NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

­­­Project Status Summary

FFY’ 23 First Quarter Project Status Summary

For the period of October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

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GOAL 1: (In House) Individuals with I/DD and/or family members of individuals with I/DD will be able to make more informed decisions about their lives by improving access to information on services, supports and rights.

# Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, not knowing what services are available, not enough or can't access services, targeted disparity (racial/ethnic and rural communities).

## Objective 1.1

Council members and staff will provide and participate in public education activities that increase Nevadan’s awareness of disability services, policies, and practices.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Individuals with I/DD, families and professionals will report being better informed on disability services, policies and practices thus increasing their sense of choice and control in making informed choices.
* Participation in 25 Public Awareness Events by 2026.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Self-Advocacy coordinator will create and distribute a statewide quarterly newsletter in English and Spanish via email, direct mailing and social media that provides resources, information and supports in plain language on advocacy, current policy issues, health, mental health, social services, housing, transportation, employment, education, transition, quality assurance and other subjects relevant to the North, South and Rural areas of the State.

Activity B) Self-Advocacy coordinator will regularly collect input to gauge impact and inform future newsletters.

Activity C) Council members and staff will participate in at least 5 Public Awareness Events in communities across the State to inform individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals about resources and/or topics of concern identified through public input for this State Plan.

**Of Note:**

In an effort to provide public education activities the council staff has been very busy this last quarter. During the first quarter the DD Council was able to disseminate materials that were created both in house as well as share activities, resources, and information on upcoming opportunities for advocacy conversations relating to health, policy, employment, agendas of public meetings and the Olmstead Plan. We have also disseminated information on important events and meeting on our list serve from or DD Partners on Path to Independence registration, . Our new CHL (Community Health Liaison) has been hard working on our social media platforms and we have seen an increase in community, public and NGCDD followers. In December, we built a relationship with the (DEM) Department of Emergency Management. Heather Laffery oversees — and over these past few weeks, especially during this winter season being in full effect, we have been able to share key lifesaving information from DEM and other key stakeholders on Emergency Preparedness, along with safety updates on weather, warming stations and the dos and don’ts when navigating these situations.

We are currently working on putting a guidebook for Emergency Managers across the state in both English and Spanish. In the same effort to bring emergency preparedness our CHL put together a Go Bag & Shelter in Place checklist to be shared with the community (English & Spanish). We’ve pulled together a Registry of volunteers of individuals with disabilities and family or friends that would like to participate in training exercises with Emergency Managers (EM). Over the months of Oct. & Nov. I attended 6 community events across Southern Nevada, (Las Vegas, Mesquite and Logandale). We distributed all materials that NGCDD has. Our Medical Health Binders were also given out at each event and shared with other community providers. The response was nothing but positive, it led to conversations on why record keeping is such an important component in accessing better quality care, services and promotes self-advocacy, giving the power back to the individuals and their families when navigating.

We were able to create a brochure on the breakdown of what the CHL position entails, to simplify the areas we are covering and give reference to the ongoing work NGCDD is investing into the community. The CHL has also been able to share information and educate around 40 parents and community providers on the DD Council during a Spanish parent training led by FEAT, an Autism Support Group down in Southern Nevada (Las Vegas). NGCDD Medical Health Binders were distributed along with all material that DD Council currently has in Spanish. Roughly 200 binders have been given overall to this organization. We were able to translate our medical health sheet inserts and Bullying publication in Spanish too. I also attend a zoom meet up of newly diagnosed families. NGCDD will continue to participate in future parents training in both English and Spanish, newly diagnosed families and share any events that they may have going on this upcoming year via our social media. Attended a training for Supporting Healthy Sexuality for LGBTQ+ People with Disabilities. This training included gender, sexuality, and LGBTQ+ identities, supporting human rights (coming out and acceptance), inclusive curriculum in sexuality education, interest, communication, and consent for people with disabilities. This will be included in the sexuality curriculum being created by the SAC.

The SAC attended training for Supporting Healthy Sexuality for LGBTQ+ People with Disabilities. This training included gender, sexuality, and LGBTQ+ identities, supporting human rights (coming out and acceptance), inclusive curriculum in sexuality education, interest, communication, and consent for people with disabilities. This will be included in the sexuality curriculum being created by the SAC. Our SAC also attended the Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada Buddy Walk in Las Vegas on October 16, 2022. This event was in collaboration with several disability organizations and included all disabilities, not just Down Syndrome. The event was an opportunity for the diverse disability communities to come together and celebrate inclusion for all. There were several activities and entertainment throughout the day. In office we also had the pleasure of having Noemi Ortiz, graduate student from UNR shadow the SAC for the day. The SAC showed her what a typical day looks like and gave information about the different projects the NGCDD sponsors and support.

The SAC attended the Sexuality Education for People with Developmental Disabilities training on November 16 – 18, 2023. This training was presented by Elevatus, Leaders in Sexuality and Developmental Disability. The training addressed what do people with disabilities need and want to learn about sexuality? Sexuality is not just about sex, it addresses gender identity, sexual orientation, building healthy relationships, values, attitudes, and behaviors for people with disabilities. It addresses that everyone is a sexual being (no matter your ability) and gives those with disabilities the opportunity to make their own decisions giving them independence, belonging and self-esteem. The training addresses the human sexual development, sexual orientation, behavior, and identity. The training covers young children, adolescents, and adults. The SAC completed 21.5 hours of training and passed a written assessment for the learning objectives and received a Certificate of Completion for “Developmental Disabilities and Sexuality: Becoming a Sexuality Educator and Trainer.” The SAC will develop a curriculum using this training, to educate people with disabilities, family members and professionals about the importance of sexuality education. This curriculum will be inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community.

**Data:** Social Media data as follows for the months of Oct. Facebook 48, Instagram 6 Nov. Facebook 67 Instagram 3 Dec. Facebook 125, Instagram 5, Linkedin 60 for 2022. At the Buddy Walk there were approximately 1,000 people in attendance and 12 service providers with tables. The NGCDD had approximately 200 people inquire about our services.

## Objective 1.2

Council members and staff will participate in a minimum of 6 (councils/committees/coalitions) to promote communication within and between agencies to ensure cohesive information about services and supports is available to more individuals with I/DD and their families.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Ensure people with I/DD are represented in Statewide Councils, Committees, and Coalitions.
* Information will be shared across agencies individuals w/I/DD and their family members, ensuring a more cohesive delivery of services and supports for people with I/DD and their families.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Council members and staff will participate in statewide committees and councils comprised of multiple agency representatives.

Activity B) Council members and staff will regularly report on information gathered to Council members and self-advocates. Self-Advocacy coordinator will include this information in the quarterly newsletter.

* The Executive Director attends all the NDALC Board and the NCED CAC meetings as well.

**Of Note:**

The council staff is consistently involved in the participation of meeting, committees, councils, and coalitions. The following are some of the many meetings attended by our staff. Our CHL attended various meetings Covering areas of Transportation, Employment, Self-Advocacy, Health, Emergency Preparedness, including ones that were specific to the Deaf and Hard of hearing Community and the community involvement of the Crave camp. CANN, Resilience, MLC, NGCDD Full Council/Subcommittees, (NDALC) Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center- Board of Directors & PAMI Council, (RDAC) Rare Disease Advisory Council/Education Committee, (MCAC) Medicaid Care Advisory Council, (NVCC) Nevada Children's Commission/Education Committee, NESHE, NV Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NVEP Vaxx, (DEM) Department of Emergency Management, Olmstead, (SILC) Southern Independent Living Council Employment. Our projects manager attended the DEI Advisory meetings and attended the Justin Hope Foundations walk/run in October where we had a table with important educational material and other important information. That was a great event supporting Justin Hope and all the work that they put into the I/DD community. There were various vendors and other organizations. This event was held @ UNR, and we also had our binders available for those attending. In October the NGCDD staff also met with the Idaho DD Council briefly and exchanged ideas. Another event that we participated in was the Empire Elementary Fall Festival were the Project Manager and Executive Assistant both attended to a table and distributed important educational material to parents and children at the event.

The SAC and Projects Manager both attended the Nevada Health Equity Action Plan (NHEAP) meeting sponsored by Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) in October. The meeting discussed health inequities in Nevada. With the data collected they discussed recommendations for building organizational capacity, community engagement, partnerships, language access, policy change, advocacy, and emergency preparedness. NOMHE inquired about how to get the word out, what is working well and what is missing with Public Health in Nevada? Staff has also been attending commission hearings for the Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Projects manager has been on the White House stakeholders calls via zoom.

Our SAC attended the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) on October 19, 2022. The meeting consisted of Election of Officers for the new year, the SEAC Annual Report, the role of the SEAC members and a spotlight on the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) which reviewed due process, complete and mediation report, and the Annual Report on the use of physical and mechanical restraints and aversive interventions on students with disabilities.

All staff attended the Partner meeting for Transition Day/Deaf Camp 2023/CRAVE Camp (Voc. Rehab. meets Camp Sign Shine). The meeting was to discuss partnerships with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Commission and other State organizations. Topics discussed were Pre-ETS, Career Exploration, Work Based Learning Experiences, Self-Advocacy, etc. Recommendations for other topics were ABLE Accounts, I/DD Law Enforcement Engagements, etc. For Transition Day, the last day of the camp, recommendations for vendor booths to hand out information about their organizations was suggested.

The NGCDD staff have all been involved in the evolving SILC Employment First Initiative. We were able to attend the Colorado People First Presentation, which went into detail as to how they were able to change the dynamics for the employment of individuals with disabilities which has led to the DD Council being involved in this process. The Colorado People First Presentation was in December, and we have also been attending the SILC meetings.

**Data:** SEAC: There were 30 members in attendance with 7 being family members and 1 being a self-advocate.

## Objective 1.3

Reduce identified barriers to accessing technology and digital information for individuals with I/DD representing racial and/or ethnic disparities, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blind/Visually Impaired and/or those living in rural communities.

## Interpreter Grant – ASL Anywhere

Organization: Global Technical Communications

Project Director: Patty Kuglitsch

Project Period: Oct 01, 2022, to September 30, 2023

Fiscal Year: FFY 23

Total Grant Funds: $ 40,000

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* By 2026 individuals with I/DD (including identified targeted disparity groups) will report a significant increase in their ability to access and use the technology and tools required to get the resources and information provided through digital technology.
* Council will provide best practice recommendations and work with providers to ensure best practices.

**Activity Summary:**

Educate Tech service providers and policymakers on barriers faced by people with I/DD. Provide recommendations on best practices informed by Council efforts. Work with providers/policymakers to implement best practices. Target outreach to Hispanic, Blind/Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Rural communities to make informed decisions and track outcomes to inform ongoing needs.

**Grantee Proposal:**

GTC will provide training on how the ASL Anywhere app works and how it benefits individuals as well as agencies and organizations. Training will be provided to Individuals with I/DD’s, state and local agencies, organizations, and any interested constituents. GTC will collaborate with the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in consulting with service providers and policymakers. GTC will provide packages to NVCC, DETR/BVR as a mode of sample/trial period to monitor the need of sign language interpreting services in the I/DD community and the need for the application. These agencies will be monitored by GTC, and all findings will be reported to NGCDD to evaluate the need and effectiveness of the application and service provided. The monitoring and data collection will also help in determining any barriers and overall benefits of these services in the I/DD community and overall, for state/local agencies and any organizations interested in adopting this application/services beyond the first year.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) In Quarter 1 (October- December) GTC will offer 8 packages and training to Nevada Care Connection (NVCC), two packages for each center so that they can test the service. Offer 4 packages and training to Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation-Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DETR-BVR). This training and information will be offered to train the I/DD community and at the same time build relationships with the community and agencies offering the packages. GTC will collaborate with the Nevada Commission for Person who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to bring forward a service that will benefit the I/DD Community/Individuals who are Deaf and or Hard of Hearing. GTC will collect consumer surveys and all data to understand and recognize the benefits of the application/packages being offered as well as any impacts and barriers. This information will be reported to NGCDD quarterly.

Activity B) In Quarter 2 (Jan-September 2023) grantee will create an outreach/marketing initiative on social media, e- mail and virtual platforms to engage the I/DD community and state and local agencies/organizations on the benefits of the ASL Anywhere service/application. GTC will create information and application forms in collaboration with Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Applications for individuals will be available online and online Training will be offered to the I/DD community via zoom and in person for the purpose of applying for the application services. GTC will report quarterly to NGCDD on all information, outcomes/impacts, and data applicable. This information can be gathered by providing consumer surveys to all trainees and agencies receiving training.

Activity C) In Quarter 3 (April-June) grantee will collect information/data on the impact of the services as well as how many new packages are purchased, number of people applying for the service, number of people registered and all information on impacts, barriers, and necessary modifications to the service. Continue outreach/marketing through social media, email, and virtual platforms. Training will be offered in accordance to individual and agency demand. GTC will continue collaboration through the process with the Nevada Commission for Person who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to bring forward a service that will benefit the I/DD Community/Individuals who are Deaf and or Hard of Hearing. GTC will collect consumer surveys and all data to understand and recognize the benefits of the application/packages being offered as well as any impacts and barriers. This information will be reported to NGCDD quarterly.

Activity D) In Quarter 4 (July-September 2023) grantee will collect information/data on the impact of the services as well as how many new packages are purchased, number of people applying for the service, number of people registered and all information on impacts, barriers, and necessary modifications to the service. Continue outreach/marketing through social media, email, and virtual platforms. Training will be offered in accordance with individual and agency demand. GTC will continue collaboration through the process with the Nevada Commission for Person who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to bring forward a service that will benefit the I/DD Community/Individuals who are Deaf and or Hard of Hearing. GTC will collect consumer surveys and all data to understand and recognize the benefits of the application/packages being offered as well as any impacts and barriers. This information will be reported to NGCDD quarterly.

**Of Note:**

SAC is working with Global Technical Communications (GTC) directly. GTC has created outreach for marketing on social media platforms as well as sending out their marketing via email for the past quarter. An application was developed, completed, and posted on ASL Anywhere website on September 28, 2022. A spreadsheet with consumers’ contact information, minutes given, and demographic data was developed and completed on October 14, 2022. A letter of introduction was distributed to agencies, service providers, organizations, and other stakeholders on November 9, 2022. An ASL Anywhere flyer and video were posted on ASL Anywhere website, Facebook and List Serve. GTC contacted two organizations of the deaf and asked them to share the ASL Anywhere flyers with their members.

GTC hosted informative meetings for the deaf community and providers via ZOOM on October 17, 20, 25 and November 15, 2022, with a total of 20 attendees. GTC hosted 2 informative meetings on December 12, 2022, with one attendee and an informative/training on December 13, 2022 with two attendees. GTC created a customer survey and had it approved for distribution. GTC in collaboration with the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing had a virtual interview TV interview with KRNV on December to speak about the ASL Anywhere application. GTC did follow up emails, texts and VP calls to consumers who did not download the app. Few responded. GTC is working on a new solution on how to reach the consumers and provide training.

Positive feedback of the application was: “Communication was so smooth, but 20 minutes was not enough for the entire meeting”,” ASL Anywhere is a good communication tool”,” I feel so independent and can communicate with anyone”;” ASL Anywhere is a champ!”,” I am so impressed with the app”.

GTC hosted two trainings with Nevada Care Connection and their staff which consisted of ten attendees and are working closely with Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation Bureau trying to set up times for training. The Rehabilitation Counselor had some internal challenges and finally received approval at the end of December to have training for her staff in January.

In other efforts to reduce barriers and access technology the CHL has communicated with the Department of Emergency Management our efforts to ensure that all materials are accessible for those with vision impairments, DEM is also promoting ASL Anywhere for those that have hearing impairment needs. All materials created will be available upon request, via social media and through email blasts. As this leg. session is in full swing; we will be able to inform and educate our leg on the need to continue to create materials that are created with accessibility in mind. The CHL has upcoming meetings with GTC staff to promote ASL Anywhere and talk about how to get their information to EMs across the state.

Also, in keeping in line with reducing barriers both the Projects manager and Executive Assistant worked together in translating and correcting on the bullying newsletter.

In Oct. the CHL was able to interview Cindi Swanson and Raquel O’Neil. Oct. is Blind Awareness month including White Cane Day. I spent about an hour with each of them. Highlighting their story and how they navigate the community that they live in, gathered insight as to what assistive tech each use.

Lastly, the Tanglewood Production Studios put together a film using the 4 accessibility videos the Council created to submit to film festival. This film is titled Our World in Our Words and has been accepted to several festivals all over the world. Several festivals have accepted this video included two in Nevada and one in Russia. Information on any upcoming showings will be provided upon acceptance.

**Data:**

A total of 51 individuals filled out the application online. 50 individuals were eligible for the app and 20-minute packet. 18 individuals downloaded the ASL Anywhere application with 4 requesting assistance in downloading the app.

## Objective 1.4

In house Council members and staff will address emerging needs of individuals with I/DD through state, regional, or local level systemic change.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Targeted outreach to the I/DD community will address emerging needs across all levels of the state in hopes to ensure people with I/DD will report no current unaddressed emerging needs.
* Information from these efforts and community input will be utilized to direct future efforts.
* By 2026 individuals with I/DD and their family members will report having no current emerging needs or all emerging needs are currently being addressed.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Use information gathered from Council efforts and other stakeholder input to develop and implement advocacy and communication efforts in conjunction with individuals with I/DD, family members and other key stakeholders to address needed changes to statutes, rules, policies, procedures, practices, and/or funding/staffing issues that improve outcomes for individuals with I/DD.

Activity B) Work with key stakeholders and policymakers to implement best practice recommendations.

Activity C) Provide ongoing, coordinated outreach to Access and Functional Needs communities statewide on resources and supports for emerging needs and track outcomes to inform future needs.

**Of Note:**

This goal/objective was added in response to a request from the Administration on Community Living. All State Councils on Developmental Disabilities are required to have an emerging needs objective. Throughout 2023, staff and Council Members will be working to identify any current emerging needs.

The Council has identified Emergency Preparedness and Public Health as emerging needs. Kimberly Palma-Ortega, our Public Health Liaison has been working with meeting with Emergency Managers across the state. More updates will be provided during the “Updates from Public Health Liaison” agenda item.

The Council is working to purchase Access and Functional Needs flipbooks for the Emergency Managers across the state to accompany upcoming trainings.

# GOAL 2: (In House) Individuals with I/DD will have the information, education, and training necessary to participate in local and state advocacy and policy making activities.

# Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, Education (school aged through college), DD Act Mandates for Advocacy, DD Network Collaboration, Youth and Leadership.

## Objective 2.1

Council members and staff will establish or strengthen a minimum of one State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with I/DD in Nevada.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Individuals with I/DD will identify common barriers, increase advocacy, knowledge, policy activities and connections to create a stronger unified voice and educate policymakers on key issues.
* Increase strength and leadership of self-advocacy groups led by individuals with I/DD in Nevada.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Support individuals with I/DD to participate in Legislative sessions by providing information on current policy initiatives and meeting with their legislators to educate them on issues important to them.

Activity B) Provide annual funding opportunities for individuals with I/DD to attend disability-related conferences and summits to increase their knowledge and share that knowledge with other Nevadans with developmental disabilities.

Activity C) Self-Advocacy coordinator will collaborate with DD Network Partners and other DD stakeholders to facilitate a DD Network Statewide Self Advocacy Summit every other year, led by individuals with I/DD for individuals with I/DD, to identify common barriers, increase advocacy skills, knowledge, and connections to create a stronger unified voice within the I/DD community.

**Of Note:**

The SAC Attended all the Aktion Club of Carson Valley meeting for the quarter. While attending this meeting the SAC distributed Health Care Binders to everyone in attendance and explained the purpose of the binders. The SAC also answered questions and let them know she was a point of contact for questions. The SAC was also able to speak of the new pilot program that NGCDD has incorporated within the office. This new program offered by NGCDD to house an office Internship/Aid is currently being offered by NGCDD and we are hoping to get interest for an upcoming opening. Alysa Marquez, who is the current Intern, was in attendance to speak about what it is like to be an intern in our office. Ms. Marquez also handed out her business cards to those in attendance.

The SAC also attended all the Aktion Club of Reno meetings for the quarter. The SAC distributed Health Care Binders to everyone in attendance. She explained the purpose of the binders and answered questions and let them know she was point of contact for questions. The SAC was also able to speak of the new in-house program that NGCDD has incorporated within the office. Like stated previously This new program offered by NGCDD to house an office Internship/Aid is currently being offered by NGCDD and we are hoping to get interest for an upcoming opening. Alysa Marquez was also in attendance and spoke about her experience working as an intern and handed out her business cards.

Consumer Leadership Development Funds (CLDF) – Justine Adams attended the Down Syndrome Conference in Las Vegas on October 22, 2022. She attended as a self-advocate.

Christopher Ripke attended the ARC Convention in Denver, Colorado on November 9 – 12, 2022. He attended as a self-advocate. Christopher stated that his experience at this convention was very informative for him and other advocates. Christopher stated he learned about rights, public speaking and how to obtain an able account. Christopher also spoke of a need for system change in phasing out sheltered workshops and low wage paying jobs. Christopher also has voiced a need for better services for individuals with disabilities and eliminating waitlists for services.

**Data:** There were 25 Self-Advocates and 15 parents in assistants at the Aktion Club of Carson Valley meeting. There were 4 self-advocates and 3 parents/assistants in assistance at the Aktion Club of Reno meeting.

## Objective 2.2

Council members and staff will annually support individuals with I/DD who are considered leaders, to provide leadership training to 15 individuals with I/DD who may become leaders.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* By 2026, 75 students with I/DD Statewide will have information on self-determination, advocacy, post-secondary education, employment, and other transition options before graduation in order to become better leaders once they graduate.
* Self-Advocate leaders will provide leadership training.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Self-Advocacy coordinator will annually implement curriculums such as the NGCDD Youth Empowering Students Y.E.S. peer to peer education model in a total of 3 schools throughout the state (North, South and Rural) to provide students and teachers with information on self-determination, advocacy, post-secondary education, employment, and other transition options upon graduation.

Activity B) Council members will participate in the implementation of curriculums as appropriate.

**Of Note:**

The Projects Manager reached out to Encore in the month of October and asked for assistance in developing a video for the YES program. We are currently working with Encore a Person-Centered training company that is working on developing a new video for our Y.E.S. program after having several meetings we have come to an agreement that will showcase our Y.E.S. program and its many educational facets. We hope that with this collaboration we can get the video we have been longing for and it will be a success in the educational and I/DD community. We expect to have a finished product by the end of April if all editing and designing goes as planned.

**Data:** The Y.E.S. video is expected to be presented to the council in May and start to be distributed to schools that same month depending on need and demand. It should be accessible to all as well as the guides that accompany it**.**

## Objective 2.3

Council members and staff will support people with I/DD to participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse Coalitions.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* By 2026 25 individuals with I/DD will have or will be now participating in cross disability and culturally diverse coalitions statewide.
* Individuals with I/DD will be better included and represented in their communities.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Self-Advocacy coordinator will work with Council members and advocacy groups to annually identify 5 individuals with I/DD representing North, South and Rural areas of the state who want to participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse Coalitions.

Activity B) Self-Advocacy coordinator will work with Council members to support identified individuals to find Coalitions that would best fit their interests and support education to those Coalitions on the benefits of including individuals with I/DD, and how best to include them.

**Of Note:**

Currently, the Executive Director sits on the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Health (PAIMI) which covers a small portion of our cross- disability portion of this goal.

As part of cultural Diversity, we have been reaching out to different educational trainings and continue to reach out to diverse organizations. Our SAC like mentioned previously attended training for Supporting Healthy Sexuality for LGBTQ+ Individuals with Disabilities. We hope to have more outreach as we expand more on the diverse organizations and the upcoming demand of sexuality curriculum that is being created in house by the SAC.

The Council has also been working diligently with the Commission for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Impaired to ensure that access to interpreters and information on access to interpreters is available. More information about this work is available under Goal 1.3. However, the diverse nature of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community/culture is unique and something the Council is working to understand and align our efforts with.

## Objective 2.4

DD Network Partners: Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) and Council members; Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED); Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC), will annually support leadership training for a minimum of 20 individuals with I/DD and/or family members of individuals with I/DD.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* By 2026 100 people w/I/DD and family members will have increased leadership abilities thus becoming better advocates for themselves and others.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Council staff will facilitate training.

Activity B) Council members will participate in trainings as appropriate.

Activity C) DD Network Partners will provide support and sponsorship as appropriate.

Activity D) DD Network Partners will recruit and promote training.

Activity E) DD Network Partners will provide staff as needed.

**Of Note:**

Karin Pina attended the Down Syndrome Conference in Las Vegas on October 22, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member.

Michelle Taylor attended the Down Syndrome Conference in Las Vegas on October 22, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member.

Waldina Tapia attended the Down Syndrome Conference in Las Vegas on October 22, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member. Waldina’s follow stated the conference did meet her expectations and that she recommends it because she learned about money resources and topics on children with Trisomy 21. Things she learned from the conference were that an individual can have dual diagnosis, resources, and self-advocacy. Some changes she would like to adopt for her, and her child are attending more educational classes, seeing doctors more often and encouraging her child to be more independent. She would also like to see more classes on resources available. She also stated that she liked seeing other self-advocates and getting a glimpse of what her daughters future might be in the future.

Cindi Swanson attended the Down Syndrome Conference in Las Vegas on October 22, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member.

David Rovetti attended the Down Syndrome Conference in Las Vegas on October 22, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member.

Rose Fulton attended the Down Syndrome Conference in Las Vegas on October 22, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member.

Lucy Pierce attended the Cal-Nev-Ha Aktion Club Convention in Sanger, CA on October 14 – 16, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member.

Karen Garrison attended the Cal-Nev-Ha Aktion Club Convention in Sanger, CA on October 14 – 16, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member.

Judith Dreyer attended the Cal-Nev-Ha Aktion Club Convention in Sanger, CA on October 14 – 16, 2022. She attended as a parent/family member.

Those who attended the Aktion Club Convention stated that the convention did meet their expectations and it was very rewarding to be with so many adults with disabilities and seeing so much happiness and independence. They would recommend this event to others so that they can engage with others in the disability community and to get ideas on what other clubs are doing. This showed them to be more involved in activities and the growing need for jobs for individuals with disabilities. This event has brought more awareness of the I/DD community and its individuals.

Applications for Partners in Policymaking Class of 2023 opened on August 25, 2022 and closed on November 30, 2022. The SAC reached out to organizations to enlist presenters for the classes. Most presenter slots were filled quickly.

**Data**: 27 applications were received, 22 students turned in follow up paperwork for acceptance of class

GOAL 3: Develop and strengthen systems that improve quality services and access to quality services and supports for individuals with I/DD and their families.

# Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, Employment, Health, Education (transition services in high school), Transportation and Housing, not knowing what services are available, not enough or can't access services.

## Objective 3.1 - Transportation

Create systems change through the implementation of policies to reduce the barriers to transportation for people with I/DD in Nevada.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Policies will be created that promote accessible transportation that reduces barriers to transportation for people with I/DD. Measurable progress will be made in reducing barriers to transportation for people with I/DD. More people with I/DD will have prominent roles in reduction of barriers through participation on transportation boards.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Use the NGCDD Transportation Ad-Hoc Committee White Paper and other best practice findings to educate transportation providers and policymakers on the barriers faced by people with I/DD and recommendations on best practice for systems change.

Activity B) Work with transportation providers and policymakers to implement best practice recommendations through the creation of a statewide transportation board(s), ensuring individuals with I/DD have prominent roles on those boards.

**Of Note:**

Our SAC attended the Transportation, Trails, and Tourism Summit on November 8 – 10, 2022 in Reno, NV. This summit addressed programs to be inclusive for people with disabilities. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) programs need to have an integrated setting, give people with disabilities the right to participate and the right to reasonable accommodations. Including ways to support people with disabilities should be implemented in the “Planning Phase” not as an afterthought when someone with a disability address there is no access for them. Organizations creating trails should include design, amenities signage (distance and width), and rating (no obstacles, some obstacles exist, major obstacles exist). Creating outdoor activities to include people with disabilities will increase the economy in many counties of Nevada. Not only will it bring jobs, but it will also bring tourism to counties that need to rely more on their outdoor recreation than on the gaming industry. Outdoor recreation will not go away. COVID has proven that. Four steps in cultivating diversity and inclusivity are: 1) Start with leadership and it will trickle down; 2) Go out and actively recruit people with disabilities; 3) Partner with organizations who serve marginalized communities; 4) Educate, Educate, educate (hard discussions need to be had about making change). Accessible design for recreation and tourism will help connect communities and will create independence and inclusivity.

The NGCDD staff has been actively working with the iCan Bike Camp and have been having discussions with Diana Rovetti from NCED on how the NGCDD could be of assistance with the iCan Bike Camp. This camp/experience teaches people with disabilities how to ride a bicycle and gives them the confidence and independence to learn to ride a bicycle to travel to their employments, social events, and other transportation. This is important because it helps individuals gain confidence and encourages young children and adults to conquer their fear of navigating a bicycle as well as teaching them independence. This also makes individuals less dependent on some public transportation to get them to certain places. Being able to ride a bike encourages decision making, self-esteem and fosters community awareness for people with disabilities. The SAC brought information to the Executive Director which includes two camps, one in Las Vegas and one in Douglas County.

## Objective 3.2 - Employment

Educate individuals with I/DD, their families and community-based employers/employer groups on National best practices, and the benefits of hiring individuals with I/DD.

## Employment Grant

Organization: Best Buddies

Project Director:

Project Period: Oct 01, 2022, to September 30, 2023

Fiscal Year: FFY 23

Total Grant Funds: $ 60,000

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

Through coordinated outreach and education, at least 30 individuals with I/DD and their family members will be provided information on their rights and employment options in Nevada.

Additionally, at least 20 employers/employer groups will be provided information on National best practices for employing individuals with I/DD in Nevada.

**Grantee Proposal:**

Best Buddies will create and develop project-specific training contend to educate 20 community-based employers/employer groups on best practices for employing individuals with I/DD in Nevada. They will also create and develop project-specific training content to educate 30 individuals with I/DD and families on employment rights and options in Nevada. Both the Director and Deputy Director will deliver this training through 1 hour training sessions that will educate both employers and the I/DD community but with different subject matter. Individuals in the I/DD community will have the opportunity to experience available employment options, information and have access to integrated and competitive wages. During the training period Best Buddies will become more fluent and knowledgeable in speaking with community members and the benefits of hiring individuals with I/DD, best practices and employer rights and options. Best Buddies will report quarterly to NGCDD on the impact and needs of both the I/DD community as well as the impact and need from the employers.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) October - December Best Buddies will develop and create education material for both employers and individuals in the I/DD Community and their families. Employers should be educated on benefits of employing individuals with I/DD and national best practices for inclusive employment. Individuals with I/DD and their families will be trained and educated on rights and job options. Best Buddies will be in contact and reach out to employers and possible candidates within the I/DD community for possible training during this period/quarter to develop a training schedule for upcoming quarters.

Activity B) January - March Best Buddies will train 10 individuals with I/DD and 7 employers in the I/DD community using the educational materials produced in the first quarter. After each training consumer satisfaction surveys will be conducted in order to collect important data, information including gaps and barriers encountered by both individuals and employers as well as any stories of impact for Best Buddies and NGCDD. All information collected and events will be reported quarterly.

Activity C) April - June Best Buddies will train 10 individuals with I/DD and 7 employers in the I/DD community using the educational materials produced in the first quarter. After each training consumer satisfaction surveys will be conducted in order to collect important data, information including gaps and barriers encountered by both individuals and employers as well as any stories of impact for Best Buddies and NGCDD. All information collected and events will be reported quarterly.

Activity D) July - September Best Buddies will train 10 individuals with I/DD and 6 employers in the I/DD community using the educational materials produced in the first quarter. After each training consumer satisfaction surveys will be conducted in order to collect important data, information including gaps and barriers encountered by both individuals and employers as well as any stories of impact for Best Buddies and NGCDD. Before the end of quarter, survey 20 employers trained through the project to collect data on how employment practices have changed. All information collected and events will be reported on quarterly.

Activity E) October - September Best Buddies will conduct 2-4 virtual/webinar training sessions since in person attendance is not always possible. These trainings should also include rural areas outside the Las Vegas area as well as other counties. This training will offer the same material that was developed and offered for the in-person trainings. These trainings should be offered for individuals and families as well as for employees. All information collected and event will be reported quarterly.

**Of Note:**

Best Buddies has been working with their internal National Jobs Team staff to develop and create educational materials based on best practices for workshops that will take place in 2023. Materials were drafted with input from the National Jobs Team and Best Buddies staff from other states who have delivered trainings on employment-related topics. During this first quarter of this project, Best Buddies staff developed a target list of employers and individuals to invite to 2023 trainings. Finally, staff have scheduled dates for January 2023 to send invites and collect RSVPs for employer and participant workshop trainings. The first training for individuals with IDD will take place in February 2023. At this time, they will be collecting surveys to collect and evaluate the effectiveness of the activity. They are currently on track on the project timeline.

**Data:** To Be Available as Grant Continues

## Objective 3.3 - Housing

Improve access to quality housing options and supports for individuals with I/DD Statewide.

## Housing Grant

Organization: Kenny Guinn Center

Project Director: Meredith Levine

Project Period: Oct 01, 2021, to September 30, 2023

Fiscal Year: FFY 22

Total Grant Funds: $ 44,380

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

At least 30 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities will be educated on housing options and supports available. People with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities will report an increase in options, supports, and access to affordable and accessible housing.

**Grantee Proposal:**

The Kenny Guinn Center (in a joint effort with the Nevada Housing Coalition) will seek to expand housing options for Nevadans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. They plan to do so by studying current housing options available to people with I/DD, including but not limited to affordable housing options, group homes, etc. The grantee will also conduct a focus group to gather input on challenges faced in accessing housing options and the resources available. The grantee intends to describe the need for expanded housing options for people with I/DD and will prepare a resource guide that describes the options available/ways to access them.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Study current housing options available in Nevada to people with I/DD. This will include all housing options and will not be limited.

Activity B) Conduct (1) focus group to gather information from individuals with I/DD and/or their family members about some of the challenges faced when accessing housing options and the resources available currently.

Activity C) Identify gaps/needs of current supply of available housing options for people with I/DD.

Activity D) Analyze policies other states/areas have undertaken/implemented to help individuals with I/DD access housing options (specifically affordable housing options).

Activity E) By April 2022, prepare a resource guide that describes available options for housing for people with I/DD.

