NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

­­­Project Status Summary

 FFY’ 24 First Quarter Project Status Summary

For the period of October 1, 2023, through December 31, 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, support, 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:**

As we move through FFY24 the Council has continued to disseminate materials on emergency preparedness and other resources on rights, services, and options available in the community. Information disseminated included upcoming opportunities on advocacy and conversations related to health, policy, employment, agendas of public meetings, and the Olmstead Plan. We continue to share on our social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. We continue to see an increase of community engagement from the I/DD community and continue to disseminate resources from our Federal, State, community organizations, and providers across the nation. This sharing of resources hopefully creates meaningful collaborations of sharing materials beyond the scope of what the DD Council anticipates.

Our ongoing relationship with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and Heather Lafferty, as their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion / Access and Functional Needs (DEI/AFN) Coordinator continues. Our Public Health Liaison over the last three months has been involved in taking additional FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) courses allowing her to have a seat at the table during an activation and other special events. With the goal mission of becoming a Certified Emergency Manager for our state. We continue to add to our registry of Volunteers of individuals with I/DD’s their families and or friends that would like to participate in training exercises with Emergency Managers (EM).

Weekly updates are still given through the NV AFN Disaster Coalition Workgroup: “Wednesday Situational Brief”. With over 140 participants across state agencies, local non-profits, and other key stakeholders within the disability community.

The Projects Manager had the opportunity to Attend the ARC National Convention in New Orleans November 6-8, 2023. This was the first year attending this convention, and it was a great opportunity. The attendance was great with over 800 attendees, it was great to meet so many people from the different Arc Chapters from all over the US. Also attending from Nevada was our Council Vice Chair Maxmillian Kim Lowe who was part of the questioning of the Journey to Meaningful Work Symposium. This particulate panel consisted of individuals with I/DD’s who have overcome barriers and challenges and now have employment they love. Also, their initial keynote speaker Chris Ulmer taught about the importance of interacting with the community and all the unique individuals in the I/DD communities who are unique and deserve to be treated with the same respect and admiration as anyone else.

Council Staff assisted in the production of the Nevada Deaf and Hard of Hearing Engagement Conference in Las Vegas on December 16th. This conference brought together individuals from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, Council Staff were present at the event. Topics included conversation on advocacy for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC) and the Executive Director actively participated in the Nevada Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Conference held on October 19-21, 2023, where several sessions were attended.

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Inclusion session discussed the Combination of academics with real-life skills in CTE courses and highlighted the positive impact of CTE on graduation rates, emphasizing student purpose and motivation. They identified existing challenges such as the absence of inclusion for Special Education Students, class difficulty, safety concerns, and scheduling issues, but they are advocating for a shift towards special education students’ strengths, ensuring accessibility, and teaching necessary accommodations for future employment.

The Condom Sense – Sexual Education and Healthy Relationships session discussed myths surrounding sex and disabilities stressing the importance of educating individuals with disabilities about sexuality for fostering understanding and cultivating healthy relationships.

The Self-Determination for Students session explored strategies to help students reach their potential, starting as early as 3 years old through active participation in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). They emphasized the significance of fostering self-reporting skills and allowing students to set their own criteria. They suggested identifying champions who can positively advocate for students in special education that can impact students' skills by discussing strengths and weaknesses.

The Meaningful Participation in the Community session discussed empowering students with disabilities to make decisions and be heard in the community. They introduced the concept of Unified Champion Schools in partnership with Special Olympics, promoting inclusive youth leadership and focusing on commonalities rather than disabilities.

The Resources to Support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students session discussed expanding the definition of culture beyond race and ethnicity, and myths related to language use, code switching, and language exposure. They shared statistics, including the observation that over 80% of white students are in regular class settings, and identified barriers such as language, lack of interpreters, transportation, childcare, limited special education knowledge, and cultural differences.

