NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

­­­Project Status Summary

FFY’ 23 Fourth Quarter Project Status Summary

For the period of July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023.

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**GOAL 1: (In House) Individuals with 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) Self-Advocacy coordinator 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) Self-Advocacy coordinator 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:**

The Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC) and our intern attended the Buddy Walk for the Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada (DSNNN) on September 9, 2023. This was a well-attended event with approximately 800 people participating. There were 12 vendors at the event with 35 people stopping at the Councils table. Information handed out was about bullying, transition from middle school to high school and transitioning into adulthood, the alternative diploma option guidance and life stages tool guides. Many parents inquired about IEP and 504 assistance, and 3 health information binders were handed out.

The SAC attended the Supported Decision-Making (SDM) webinar hosted by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) on September 13, 2023. This was well attended by the Developmental Disabilities Councils from other States. The discussion pertained to alternatives to guardianship. The discussion included what guardianship is, why family members want to obtain guardianship, how guardianship is presented to a person with a disability and a statistical rise in guardianships since 1995. The discussion included what SDM is, how it gives a better quality of life with support, how those who have SDM are more likely to have a paid job, live independent, have friends other than family and staff, go on dates and even get married. It also included that SDM is not “a one size fits all” agreement, that it is created by the person with a disability to include trusted people for support in receiving accurate information and making decisions.

The Projects Manager and the Executive Assistant for the Council traveled to the Mexican Consulate in Las Vegas on 8/18/23 to attend their Binational Education Week. Staff held a table at the Mexican Consulate where we were able to speak to several attendees in Spanish and give them important educational material, as well as resources and our emergency binders. We were able to meet with local community organizations and also inform them of the council’s work. One of the organizations in attendance was AzulBlue which we have worked closely with in the Latinx community. There were approximately 15 organizations and 50 family members of people with I/DD in attendance. We distributed a lot of educational materials, including 10 binders as well as leaving material for distribution for the Consulate. This was a great collaboration and we also brought back new resources for the I/DD community. One parent present at the event took a lot of information for her son who has a developmental disability and she told us she appreciates all the resources and information she can get.

## 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. Self-Advocacy coordinator will include this information in the quarterly newsletter.

* The Executive Director is the President of the NDALC Board, a member of the NDALC PAIMI Council, and a Member of the NCED CAC Committee.

**Of Note:**

All staff attended the NACDD Annual Conference in Orlando, Fl on July 24 – 28, 2023.

The Executive Director, Executive Assistant, and the Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC) attended the Information and Technical Assistance Center (ITACC) budget information training session on July 24, 2023. The discussion included match for grantees, allowable reimbursement for Designated State Agencies (DSA), what falls under State Plan and administrative expenses.

The SAC attended the “Sexual Self-Advocate” session on July 26, 2023. The session included the difference between sex (the physical act) and sexuality (topics and covers many aspects of humanity and our culture), self-advocacy, speaking up for yourself and to be able to ask questions. The session also included the role of a sexuality educator and what makes a good sexuality educator.

The SAC attended “Engaging Youth and Young Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)” on July 27, 2023. This session was presented by the Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Minnesota (University Center for Excellence in Disabilities, UCED). The session included Guardianship Alternatives and Transfer of Rights (GATOR) and the Center for Youth Voice, Youth Choice (CYCVC). The GATOR project is a 4-year project which examines the transfer of rights and guardianship discussions in schools. Transfer of Rights (ToR) is the transfer of rights to the student upon turning 18.

The SAC attended a panel of self-advocates discussing their experiences related to alternatives to guardianship on July 27, 2023. This session was presented by College Matters Florida and the Florida DD Council. This session gave suggestions on how to engage people with I/DD in public speaking. People with I/DD do not need to be able to read or write to engage in public speaking, it is best if they tell their stories. This keeps the information authentic as the information does not need to be perfect. It enables the person with I/DD to be involved in decisions that are made.

The SAC attended the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee meeting on August 15, 2023, in Reno, NV. There was a collaborating breakfast prior to the meeting so the Committee could meet with other organizations that are giving support to NOMHE. The SAC connected with several of the Committee members, one of which was Patricia Gallimore from the NAACP, Reno/Sparks Chapter.

The SAC attended the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Forum via ZOOM on August 30, 2023. This forum had approximately 200 people in attendance. The meeting was led by Tina Dortch, Manager for the Office of Minority, Health, and Equity.

