

>> MARY HODGES: No, I think it's a good sentence. I would just... it's just missing an object.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay, that's fine.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I would put in -- what about put in a sentence before that says -- where it says before, users that may be Deaf and hard of hearing, users may find this difficult to navigate?

>> MARY HODGES: That's very good.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Because it said users earlier. Okay.

>> MARY HODGES: And before you move on --

>> CORY PARKER: Hold on.

>> MARY HODGES: Sorry.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, what. No, go ahead.

>> MARY HODGES: The following paragraph, the second sentence, it's a long sentence but it's a good sentence: Those who have a hearing loss, may know from OTC hearing aids and, and I would insert the word "may" incorrectly.

>> CORY PARKER: May, mmm-hmm.

>> MARY HODGES: Just before incorrectly.

>> CINDY SIMON: And leaving that it may be, but not for sure.

>> MARY HODGES: May experience and then they may incorrectly conclude.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, yeah, got it.

>> CORY PARKER: On the same page, on the same page, second -- third paragraph, second sentence, personalize programming care and training for OTC hearing aids is not available.

>> CINDY SIMON: Are not available?

>> CORY PARKER: Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: It's not available.

>> CORY PARKER: Is not available. Okay. I was going to say may, but --

>> CINDY SIMON: It's not available.

[Talking over one another].

>> CORY PARKER: Right, right, right, right, right. Okay, I'm done.

>> CINDY SIMON: Period.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. All right. So is the OTC section done?
Then senior citizens section, on page six. Senior citizens section, on page six.

>> CORY PARKER: You took that right from --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: From Mary, from Mary.

>> CORY PARKER: Oh, okay, Mary.

>> MARY HODGES: I'm sorry?

>> CORY PARKER: Okay.

>> MARY HODGES: What?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The senior citizen section, page six, this is what we took from
your article.

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: Oh, yeah, I do.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Go ahead, Mary.

>> MARY HODGES: Yes, thank you, Glenna. The very first sentence in NIDCD, what
is that?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You don't have the reference here.

>> MARY HODGES: Well...

[Pause].

>> MARY HODGES: I'm not sure that I -- I mean, is this word-for-word what I
provided?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right, you need to put in the reference for that.

>> MARY HODGES: I think it's --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The reference for that, the National Institute on Deafness and

Other Communication Disorders.

>> MARY HODGES: I wouldn't have known that.

>> SEAN ISAAC: It's spelled out on the statistics infographic on the bottom of the page, that's where it's mentioned.

The acronym is there. Do you see it?

>> MARY HODGES: On the same page?

>> SEAN ISAAC: The blue statistics page on the bottom.

>> MARY HODGES: Oh.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Is there some way --

[Talking over one another].

>> JOHN JACKSON: Or what, whatever the thing, put a one or something and spell it out again across the bottom?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, I'm adding it, I'm putting it here.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yeah.

>> CINDY SIMON: And there's another correction in here that's more of a grammatical thing. If you go to the last paragraph, the second sentence: Even so, Medicare will cover an audiologist's diagnostic hearing exam. You mean an audiologist diagnostic? That's in order to make it make sense.

If a physician orders it. They just changed it and you can get a hearing test once a year without a physician order at the moment.

They have not paid anybody yet on it, because it moves slowly, so no one is getting reimbursed without a physician's order. But they can go now once a year without a physician's order.

We can leave that out and just put apostrophe S after audiologist, just to make it grammatically correct.

>> MARY HODGES: Are you taking out the: If the physician orders it?

>> CINDY SIMON: No, leave it there, because right now they're not paying unless a physician orders it. They're supposed to; it hasn't filtered through yet. But you need apostrophe S in order to make it grammatically correct. Unless you say --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Audiologists or --

>> CINDY SIMON: Audiologist's, with the apostrophe S, unless you just call it an audiology diagnostic, but an audiologist is a --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Just adding the apostrophe S.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yes, and nothing else.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Anybody else have anything on senior citizens? Anybody have anything else on the senior citizens section?
Healthcare. There's a bottom part and onto the next page

>> CINDY SIMON: I have one last thing here and I'm not sure if anybody can explain it.

Medicaid has the following services year-by-year, diagnostic audiology tests and hearing attachments every three years, and I'm not sure what the difference is there.
An AA, an audiological assessment

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: And Glenna, this is Mary with the Department of Elder Affairs. I will defer to you, Cindy, as the expert, if that language needs to be revised.

>> CINDY SIMON: I would say once a year they cover the diagnostic audiological test. I never heard of the next one. They may cover hearing aids and cochlear implants.

I would take out hearing assessments every three years, because I'm not sure what that means.

I know if you're getting a diagnostic assessment, you can get it once a year.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Take it out?

>> CINDY SIMON: The other is redundant, because what -- the other one, the next one says once every three years, not once every year.

They may get you new hearing aids every three years.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We don't need the discussion, we just need a fix. Take out assessment every three years, take that out?

>> CINDY SIMON: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right.

Okay. Healthcare section, which continues at the top of the next page.