## 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. Including:

**Of Note:**

Our Public Health Liaison continues her support and attendance at various councils, commissions, coalitions, committees, and boards. Covering areas of Transportation, Employment, Self- Advocacy, Health, Emergency Preparedness, including ones that   were specific to the Deaf and Hard of hearing Community and the community involvement of the Crave camp. CANN, Resilience, NGCDD Full Council/Subcommittees, Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center- Board of Directors & PAMI Council (NDALC), Rare Disease Advisory Council/Education Committee (RDAC), Nevada Children's Commission/Education Committee (NVCC), Nevada System of Higher Education (NESHE), NV Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NVEP Vaxx, Department of Emergency Management (DEM), Olmstead, Southern Independent Living Council Employment (SILC), Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC), Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association- Summit Planning Committee  (NEPA) .

The Projects Manager has been in attendance for the SARTAC meetings in support of Self Advocate, Dora, who has been working hard on her grant on educating other Self Advocates on voting and rights. This grant is supported by SARTAC, but the NGCDD is providing participant support in the form of assistance in obtaining resources and filling out documents.

Meetings have continued for the Silver State Self- Advocacy Conference with our Planning Committee. The committee is responsible for choosing the speakers and topics for the event.

Other meetings and committees attended by the Projects Manager were the ADSD Town Hall Meeting on November 2, 2023, which briefed on their Olmstead Plan on expanding opportunities for Individuals with I/DD’s and the communities they choose to live in. Additionally, staff continue to attend the White House Public Engagement Aging and Disability calls.

The SAC actively participated in several key meetings, contributing valuable insights and observations.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Town Hall was held on October 13, 2023, in Reno and had approximately 25 individuals that attended this session. The focus was on the need for enhanced support within schools for both students and professionals working with the deaf or hard of hearing. Concerns were raised regarding the continuous claim by school districts of insufficient funding to support professionals who are deaf, adding there's an ongoing shortage of qualified interpreters for schools. Attendees also discussed the absence of a dedicated club or facility for social gatherings and meetings for the deaf or hard of hearing community.

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Town Hall was held on November 11, 2023, via ZOOM. This town hall highlighted a substantial 35-40% employment vacancy rate in Nevada. Attention was given to improving communication between stakeholders and VR staff, with assurances that efforts are underway to enhance these connections. They stated there's a transition for their website from VRNV.org to VRNV.gov.

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting was held on November 29, 2023, via ZOOM. The meeting began with matters related to Special Education, which provided an opportunity for collaborative discussions and decision-making.

A discussion was held on the IDEA Priority Improvement Project to include Retention and Recruitment. This is a grant to be used for marketing and advertising for recruitment, not to be used for to fund positions.

A presentation for Nevada Transitions Roadmap through Innovative Partnership Project (Nevada TRIP) was reviewed. It was explained that this is to give the State Performance Plan (SPP)/Academic Progress Rate (APR) a story in chronological order for indicators.

The Office of Inclusive Education gave an update on what is happening Federally, how the office defines responsibilities, and what needs general supervision.

## 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:**

Producing the signed contract for this grant proved to be a difficult process during this quarter. The Council had previously used sub-grant paperwork for all subgrant awards. However, due to the nature of the project it was determined that a contract would ultimately be the appropriate measure to carry out this project. This contract was backdated to start on October 1st, to allow for payment of services that were provided in the project period.

The grantee focused on creating outreach/marketing on social media, emails, and virtual platforms in October.

The grantee updated their application and survey to comply with federal requirements. The application form was revised, updated, completed, and posted on the ASL Anywhere website on October 23, 2023. The survey was also updated, and a spreadsheet containing consumers’ contact information, minutes given, and demographic data was revised, updated, and completed on November 14, 2023.

An email sharing the good news about the Nevada Mobile Communication Access was sent out on October 6, 2023. A press release and a letter of introduction were developed, but GTC decided to withhold their release until the contract was secured.

GTC drafted and sent emails containing a survey to 28 consumers individually, reached out to 15 individuals and requested testimonials (here is one testimonial to watch <https://youtu.be/zDAuVOeDkXs>). They also participated in the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Engagement Conference and had a booth where GTC helped nine (9) consumers download the app. However, only three (3) consumers filled out the application and were eligible for the 60-minute packets.

A total of thirty-nine (39) individuals filled out the application online. Thirty-eight (38) individuals were eligible for the app and 60-minute packets. One consumer was ineligible because he didn’t include the mobile number, and despite two attempts by GTC to reach him, there was no response.

