**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2023**

**ZOOM**

**Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**406 East Second Street**

**Carson City, NV 89701**

# Special Notes

* All items reviewed during this meeting are available for view on the NGCDD website; under the event created for this meeting: [www.nevadaddcouncil.org](http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/)
* Bolded text under a heading indicates an action taken by the NGCDD.

# Introductions

NGCDD Members Present: Chair, Christine Riggi; Vice-Chair, Max Lowe; Stacy Alaribe; Jacob Arant; Melissa Bart-Plange; Anna Marie Binder; Lisa Bonie; Stacy Carlston; Taylor Chaney; Ellen Frias-Wilcox; Jennifer Frischmann; Vickie Ives; Kathleen Kingston; Jack Mayes; Randall Owen; Santa Perez; Art Reitz; Brynlin Thornley

NGCDD Members Absent: Diana Davis; Ashley Price; Gabriel Tejada; Vivian Turner; Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant; Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison; Marisol Rivas, Project Manager

NGCDD Staff Absent: Alysa Marquez, Intern; Ellen Marquez, Self- Advocacy Coordinator

Public Present: Autumn Blattman; C. Christiano; Steven Cohen; Kristina Crawford; Ofelia Gentscheff; Michael Gordon; Meredith Levine; Annette Logan-Parker; Kelcy Meyer; Diana Rovetti; Malinda Southard; Dan Upton

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice-Chair, Max Lowe at 9:06 a.m.

Executive Assistant, Rebecca Ortiz verified that the agenda for this meeting was posted to the appropriate locations on May 12, 2023.

# Public Comment

Mr. Lowe inquired if there was any public comment. None was given.

# Approval of March 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lowe opened the floor for discussion of the March 2, 2023 minutes.

**Santa Perez motioned to accept the March 2, 2023 as written. Jack Mayes seconded the motion. The motion carried with Kathleen Kingston abstaining.**

# Presentation on Newborn Screening and the Rare Disease Council

Mr. Lowe deferred this item to Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director.

Ms. Nielsen introduced Ofelia Gentscheff from the University of Nevada Reno’s Newborn Screening Program. Ms. Gentscheff gave a PowerPoint presentation on the program and its functions. She opened this item for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen introduced Annette Logan-Parker from the Nevada Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC). Ms. Logan-Parker gave a verbal presentation on the program and its functions. She opened this item for discussion.

# Consumer Leadership Development Fund Presentations

Ms. Riggi deferred this item to Ms. Nielsen for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen reviewed the Consumer Leadership Development Fund policy. She presented the written reports of Deborah Rodriguez and Waldina Tapia and the events they attended using the Consumer Leadership Development Funds on their behalf. She then introduced Diana Rovetti who presented on behalf of David Rovetti. She presented the event they attended using the Consumer Leadership Development Funds.

# Nevada 2023 Legislative Session Updates

Ms. Riggi deferred to Ms. Nielsen for conversation on the 2023 Legislative session and initiatives.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “BDR List for Legislative Year 2023” and discussed some key bills and initiatives the NGCDD has been tracking. She also stated the council has been able to provide testimony for many bills this session and the list is included in the document referenced. She opened this item for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen invited Jack Mayes from the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center to discuss the bills and initiatives the NDALC is tracking. Mr. Mayes stated the bills and initiatives the NDALC are paying close attention to. He stated the NDALC was following bills on restorative justice and mental health services. He opened this item for discussion.

# Presentation on Katie Beckett

Ms. Riggi deferred this item to Ms. Nielsen.

Ms. Nielsen introduced Michael Gordon from the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy. Mr. Gordon gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Katie Beckett program and its functions. He opened this item for discussion.

# Discussion on FFY 2024 Funding and Activity Planning

Ms. Riggi deferred this item to Ms. Nielsen.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “FFY 2024 NGCDD Activities, Timeline and Funding Matrix Evaluation Committee Rec”. Ms. Nielsen reviewed the goals and objectives with the funding amounts for each. She stated the Evaluation Committee has given their recommendation to approve this document. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the FFY 2024 NGCDD Activities, Timeline and Funding Matrix as written. Jennifer Frischmann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously**.

# Executive Committee Updates

Ms. Riggi deferred this item to Ms. Nielsen for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “Accessible CLDF Policy”. She discussed the edits and additions to the policy which were approved by the Executive Committee. She opened this item for discussion.