The SAC was invited to give a presentation about the NGCDD at the Rural Regional Staff meeting. There were approximately 30 people in attendance. The presentation was “NGCDD: Who we are and what we do.” There were a few comments stating they did not know we were a partner agency with the State and that they know who they can reach out to for questions and information.

The SAC attend the Special Education Advisory Board (SEAC) training and meeting on September 21-22, 2023. There were approximately 25 people in attendance at each session. The training focused on the New Member Orientation, the Board’s Bylaws and Open Meeting Law. The meeting reviewed the annual report before being submitted to the State Board of Education. There was a discussion on priorities the Board would like to focus on during the 2023-2024 year. There were two presentations. There was a presentation on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Dispute Resolution. Christi Hines-Coates, Office of Inclusive Education, lead the discussion on the process for resolving issues for students with disabilities. The other presentation was on Nevada Special Education Technology Assistance Project (NSETAP). Felicia Rutledge, UNR-NCED Project Coordinator, discussed the program and the collaboration with the Office of Inclusive Education in assisting students with disabilities and technology needs.

The Projects Manager attended the storytelling workshop where the I/DD community was able to share their feelings and experiences through writing. This workshop in particular provided information to self-advocates about being able to write and communicate their feelings. The anticipation is this information will be included in upcoming training courses for the community.

The Projects Manager also presented for the Partners and Policymaking class via zoom on July 19, 2023. Information was provided on the upcoming YES training for the community. Information was provided on the educational advantages of having a transitional programs in middle schools and high schools. The information also included how to contact us for materials. Additionally, the SILC will be taking over distributing the information to the public through their 2024 grant with our office.

The Projects Manager has also attended the SARTAC meetings in support of Self Advocate Dora Uchel Martinez, who has been working through her grant on educating other Self Advocates on voting and rights. Council staff support Ms. Uchel Martinez by attending meetings for guidance and ensuring she is meeting the required items.

The Project Manager also attended the Employment First Committee meetings where Employment issues for the I/DD community were discussed and collaboration discussions on what needs to be worked on for upcoming legislative agendas. Discussion also surrounded the urgency to ensure employment is taking priority.

Planning for the Silver State Self-Advocacy Conference has begun with the Planning Committee. This committee is comprised of volunteers from around the state from the I/DD community. This event is for and by the I/DD community. This event will be taking place in Reno, NV on August 6 & 7, 2024. This committee is responsible for selecting speakers and the content of the conference.

The Projects Manager also attends the NACDD update calls and provides pertinent information to the Executive Director. The PM also attended the DHHS DEI Forum on 8/30/23 to provide input related to the I/DD community and the Council.

## 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 model 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 the 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 according to individual, and agency demands. 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 demands. 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:**

The Projects Manager is currently working on a Partners in Policymaking update class. These classes are to provide information to the graduates of the Partners in Policymaking program to provide updates on any information they were provided. This includes policies, programs, and information that has changed. This also includes information not provided during previous classes. These classes will take place on November 15th and December 13th.

The Projects Manager also worked on our new Lend Library. We have listed several books for lending on our website. Several books were donated, and we have listed them to be checked out by anyone in need. These books range from educational books, recipe books, inspirational stories, and anyone in need of information that impacts the I/DD community. All of these books are free to check out through our office.

During this final quarter, Global Technical Communications (GTC) reviewed applications for ASL Anywhere for eligibility for interpreting service. They received 13 applications and processed 12 applications. At times GTC asks the consumers for more information as their application is incomplete. The consumers receive a notification that they are eligible for the ASL Anywhere app with the attachment of the manual for downloading the app and how to use it. GTC also follows up with the consumers to see if they need training on using the app. Also, GTC notifies individuals and businesses that they need to be eligible. The one application was not eligible because they worked in a medical setting.

Per DETR-BVR’s request, GTC provided “refreshing” training on July 19. A newly revised consumer manual on downloading and using the app was sent to NVCC and DETR-BVR for their reference.

GTC has provided individuals with training on how to use the ASL Anywhere app. GTC developed a short email with a short video, “Back to School.” The purpose was to encourage consumers, parents, guardians, or relatives to use the ASL Anywhere app when visiting classroom teachers, principals, counselors, and more. The grantee received inquiries about ASL Anywhere services for educational, medical, and retail settings. Some businesses stated they work with or serve deaf and hard-of-hearing customers and wondered if they would be eligible for the ASL Anywhere app.

