NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

­­­Project Status Summary

FFY’ 23 Third Quarter Project Status Summary

For the period of April 1, 2023, through June 31, 2023.

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GOAL 1: (In House) Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (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) The Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC) 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) The SAC 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 past quarter we continue to share and collaborate within the community. We continue to reach out through social media and other public events and activities. We have continued our efforts and most of the work is a continued effort from staff and the Public Health Liaison (PHL) disseminating educational material (in-house and other), resources and other collaborative opportunities. All this leads to advocacy opportunities relating to all the important issues within the I/DD community. Our collaborations have made for a stronger foundation and connection within the I/DD community that has been seen in the growing increase of following on our social media platforms. In April the Projects Manager (PM) attended the Be a Hero 5k Run/Walk & Family Fair in Carson City where the PM connected with a lot of family resource organizations and with families within the community and disseminated material on bullying and other I/DD material. The Be a Hero 5K had approximately 20 organizations participate and close to 40 runners/walkers. The PM and the Council’s Executive Assistant attended the Mark Wellman Adventure Day in June where we provided educational material and resources to the I/DD community. This day was filled with lots of physical activities which were adapted to individuals with I/DD and many community organizations were present. Mark Wellman Day had approximately 18-20 booths which also included adaptive kayaking and rock climbing. There were over 100 people in attendance. The NGCDD staff distributed 10 Binders including various educational material and resource information.

The PHL has continued to disseminate materials on emergency preparedness and I/DD related info. This included getting more information on emergency preparedness through the FEMA Basic Academy as well as taking additional courses to allow for the PHL to be at the table during an activation and becoming a Certified Emergency Manager. The PHL has continued the partnership with the Division of Emergency Management, where she was recently a guest on the “Living with Fire” Podcast that was initiated by Megan Kay, the Outreach Coordinator with UNR. Topics included Access and Functional Needs, People First Language and how our collaborations have impacted the community. The PHL also presented a Partners in Policymaking session on emergency preparedness and the importance of sharing stories in the community.

The SAC attended the Autism Fair in Douglas County NV, in April which was hosted as part of the grant with Family Support Council. The SAC was able to provide family members with important information, resources, and other educational materials. Information on Alternative Diplomas was given and were directed to our website. Approximately 53 families attended the Autism Fair in Douglas County which included 24 vendors. The NGCDD Staff in attendance passed out 47 NGCDD bags with anti-bullying publication which also included other resources. Five family members inquired on rights for individuals with I/DD and 20 life stages were handed out.

Both the SAC and the NGCDD Intern attended the 27th Annual statewide Self-Advocacy Conference in Sacramento, CA in May. The SAC and Intern had a table where they handed out important information and resources. The SAC made several connections with the regional center in California. At this conference the SAC had the opportunity to give two presentations. The presentation on day one was on different types of relationships for individuals with I/DD and on day two the SAC presented on Sexuality 101 for individuals with I/DD. Approximately 500 self-advocates and family members attended the Sacramento conference and there was approximately 30 people in attendance at each presentation given by our SAC. Surveys were conducted with overall positive responses from attendees.

The Council sent out 75 copies of the anti-bullying publication to the Department of Human Services.

## 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. The SAC will include this information in the quarterly newsletter.

**Of Note:** Staff and Council Members continue to participate in various committees/councils and coalitions. This is consistent in all our duties and continues to promote communication, education, and self-advocacy. We have continued to disseminate information received during these meetings and to show support for matters concerning the I/DD community.

As part of our shared concerns within the I/DD network, the ED is the President of the NDALC Board, a member of the NDALC PAIMI Council, and a member of the NCED CAC Committee.

The PHL is also a member of the NDALC PAIMI Council.

Additional meetings attended by Council Staff include:

* Aging and Disability Community calls
* Virtual town halls on Accessible Transportation,
* Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Training and Technical Assistance webinars
* Employment First Committee meetings and Employment First Committee run by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
* DHHS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion forum
* SARTAC Grantee meetings
* Carson Agency Action Network (CAAN) meetings
* Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee meetings
* Rare Disease Advisory Council/Education Committee (RDAC)
* Medicaid Care Advisory Council (MCAC)
* Nevada Children’s Commission/Education Committee (NVCC)
* Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)
* NV Commission for Persons who are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing Commission meetings and meetings to discuss CRAVE Camp
* NVEP Vaxx, Department of Emergency Management (DEM)
* Olmstead Planning Meetings ADSD
* Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

## 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

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 demand. 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 demand. 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:** We continue to provide efforts aside from our grant to provide activities and materials that are accessible to all in the I/DD community. The PM had the opportunity to work with Marcia O’Malley founder of Mindful Media Services on a voice over for Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition for clearer accessibility. The NGCDD has been working closely with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) in creating accessible materials, as well as working with ASL Anywhere in distributing information digitally and physically. All material is readily available upon request and shared through different media. The NGCDD also made it accessible for those sharing testimony during legislative sessions.

The SAC received an email from Global Technical Communications (GTC) in April about getting more funding. The SAC discussed this with Catherine Nielsen, NGCDD Executive Director (ED). The SAC emailed GTC letting them know if we become aware of any outside funding, we would give them the information.

Four (4) individuals were not eligible due to one not having a cell number, two not disclosing the disability, and one not being deaf or hard of hearing. One individual decided to back out and felt she didn’t need the app. GTC reached out to 3 residents requested additional information such as cell number, city, total amount of annual income and number of adults and children living in the household. GTC asked 3 consumers to re-apply because they used the wrong application. The grantee provided the consumers technical assistance and online training. Surveys for the service providers were sent to NV Care Connection (NVCC) and the Division of Employment Training and Rehabilitation-Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (DETR-BVR), when their application was downloaded so they could keep track of the numbers of walk-ins, application support/guidance/training, consumer feedback, and other important information.

GTC attended the Camp Sign Shine-CRAVE Transition Day and provided information to attendees on the application and services.

GTC also reached out to those who have downloaded the app, have been awarded the packages, but have not yet utilized their minutes. The NVCC Centers are not able to use ASL Anywhere services as they don’t have any walk-in consumers yet. DETR-BVR Centers recently received the devices in May after a long wait.

Feedback received from consumers includes:

* “ASL Anywhere is an amazing app. I used it for medical and meetings. I need more hours for interpreting services.”
* “ASL Anywhere is great. It is a good app, and it is very useful when it has good reception, and I can connect the interpreter. But if it is in the very rural area (out in the country), there is not good coverage (very poor reception). I cannot connect with the interpreter.”
* “ASL Anywhere is the best thing I have ever had regarding communication with hearing person(s). Unfortunately, when I was at the clinic, the video quality was poor and was often frozen. Maybe it’s because of the firewall.”
* “I live in a very small town where one-site interpreters are not always available. I have serious health issues. It is a blessing to have the ASL Anywhere app. So, I get all the information I need to know. ASL Anywhere interpreters are very good at facilitating communication between me and medical people. It would be nice to have unlimited minutes. One 60-minute package is not sufficient. I can’t afford to pay for interpreting services.”
* “I really want to use ASL Anywhere app often, but my mobile device is very old and has poor connection. I can’t afford to buy a new mobile device.”
* “The ASL Anywhere app is very useful for my communication needs. I was frustrated because I was not able to use ASL Anywhere service at night. I had a situation where the police had to be involved and I could not use ASL Anywhere app because of after-hours. I had to communicate with the police by writing back and forth, which was not effective and efficient. People will need the service when it comes to emergencies.”

The funding for Nevada Mobile Communication Access Project is currently maxed out and GTC continues to accept and process the applications. GTC believes the individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing have full accessibility in communication by utilizing their application. They’re hopeful to secure funding from various funding streams to sustain their services across the state.

**Data:**  The Grantee received twenty-one (21) applications. Sixteen (16) applications and two (2) applications from DETR-BVR were processed.

The data showed that the new consumers got information mostly from agencies/services providers (8), meetings (2), and word of mouth (3). Eight (8) individuals asked for assistance in downloading the app and at the same time they received training on how to use the app. Two (2) individuals asked GTC to help them fill out the application. Five (5) out of 17 consumers submitted the survey.

Camp Sign Shine-CRAVE Transition Day: One parent and two adults received 60-minute packages.

As of June 30th, a total of ninety-six (96) consumers plus five (5) service providers, received 60-minute 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:** Feedback received on surveys highlight our emerging needs to be expanded resources and information on transition. We continue to gather information on differing needs from rural and tribal communities as well as from meetings with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM).

**GOAL 2:** (In House) 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) The SAC 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:** The NGCDD Staff attended Deaf Day at the Nevada Legislature. At this event we were able to connect with the Deaf and Hard of hearing community and advocate for their rights. The Council and Staff continue to support Self-Advocate Dora Martinez in her goals through her fellowship grant with Self-Advocates Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC). This grant aims to train people with disabilities on their rights and helping them to advocate for themselves to be better self-advocates.

The PHL used the health information binders at the Rural Summit Conference to provide information and resources on self-advocacy and health security. The PHL distributed 30 binders at this conference. The PHL also presented on behalf of the Council at the CRAVE Camp and provided 50 of the health information binders to participants. Additional information provided includes topics such as emergency preparedness and I/DD related material on being a self-advocate.

The SAC attended the Aktion Club of Carson Valley in June and presented on the iCanBike Camp. She emphasized the need for participant support and volunteers for those learning to ride a bike for the upcoming iCanBike Camp. There were 25 self-advocates in attendance and 12 parents/assistants in attendance.

## 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) The SAC 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:** The Y.E.S. video is almost complete with final edits. Encore created the video with support from staff. Printed materials will be made available in September 2023. The anticipated completion date and roll out is between September – October 2023.

## 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) The SAC 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) The SAC 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:** In May, the PM connected with the Mexican consulate to present a 30-minute presentation on the Council, its efforts, and the various resources/material offered. The PM provided information and answered questions in Spanish to the Hispanic community and all individuals with I/DD participating. This presentation and participation from The NGCDD opened a new connection to the Latinx community and individuals with I/DD and their families. The PM has been contacted and invited to speak in person to the Binational Education Week Celebration at the Mexican consulate of Las Vegas. This will be a great opportunity to provide education, resources, and material to all the culturally diverse attendees. Aside from these efforts we continue to make connections with culturally diverse groups, rural and tribal communities and make our material accessible to the Latinx I/DD community. The presentation for the Mexican Consulate had over 100 views on Facebook live.

## 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 nearly complete for 2023. The students have been very engaged with the presenters and always have questions. Most of the students are on track with completing homework assignments and online courses. The SAC is monitoring all students and gives support as needed. Graduation is anticipated to take place on August 12 at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Consumer Leadership Development Funds for Families – Staci Petralba applied for up to $2,500 for her family to travel to Orlando, FL for the CHARGE Syndrome Conference on July 20 – 23, 2023. Her presentation will take place at the December 2023 Full Council Meeting.

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 worked with Diana Rovetti from NCED to work out the details for iCanBike Camp in Gardnerville on June 26 – 30, 2023.

The NGCDD Staff attended the iCanBike Camp for the entire week. There were 23 self-advocates signed up. They all attend the 5-day bike camp, gaining the skills to ride a bicycle. There were several riders that were unsure about getting on the bicycles, but by the end of the camp all 23 riders were on bicycles with many of them riding independently.

Council staff and Diana Rovetti had conversations about continuing this partnership and continuing with the iCanBike program. Discussions included trying to bring this program to the rural communities to include Elko.

## 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:

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 3 Best Buddies conducted six training sessions for individuals with I/DD (3 in April and 3 in June). Also following the training for Individuals with I/DD, Best Buddies provided separate trainings for employers (3 total with two in April and 1 in June). Best Buddies reported that their impact continues to provide individuals with I/DD and employers information. This includes training and equipping individuals with essential skills and knowledge on employment rights and options in Nevada. At the same time, they continued to educate employers on fostering inclusive workplaces, and education on best practices for employing individuals with I/DD.

Best Buddies also used the feedback from the last quarter to lengthen their sessions allowing for follow-up on additional questions and one-on-one interaction with Best Buddies staff. This has helped to address more questions and concerns from the participants. Best Buddies has also extended their survey deadline to July 15, this in turn increased their completion rate to 90%. This adjustment has allowed individuals more time to reflect on their experiences and provide more valuable insight. With the increased response in surveys, they expect to collect higher feedback with insight on diverse perspectives, areas of improvement, and strengths. Also, Best Buddies has conducted follow-up phone calls and meetings with participants. This provides an invaluable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of individuals’ perspectives and engage in further dialogue on needs and goals. These conversations have helped foster open and honest conversations allowing for nuanced feedback and to better tailor the trainings.