GTC contacted (26) individuals, requesting them to re-submit the application due to specific information required by the Federal funder. 14 out of the 26 residents resubmitted the application.

The data revealed that most individuals learned about ASL Anywhere from agencies/service providers (17), social media (12), and word of mouth (9).

GTC assisted four (4) individuals in filling out the application and three (3) individuals in downloading the ASL Anywhere app, providing online training on how to use the app.

Feedback received includes:

*I used ASL Anywhere app for my medical visit as my doctor refused to provide the interpreting services. The interpreter was very professional and highly qualified! She was better than other VRI interpreters from other providers. She was a champ! I truly appreciate ASL Anywhere services.*

*Negative impacts: Sixty (60) minutes are not enough for the whole year! I need more minutes, please.*

*I am satisfied with the app. The interpreters are good. The only thing I suggest is the background should be plain, or the wall should be one color. Instead of the living room or kitchen. (Account Manager explained to her the meaning of “Anywhere” and the difference between Video Relay Services and ASL Anywhere-VRI).*

*I used ASL Anywhere when I met with my supervisor at work because the on-site interpreter never showed up. In addition, the employer wasn’t willing to hire an interpreter for the training. He said it was too expensive to pay for the interpreting services.*

Negative impacts: It was very stressful for me because I was worried about the usage of the minutes. I had to tell the supervisor to hurry and cover everything I needed to know. I hate the feeling. 60 minutes was not enough. Now I have about 20 minutes left and I have to save it for emergencies.

It’s nice to see that the NV DETR – BVR West Bay has purchased additional minutes and utilized ASL Anywhere services.

**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:**

Our Public Health Liaison continues to gather information on the differing needs within the rural and tribal communities. Working with DEM as they navigate meetings with each Emergency Manager across the state and community members. There has been a substantial amount of conversation for the need of additional educational resources, transitional information and services that are provided across the state as a whole.

Heather Lafferty and our Public Health Liaison both presented to the Partners in Policymaking Update class on Emergency Preparedness and why you should share their stories to help navigate future emergencies for their families in a time of crisis, emergency or disaster.

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:**

The Projects Manager, NGCDD Director Catherine and council staff continue having conversations with all Self-Advocates interested in contributing their input to the Self-Advocacy Conference. We are having consistent Self-Advocacy Conference Committee meetings and listening to the needs of the I/DD community on what they want in their conference. We are working on getting the self-advocates’ needs and wants for the conference as well as making sure venue and commodities are executed correctly. Our main focus being accessibility for all the attendees. As stated previously we have been taking ideas and applications on suggested speakers and main keynote speakers for the conference. The whole process has put the self-advocates as the primary and final say. We have elected to vote during our zoom meetings to make sure everyone is being included and heard. We have in turn taken these votes and made them the primary and only selections for the conference matters. This way of voting also makes it quick and fair for everyone present. The Projects Manager is in close contact with GSR and their Events Service Manager regarding the latest updates and other changes concerning the venue.

This past quarter we had Two individuals apply for Consumer Leadership Funds. All three attended the DHH Conference in Las Vegas on 12/16/23. This was a great conference, and we were excited to be able to be part of it as well as be able to help these individuals attend with council funding. The individuals that took advantage of these funds were Alison Mlikan and Mary Dehnhardt. Alison stated that the conference did meet her expectations and would recommend it to others in the DHH community. She stated that it provided knowledge, interpretation skills, and knowledge on the Legislative process even though she expected more tools. Other benefits she stated were her new pursuit for other DHH community events and being more involved as well as being able to network and more. She also stated she would like to see a school for the Deaf in Nevada. Mary, who also attended, stated that this conference met her expectations, and she would recommend it to anyone in the DHH community. She stated she learned of the legislative process and would like to be more involved in making changes that benefit the DHH Community. She also stated she would like to become more involved and create change. She also stated she would like to bring more awareness to the challenges Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals face and finding solutions that benefit everyone. Additional information on the 3 other individuals who received funding will be provided at the March Council Meeting.