A prepared email regarding the Audiologist’s Visit video was disseminated to the consumers, state personnel, NVCC, and DETR-BVR. GTC continued to monitor the consumers’ and service providers’ usage of the app. GTC contacted some consumers who seemed to be experiencing technical issues and assisted them in resolving them. GTC drafted and sent emails and texts with signed videos encouraging the consumers to use the app.

GTC provided information about the upcoming survey. GTC met with Nevada State University and discussed possibly providing ASL Anywhere interpreting services to their faculty and students.

GTC followed up with Nevada Cares Connections (three centers) and asked them if they had any walk-in consumers during July, August, and September. They responded that they had none. Most of NVCC’s clients were served via video relay or captioned phone and email correspondence. JFSA is working with the marketing firm to increase outreach. NCVV in Reno and Elko continue to provide outreach services to the deaf community to inform them of the app and their ability to serve them.

GTC followed up with the DETR-BVR and asked them if they had any walk-in consumers during July, August, and September. GTC received the first survey from West Bay (Las Vegas). They stated they were working on getting better WIFI.

GTC prepared and sent the survey to everyone via email and text. They called some consumers and asked them to give their testimonials about ASL Anywhere. One consumer was willing to do a video to share his experience using the app at the car/truck dealership.

GTC provided technical support to the consumers who had problems connecting the interpreters. They connected with 2 residents and asked them to re-apply as they used the wrong application. These residents asked for assistance in filling out the application, how to download the app and they received training on how to use the app.

GTC participated in the Nevada Evaluation Committee Meeting on August 10, 2023. GTC gave a presentation at the Commission on Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing meeting on August 16, 2023. Several consumers contacted GTC and asked for more minutes or wanted to know when they would get more.

GTC participated in Ally/Partner Meeting – Collaborative Team Meeting on August 25. GTC participated in the NV Secretary of State/NV EASE meeting on August 31 and provided a flyer for those needing ASL Anywhere services.

GTC collected the surveys and put in the data and sent thank-you emails to all consumers who completed the survey.

One consumer received assistance from GTC in filling out the applications for ASL Anywhere. During the conversation the consumer asked if GTC could help her find a job. GTC referred them to DETER-BVR.

The need for more minutes remained prevalent, with many users requesting additional minutes. Most of them used their allocated minutes for medical visits, and some consumers were unaware that 60 minutes were allotted for the entire year.

Positive Feedback included:

“I love ASL Anywhere. I used the app when I was at the salon, doctor’s office, and retail store. The interpreters were good. Communication was very clear.”

“Since I could not get an interpreter for my medical appointments, I used ASL Anywhere. ASL Anywhere is a great interpreting service! The interpreters are GREAT! I give them the rating of 9-10. I plan to use the app next week!”

“ASL Anywhere is very important for my communication needs. Interpreters are important because they help me communicate with the people. I used it when I was at the coffee shop as I loved drinking coffee and mingling with my hearing friends. Before I went to the doctor’s office, I made a request for a sign language interpreter. The office said they would take care of it. When I arrived at the doctor’s office, someone at the office said she forgot to make arrangements. I had to use ASL Anywhere app to talk with my doctor. I am very happy with ASL Anywhere service and interpreters.”

Negative Feedback included:

“One problem was it took a while to connect the interpreter.”

“I used ASL Anywhere app when I met with my child’s teacher at school. I also used it at the store. The app was very useful especially when my wife and I discussed my child’s health issues with the doctor. I love ASL Anywhere. The interpreters were great!”

“Sometimes I experienced some technical issues such as black screen and long connection. I was very disappointed that 60 minutes was good for one whole year. I was hoping to get 60 minutes each month.”

“Sometimes the signals are not good. The quality of the video sometimes is not that great (freezing). However, I am very satisfied with ASL Anywhere.”

“Sometimes the video is frozen. Sometimes the interpreters misunderstood me because of different signs in Nevada. (Note: there are regions in the United States where the signs are different.)”

## 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:**

Please see the additional report from the Public Health Liaison that provides information on the work that is being performed under the emerging need’s objective moving forward. Public Health has been identified as an official emerging need.

**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) Self-Advocacy coordinator 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:**

Staff are working to secure details for the Silver State Self-Advocacy Conference. A venue has been selected. Self-Advocates have been contacted for their input/support. More information is provided on this under objective 1.2. Staff surveyed the venue to ensure that it will meet all accessibility needs for the public. This includes the hotel rooms, conference space, and the hotel grounds.

NDALC and the NCED will be working to provide support to the conference in the form of funds and staff support. The NDALC will be paying for accommodations for accessibility and the NCED is providing bags for the attendees to collect information from vendors and networking opportunities.

## 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) Self-Advocacy coordinator 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 Youth Empowering Students (YES) video is completed. We will be transitioning the videos over to the SILC for use with their grant. This includes the materials that support the video. The SILC (as part of their grant under transition) will be providing this information to the students in high school/middle school across the state.

## 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) Self-Advocacy coordinator 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) Self-Advocacy coordinator 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:**

We have continued to receive requests for information from the Latinx community, translated into Spanish. We have translated almost all materials into Spanish and will provided them to those that request them. Additionally, these will be provided at all upcoming educational resource events.

Additionally, we the Council has purchased a Braille printer. Fiscal and Staff are working to finalize delivery of the printer and training of staff to utilize the printer. We are hopeful that we will be able to use the printer to translate materials into Braille for those that are visually impaired.

The Executive Director was appointed as a member of the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Council staff have been working with the Commission to plan the Deaf Engagement Conference. Focus has been on ensuring that there is access provided to those who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. This includes access to information during their events. Support will be provided to the Commission and the Nevada Association of the Deaf to put on their Deaf Engagement Conference. This includes funding for interpreters and room moderators during the event. Council Members have volunteered to provide support as well.

## 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 Class of 2023 has been completed. The graduation ceremony was held in Reno, NV at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Students and one family member for each student were brought from Las Vegas to attend. There were 15 students that graduated. One student was unable to attend the graduation due to personal reasons. All students received Certificates of Completion. In attendance were Nevada Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen; Allison Genco, Public Health Resource Officer from the Governor’s Office; Candace Lopez, Regional Representative from the office of Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto. Senator Jacky Rosen recorded a video congratulating the students on their success and continued support to the disability community.

Staci Petralba applied for the Consumer Leadership Development Fund (CLDF) for up to $2,500 for a family to attend an out-of-state conference. The family attended the CHARGE Syndrome Conference in Orlando, FL on July 20-23, 2023.

**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 reached out to the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) to begin planning for the 2024 iCanBike Camps.The SAC will continue to reach out to offer support during scheduled camps from the Council and Office Staff. Currently, there is an iCanBike Camp scheduled for Reno, NV on June 17-21, 2024. The NCED is looking into scheduling a camp in Las Vegas as well. Scheduling for a camp in Elko will take place for 2025, as the time/effort is much greater in the rural portions of the state. The SAC will be reaching out to the Nevada Disability and Advocacy Law Center (NDALC) in Elko to find a place that could accommodate the camp in the future.

## 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 the 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:**

The Council has been having conversations with Best Buddies to make an extension for their reporting. Additional information will be included in the report for the December 7th Council Meeting. The organization has had a change in staff causing a delay in the process. Best Buddies has been an exceptional grantee and we have granted them an extension on their financial reimbursement, as well as their reporting. They have completed their anticipated objectives, with a final update to come.

The SAC attended Ticket to Work Webinar via ZOOM on August 23, 2023. The webinar explained what the Social Security Ticket to Work Program is, who qualifies and what the program does. The service providers that work with the program are Employment Networks (EN), Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA). The person with a disability is the ONLY one who can decide if they want to work and if work is the right choice for them. The presenter also dispelled the myth that working and being on Social Security Insurance (SSI) is a bad option. Contrary, it benefits the person on SSI. There is a formula they use which increases the amount of money a person gets from just being on SSI. An example is:

SSI Payment $914

Wages $405

By Law don’t count $20 -$20

$385

By Law don’t count $65 of wages -$65

$320

By Law don’t count ½ of this amount -$160

Wages counted $160 (this is subtracted from SSI)

SSI Payment while working = $754 + 405 = $1,159 for this month. This is $245 more than just SSI.

## 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 intellectual and/or developmental disabilities will be educated on housing options and supports available. People with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities 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 intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. 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:**

We have been in close contact with the Guinn Center in the finalization/completion of their grant. Due to their commitment to ensuring the produced report is complete and accurate, they have asked for a short extension to finalize their editing. This report will outline and detail all the information gathered with the Justin Hope Foundation. This report will be included in the December 7th Council Meeting packet. This report will be the go-to reference for data for all stakeholders and all individuals in the I/DD community to reference too. This unification of information allows for a more accessible and person-centered report. The grantee will be available at the December 7th Council meeting to answer any questions the Council may have.