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: In the first paragraph, it's a little grammatical thing, people with hearing loss are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act and they have the right to full access to communication -- too many tos -- have the right of full access to communication by their healthcare providers.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary Hodges, Department of Elder Affairs. And Glenna, I hate to interrupt, but I just wanted to let you know that I have my division director here

sitting over in the back. She actually arrived for the recognition that was done earlier.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh!

>> MARY HODGES: And she missed it. But I wanted to have an opportunity to introduce her to the group.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, sure.

>> MARY HODGES: Thank you, Glenna.

>> Hi, I'm Ashley. Nice to meet you.

>> MARY HODGES: Ashley Apthorp is our division director of the Department of Elder Affairs and she is fully aware of this group and knowing that we are statutorily required as representation and I just couldn't pass up the opportunity to have her come over since she's so close here and meet everybody and assure the group that we, the Department, does understand the significance of our representation, and we will make sure that there's coverage.

>> And this is also our deputy division director.

>> Hi.

>> You can introduce her.

>> MARY HODGES: Absolutely, Jennifer Moore is our deputy executive -- I'm sorry, division director, she works very closely with Ashley, she's like her right hand or maybe a third hand or whatever! Lots of work. And as I explained earlier, we're a very small department and most of the folks there do two, three jobs, not just one.

So thank you guys so much for coming over!

>> ANGIE GREEN: Can we get a picture of you with Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Oh, thank you so much!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary, take your mask off!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And we want you to know that we really appreciated having Mary on the Council. We will miss here!

>> Oh, thank you.

>> She's great.

>> She is!

>> MARY HODGES: Thank you, Glenna.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It's upside down.

>> CINDY SIMON: Remove your mask so it's not hanging on the side.

>> MARY HODGES: Thank you.

>> Sorry to interrupt.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you!

>> MARY HODGES: Thank you so much for coming!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Awww...

>> Thank you for having us.

>> Thank you for coming!

>> MARY HODGES: I appreciate that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We were talking about healthcare, the last sentence of the first paragraph.

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: I was just saying to change the first word or two and have the right -- instead of to full access to communication and to have full access to their healthcare provider.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: I was just going to say, Cindy, you could say full access with -- I'm sorry, to -- with -- well, that wouldn't work.

>> CINDY SIMON: Have the right of full access to communication.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Have the right to full communication access.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay.

>> MARY HODGES: Good.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Anything else on the healthcare section, this page and the top of the next page?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I guess we're moving on to public safety in emergencies.

Okay. Chris has some suggestions

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris, there are two and they're super minor.

In the first sentence, where it says emergency situations right under the Americans with Disabilities Act, I believe when I originally wrote this, I put is a civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal laws.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Did you want to add the word "civil" before, right?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Civil, yeah, the word civil, civil rights.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. What else?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: And then the last paragraph, Text-to-911 is implemented locally at the county level in the state of Florida in, and I would add the word "approximately 60 out of 67." The reason for that is some of the remaining seven do have partial operability.

I did notice that there has been an additional update since the count that I used, which was February of 2022, and there was another one done in -- sometime over the summer of '22.

But it did not change the number of counties, because, again, they're partials. So that's why the word "approximate" is probably appropriate

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. And then the -- anything else with public safety and emergency?

Okay. And then the last page, John said something about should we put down general and Department of Health, but they're not council members, so what would that be?

A sponsor or under or what?

>> JOHN JACKSON: No, my comment was statutorily, the Surgeon General, who really the head of the Department of Health, is one of the statutory seats like DCF and I'm just saying that's not listed here.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We'll come up with the right sentence for that. What's the right sentence for that?

>> MARY HODGES: [Off mic].

>> JOHN JACKSON: Is I listed? Did I miss it?

>> CORY PARKER: What do you think, Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Can you repeat the question?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Maybe I overlooked it. But it's just that your boss, you and

Angie's boss, is statutorily one of the people on this Council, just like my boss is, the secretary of the DCF or their designee or whatever, right?

Is he listed and I missed it?

>> MARY HODGES: No, I think -- I'm sorry, this is Mary, Department of Elder Affairs -- he's just not in the list, is what he's saying, as a vacant.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Understood.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yeah, that's what I brought out earlier. Also on the information sheet that we give out as far as about all of the people on the Council, not listed on that one either. That just -- I pointed that out this morning; that's what that is.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Because I mean we've got --

[Talking over one another].

>> JOHN JACKSON: When's the last time we had an appointee here?

>> CINDY SIMON: Oh my gosh...

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. It's been a while. We've tried to maintain some representation, but during the pandemic I think is when it got to be a little tough.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I think that's right around in there.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I counted 14, I thought there was 17 council members. I thought -- there were 14 listed here, but I thought there was 17.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yes, some of the organizations have more than one in statute, and so if you're counting who's on --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: 14, 15, 16, so we're still missing one.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Is that the Department of Health?

>> CINDY SIMON: Right, the one who is not there.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Who has been the rep for the Department of Health?

>> JOHN JACKSON: It's been a long time that we have had one and it's not a Governor's appointment. I'm surprised you didn't know that, so sorry, guys.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay!