Activity F) By June 2022, host at least (1) public event to share information from study and resource guide. If possible, (2) events will be held (1 in Northern Nevada, 1 in Southern Nevada).

## Housing Grant

Organization: Justin Hope Foundation

Project Director: Maricela Gutierrez-Rodriguez

Project Period: Oct 01, 2022, to September 30, 2023

Fiscal Year: FFY 23

Total Grant Funds: $ 60,000

**Grantee Proposal:**

JUSTin HOPE will study current housing options available to individuals with I/DD and conduct a formal Disability Affordable Housing Community Needs Assessment (Nevada) in partnership with other city agencies while supporting an advocacy project aimed to create an affordable housing model that government agencies and developers can utilize to offer and promote greater housing opportunities for people with disabilities. In this process 30 individuals with I/DD and families will be educated on housing and transitional supports for those seeking independent living. JUSTin HOPE will also be providing education and outreach for developers and government agencies based on the data collected in the needs assessment.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Study current housing options available in Nevada to individuals with I/DD and families. This will extend to data collecting as well as resources on housing options and support for individuals with I/DD. Report all data and findings quarterly to NGCDD.

Activity B) Educate 30 individuals with I/DD and families by September 2023 on housing, transitional supports and topics of relevance like gaps, needs and affordability within the I/DD community. Training sessions will be available live or virtually online. Consumer surveys will be conducted after each training and reported quarterly to NGCDD.

Activity C) Assemble an advisory committee/focus group composed of Individuals and Self-Advocates of the I/DD community and their families that meet monthly beginning January and ending June 2023 and provide input on relevant housing agendas like gaps on housing needs, transitional barriers, affordability and general views on housing and the many factors needed to bring together options and solutions in developing housing for individuals in the I/DD communities. During this period individuals will be provided with resources and support. All progress and findings will be reported quarterly to NGCDD.

Activity D) Work with government agencies and developers to advocate while educating on the importance of affordable housing as well as advocating for housing options and development of housing for the I/DD community in Northern Nevada. Continued Advocacy will be made with the use of the Disability Affordable Housing Community Needs Assessment (Nevada). All progress and findings will be reported quarterly to NGCDD.

Activity E) Produce by September 2023 the Disability Affordable Housing Community Needs Assessment (Nevada) publication for the I/DD community. This will be available to all on request from JUSTin HOPE and will include all data and resources collected for the purpose of understanding the housing needs of individuals with I/DD and other individuals with housing and income needs. This publication will address recommendations on improvements and encourage policy change.

**Of Note:**

# This quarter did not have as much progress as anticipated. The Justin Hope Foundation (JHF) Executive Director met with the Guinn Center Staff to understand the scope of their current assessment on affordable housing options for people with disabilities. The JHF will be partnering to help complete their assessment by providing a person centered and support network approach. No data was collected this quarter. They will continue to collaborate to ensure dissemination of their findings. Their findings will shape the trainings and education they provide to the community and stakeholders. They have also been awaiting information from ADSD. At this time, they are actively recruiting 6-8 advisory committee members (self-advocates/support networks). First meeting is scheduled for 02/03 and it will be a virtual meeting to make it accessible to individuals all over the state. The Committee will create a strategic plan and goals for the year.

# We have at this time extended The Kenny Guinn Center grant to allow for a completion of activities before the funds expire. The Guinn Center has continued its study of housing options available in Nevada to people with I/DD that began in the second quarter of FFY 2022. They have continued conversations with subject matter experts and stakeholders in supportive housing, independent living arrangements, and housing affordability throughout the second and third quarters of FFY 2022. This allowed the Guinn Center to develop a more comprehensive data and information request for ADSD and DHHS. ADSD provides residential supports to individuals with I/DD in Nevada. ADSD has not yet fulfilled the data and information that has been requested from them. Given that ADSD provides these services to individuals with I/DD it is essential that ADSD provide that information to allow the Guinn Center to provide a robust discussion of the inventory and landscape to pair with analysis and evaluation. With access to the repository of information at ADSD’s disposal, Guinn Center will be able to identify, inventory, and document housing options for people with I/DD as definitively as possible. The identified gaps and needs of current supply of available housing options for individuals with I/DD remain the same as stated in previous quarters. Identification of gaps and needs will be included in the landscape policy report. Items identified will include proper identification of gaps and needs, along with accurate definitions and data. Through the research and analytic housing options for individuals with I/DD the Guinn Center has identified “leader states” to interview. While the interview process is underway, some interviews remain outstanding, as information from the ADSD request (see Activity 1) is necessary to close knowledge gaps prior to question development for interviews with subject matter experts in other states. Interviews with subject matter experts in other states have revealed practices and projects that may be taken under advisement and implemented in Nevada.

# During first quarter of FFY 2023, the Guinn Center continued drafting the landscape analysis policy report using all available information compiled and analyzed from Activities 1, 2, and 3. This work will continue throughout the second quarter of FFY 2023 and will include all outstanding information and data gathered from Activities 1 and 3 during previous reporting periods. The landscape analysis policy report will be completed by the end of the grant year. The Guinn Center will compile the resource guide during the second quarter of FFY 2023. This activity will include procurement of vendors for translation services and graphic design.

# The Justin Hope Foundation is unable to begin a majority of their work until the Guinn Center can complete their landscape analysis report. Staff is working with the Office of Data Analytics and ADSD Staff to ensure that the grantee receives all of the information they need to complete their grant.

## Objective 3.3 - Transition

Improve access to quality housing options and supports for individuals with I/DD Statewide.

## Transition Grant

Organization: Kenny Guinn Center

Project Director: Meredith Levine

Project Period: Oct 01, 2021, to September 30, 2023

Fiscal Year: FFY 22

Total Grant Funds: $ 44,380

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

At least 15 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in group or nursing homes, 15 family members of those with I/DD, and 20 professionals will be educated on the rights, services, and options for individuals with I/DD after high school.

