**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2024**

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Zoom [https://zoom.us/j/](https://zoom.us/j/8)87493919504

Meeting ID: 874 9391 9504

NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities  
406 East Second Street, Carson City 89701

# Special Notes

* All items reviewed during this meeting are available for view on the NGCDD website; under the event created for this meeting: [www.nevadaddcouncil.org](http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/)
* Bolded text under a heading indicates an action taken by the NGCDD.

# Introductions

Committee Members Present: Stacy Alaribe, Committee Chair; Jennifer Frischmann; Heather Lafferty; Max Lowe; Christine Riggi; Cindi Swanson; Jodi Thornley; Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

Committee Members Absent: Dora Martinez; Santa Perez; Renee Portnell; Vivian Turner

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Alysa Marquez, Intern; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant; Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison

NGCDD Staff Absent: Ellen Marquez, Self-Advocacy Coordinator; Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager

Public Present: Elyse Monroy

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe, at 10:02 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on March 13, 2024.

# Land Acknowledgment

Max Lowe, Council Vice-Chair, provided the land acknowledgement as follows: The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, as a program whose designated state agency is the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, acknowledges, honors, and respects the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land and recognize the State of Nevada is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwu, Newe, Numu and Wa She Shu. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to work alongside our Tribal partners. We encourage everyone in this space to engage in acknowledgement and continued learning about the Indigenous peoples who work and live on this land since time immemorial, and about the historical and present realities of colonialism.

# Public Comment

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

* Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director stated the 2024 Self-Advocacy Conference will be held in Reno, NV on August 6-7, 2024 and is free to anyone who is interested. The application for presenters is still open until March 31, 2024 as they fill out the breakout sessions. There will also be a networking night on August 5 where attendees will have the opportunity to learn about starting a self-advocacy group and other types of networking. She also shared information on the iCan Bike camp that will be held on June 17-21, 2024 in Reno. It is open to anyone who is interested in participating. Those who wish to volunteer can reach out to staff or Diana Rovetti for more information. She also shared information on the town halls that will be held throughout the year. These will be held to collect information on the Council’s upcoming 5-year state plan. A survey was also created to help collect comments from the community. She encouraged council members that are available to come out and attend. Finally, she shared that today, March 21, 2024, is Down Syndrome Day and gave information on the 3.21 events being held by the Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada on Saturday. They will be hosting a get together for networking as well as celebrating the team that is running from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. They started their run this morning and are raising awareness for Down Syndrome.

# Approval of Minutes from the January 2024 Meeting

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the January 18, 2024 Committee meeting minutes. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the January 18, 2024 Committee meeting minutes as written. Jodi Thornley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Jennifer Frischmann abstaining.**

**Voting Videos**

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

Ms. Nielsen presented on the series of videos created in collaboration with the Nevada Secretary of State's office. These videos, which cover various aspects of the election cycle and voting options, are accessible on the council’s YouTube page and linked on the Secretary of State's website. These videos are available in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language. Ms. Nielsen also mentioned plans to create more videos to cover more topics such as the effective absentee system for voting, what the different positions in the legislature do, why it is important to vote, etc. The videos were created with the help of a film agency, Mountain Dog Media. The council has previously worked with them to produce videos which they were able to compile and submit to film festivals worldwide, winning several prizes. Ms. Nielsen also praised the efforts of Mark Walachin and his team at the Secretary of State’s office. They have been great to work with. She opened this item for discussion.

# Review of Current Position Statements

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

Ms. Nielsen referred to the position statements included with the meeting materials. She gave a brief background on the current position statements created by the council and how they have been and will be used during legislative session. She opened the discussion on all position statements. The position statements opened for discussion under this item are as listed: Position on Ableism, Position on Accessibility, Position on Accountability, Inclusion, and Transparency, Position on Aging, Position on Charter Schools, Position on Community Support, Position on Education, Position on Employment, Position on Health Care, Position on Housing, Position on Human and Civil Rights, Position on Informed Choice, Position on Language Access, Position on Mental Health Care, Position on SDM and Guardianship, Position on Sexual Health, Position on Transportation, and Position on Voting.

# Discussion of Emergency Preparedness Position Statement

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation on the potential position statement on Emergency Preparedness for People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “Draft Position on Emergency Preparedness”. She gave an in-depth overview and discussed the background of the document’s creation. She discussed that the public health workforce, emergency preparedness and access and functional needs (AFN) community has needed quite a bit of attention for a long time and is very appreciative of Kimberly Palma-Ortega, the council’s public health liaison, and Heather Lafferty, the AFN, diversity, equity, inclusion liaison for the Division of Emergency Management. They worked hard on all the AFN work done in the last 2 years. Kimberly helped put together this position statement based off the information she's gathered from the AFN community. They've also had put together trainings to understand how to best serve the AFN community in a situation that may involve emergency preparedness. She opened this item for discussion.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on April 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

# Public Comment

Ms. Alaribe asked if there is any public comment, verified meeting information, and stated how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Ms. Frischmann stated she is representing is the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD). She is pleased to announce that the ADSD has now hired their new elder rights attorney. It was Homa Woodrum and then for a while it was Jennifer Richards. They have now hired Shauna Brennan. She is in Las Vegas. She started about 2 to3 weeks ago. Ms. Frischmann will be sending Ms. Nielsen the contact information. They are super excited to have Ms. Brennan on board as she will be helping them with things such as advocacy for adults with disabilities and older adults.
* Elyse Monroy introduced herself and stated she is with Belz and Case Government Affairs. She is attending this meeting today on behalf of a couple of their clients, the Nevada Psychiatric Association, and the Collaboration Center. She is also a parent of a person with a disability. Her stepson is on the autism spectrum, and she was excited to learn about the iCan Shine bike camps. She emailed them and set him up to help him learn how to ride a bike. She was really glad for that resource.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.