NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

­­­Project Status Summary

 FFY’ 23 Second Quarter Project Status Summary

For the period of January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023.

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GOAL 1: **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:**

This last quarter we have been sharing a lot of educational material regarding our position statements for Legislative purposes, and using our social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. During this past quarter the DD Council staff continues disseminating material created in-house and from outside resources and organizations. We continue to share resources, activities, and information on upcoming advocacy opportunities for conversations relating to health, policy, employment, education and other agendas of public meetings and the Olmstead Plan. The Public Health Liaison (PHL) has been busy on social media posting on all our platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. We continue to see an increase in all platforms and have increased our community engagement in addition to viewability with our followers and public.

We continue to work with Federal/State and Community Organizations/Providers in cross collaboration of sharing of materials and other events and informational material for the I/DD community. This is a standing effort that will continue to be seen through this year. Our aim is to build a strong foundation using all available platforms, to expand connections with the community.

We have continued to build a strong relationship with Heather Lafferty from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM). Our PHL has created and hosted the Access and Function Needs Coalition. This has been beneficial in being able to establish a working effort among services and providers that play a role in the disability community in both blue and gray skies. Over the last few months and weeks, especially during and into end of this winter season, 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. Weekly calls were held, and Ms. Lafferty shared weekly updates providing real time efforts that are taking place. We’re currently working on putting together a Guidebook for Emergency Managers across the state. We have collaborated in putting together a Go Bag & Shelter in Place checklist to be shared with the community. 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 (EMs).

A brochure was created on the breakdown about what the PHL position entails, the areas covered, and the work that goes into this position and community outreach. This will be referencing ongoing work that NGCDD has brought to the forefront. Our PHL continues to educate and train the community by sharing information regarding the Council and what the Council does, as well as encourage participation in training from newly diagnosed families and families looking for resources. Information is continuously shared via our social media.

Trainings attended by the PHL were The Stop the Bleed at UMC, where she shared contact information on the Council and offered shareable content we have as well as providing the opportunity to share their materials with the I/DD community. The PHL also participated in Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Departments Civilian Academy, which takes place every Thursday over a 12-week period. In each class, questions were asked relating to those with disabilities and resources were offered in the content of the DD Council (ex. ASL Anywhere); Ms. Lafferty and ~~our~~ the PHL presented at the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association (NEPA) in March, shared information, and educated over 70 participants. The PHL distributed resources and educational materials along with the Emergency Response for People Who Have Access and Functional Needs (AFN Flip book). Thanks to the NGCDD, we were able to get key information that Emergency Managers throughout our state can access at any given time on multiple levels and areas that individuals with disabilities need and face, especially during an emergency or disaster.

~~Our~~ The Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC) had a meeting with Anna Willis, a Special Education teacher with Douglas High School, on March 29, 2023. Information was provided on the iCanBike Camp being held in June 2023 at the Douglas County Community Center. Information was also provided about the Bullying publication the Council had produced. She was excited about the publication as there have been many incidences of students in Douglas High School with students with disabilities being bullied and ambushed in the restrooms. She was also excited to see that both documents were in Spanish. We continue to work on the upcoming iCanBike which will be June 26-30th in Douglas County in Northern Nevada. We have been disseminating flyers for this upcoming event ~~also~~.

**Data:**

Anti-Bullying Publication:
Carson Valley Middle School

590 English

20 Spanish

Pau-Wa-Lu

600 English

20 Spanish

Social Media Data/Interactions:

Facebook:

Jan. 87

Feb. 39

March 51

Linkedin:

Jan. 81

Feb. 88

March 60

Additional social media numbers and data are available upon request.

NEPA Conference - 100 Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Flipbooks were provided to emergency managers across the state. Additionally, 100 folders with various materials on the current Legislative agenda.

60 developmental indicator booklets (Milestone Moments) were sent in Spanish to AzulBlue in Las Vegas.

## 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.

**Of Note:**

* The Executive Director is the President of the NDALC Board, a member of the NDALC PAIMI Council and the NCED CAC Committee.

Staff participates in a variety of committees/councils and coalitions. Meetings and committees attended by the PHL were on Crave camp, Carson Agency Action Network (CAAN), Resilience, Mobility Leadership Circle meetings, Rare Disease Advisory Council/Education Committee (RDAC), Medicaid Care Advisory Council (MCAC), Nevada Children’s Commission/Education Committee (NVCC), ~~and~~ The Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Nevada Emergency Preparedness Vaxx, DEM, Olmstead Planning Group, and Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). The SAC attended the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) on January 19, 2023. This was more of a training for the Committee Members. They discussed what the expectations were for the Committee and for the Committee Members. There were several presenters which included the Department of Education functions and what Legislative bills they are following for this Legislative session.Staff have also attended many bill hearings and testified. These include:

* AB 79 – 700 Hour Program
* AB 116 – Down Syndrome Information
* AB 136 – Childcare Institutions
* AB 161 – Driver’s License – “Communication Impairment”
* AB 242 – Voting Rights
* AB 246 – Language Access – Ballots/Voting Materials in Alt Language
* AB 252 – Museum Access
* AB 259 – Subminimum Wage Elimination
* AB 357 – Sexual Health for Students
* AB 373 – Fine for Crimes Against Elderly and Vulnerable Adults
* AB 422 – Pilot Program for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
* SB 17 – Transportation Advisory Committee
* SB 61 – Financial Exploitation of Elderly and Vulnerable Adults
* SB 177 – Anti-Epileptic Medication
* SB 239 – Medical Aid in Dying
* SB 279 – State of Nevada as Model Employer
* SB 286 – Multiple Sclerosis Information
* SB 315 – Disability Bill of Rights
* SB 362 – “I Can’t Breathe”
* SB 373 – Language Access – State Agencies Documents
* SB 431 – Governor Lombardo’s Bill for State Agency Revamp
* SB 437 – FMLA Fee Cap

The NGCDD staff have ~~all~~ been involved in the ongoing efforts of SILC and attending their discussions as we work closely with the Employment First Model efforts. These efforts are ongoing as we continue to navigate in this direction, and we collectively agree on the next steps in establishing an Employment First model.  In a collaborative effort we also continue to attend regular meetings and committees as staff and meetings with our Grantees in person to encourage openness. We have attended Crave meetings, White House Briefings on zoom, Employment First Committee meetings and Assembly meetings on Health and Human Services.

**Data:**

As seen from the last reporting, these are ongoing events which include nearly 80 in person and virtual meetings this last quarter. These meetings take place on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. There were 30 members in attendance at SEAC, 7 were family members and 1 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 (GTC)

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 demands. 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 demands. 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:**

As we continue our working relationship with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and others, we will ensure that all materials are accessible for those within the disability community and those that are Blind or have some form of visual impairments, DEM is also promoting ASL Anywhere for those that are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing (D/HH).We continue to disseminate materials in Spanish to make it accessible to the Latinx I/DD community. All these efforts will continue within our scope of activities and materials.

GTC provided training to DETR-BVR on January 12th, Access to Healthcare and Nevada Care Connection (NVCC) on February 2nd. Four people were trained on how to complete the application, download, and use the app. Assistance was provided to NVCC to set up the app in three centers Reno, Elko, and Jewish Family Services Agency. A letter of introduction was distributed to Nevada School Districts and school Superintendents on February 7th. Six (6) ASL Anywhere videos were posted on ASL Anywhere Facebook and were shared with NV residents and service provider (NVCC).