**Grantee Proposal:**

# FSC will educate 15 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), 15 family members, and 20 professionals on rights, services, and options for transitioning. This will include collaborating and engaging community partners, Self-Advocates, PIP graduates, DD Network Partners and State and City Agencies. FSC will work to collaborate to collect information on rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD transitioning out of high school or currently in a group or nursing home. Grantee will also coordinate to collect information and resources to be presented in person, online or in form of materials that they will be distributing. Grantee will coordinate up to 2 school events which they will host with collaboration of community partners, organizations, Self-Advocates and other state and city agencies. FSC will report quarterly to NGCDD on the impact and needs of both the I/DD community, family members, and professionals.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Create curriculum and presentations within quarter 1 (Oct-Dec) based on information and resources on rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD transitioning into adulthood or currently in adulthood. This information and resources are to be collected in collaboration with community partners, organizations, Self-Advocates, PIP graduates, and state and city agencies. Curriculum and presentations will be aimed also to educate Individuals with I/DD’s, Parents and Professionals.

Activity B) Engage Council members, Partners in Policymaking graduates, self-advocacy leaders and DD Network Partners to educate a minimum of 20 professionals (to include teachers, community, and state agency personnel) on the rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school. A total of 20 professionals will be educated by September 2023. Consumer Surveys will be conducted and reported on each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts.

Activity C) Engage Council members, Partners in Policymaking graduates, self-advocacy leaders and DD Network Partners to annually educate 15 family members on the rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school. A total of 15 family members will be educated by September 2023. Consumer Surveys will be conducted and reported on each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts.

Activity D) Engage Council members, Partners in Policymaking graduates, self-advocacy leaders and DD Network Partners to annually educate a minimum of 15 individuals with I/DD living in group or nursing homes on the rights, services, and options available to them. A total of 15 individuals with I/DD will be educated by September 2023. Consumer Surveys will be conducted and reported on each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts.

Activity E) In collaboration with DD Community partners, Advocates and other state and local agencies deliver up to 2 school events for individuals with I/DD, families, future graduates, teachers, school professionals, service providers and community partners between (October 2022- September 2023). Individuals will be educated on rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school. These school events will also engage providers on presentations on supported living, vocational services outside of school and securing gainful employment while also answering important questions. Consumer Surveys will be conducted after each event and reported on each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts.

Activity F) Engage and collaborate with state and local agencies and other organizations on the dissemination of material and education of rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school. FSC will partner with DETR/Vocational Rehab to present at events and provide relevant information regarding transitioning and requirements for approval for Medicaid waiver support services and securing gainful employment. Consumer Surveys will be conducted after each event and reported on each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts.

Activity G) Engage and collaborate with state and local agencies and other organizations on the dissemination of material and education of rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school. FSC will work with Chamber of Commerce by attending meetings and educating Chamber members on the needs of individuals with I/DD and transitioning. This education will be provided in form of presentations and Q&A sessions by FSC. Information will be available to the Chamber of Commerce and its members. Consumer Surveys will be conducted after each event/meeting and reported on each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts on the I/DD community.

Activity H) Engage and collaborate with state and local agencies and other organizations on the dissemination of material and education of rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school. FSC will work with Rural Regional Center in meeting with the RRC Service Coordinator, Quality Assurance, and other staff as applicable. Coordination will include participation from RRC to attend school events developed by FSC and provide information and services at these events. Consumer Surveys will be conducted after each event and reported on each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts.

Activity I) Individuals with I/DD and their families will be provided education and material on rights, services, and options at all in person and virtual/online events. These materials will be readily available at FSC offices and will include collaboration from Division of Child and Family Services, NGCDD, N4, PIP graduates and other state and local agencies. This collaboration will include participation of DCFS in school events by presenting on the topics of interest and available options. Consumer Surveys will be conducted after each event and reported on each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts.

**Of Note:** The Family Support Council has been focusing on outreach and contributing partners and organizations. Materials will be present at the time of the events and post events as well as surveys and results and the impact of the events. FSC has been working and meeting with Rural Regional Center to provide current rights provided by the RRC transition team in an effort to collaborate. Currently the FSC is working on joining their efforts with their resource fair to get information to families and get survey information at the same time. Surveys should show an increase in knowledge after attendance. The FSC anticipates that this fair will become an annual event that will bring education and awareness to families and individuals in the I/DD community. Currently they are pending meetings for the school events. They are also continuing to do outreach to DETR, BVR and the RRC transitions team to engage and collaborate. As of right now they are still awaiting on material and in the early stages of creation of material to distribute at the events.

**Overall Of Note for Grants:** All grantees have had an in-person grant monitoring completed, except for GTC as they are out of state. Information on the monitoring will be provided on the next quarter report.

# Glossary Of Terms

**Activity Summary** = A summary of a grantees progress on their activities for that period. Information is summarized from grantee reports and from Project Manager meetings with grantee.

**Best Practice:** A practice that incorporates methods or techniques that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark.

**Deliverables Summary:** Specific measurable outcomes the grantee said they would accomplish in their application.

**Goal(s)** = Over-all goal(s) identified by the Council in their current five-year state plan that the grantees are helping the Council accomplish through their grant award. Several grantees can be working toward the same goal but through different objectives.

**Grantee Proposal** = What the grantee said they would do to in their application.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s)** = What the Council expects to see as a result of grantee efforts.

**Objective(s)** = What the grantees have specifically agreed to accomplish during their grant period and how they said they would accomplish it.

**Of Note** = Any concerns, issues and/or additional information the Council needs to know. Will include any previous recommendations from the Council and the grantee’s progress toward those recommendations.

**Performance Measures** = Specific number of people effected by Council efforts.

**Promising Practice** = A practice with an innovative approach that improves upon existing practice and positively impacts the area of proactive. The practice should demonstration a high degree of success and the possibility of replication in other agencies or settings but has not been tested.