**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from April 25, 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; Dora Martinez; Santa Perez; Renee Portnell Christine Riggi; Cindi Swanson; Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

Committee Members Absent: Jodi Thornley; Vivian Turner

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

NGCDD Staff Absent: Ellen Marquez, Self-Advocacy Coordinator

Public Present: Sabrina Schnur

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe, at 10:01 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on April 22, 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.

* Cindi Swanson stated that people who are providers have had their funding cut. If you are a provider and you are taking care of somebody as a host home provider, your funding has gotten cut. As a point of the self-disclosure, her husband and herself are host home providers for their son, who is 37 years old, and they got cut. Fortunately, that's not going to hurt them because they’re going to continue to support their son. She continued by asking where in the world of disabilities are they cutting money from people who are doing this good work. There's a gentleman who lives by them who is supporting a woman in a wheelchair. He's been cut by multiple hundreds of dollars. This ties in with a lot of the policies that this committee is looking at and if a lot of them have sufficient funding. She wanted to lay that out to folks.
* Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director stated registration is open for the Silver State Self-Advocacy Conference. It closes on May 31, 2024. If you're not registered, please make sure you do so. They are almost maxed out on the registration. They've had some really great community members sharing information about the conference. They have not advertised very much about it so to have it almost maxed out already means that you are doing some really great work in the community sharing information about the conference. The dates of the conference are August 6-7, 2024. They will also be having a networking night for self-advocates on the August 5, 2024. If you're in Reno or in the Reno area and you would like to attend any or all of the events, they are free to the public. They just ask that you register so they can ensure enough food and support is available for everybody, and any accommodations that need to be considered beforehand. They will have interpreters there to provide interpretation in both American Sign Language and Spanish. If you have any other language needs, please let them know so interpreters can be arranged to be there for you. They will also have cart services available. They're trying to be as expansive and universally designed as possible.
* Dora Martinez shared that she is working with the city of Reno because their zoom link is not live. She thanked Rebecca and all of the DD Council staff for the universal design of the agenda. She also shared there is a camp for students who are visually impaired, blind, or low vision. This will be for individuals who are 16 and older. It is going to take place on July 15, 2024 for 5 days. They will be introduced to many skills, opportunities, and it is totally free. They will be put up in a hotel. She will be sharing the information and flyer with DD council staff to share publicly.

# Approval of Minutes from the March 2024 Meeting

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the March 21, 2024 Committee meeting minutes. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the March 21, 2024 Committee meeting minutes as written. Jennifer Frischmann seconded the motion. The motion carried with Santa Perez abstaining.**

# Review of Current Position Statements

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and listed the position statements that are up for discussion: Position on Ableism; Position on Education; Position on Employment; Position on Human and Civil Rights; Position on Language Access; and Position on Transportation. She deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation on the position statements.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the position statements listed above. She gave a brief background on the current position statements and how they have been and will be used during legislative session. She then referred specifically to the document titled “Position on Language Access” and how the statement can be included into the recommendations of the other statements. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input on this statement and the other position statements listed.

# Discussion of Disability Policymaking Position Statement

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

Ms. Nielsen gave an in-depth overview and discussed the background of the document’s creation. She opened this item for discussion.

# Discussion of Topics for Potential Position Statements

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

Ms. Nielsen gave an in-depth overview and opened this item for discussion.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on June 20, 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.

* Renee Portnell asked that the dates for the Self-Advocacy Conference be restated and then stated both of her daughters are graduating; one with her bachelor’s and one from VocRehab. After two plus years, she is excited to share her daughter has a job.
* Ms. Perez stated that she just wanted to thank Ms. Nielsen for everything as she helped her within the hospital.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.