GTC asked two organizations in the D/HH community to share the ASL Anywhere videos with their members. GTC created two videos “Need help downloading the app?” and “Need 20 more minutes?” that were disseminated to the consumers. GTC also reached out to the individuals who had not applied and asked them why they had not used their 20-minutes. GTC made calls via videophone and FaceTime to those who are eligible for the app but haven’t downloaded the app yet. GTC developed a manual on how to download the app and distributed it to the individuals who had not downloaded their app yet. They also developed a spreadsheet for the consumer surveys and sent them to consumers who exhausted their first 20 minutes. We received the survey from them and gave them the second 20-minute package.

They’ve reached out to individuals who downloaded the app but did not submit their application yet and encouraged them to apply for the app so they would be eligible to receive the free service. GTC Gave a presentation at the Commission on Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing meeting an met with Heather Lafferty, Coordinator with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Access and Functional Needs (DEI/FN), NV Division of Emergency Management, and officers from the Council. GTC discussed potential collaboration and training opportunities with DEI/FN. GTC did two videos (Testimonial and Police) and submitted them to DEI and The Council. GTC has received applications from several service providers and hearing individuals who work with deaf and hard of hearing clients and notified them that they were not eligible and referred them to GTC Sales department should they wish to purchase minutes to serve their D/HH clients. GTC did a video informing the consumers who have iPhones that they need to update their app to IOS 1.9. They also followed up with DETR-BVR to see if they had devices yet and they stated they were still waiting for the devices to be delivered before they could set it up. GTC has also gotten calls from angry and/or frustrated consumers about not having enough minutes to have quality communication. They provided technical support to the consumers who have not updated their app or have problems connecting with interpreters. They have also contacted some consumers to give testimonials. A request for $160 per package per consumer was approved and filed as well as a request for giving each consumer up to 60 minutes. This request consists of 20 and 40 minutes being added to all current consumers and new consumers receiving 60 minutes. This would help consumers experience quality communication.

Challenges faced by GTC consisted in following up via emails, texts, and VP calls to seventeen (17) consumers who had not downloaded the app yet. GTC will continue to reach out to them. Consumers felt 20 minutes were not sufficient to guarantee quality of conversation. Users/Consumers preferred to save the minutes for emergencies instead. Most consumers expressed fear of paying for interpreting services after their minutes were exhausted and thought ASL Anywhere would require them to pay for the services afterwards because they signed up. Consumers stated they couldn’t afford to pay for the interpreting services. Many consumers were very frustrated with the medical clinics/hospitals and audiology for refusing to provide interpreting services and stated they could not use ASL Anywhere minutes. The consumers don’t know where to go for advocacy services and/or seek assistance to advocate for themselves or when needing someone to assist them to file a complaint. Some consumers felt the hours of interpreting services should be expanded from 8 AM to 8 PM instead of 6 AM to 6 PM.

GTC has a new person taking over the financial portion of the grant. The SAC continues to have monitoring meetings with the grantee to provide support.

**Data:**

In total, 12 participants were trained, with 4 being trained on the application itself. 77 consumers and 3 service providers received packages.

## 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:**

Surveys being sent out will help us gather key information as to how we can locate and close gaps that are currently affecting our community.

**Data:**

All data for this objective will be cumulative for the year. Some quarters will not have specific data to report.

**GOAL 2:** **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:**

NGCDD attended and hosted the Disability Awareness Day and Training at the Legislature on March 7 & 8, 2023 which was an effort that staff was closely working on the last quarter. All staff helped support during these two days. The PHL helped in the transportation of self-advocates attending our Legislative Day and training. The ARC members were transported from Las Vegas to Reno. It was a fun filled 2 days for self-advocates and their families and/or Personal Care Attendants (PCAs). Everyone was excited to visit and learn about the Legislative process, meet, and greet their legislators, and visit some of our state’s historical building. Networking was another huge success; numbers were shared, and connections were built.

The PHL has also been very involved with Crave which is a project that NGCDD and other community resources have been part of over this last quarter, working up to the event that will take place in June. The PHL will be co- presenting alongside Heather with DEM. They will be sharing relatable information on Emergency Preparedness and how we can build a better plan for young adults that are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing.  Ensuring they have the keys and tools to navigate safely during an emergency or disaster.