As we had a very active legislation session in 2023, there still is a great need in wanting to understand the process and how someone can share their story or make impactful testimonies throughout the year in between legislative sessions and within local communities. It will remain a priority to share materials the Council has created and local resources guiding individuals which may include the navigation of NELIS.

The SAC had a busy schedule attending various events and engaging in meaningful activities.

The Aktion Club of Carson Valley met on October 2 and December 4, 2023, in Gardnerville.

The SAC informed the Aktion Club about the NGCDD's readiness to provide support and encouraged them to reach out with any requests.

The SAC attended the 8th Annual Officer Installation on October 2. When the Club first began, they only had 7 members. Currently, they have 30 members. Guests from the Kiwanis Club commended the club's achievements, and Judge Tod Young officiated the officer installation.

The SAC had a meeting with Bree Melvin and Casey Waler from Tilton’s Therapy on November 9, 2023.

There was a discussion about the services of Tilton’s Therapy, a new provider in early intervention based in Las Vegas, and their plans to expand into Northern Nevada.

Also discussed the possible collaborations to bridge gaps in services and exchanged information about NGCDD's role and initiatives.

The Down Syndrome Network of Southern Nevada’s (DSNOSN) Festival of Trees and Lights was held on November 26, 2023, in Las Vegas.

The event included honoring Governor Lombardo as a disabilities advocate.

There was a strong turnout of families, friends, and individuals with disabilities, emphasizing community support.

A training on Sexual Rights for People with Disabilities was held on November 29, 2023, via ZOOM.

The training session focused on sexual rights for individuals with disabilities. There was a discussion on the importance of autonomy, privacy, safety, acceptance, and choice, emphasizing the need for education to empower individuals to speak up against harm or violation.

The SAC participated in recording videos pertaining to voting on December 2 and 3, 2023, at the old Assembly Chambers in Carson City.

This was a collaboration with the Secretary of State (SOS) on a project to create two informational videos regarding voting.

The SAC remains actively involved in diverse initiatives, contributing to community support, education, and advocacy.

## 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 YES video was completed successfully and graciously handed to NV SILC. NV SILC is our Grantee on transition for Goal 3.4. They are currently working on integrating the video into their educational curriculum. This will cover our objective for 2.2 for our YES program. We are working closely with them to make sure that we can help them in completing their goal.

## 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:**

NGCDD& DEM continue to navigate meetings with Emergency Managers across the state. We have made great strides in connecting individuals with disabilities across the state with their local EM’s or at least guide them to participate in Local Emergency Planning Committees. Council staff worked with DEM staff to create the G-197 class to educate EMs across the state on the Access and Functional Needs population.

The SAC has set up the Spanish interpreters for the Partners in Policymaking Class for 2024. The Executive Assistant is working with the SAC in translating documents into Spanish to assist in making the program accessible to a diverse group of participants.

The involvement of a bi-lingual student, who has volunteered to assist another student with translation, is a wonderful example of peer support and collaboration within the disability community. It not only facilitates communication but also creates a valuable learning experience for both students involved.

Partners in Policymaking is a vital tool for the disability community, fostering understanding, advocacy, and empowerment. The efforts to make the program accessible to individuals with different language needs contribute to its inclusivity and effectiveness.

The Partners in Policymaking Class for 2024 is an enriching experience as learn about working towards creating positive change and promoting the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

## 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:**

The 2024 Partners in Policymaking class was chosen, and the classes will begin in January 2024.

In our continued efforts to bring education and awareness to the I/DD community while addressing emerging needs we put together two virtual classes. These virtual classes were developed to address the needs and concerns of prior Partners in Policymaking graduates that felt they needed an update on the various topics that are taught at the PIP classes. Since we cannot offer it again to prior graduates, we decided to meet their needs by developing updated classes. These updated classes would give those prior graduates who need a quick review or update on current policy changes and educational information the opportunity to get updates on more recent topics of interest.

Council staff developed topics of interest that were not covered in previous classes or might not have been implemented at the time of that class and made two classes to provide updates. One class was held November 15, 2023, and the second was on December 13, 2023. Both update classes were 3 hours long and consisted of speakers on topics from ABLE accounts, Supported Decision Making (SDM), Legislative policy updates as well as Federal, emergency preparedness, employment, and the phasing out of 14c/Sub-minimum wages. Both classes had interpreters in Spanish to cover our Latinx participants needs. There were approximately 15 students in each class. Feedback received was positive.