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you for that.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I'll put it out there once or twice tomorrow, I promise!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Wasn't Shay?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Wasn't Shay from our staff to rep at one point?

>> SEAN ISAAC: That's correct, Shay Chapman was the rep for the Department of Health.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I think she started Sean's position and then made her --

>> SEAN ISAAC: Due to the pandemic, she had multiple roles and so we're reassessing.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: And add my name, it's not a Ph.D., it's an AuD.

>> CORY PARKER: One more.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Under mine, Department of Education, you need to put VR somewhere in there.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Slash VR, slash VR?

>> CORY PARKER: Yes. I don't know if that's allowed, but that was one thing I was thinking of.

So, if you add -- so if you add the others, you might want to take the blue graphic out and then bring it down and then you have enough room to follow --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Actually, we can remove that, we don't need it.

>> CORY PARKER: Right, right, right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: If you need to move it, take it out or let it go.

>> CORY PARKER: And then they will have -- you will have room to add the council members without being boop... yeah.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So is everybody satisfied with the report with the corrections?

>> CORY PARKER: Hold on. Hold on. We have Angie Green or Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean Isaac. We only have one liaison, so I'm left out, but that's okay.

>> CORY PARKER: No! You're a very important part of this board!

>> JOHN JACKSON: Given what happened with Shay, we know what your future is too.

[Laughter].

>> JOHN JACKSON: You're going to be voting in a couple of meetings!

>> CORY PARKER: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, okay, they're both not on -- well, she's here.

>> CORY PARKER: Right, right, but Sean doesn't want his name added; he doesn't want it.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I didn't -- this is Sean. I did not say that! I said there's only one liaison, so officially you probably should just leave the one. We'll take care of the Department of Health representative too, okay?

>> CORY PARKER: Okay. But we can't let you go!

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: We're not letting go of Sean.

>> JOHN JACKSON: We're going to be writing a letter to the Surgeon General about you, Sean, and a recommendation from the group!

[Laughter].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Oh, okay!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, is there anything more, anything more with the report?

>> CORY PARKER: No.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do we have a motion --

>> CORY PARKER: Let's get out of this freezing room!

[Laughter].

>> JOHN JACKSON: Second!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do we have a motion to accept the report and ready for printing?

>> CINDY SIMON: I move.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Yes, second.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. All in favor of the report as corrected and ready for printing?

[Hands raised]

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Passed! And the notes I made are on here. Pass this onto Angie. And send it to me so I can -- well, I want that back. I have to remember what I wrote.

>> ANGIE GREEN: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And amazingly, it's only 4:58! So tomorrow --

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: 4:59.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sh, sh, sh, sh, sh.
So, tomorrow morning, we have 9:00 o'clock to 9:15, call to order and roll call.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We will discuss the plans for the May meeting and whatever else needs to be wrapped up. And then at 9:30... -- at 9:30, we will have the Sunshine Laws and other updates and talk about the expo and all that other stuff tomorrow. And then 9:30-10:30, then we have a break.

>> CORY PARKER: And the public comments.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And the public comments. And I'll remind you again, I'll spread this out and take turns reading them. Okay?

>> CORY PARKER: Sounds good.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Have a good evening. Thank you. La'Shay?

>> LA'SHAY LEWIS: I would like to apologize to everyone. I'm on a new medication and it did not work for me! So I'm sorry for my performance today.

>> CINDY SIMON: No worries. You're fine!

>> CORY PARKER: I hope you feel better!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. See you here tomorrow morning. Be seated and ready by 9:00 o'clock so we can get moving.

And Cindy will not be here tomorrow at all, because she has to fly out. Chris will be here but he has to leave at 10:30, so if there's anything that we need to vote on...

>> CINDY SIMON: I will try to get on when I get to the airport, okay?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Is there any way we -- is there any way we could send some sort of communication -- the Janelle, not the interpreter but the one that tried to get on, is she the appointed person of a parent of a deaf child or --

>> CINDY SIMON: Just a parent.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I was going to tell her to try to get on. But if she's not a council member --

>> CINDY SIMON: I don't think appointments were made yet, they said they were working on it.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Okay. I just wasn't sure she was a member.

>> ANGIE GREEN: She's aware and going to try to get on tomorrow as well, just to try to follow and see what's going on with the Council.

>> JOHN JACKSON: Good. I feel like she had a problem that was fixable, but she got off before we had a chance to fix it.

>> CORY PARKER: Go ahead, Mary.

>> MARY HODGES: Just thank you, this is Mary, I just wanted to ask you, Angie, if you could e-mail that picture so that I could send it to the Department?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Of course. Does everybody have a few minutes right now to snap a picture with the Council so we can update it on the site?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, I do. Can we take pictures out in the hallway where it's warmer?

>> ANGIE GREEN: Absolutely!

>> CINDY SIMON: Can I bum a ride with anyone back to the hotel?

>> CORY PARKER: So we need a motion to close the meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

>> JOHN JACKSON: [Raises hand].

>> CINDY SIMON: Second.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Second. Okay. Meeting adjourned until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

[Concludes at 5:02 p.m.]

** The text herein is provided in a rough-draft format. Communication Access Realtime

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