The SAC attended the People First meeting in Winnemucca on January 10, 2023. The SAC distributed the Health Care Binders to everyone in attendance. She explained the purpose of the binders and asked if anyone had questions, to please contact her. The SAC also explained the new pilot program, Office Aid Internship, that is currently running in the office. Alysa Marquez, 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 attended the Aktion Club of Carson Valley on February 6, 2023. There were 22 self-advocates and 15 parents/assistants in attendance. The SAC attended to see if the Club needed anything from the NGCDD. The SAC ~~also~~ attended the Down Syndrome Network of Southern Nevada on February 24 & 25, 2023 in Las Vegas. The SAC explained what the Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) is and explained the NGCDD is here to help support them to be a successful organization, they just need to ask for assistance. Alysa Marquez, 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 attended the Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Self-Advocates Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) meeting with Dora Martinez. The NGCDD is the host for Ms. Martinez’s fellowship grant. We assist Ms. Martinez to accomplish her goals throughout the duration of her fellowship. She plans to train people with disabilities on their rights and helping them to advocate for themselves to be better self-advocates.

The SAC attended the Aktion Club of Carson Valley on March 20, 2023. The SAC attended to provide information about the iCanBike Camp being held at the Douglas County Community Center in June 2023.

**Data:**

SAC attended People First meeting in January which had 25 attendees and 8 assistants, 20 family members 1 – self advocate at DSNSN meeting, 25 self-advocates and 12 parents at Aktion Club 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:**

We have been meeting with staff from Encore and working closely with how the video is presented. This has been a long and strenuous journey and making this video has not been an easy task. We continue to input on language, accessibility, and relatability for the younger audience within the I/DD community and anyone that can take advantage of the education. We had a setback on editing as we had to change some aspects of it and Encore is currently working with a new program which they will be implementing for our video. They continue to work closely with us so that it is up to our standards. We are working much closer with Encore to make sure that we can get the finished product as soon as possible.

**Data:**

All data for this objective will be cumulative for the year. Some quarters will not have specific data to report.

## 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:**

We continue to work with all communities and diversities and are constantly working on making all aspects of the council’s work as diverse and accessible as possible. The Project Manager was contacted by the Mexican Consulate in Las Vegas to do a presentation on the NGCDD. We should have an update on how that goes in the next quarterly summary. We are excited to bring the councils efforts and resources to this important organization that works mainly with Mexicans in the community. We hope to bring forward knowledge and educational value as well. We continue to disseminate translated material in Spanish, so all individuals are included. We will be gathering information on upcoming surveys on what gaps need to be addressed when it comes to cross-disability and diversity.

**Data:**

All data for this objective will be cumulative for the year. Some quarters will not have specific data to report.

## 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:**

Partners in Policymaking is moving forward. The students have been very engaged with the presenters. Rarely are there no questions. The SAC will typically ask questions which will encourage the students to ask more questions to expand on the presented topics. Topic discussed: ABLE Accounts, Open Meeting Law, Supported Decision Making, ATAP, Waiver Services, College programs, Independent Living, Developmental Services and Educations. Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May presented at one class to explain how Legislation begins.

Consumer Leadership Development Funds for Families - Shirley Gaw attended the QRI Laser Course for parents/caregivers for home program in Crystal River, FL on January 21 – 22, 2023. Shirley stated that it did meet her expectations and stated that it helps empower parents and caregivers to be more active participants in their loved one’s therapies through techniques. Through the techniques she learned insistence and long-term effects while still using small steps. Some system changes considered are sharing information with other families. She also stated that she would like more parents and caregivers in Nevada to feel empowered.

Heather Areshenko attended the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates 2023 Conference in San Francisco, CA on March 2 – 5, 2023 via virtual attendance. A presentation from this recipient is anticipated to take place during our June Council meeting.

**Data**:

All data for this objective will be cumulative for the year. Some quarters will not have specific data to report.

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:**

The SAC had a discussion with Diana Rovetti from NCED on January 25, 2023, to work out the details for iCanBike Camp in Las Vegas on March 13 – 17, 2023. The outcome of this discussion then flourished in a collaboration with the NCED for iCanBike. We have been working closely with the NCED to attract volunteers and individuals to attend. The SAC Attended the iCanBike Camp in Las Vegas on March 14, 2023. Some of the people with disabilities were struggling to ride the bikes, but the organization (iCanShine) staff were kind and encouraging, getting most of the participants to ride the modified bikes. The NGCDD ED, SAC and Project Manager attended the iCanBike Camp in Las Vegas on March 17, 2023. We were able to see how these wonderful individuals were able to get on bicycles and try to confront their fears of riding. It was also amazing to see individuals with disabilities learn how to ride bikes and carry this on to their personal lives. They began riding modified bikes inside a gym and slowly worked their way outdoors and rode their own two wheeled bike. Some continued to need support, but others were able to ride independently without any help. Everyone that participated received a certificate of participation from iCanShine and we were able to meet some awesome people.

**Data:**

All data for this objective will be cumulative for the year. Some quarters will not have specific data to report.

## 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: Anthony Shriver

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 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 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:**

In Quarter 2, Best Buddies staff delivered the first trainings of the project, empowering individuals with I/DD and educating employers on the benefits of inclusive hiring and how to create more inclusive workplaces by providing them with education and resources. They held two trainings specifically for families and individuals with I/DD. The first session on March 9 was held virtually via Zoom and was attended by eight individuals with I/DD and seven of their family members. They partnered with a Reno area nonprofit, Bridgelink, to help recruit more attendees from the Northern Nevada/Reno area. The second training on March 12 was held in person at the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino and was attended by four individuals with I/DD from the Las Vegas area. On March 12, Best Buddies also delivered in-person employer training at the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino to ten individuals from Bank of America, European Kitchen, NV Energy, MGM Grand, Red 7 Communications, University of Nevada – Las Vegas, and Opera Las Vegas on the benefits of hiring people with I/DD and how to create more inclusive workplaces. These first trainings have shown how this information has empowered individuals with I/DD to start the dialogue of seeking meaningful employment opportunities. Both individuals and employees have learned to request/advocate for themselves, and employers have learned how to create a more inclusive work environment including accommodations. Also, a "part two" session was suggested as feedback for training.

In terms of data collection process, Best Buddies has been sending surveys to participants following the session, but participant responses have been delayed. They have realized that it will be more effective to have individuals and employers complete and return the post-event survey immediately at the end of each session. This will allow them to capture the information in a timely manner and ensure ~~that~~ they are able to track the effectiveness of the training sessions in real-time. They have extended the time for employers and participants to submit post-event surveys to April 14. Respondents provided valuable feedback when asked if there was anything they would have liked to have seen covered in more detail during the session. Best Buddies has received valuable positive feedback from participants and plans on creating positive changes for future training. Suggestions included providing more time to talk with the presenter or Best Buddies staff and delivering a “part two" of the session. Best Buddies will be increasing their one-on-one time with participants. One participant with I/DD who attended the virtual training session via zoom shared "I learned that I have rights like everyone else and that I'm not alone in the job force being a person with disabilities and that there's always someone there to help me. That we people with disabilities can be successful in our jobs and in our lives. That we can work in the field we love to work in." Skyler C. A family member attendee stated, "The discussion was very helpful, and we plan to empower the people that we surround ourselves with this information”. - Bill K.

**Data:**

Two individuals with I/DD and 7 employers from the community were trained. Five of the eight were from the north in the first session. 8 individuals filled out the pre-event survey.