GOAL 3: Develop and strengthen systems that improve quality services and access to quality services and support 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:**

Staff have worked with the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) to put together the two iCanBike events in Nevada for 2024. The first class will be held in Las Vegas from March 11-15 and the second will be held in Reno from June 16-21. Registrations for both camps are open.

The NCED is currently seeking a sponsor for the purchase of medals that will be awarded to participating riders upon graduation. Interested sponsors are invited to inquire by contacting Diana Rovetti at rovetti@unr.edu.

Individuals interested in contributing their time as volunteers are encouraged to visit the official website and sign up. Additionally, everyone is urged to share this information within their networks to maximize community participation.

## 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: Anthony Shriver

Project Period: Oct 01, 2023, to September 30, 2024

Fiscal Year: FFY 24

Total Grant Funds: $ 50,000

**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:**

The grantee proposed to deliver training to 25 community-based employers to educate them on the benefits of employing individuals with I/DD. This training will include information on national best practices for inclusive employment. Additionally, the grantee plans to educate at least 35 individuals with I/DD and/or their families on their employment rights and options available. Additional focus will include improving training built in the FFY 23 grant to ensure it is up to date and relevant. Best Buddies staff will continue to collaborate with their national jobs team to implement adjustments to the two project-specific training modules based on participant feedback and team experience delivering the FFY2023 project. The grantee will recruit individuals with I/DD to participate in the trainings by promoting the training opportunities through disability service organizations, Best Buddies school friendship chapters, and Clark County School District Transition Services, as well as referrals through the employers and employer groups trained.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) October - December

Grantee will review notes and feedback from FFY 23 grant. They will implement changes/updates in this grant. This will include outreach materials and trainings. Grantee will finalize their target employer list and conduct outreach to employers and employer groups to schedule small group trainings in 2024. Best Buddies will set all dates for trainings and invite participants to attend. They plan to develop and finalize training content for employer and participant trainings. They will complete quarterly reporting as required and will include information on the impact of their work.

Activity B) January – March

Grantee will host first in series of in-person trainings with a goal to reach 6 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and/or their families. They will offer and host the first virtual training with a goal to reach 6 individuals with I/DD and/or their families. They will conduct in-person or virtual trainings with a goal to reach 10 employers or employer groups. They will collect surveys from each of the trainings. Information provided to funder will include stories of the impact of the trainings on those trained and the community. Grantee will include this information on their quarterly reports.

Activity C) April - June

Grantee will host the 2nd and 3rd in-person trainings with a goal to reach 12 individuals with I/DD and/or their families. They will conduct a mixture of in-person and virtual trainings with a goal of reaching 10 employers or employer groups. They will collect surveys and personal stories from participants (individuals with I/DD, family members, and employers). They will collect surveys from each of the trainings. Information provided to funder will include stories of the impact of the trainings on those trained and the community. Grantee will include this information in their quarterly reports.

Activity D) July - September

Grantee will host the 4th in-person trainings with a goal to reach 6 individuals with I/DD and/or their families. They will offer and hopefully host the 2nd virtual training with a goal to reach 5 individuals with I/DD and their families. They will conduct a mixture of in-person and virtual trainings with a goal of reaching 5 additional employers or employer groups. The grantee will collect surveys and personal stories (if possible) from participants (individuals with I/DD, family members, and employers). They will survey all employers trained through the project to collect data on how employment practices have changed as a result of the training. They will reserve the option to host a 5th in-person training for individuals with I/DD and/or their families if interest is expressed. They will collect surveys from each of the trainings. Information provided to funder will include stories of the impact of the trainings on those trained and the community. Grantee will include this information in their quarterly reports.

