**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2023**

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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; Heather Lafferty; Max Lowe; Jack Mayes; Santa Perez; Renee Portnell; Cindi Swanson; Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Frischmann; Dora Martinez; Christine Riggi; Jodi Thornley; Vivian Turner

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

NGCDD Staff Absent: Alysa Marquez, Intern; Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe, at 10:05 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on September 18, 2023.

# 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.

# Public Comment

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

* Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director stated the Partners in Policymaking course application is still open. Three applications have been received so far. The council is looking to get more. The course is virtual. She also stated the registration and application is open for the 2024 Self-Advocacy Conference. They are looking for speakers and keynotes. Anyone interested can be sent the council’s way. The information for both items mentioned above can be found on the council’s website.

# Approval of Minutes from the August 2023 Meeting

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the August 24, 2023 Committee meeting minutes. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the August 24, 2023 Committee meeting minutes as written. Jack Mayes seconded the motion. The motion carried with Santa Perez abstaining.**

**Voting Videos**

Ms. Alaribe invited Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, to present information on voting and election videos.

Ms. Nielsen gave an overview of the videos that will be created in partnership with the Secretary of State’s office (SOS) along with other community partners, the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. She spoke on how they have been great to work with in beginning this project. She spoke on the previous videos created under the production company they will be working with such as the “Our World in Our Worlds” video project. She welcomed any volunteers that would want to appear in the videos. She opened this item for discussion.

# Position Statements

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

Ms. Nielsen gave information on the return of each position statement from the Full Council meeting on September 7, 2023 to this committee. She referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position on Mental Health”. She discussed the background for this position statement and gave an in-depth summary. She also discussed the recommendations presented during the Full Council meeting. She opened this item for discussion.

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

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position on Health Care”. She discussed the background for this position statement and gave an in-depth summary. She also discussed the recommendations presented during the Full Council meeting. She opened this item for discussion.

**Cindi Swanson motioned to recommend to the Full Council for discussion and adoption the “DRAFT Position on Health Care” with the recommended changes. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Perez objecting.**

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

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

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position Statement on Human and Civil Rights”. She discussed the background for this position statement and gave an in-depth summary. She also discussed the recommendations presented during the Full Council meeting. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to recommend to the Full Council for discussion and adoption the “DRAFT Position Statement on Human and Civil Rights” with the recommended changes. Mr. Mayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Next Meeting Date

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on October 19, 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.

* Ms. Alaribe stated that the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) 2023 conference is coming up in November. She may be attending the conference to give a presentation on behalf of her leadership group, Nevada Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NvLEND). Her presentation will be on mental health for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
* Mr. Lowe stated that he will be attending the Arc National Convention in November in New Orleans, LA. He also stated that he will be applying for the 2024 Paul G. Hearne Emerging Leaders Award for the topic that he plans on presenting during the 2024 National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) conference. He encouraged others to apply as the award goes from $2,500.00 up to $7,500.00.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.