# Policy Committee

Ms. Riggi deferred this item to Ms. Nielsen for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen discussed the approved updates and final wording to all Council position statements (listed alphabetically: Position on Ableism; Position on Accessibility; Position on Accountability, Inclusion, and Transparency; Position on Charter Schools; Position on Community Support; Position on Employment; Position on Health Care; Position on Housing; Position on Informed Choice; Position on Language Access; Position on Mental Health; Position on SDM and Guardianship; Position on Transportation; and Position on Voting). She discussed the possibility of a “Position on Education” and the efforts of Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison, to draft a “Position on Access and Functional Needs” and/or a “Position on Emergency Management”. She opened this item for discussion.

# Budget Committee

Vickie Ives deferred this agenda item to Mr. Nielsen for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen discussed the status of the Council’s budget to accomplish objectives for Five Year State Plan and funding matrix mentioned under agenda item 8. She opened this item for discussion.

# Second Quarter Project Status Summary for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023

Ms. Riggi deferred this item to Marisol Rivas, Project Manager.

Ms. Rivas referred to the document titled " NGCDD FFY '23 Second Quarter Project Status Summary Report”. She gave an in-depth summary of its contents. She invited Ms. Palma-Ortega to speak on efforts and initiatives under objective 1.1. She then invited Ms. Nielsen to speak on efforts and initiatives under objectives 1.3, 2.4, and 3.1. She opened this item for discussion.

Ms. Rivas invited Kristina Crawford, Meredith Levine, and Dan Upton to present updates on their grants under objectives 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 respectively. This item was opened for discussion.

# Developmental Disabilities Network Partners Summary

Ms. Riggi deferred to Randall Owen from the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED), Lisa Bonie from the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL), and Mr. Mayes from the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC).

Mr. Mayes discussed the bills and initiatives the NDALC is tracking through the legislative session. He also discussed the Department of Justice’s Olmstead complaint concerning mental health services for children that the NDLAC is following. The NDALC also continues its efforts in monitoring residential treatment facilities and ensuring individuals are receiving services and being treated properly. The NDALC will also be sending out their annual survey shortly both via email and paper mail for input on their priorities for the next fiscal year. Mr. Mayes continued by stating that he will be retiring from his role with the NDLAC, but he will continue with his own advocacy efforts. A personal priority for him is aging with a developmental disability. He opened this time for discussion.

Dr. Owen presented information on current projects and initiatives being done by NCED. The NCED has been working with marketing consultants to put together a better story on who the NCED is and what they are doing lately. He will share this with the council once it is completed. A new project the NCED will be working on is about trauma-informed services specifically for rural school districts. It will take place over the next four years. He shared the article about the grant with the council. They are also working with the Department of Education in transitioning their assistive technology program to be under the NCED. They work with educators and other school staff to make them more knowledgeable about assistive technology. They will be housing this program with their own assistive technology program. This will be held in Clark County. They are also working with the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) on their respite and no wrong door grants to map out how people get access to services and where there may be gaps. He also shared with the council the job posting for a project coordinator with the Family Navigation Network. He opened this time for discussion.

Lisa Bonie presented information on projects hosted/participated in by the NNCIL. She stated the Mark Wellman Adventure Day is this Sunday June 4, 2023 at the Sparks Marina. It is a is a partnership that they have with the City of Sparks and the City of Reno. She invited the council members to come out and see all the adaptive cycling equipment, kayaks, and Mark Wellman’s famous climbing wall. The NNCIL continues to work on blind and low vision services and helping cover the gaps. They were able to bring on a full-time employee to help develop the program and a weekly support group with 18-32 participants. He supports beginner and intermediate training courses on screen reader technology. They also received a grant from the City of Sparks around housing for senior citizens with disabilities to help stabilize housing or help them to relocate into some kind of housing resource that better fits their budget. The NNCIL is also partnering with Diana Rovetti for the iCan Bike program happening in Douglas County. In Douglas County, they also were able to participate in the event hosted by the Family Support Council. Lastly, a federal grant was recently announced to fund transition services. The required partners are the Department of Education, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the two federally funded CILs. They are heavily into the writing process of the grant. It was announced in May with a June turnaround, but the deadline has been extended to July. It would be around 5-10 million which would be great for creating better transitions for our students coming out of high school. She opened this time for discussion.

# State Agency Updates

Ms. Riggi inquired if any agency representatives would like to present updates on disability related information.

