**NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Position on Supported Decision Making and Guardianship**

Guardianship is a legal proceeding that can remove civil rights and privileges of an individual by assigning control of his or her life, or aspects of their life to someone else.

Many options, other than guardianship, are available to provide counsel, guidance, and assistance with making decisions. The principles of Informed Choice, Person Centered Planning and Self-Determination dictate that adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) are respected and supported in making their own life decisions. Individuals who can make life decisions with support from others around them should be enabled to do so.

Supported decision-making is recognized as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship; whereby, trusted supporters are afforded the legal status to be with the adult, participate in discussions, help gather and evaluate information, consider, and communicate decisions so individuals with I/DD understand the situations and choices they face and can make their own decisions without the need for a guardian.

# **The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) supports the rights of individuals with I/DD to direct their own lives to the maximum of their abilities through changes to the guardianship system in Nevada that promotes the best practices of Person-Centered Planning, Informed Choice, and Self Determination through Supported Decision Making.**

**Policy Recommendations:**

1. Empower individuals by applying the principles of Self-Determination, Informed Choice, and Person-Centered practices in all aspects of their life.
2. Educational and training material about alternatives to guardianship should be provided to people with I/DD, trusted supporters, educational, medical, financial, legal, and other professionals to ensure consistency and opportunity across the state.
3. Support legislation that promotes Supported Decision-Making options to be considered as alternatives to guardianship.

Last Review Date: