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

**DRAFT Position on Aging**

People with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) who are 55+ have the right to the same opportunities and supports as all other older people. Currently, it is estimated that 15% of the population worldwide or some 1 billion individuals live with one or more disabling conditions. More than 46 per cent of older persons – those aged 55 years and over—have disabilities and more than 250 million older people experience moderate to severe disabilities.

Americans living in the 21st century are more likely to live into their senior years than ever before. Like many other older Americans, people with I/DD may require greater levels of support and may lack information about and access to resources to enable them to support themselves or someone else who is growing older. Many services in the community are not prepared to meet the specific needs of older adults with I/DD.

# **The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) believes that as people with disabilities age, they must be afforded the same rights to be recognized as respected members of their community and to have equal access to all services and supports available to those aging without disabilities.** **Community services and supports that are geared to older community members must accommodate the supports needed by those who have also experienced lifelong disabilities.**

**Policy Recommendations:**

Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are to:

1. Be afforded the same rights, dignity, respect, and opportunities as other older people in their communities;
2. Be empowered, together with their families if asked, to advocate for themselves;
3. Be free from discrimination on the basis of disability and/or aging;
4. Have access to appropriate community-based social services, transportation, legal services, and other services;
5. Have access to a full array of affordable housing services appropriate to their age, diagnosis, physical and mental condition;
6. Have access to a full array of health care services appropriate to their age, diagnosis, and physical and mental condition, including preventive health care, mental health care, ongoing habilitation and rehabilitation services for as long as they are needed, including appropriate end-of-life care;
7. Receive the supports they need to live, work, play, and retire when, where, and how they prefer, including supports for family members who can assist them in the pursuit of a quality and self-determined aging experience;
8. Be free from the fear of inappropriate institutionalization;
9. Be free from the fear of elder abuse and neglect by family members, providers or community members; and
10. Have access to financial supports that will provide them with retirement opportunities like those that are available to other older people who no longer work.

Last Review Date: