**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2023**

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**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; Melissa Bart-Plange; Anna Marie Binder; Stacy Carlston; Taylor Chaney; Diana Davis; Ellen Frias-Wilcox; Jennifer Frischmann; Vickie Ives; Kathleen Kingston; Jack Mayes; Randall Owen; Ashley Price; Art Reitz; Brynlin Thornley; Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

NGCDD Members Absent: Lisa Bonie; Gabriel Tejada; Vivian Turner

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Alysa Marquez, Intern; Ellen Marquez, Self- Advocacy Coordinator; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant; Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison; Marisol Rivas, Project Manager

Public Present: ASL Interpreter Lacey; ASL Interpreter Leilani Solomon; Justine Adams; Keith Benson, Dr.; Bridget Bonheyo; Lea Case; Steven Cohen; Kristina Crawford; Jacqueline Davania-Williamson; Jen Gelhardt; Jannette Gomez; Patty Kuglitsch; Sharon Lewis, HMA; Lori Lutu; Dawn Lyons; Justine Magram; Benjamin Soukup; Dan Upton

**Land Acknowledgment**

Max Lowe, Council 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 Council Chair, Christine Riggi at 9:03 a.m.

Executive Assistant, Rebecca Ortiz verified that the agenda for this meeting was posted to the appropriate locations on September 1, 2023.

**Public Comment**

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

* Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director stated that the partners in policymaking course application is open and available to the public to apply. This will be for the 2024 class. She also stated the registration and application is open for the 2024 Self-Advocacy Conference. They are looking for speakers and keynotes. Lastly, she stated that a big announcement will be releasing from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at 9 am and she will be sharing it during the meeting once made.

# Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Riggi opened the floor for discussion of the June 1, 2023 minutes.

**Anna Marie Binder motioned to accept the June 1, 2023 as written. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Presentation and Discussion from Health Management Alliance (HMA)

Ms. Riggi deferred this item to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director.

Ms. Nielsen introduced Sharon Lewis, president of HMA, to provide information on current projects and need for collaboration to gather information from people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and families on Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). Ms. Lewis gave a PowerPoint presentation on the program and its goals. Ms. Lewis also shared a flyer on two virtual discussion forums HMA will be holding. She opened this item for discussion.

# Budget Committee

Ms. Riggi deferred this item to Vickie Ives, Budget Committee Chair for discussion.

Ms. Ives discussed the closeout of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023 funds and current subgrantee spend out estimates. She also stated a new designated state agency (DSA) representative has joined the budget committee, Lesa Galloway. She discussed the notice of funds available applications that were received and how none were received under objective 3.3. She discussed the recommendation made by the budget committee to move funds under objective 3.3 to different categories. Lastly, she discussed the fiscal training received by staff during the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities 2023 Annual Conference. She opened this item for discussion.

Ms. Ives invited Ms. Nielsen to provide further background on the recommendation made by the budget committee to move the funds under objective 3.3. Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “FFY 2024 NGCDD Activities, Timeline and Funding Matrix” and discussed the breakdown of FFY ’24 funds. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the Full Council move funds under objective 3.3 for up to $50,000 to the 2024 Self-Advocacy Conference and objectives 3.4 and 1.1 with $15,000 to the 2024 Self-Advocacy Conference (to be returned if unused), $25,000 to objective 3.4, and $10,000 to objective 1.1. Ms. Binder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Discussion and Awarding of FFY 2024 Notice of Funds Available Grant Funds

Ms. Riggi introduced this item to the council. She discussed each application received under the objectives 1.1, 3.2, and 3.4. She reiterated that no applications were received under objective 3.3. Ms. Riggi deferred to Ms. Nielsen for further conversation on the recommendations made by the evaluation committee for each objective. They opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the Full Council fund up to $50,000 to Global Technical Communications (GTC) under objective 1.1, up to $50,000 to Best Buddies under objective 3.2, up to $40,000 to Gigi’s Playhouse under objective 3.4, and up to $35,000 to the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC) under objective 3.4. Kathleen Kingston seconded the motion. The motion passed with Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh abstaining.**

# Executive Committee Updates

Mr. Lowe introduced this item to the council and deferred to Ms. Nielsen for further discussion.

Ms. Nielsen discussed updates from the executive committee and referred to the document titled “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION PROCESS 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 Stacey Alaribe, Policy Committee Chair for discussion.

Ms. Alaribe discussed the updates and recommendations to the following position statements: Sexuality and Sexual Health for People with I/DD, Health Care for People with I/DD, Mental Health Care for People with I/DD, Aging for People with I/DD, Education for People with I/DD, and Human and Civil Rights for People with I/DD. She invited Ms. Nielsen for a greater in-depth for each statement.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the documents titled “DRAFT Position Statement on Sexual Health”, “DRAFT Position on Health Care”, “DRAFT Position on Mental Health”, “DRAFT Position Statement on Aging”, and “DRAFT Position Statement on Education”. She gave an in-depth review of each document. She opened this item for discussion. Ms. Binder invited Dan Upton to discuss his input on the document titled “DRAFT Position on Mental Health”.