## 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:**

During the previous quarter all focus groups reached capacity and the focus was put on disseminating electronic surveys. The purpose of these surveys was to seek out lived experiences of individuals with I/DD and other actionable changes in Nevada’s housing landscape. Also, to seek out those who are passionate about change and those offering real impact information are the ones who are experiencing the issues firsthand. Feedback statements being of importance for project momentum. The primary collective goal being to support the Guinn Centers Housing Inventory by involving individuals with I/DD’s and their networks to take on active roles and bring insight, experiences, and guide in making an informative housing service system in the state. The survey received over 2000 responses but due to a wide range of dissemination the survey experienced unwanted spam also. They were able to extract impactful information from Nevada tagged responses.

Two training were conducted in September and twelve individuals were educated. One training was geared towards self -advocates and the other for case managers working with the I/DD population. They have made these trainings in Spanish and English and incorporated in their program curriculum and will continue to education on these topics statewide (virtually & in person). They continue to work with community stakeholders and will continue to provide survey data and feedback to NGCDD to showcase long term impact. Surveys were also conducted at these trainings, to collect data and impact of training.

An informal committee was formed throughout the grant cycle which played a pivotal role in shaping their educational content. Through their invaluable firsthand experiences and perspectives, they were able to gain deeper insights into key issues on critical areas such as gaps in housing service needs, transitional barriers, affordability challenges, and the broader sentiments around housing for the I/DD community. The primary issue identified was that individuals do not know service supports exist to support their independent living journey. Members also participated in the focus groups.

Additionally, in their endeavor to support this committee, they have ensured that all members are provided with essential resources and support throughout the process. This not only enhances their participation but also empowers them to be effective advocates for change. The formation of this advisory committee has been a cornerstone of this project which has helped pave the way for holistic, informed, and impactful solutions for housing in the I/DD community and also in determining the effectiveness in ensuring the project’s objectives are met and the committee is making a difference. Members are encouraged to share success stories as well as feedback and impactful experiences.

As stated previously Justin Hope collaborated with The Guinn Center in an effort to streamline resources and focus group data. This all in an effort to integrate it into The Guinn Center’s broader housing report. The report will then be the go-to reference for data for all stakeholders and all individuals in the I/DD community to reference too. This unification of information makes it more accessible and person- centered. Cost wise this has also helped unify costs to make the work more cost effective.

Impact of Activity: They hope their collaboration with the Guinn Center will provide a unified and comprehensive report. The combined data has made for a broader and more strengthened look at housing needs and also policy recommendations, funding requests and other advocacy initiatives making it a great resource. Aligning with a recognized entity like the Guinn Center also bolstered the credibility of the data and findings.

## 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 intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (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 intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (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 topics of interest and available options. Consumer Surveys will be conducted after each event and reported in each quarterly report showing a collection of information gathered and any impacts.

**Of Note:**

This grantee failed to meet several of their activities. Council staff met with them on several occasions to try and rectify the situation and create new plans. However, even with these efforts the grantee did not meet the minimum outcomes. The Council received a request to extend the grant after the grant had expired. Due to the lack of productive work on the grant and the request coming after the deadline, the request for an extension was denied.

In this last quarter FSC was able to get 18 completed surveys back and only produced a resource list for resources in the community. This list is on their site and can be accessed. They also produced a paper version that was distributed to 10 local businesses and provided to local schools. Even though there was outreach the number of individuals with IDD, family and professionals that needed to be educated lacked in numbers. The grantee has been distributing resources and material on rights but has failed to provide what outreach events they were for as well. Even though schools were contacted to distribute the resource information no effort was made to develop a curriculum for these schools and provide them with an educational platform on transition. Grantee states that have communicated with over 500 community members but have no data, deliverables or impact statements on this communication.

Impact Statements from Surveys:

1. An IDD Family member expressed, “This was such an amazing event. I now have the information I need to support my family members. This has been a tremendous help for my child, and I feel confident that I can access the support not just for my daughter but also for myself.”

2. Another IDD family member, who is a new mother to a recently diagnosed high functioning ADD 4-year-old, shared, “I had no resources before today’s event. Thank you for providing me with this valuable resources.”

3. Another Family member found the event extremely helpful in locating resources within Douglas County and emphasized the need for more readily available information in Douglas County Schools.

4. An Individual highlighted the importance of continuing such events, stating, “This needs to be done more. It was a lot of fun. More people should help.”

**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 have 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 affected 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 demonstrate a high degree of success and the possibility of replication in other agencies or settings but has not been tested.