**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2023**

Zoom [https://zoom.us/j/](https://zoom.us/j/8)87493919504

Meeting ID: 874 9391 9504

NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities  
406 East Second Street, Carson City 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

Committee Members Present: Stacy Alaribe, Committee Chair; Max Lowe; Dora Martinez; Jack Mayes; Santa Perez; Renee Portnell; Christine Riggi; Cindi Swanson; Jodi Thornley; Vivian Turner; Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Frischmann; Heather Lafferty

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Ellen Marquez, Self-Advocacy Coordinator; Alysa Marquez, Intern; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant; Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager

NGCDD Staff Absent: Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison

Public Present: Steven Cohen

# Land Acknowledgment

Max Lowe, Committee Vice-Chair, provided the land acknowledgement as follows: The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, as a program whose designated state agency is the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, acknowledges, honors, and respects the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land and recognize the State of Nevada is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwu, Newe, Numu and Wa She Shu. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to work alongside our Tribal partners. We encourage everyone in this space to engage in acknowledgement and continued learning about the Indigenous peoples who work and live on this land since time immemorial, and about the historical and present realities of colonialism.

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe, at 10:02 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on August 21, 2023.

# Public Comment

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was any public comment. She verified meeting information and how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director stated the Partners in Policymaking course application is now open. For anyone interested, the information can be found on the council’s website. The information will also be shared on the council’s Facebook page and was sent out on the council’s listserv. The application will be closing on October 31, 2023, which is earlier than previous years, but this allows for a greater time period for setting up accommodations, childcare arrangements, etc.

# Approval of Minutes from the June 2023 Meeting

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the June 22, 2023 Committee meeting minutes.

**Max Lowe motioned to approve the June 22, 2023 Committee meeting minutes as written. Jack Mayes seconded the motion. The motion carried with Renee Portnell abstaining.**

# Discussion on Position Statements on Healthcare and Mental Health

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation the position statements.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position on Health Care”. She discussed the background for this position statement and gave in-depth summary. She opened this item for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position on Mental Health”. She discussed the background for this position statement and gave in-depth summary. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Mayes motioned to recommend to the Full Council for discussion and possible adoption the “Draft Position Statement on Healthcare” and “DRAFT Position on Mental Health” with the recommended changes. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Discussion on Position Statement on Sexuality and Sexual Health

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation this position statement.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position Statement on Sexual Health”. She discussed the background for this position statement and gave in-depth summary. She opened this item for discussion.

**Cindi Swanson motioned to recommend to the Full Council for discussion and possible adoption the “Draft Position Statement Position Statement on Sexual Health” with the recommended changes. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Executive Director Updates

Ms. Alaribe deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for this agenda item.

Ms. Nielsen discussed the background for the addition of this agenda item for this and future meetings. She stated the chairs for the council and each committee will be holding more responsibility during meetings and she wanted to ensure a space where she can provide needed information and updates on council projects and initiatives. She discussed the drafting process of the council’s position statements and encouraged any committee members that had ideas on policy recommendations or ideas on improving any to reach out to her. She also discussed the addition of the land acknowledgment statement into the agenda and all future agendas. Along with this agenda additions, she discussed the use of a PowerPoint to give a better structure to the flow of the council’s meetings and how it was used by the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOHME). She opened this item for discussion.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on September 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

# Public Comment

Ms. Alaribe asked if there is any public comment. She verified meeting information and how to submit public comments telephonically. None was given.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.