Position statements under this item were tabled and deferred to the next Policy committee meeting for further review, edits, and recommendations.

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

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

Ms. Rivas referred to the document titled " NGCDD FFY '23 Third Quarter Project Status Summary Report”. She gave an in-depth summary of its contents. She invited Ellen Marquez, Self-Advocacy Coordinator, to speak on efforts and initiatives under objectives 1.3, 2.4, and 3.1 including the current GTC grant, the partners in policymaking course, and the iCan Bike program respectively. She then invited Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison, to speak on efforts and initiatives under objective 1.1 including partnership with the Division of Emergency Management. She opened this item for discussion.

Ms. Rivas then present updates on the current FFY ’23 grants under objectives 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 respectively. This item was opened for discussion.

# Executive Director Updates

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

Ms. Nielsen discussed a proposed update to the HHS Section 504 regulations and guidance which went on display to the whole United States. The update states that this will be a critical tool for fighting disability discrimination and the Administration for Independent Living (ACL) is proud to have work on it. She stated she will share further information to the council so they can find detailed updates to the 504 regulations and guidance.

# Developmental Disabilities Network Partners Summary

Ms. Riggi deferred to Randall Owen from the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) and Mr. Mayes from the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC).

Mr. Mayes stated the NDALC is near year end and are doing a lot of wrap up on reporting for the near future, projects from this year, and new projects in the next year. The NDALC also continues its efforts in monitoring mental health services for children specifically residential treatment facilities and ensuring individuals are receiving services and being treated properly. He also discussed they are preparing for the upcoming presidential election including working with the council in creating videos on voting rights. He also discussed the update to the 504 regulations from 1973. He discussed how the regulations are more broad topics than specific regulations and stated his excitement to see how the updates plays out in helping create more details and following ADA standards. He opened this time for discussion.

Dr. Owen presented information on current projects and initiatives being done by NCED. He stated most of the current updates from the NCED were shared with the council last week through a new quarterly newsletter they will be doing. He also highlighted the call to parents that was sent out for those interested in the parent-to-parent network. The deadline says the end of August, but he encouraged parents that are still interested to email Marcia O’Malley. He stated she still has room for additional parents. He also highlighted the Nevada Special Education Technology Assistance Program (NSETAP). It expands their Assistive Technology program and is a partnership with the Department of Education. It is a bit different from the AT program. They work with educators and any professional in a school setting to make them more knowledgeable about assistive technology and provide training. This is open to any school district in Nevada. It is not a new program, but it wasn’t very utilized. They hope to bring more light to the program with this transition. He 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 gave the floor to Jannette Gomez, Oral Health Program Coordinator, and Dr. Keith Benson, State Dental Health Officer. They gave a presentation on the oral health “Every Smiles Matters Nevada” program. They shared the program’s information, eligibility requirements, and priorities. They opened this item for discussion.

# Parent/Family Member/Advocate Updates

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

Ms. Kingston stated she will be attending a conference in October called “Together for Choice”. It is about housing options and about “Live, Work, Thrive” in a setting of the person with I/DD’s choice. It is a non-profit and its goal is to create and expand high quality options for all people with I/DD. It is October 4-6, 2023 in Las Vegas, NV.

# Agenda Items for Consideration

Ms. Riggi inquired if anyone had anything they would like to have on future agendas.

Mr. Lowe wanted to start the discussion on travel and travel options. He has begun creating a “How-To” guide based on his experiences and in plain language to help others. He has learned a lot of information and tips. He opened this item for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen added that she will be working with Mr. Lowe to create an official document to share; and because of Max’s initiative, this topic will be brought to the 2024 Self-Advocacy Conference. They have also reached out to Southwest Airlines to possibly give a presentation or training. She also discussed the position statements that were tabled. She opened this item for discussion.

# Next Meeting Date

Ms. Riggi stated the next Council meeting is December 7, 2023 at 9 a.m. and will be via ZOOM.

# Public Comment

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

* Ms. Alaribe stated the Buddy Walk will be this Saturday, September 9 ,2023 at 8 am and located at the Swift Sportsdome on South Meadows Parkway.
* Ms. Nielsen clarified the Buddy walk is for Northern Nevada. The Southern Nevada Buddy Walk will be held October 8, 2023. Staff will be there at both, and she will be sharing further information with the council.
* Steven Cohen submitted public comment. He stated besides the SAC, yesterday’s meeting will be his last Council meeting/event until June 2025, at the earliest. He will be embarking on a life-changing full-time opportunity with the IRS on the 26th. This is certainly not goodbye but see you later. He will remain available to consult with the disability community select evenings and weekends. Unfortunately, his plans to run for office that he had announced this June have also been thwarted. As for consultation, before he starts, he was lucky enough to secure an in-person meeting with Senator, Majority Leader Cannizzaro, on Tuesday afternoon. If folks have any ideas for BDRs for the ‘25 Session, please send them to him, ideally by EOD on Monday. If folks (both members and public), don’t already have his cell and/or E-mail for that purpose, please feel free to share it widely. He imagines that this will not be the last pre-Legislative meeting to occur with any disability-friendly Legislator.

# Adjournment

Ms. Riggi adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.