**Of Note:**

This past quarter Best Buddies has started off running and with great motivation. They were able to train ten individuals with I/DD. The first session for self-advocates was on November 16, 2023, with four individuals being trained via zoom. On December 3, 2023, they trained six individuals in person. They conducted pre-surveys that indicated that 90 percent of the respondents had never received any support or training for employment. 100 percent of them indicated that it was very or extremely important to find employment. The surveys indicated the continued need for training and education as well as support and resources navigating the employment market. This motivates our grantee to strive to work and continue to support individuals with I/DD.

## 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 (extended)

Fiscal Year: FFY 23

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:**

During the last Council meeting the grantee presented their draft housing report and resource guide. Three Council members expressed dissatisfaction with the report and requested the time to provide comments for the grantee. These three Council members provided their feedback, and this was provided to the grantee for remediation of the report. Staff and the grantee have met several times to discuss a plan for remediation and have determined that the best course of action will be to forgo the resource guide and work to remediate the report to satisfy the concerns of the aforementioned Council members. The grantee has an estimated timeline of roughly 3-6 months to remediate the report.

## Objective 3.4 – Transition

# Increase access to quality services and support for individuals with I/DD transitioning into or currently in adulthood.

## Transition Grant

Organization: Gigi’s Playhouse Las Vegas

Project Director: Justine Adams

Project Period: Oct 01, 2023, to September 30, 2024

Fiscal Year: FFY 24

Total Grant Funds: $ 40,000

**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:**

GiGi’s Playhouse plans to provide training, information, and resources to 10 individuals with I/DD and their families, this will include implementing their inaugural GiGi Fit, Gigi Prep and Gigi Kitchen. Additionally, the grantee will seek to educate at least 10 Professionals and 5 parents/family members in the I/DD community on the rights, services, and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school. The grantee will provide ongoing support to ensure individuals with I/DD and their families are aware of their rights, services, and options available to them throughout their lifespan. This information will include lessons to promote IEP’s, communication skills, self-advocacy, personal accountability, career skills and knowledge, personal wellness, and information to overall increase quality of life. Services provided will be in the form of hands-on, multi-sensory learning environments to help students live a well-rounded, healthy, confident and fully enriched life.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity 1)– October 2023 - December – 2023

GiGi’s Playhouse will establish a training facility with a signed lease. Gigi’s Playhouse will connect with local colleges/universities for volunteer recruitment while expanding on their Board to create a broader outreach plan. Grantee will collect start soliciting sign ups and attend resource fairs.

Activity 2)– January 2024 – March- 2024

Gigi’s Playhouse will start providing tours of their facility to community and connecting with local colleges/universities for ongoing volunteer recruitment. The grantee will begin purchasing all supplies during quarter one and complete background checks for volunteers. Volunteer training will begin, and community partnerships will start. Grantee will collect surveys and/or personal stories that accurately reflect the impact of the council funding. Taking possession on leave property late January and hosting Grand Opening on March 9th.

Activity 3) – April 2024 – June 2024

Grantee will complete volunteer training, start conducting information trainings, and create an outreach plan to hospitals, schools, therapy centers, and other community organizations. Grantee will begin sign-ups for community resource fairs and conduct facility tours with community connections. Gigi’s Playhouse will also launch the prep program early June which runs for 10 weeks. Grantee will collect surveys and/or personal stories that accurately reflect the impact of council funding.

Activity 4)- July 2024- September 2024

Grantee will continue its in house GiGi prep program training which runs for 10 weeks. Additional tours to take place and additional community events. These events include Clark County’s School District’s “Life After High School” evening at Silverado High School. Information given at events will include information on rights, services, and options available throughout a lifespan. Grantee will collect surveys and/or personal stories that accurately reflect the impact of council funding.

**Of Note:**

The Projects Manager and Executive Director have been in close contact with Gigi’s Playhouse as they are working to complete their grant objectives. Due to a delay in obtaining space, they have requested an amendment to their scope of work. Council staff are working with the grantee to get this sent through fiscal for approval.

Council staff also sent the information to the Administration on Community Living Staff to discuss the budget and ensure that the needed supplies were allowable per Federal regulations. ACL reported with support to move forward with the grant budget as approved. Staff will be attending the grantee’s upcoming open house on March 9th to have our in person grant monitoring and to view the facility.