The grantee has trained a total of 30 individuals with I/DD and 17 employers.

April 1- 10 individuals with I/DD were trained at the Best Buddies Office,6 Employers were trained. April 22- 12 individuals with I/DD were trained at Whitney Ranch Community Center, 7 Employers were trained. June 28- 8 individuals with I/DD were trained at the Best Buddies Office, 4 Employers were trained.

Employers who participated in the training were: Bank of America, Bellagio Casino, Clark County School District, Findlay Auto Group, Mountainview Hospital, Red 7 Communications, City of Henderson Recreation Department, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, EoS Fitness, Green Valley Ranch Resort, Jersey Mikes Subs, Move 4 Less, RSVP Party Rentals, CarMaxx, MGM Casinos, Securitas, and Station Casinos

## 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 I/DD will be educated on housing options and supports available. People with I/DD 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 I/DD. 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:** During this last quarter, the Kenny Guinn Center continued their collaboration with The Justin Hope Foundation. Many of the gaps and needs identified in the previous quarter studies have remained unchanged. The data and information gathered will be used for the final report. In this 3rd quarter The Guinn Center has been working with The Justin Hope Foundation in soliciting participant-based input on housing experiences for people with I/DD in Nevada through focus groups and surveys. These focus groups have concluded this quarter, but the surveys will remain open. Findings from these focus groups confirmed previous issues identified in the studies done by The Kenny Guinn Center. This time the Guinn Center was also able to confirm prevalent concerns like affordability, “aging caregivers”, and lack of preferred living arrangements.

All information will be included in the landscape policy report. This report will help identify all needs and gaps for future advisement for policy change and housing options for individuals with I/DD. During this quarter The Kenny Guinn Center has been drafting the landscape analysis policy report which will be finalized in the fourth quarter of FF 2023 thus completing the grant year. Aside from the landscape analysis policy report, The Kenny Guinn Center is working on a resource guide which they will be disseminating using various channels of communication and education. This too will be finalized by the end of the grant year. This resource will include pathways to seeking affordable housing and/or funding assistance as well as housing rights information.

## 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:** As previously noted the Justin Hope Foundation continues their partnership with the Kenny Guinn Center. In this last quarter both grantees collaborated in conducting three focus groups. Focus groups have been composed to replace the advisory committees that were originally discussed because of time limitations and trying to obtain other information.

The goal for the outcomes of these groups is to aid in a deeper understanding of housing options for people with I/DD. This information will help the Kenny Guinn Center in the development of their reports. These focus groups had a great outcome. All the focus groups reached capacity. Surveys were disseminated which will close in the 4th quarter. The Justin Hope Foundation had three focus groups on April 5th, 7th and 11th, which consisted of service providers, agencies, organizations, support networks, parents, caregivers, guardians, family, friends and self-advocates.

The collection of data and surveys from these focus groups will help increase information going into the final reports that will be disseminated into the I/DD community. Also, they anticipate meeting next quarter with Silver State Housing Council, Centers for Independent Living (North & South) and the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). These meetings will serve as informal advisory groups that will help in providing much needed information for the final report and resource guide. All the information and data collected will help bring educational content as well as a resource guide. This guide will then be disseminated by The Justin Hope Foundation.

## 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 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 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:** The Family Support Council supported the Douglas County Autism Fair in April. During the event they held a table and connected with community members seeking resources. The Family Support Council has been reaching out to Rural Regional Center via email, phone and in person to connect with their high school transition team and make connections with Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). Even though extensive internet research and networking with community partners has happened they have come across barriers and also identified gaps in the transition process. These gaps include connecting with families and resources not being available. This was brought up with DETR directly. They also encountered a barrier due to a delayed approval from the fair organizers for the post event surveys. The Family Support Council is drafting a third survey which they will be distributing within the community. They continue to reach out to community organizations, families, and other resource providers. It is a goal of the grantee to make the Autism Fair an annual event to connect with the community. There were 45 attendees at the Autism Fair, with a total of 18 post event surveys were completed and returned and 38 rights and services handouts distributed.

# 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.