## 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).

**Of Note:**

The Kenny Guinn Center and the JUSTin Hope Foundation (JHF) continue to collaborate to bring forward understanding of housing options for people with I/DD in Nevada. The Guinn Center has continued deepening its understanding of housing options for people with I/DD through their continued conversations with subject matter experts and stakeholders. After meeting with ADSD, the Guinn Center has gotten a better idea of what scope of information is available from ADSD. This has helped the Guinn Center in hopes to get what data/information they can from ADSD and expect to be able to get it by third quarter of FFY 2023. As previously reported, all identified gaps/needs of current supply of housing options remain unchanged for this quarter. Part of the collaboration between the Guinn Center and JHF includes solicitation of participant-based input into experiences with housing for people with I/DD in Nevada. They plan to do this through focus groups and a survey along with follow-up interviews. The Guinn Center also has continued research and analysis on model “leader states” and will continue to interview these outstanding states once they have a better understanding of what they need to ask. These questions will be based on the information requested from ADSD. This will continue through the 3rd qtr, and both will be reporting on their findings.

All findings of gaps, barriers, and problem identification with be included in the landscape policy report which the Guinn center is currently drafting and compiling with the data and information they have gathered so far in collaboration with JHF. The Guinn center currently is compiling the resources that will be going into the report and will also include procurement of vendors for translation services and graphic design. Also included in the report will be pathways to seeking affordable housing and or funding assistance as well as housing rights information. The landscape policy report is expected to the complete by the end of the grant year and will be disseminated using various channels of communication and education.

**Data:**

Data from this grantee will be included in their final report. All information they are gathering will be included in this report for dissemination to the public.

## 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:**

JUSTin Hope Foundation (JHF) is collaborating with Guinn Center on this ongoing grant and assisting on the study of housing in Nevada for individuals with I/DD. In collaboration both will be conducting three focus groups in the upcoming quarters which they hope will bring in surveys to gather more information regarding housing. An outline of conversation questions and surveys has been created in this quarter in preparation for the scheduled groups in the next quarter. These focus groups will aid the Guinn Center in developing more comprehensive data to complete their ongoing needs assessments as well as create a constructive conversation on what barriers are leading to lack of housing support. JHF hopes to bring this direct impact to the forefront as one of their goals. The information gathered on these focus groups will help individuals with I/DD as well as stakeholders improve on current housing systems, by creating educational content for individuals with I/DD. This information will also be disseminated through channels of communication and education. Advisory committees have shifted into focus groups now to focus on obtaining data.

**Data:**

The dates of the focus groups were April 5th, April 7th, and April 11th. Data on the numbers will be available with the next quarterly report from the grantee.

## Objective 3.4 – Transition

Increase access to quality services and supports for individuals with I/DD transitioning into or currently in adulthood.

## Transition Grant

Organization: The Family Support Council (FSC) of Douglas County

Project Director: Daniel Upton

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

Fiscal Year: FFY 22

Total Grant Funds: $ 50,000

**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:**

FSC has been working on their upcoming collaboration with the Autism Fair that will be held in Douglas County by developing a survey with 12 questions with pre and post event questions. All information gathered from the surveys will be collected and included in the next reporting period which should show an increase in knowledge on transitioning for individuals with I/DD. In an effort to engage, Mr. Upton met with Assemblyman Ken Gray during DD Awareness Day at the Legislature. In addition, FSC has been actively reaching out to community members, advocates, organizations, county agencies, schools, community partners, non-profit and other community resources. The FSC anticipates this event/resource fair will result in an annual event and will show improvements for future dates. FSC ~~also~~ anticipates growth in networking and resources. FSC ~~also~~ created a rights handout with resources for those who attended the event.

**Data:**

Over 500 community members/organizations and agencies were contacted regarding this event. 21 of these entities registered to host a table for this event.

**Overall, Of Note for Grants:**

All grantees are on track for spend down by end of the FFY.

# 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.