Vickie Ives from the Maternal and Child Health Program provided a few updates that might be of interest to though to the wider group. At the legislature there is a meeting today at four o'clock, that will hear policy on newborn screening program. Reports from the program regarding critical congenital heart disease and the hearing screening portions will be made public very soon on both sets of data. The two dashboards for the MCH are also available and updated. One is under the Department of Health and Human Service, Office of Analytics. Title V MCH federal annual update is also available on their main site. They continue to share information relating to the unwinding and impacts of COVID-19 and the need to increase awareness to prevent distributions to service. They are particularly paying attention to its effect on immunization programs. They also continue their efforts in their rape prevention and education program with a focus on youth and children’s mental health services. They are partnering with the Coalition to end Sexual and Domestic Violence. They will also be conducting focus groups specific to the Nevada Medical home portal. They also have some data system upgrades both for both the hearing detection and critical of the general heart disease registry with some new partnerships with the Office of Vital Records. They have a new partnership with the UNR office of continuing medical education to plan and host a virtual adolescent motivational interview training. She also stated that there are some openings on the maternal child health advisory board. That board has a wide scope of making recommendations on specific maternal child health topics to the administrator of the division of public and behavioral health. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program will be hosting a farmer’s market soon. Title V block grant needs assessment will also be conducted soon. It sets the priorities of how that specific funding is used over the next five years. She also shared that their Title V manager that is part of the LEND cohort will be graduating. Lastly, there has been a re-authorization of home-visiting funding on a federal level. It adds a map requirement and creates a pathway to greatly expand the number of families states can potentially serve over the years.

Jennifer Frischmann with the Aging and Disability services Division provided a few updates from the program. She stated ADSD was in the process of renewing their intellectual and developmental disabilities waivers and they have finally been posted. They are out for public comment now. A lot of the feedback they have received so far is about raising the rates. They have added a new category called goods and services. If it is approved, it will assist people obtaining gym memberships, attending classes in the community, bed bug remediation, etc. She also stated if AB259 passes, they will begin offering benefits counseling effective January of 2025. The purpose behind benefits counseling is to increase the number of people in competitive integrated employment. They are still working on our Olmstead plan. Oftentimes they’re not viewed as very person centered so they have contracted with health management associates (HMA) that will guide them through the new rule from 2014 governing settings requirements and person centeredness. They will be paying for that with ARPA funds. Also with ARPA funds, they contracted with an agency, C.I.A. (spelled C!A). They are helping us do some business process reengineering with our intake procedures for both ATAP and all our waivers. This will make it as streamlined as possible.

Ellen Frias-Wilcox with the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy gave updates from the program. She started by introducing herself to the Council as a new member and her position under DHCFP. She works under the long-term services and supports and is the policy specialist for all the Medicaid waivers, such as the elderly, physically disabled, and I/DD waivers. She collaborates with Ms. Frischmann often. They will be conducting a public workshop on June 12, 2023, and will share this will the council. In addition to the goods and services section, dental services for I/DD waiver recipients will be added permanently. She also shared that if the council would like to learn more, she can get the State Dental Officer to come speak to the council.

# Parent/Family Member/Advocate Updates

Ms. Riggi inquired if any representatives would like to present updates on disability-related information.

Ms. Nielsen stated that today’s meeting would be the last one for two council members. Ms. Perez will be terming out of the council after serving quite a few years on the council. She thanked Ms. Perez for her service and hopes she continues to serve on the council’s committees. She also thanked Mr. Mayes for his service to the council and referenced the comments made by him earlier.

Ms. Palma-Ortega shared that her children, Johnathan and Marissa, graduated recently. Johnathan has a vision impairment and has struggled his whole educational career. Marissa had to navigate the juvenile system and then was able to return. She shared that this was a personal high for her family and herself.

# Agenda Items for Consideration

Ms. Riggi inquired if anyone had anything they would like to have on future agendas. None was given.

# Next Meeting Date

Ms. Riggi stated the next Council meeting is September 7, 2023 and will be via ZOOM.

# Public Comment

Ms. Riggi inquired if there was any public comment.

* Ms. Frischmann restated that there will be a public workshop held on June 12, 2023 on the I/DD waiver renewal. She shared with the council the notice and list of major changes that will be presented.
* Ms. Nielsen stated that AB246 on access to voting materials will be heard right after this meeting at 1:30 pm. She shared the link with the council.
* Steven Cohen stated that the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) legislative subcommittee will be meeting on July 6, 2023 at 1 pm to discuss the carryover bills they weren’t able to get to in May and the wins/losses from the session as a whole. They will also be discussing priorities to carry froward to the interim and next session. He also shared that on July 17, 2023 at 1 pm will be the first post session forum held by Assemblywoman Brown-May. He will be sharing further information with the council.
* Ms. Perez stated that she wanted to thank everyone for their time and serving on this council. She has learned a lot from everyone. She is not going away and plans to run for office in 2024.
* Mr. Cohen also stated he plans to run for office as well.

# Adjournment

Ms. Riggi adjourned the meeting at 1:24 p.m.