## Transition Grant

Organization: Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC)

Project Director: Dawn Lyons

Project Period: Oct 01, 2023, to September 30, 2024

Fiscal Year: FFY 24

Total Grant Funds: $ 40,000

**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:**

The grantee proposed to recruit and hire a Youth Outreach Specialist to travel to schools, community organizations, and camps, as well as through digital means, delivering education regarding youth transition and transition services throughout the entire State, including rural areas that may not have robust internet services. The program will utilize the video created for the YES Program to deliver the information in the classrooms. The Youth Outreach Specialist will be under the age of 33 to ensure students will feel connected with a peer that has recently navigated the system and can offer relevant and current advice and information regarding services available along with peer-to-peer support when it comes to self-advocacy and exercising their rights. They will serve as a live example of a student with I/DD or another disability who has had success in transition and understands the perspective of the student. Along with the 15 hours per week of paid time that this award will provide for this position, the SILC will supplement the position with an additional 10 hours per week and will seek additional funding to increase the hours and responsibilities of the position through the Pathways to Partnership (P2P) federal grant in partnership with the Nevada Department of Education (DOE) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). This will optimize the results the Youth Outreach Specialist (YOS) will be able to affect and reach, if not exceed, the targeted goals of 15 students with I/DD and 20 family members and professionals respectively to be educated, as well as other students with disabilities. Outcomes will be tracked and reported in quarterly reports. The NV SILC will be working in partnership with the DOE and VR and participate in a formal Workgroup that tracks and evaluates the success of the P2P Program, contributing our own data that the YOS collects during interviews and through surveys.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity 1)– October 2023 - December – 2023

Grantee will hire Youth Outreach Specialist and begin training on providing the P2P/YES/YOURS Program within the first 3 months of the grant. Information on impact of Council funding will be provided by quarterly reporting (January, April, July, and October) along with surveys and personal stories (when available).

Activity 2)- January 2024- March 2024

Grantee will have Youth Outreach Specialist present to the NGCDD Partners in Policymaking (PIP) program, as well as reaching out to and attending all major disability councils and commissions as a guest speaker (when and where invited) to describe the programs. Information on impact of Council funding will be provided by quarterly reporting (January, April, July, and October) along with surveys and personal stories (when available).

Activity 3)- January 2024- September 2024

Youth Outreach Specialist will attend STAR Fair and the Youth Transition Leadership Summit. YOS will train at least 5 students with I/DD, 5 parents or family members of persons with I/DD, and 5 professionals each quarter. By the end of the year, the YOS will have exceeded all required outcomes and will prepare quarterly reports to showcase YOUR Peers data and highlights of the program. The YOS will travel and/or visit outreach locations at least twice monthly to contribute to the accomplishment of the above goals for rural and underserved I/DD populations of students. Information on impact of Council funding will be provided by quarterly reporting (January, April, July, and October) along with surveys and personal stories (when available).

Activity 4)- January 2024-September 2024

The YOS will also visit group and nursing homes and partners with the regional centers across the state to schedule presentations to speak with individual who are receiving their services. YOS will work with NV SILC, DOE, VR, NGCDD, the Centers for Independent Living and all other partners to address any avenues of outreach that have not yet been addressed on an ongoing basis. Interviews and/or a survey will be collected each time to assess the number of individuals with I/DD, their family members and professionals who are in attendance and collect measures of success on various topics. Information on impact of Council funding will be provided by quarterly reporting (January, April, July, and October) along with surveys and personal stories (when available).

**Of Note:**

Multiple recruitment flyers were shared throughout the State resulting in two candidates being eligible to interview for the Youth Outreach Specialist Position. The recruitment for the position took longer than expected. Due to the late hire they have not been able to start the training. The SILC’s Executive Team conducted the interviews and began the hiring process for the Youth Outreach Specialist. The State’s contractor process takes a minimum of 4 weeks; therefore, the new hire didn’t begin until 1/8/2024. The team planned to travel to Elko to meet and complete onboarding January 31, 2024. Unfortunately, at the time of reporting the Projects Manager was informed that the YOS had resigned and that there is a need for a new one. We will keep the council updated on the future of this grant.

# Glossary Of Terms

**Activity Summary** = A summary of 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.