NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

­­­Project Status Summary

FFY’ 24 Second Quarter Project Status Summary

For the period of January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024

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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:**

**Projects Manager (PM):**

This last quarter the PM has been attending the Lunch and Learns being offered by NGCDD. We have had the opportunity to learn also as staff at these great Lunch and Learns where they have had topics from Internet Safety, 14C phase out, resources and services from Vocational Rehab, Resources for teachers, Federal laws and updates, ADSD and other great topics like coordination of benefits. With these Lunch and Learns we continue to provide and participate in public education and also bring awareness to the I/DD community. These hour-long Lunch and Learns have been great resource opportunities for recipients who are short on time and cannot commit to long classes or webinars.

The PM also attended the ARC online Special Education Advocacy Curriculum in February which provided information understand in laws to support students with I/DD, IDEA and Section 504 information and IEP and how to become a better advocate for students with I/DD. All this information was provided in Spanish. In March the PM also attended an online workshop offered by NACDD on Medicaid. This was a great educational workshop that went into detail about the Medicaid program. Even though it is a very complex agenda there were many who took from this educational opportunity. In March Council staff attended the Grand Opening to GiGi’s Playhouse in Las Vegas. It was great to see our Grantees use of the funding provided by NGCDD and to get the recognition the council deserves.

**Public Health Liaison:**

Our ongoing relationship with the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and Heather Lafferty, as their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion / Access and Functional Needs (DEI/AFN) Coordinator continues. Our PHL over this reporting quarter was involved in trainings for special events like the Superbowl that was held in Las Vegas. Along with continuing additional courses from FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute (EMI). Our PHL is the process of submitting and applying for the Nevada Emergency Manger Associates Certification through the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association.

After an additional year of working within this field, our PHL will be able to become a Certified Emergency Manger. Efforts continue as we add to our registry of volunteers that range from individuals with varying disabilities to friends and families that would like to participate in training exercises with Emergency Mangers (EM) across the state. Our PHL was also a part of the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association’s Planning Committee, as they held their summit in Las Vegas. She was also the concierge to 10 of those presenters. Weekly updates are still given through the NV AFN Disaster Coalition, “Wednesday Situational Brief”. There is over 150 participants across state agencies, local non-profits and other key stakeholders within our disability community. Our PHL and her counterpart Heather Lafferty were able to instruct the long-waited G-197- The Integration of Access Functional Needs into Emergency Management. Their first course rolled out in Carson City. The turn out was amazing and multiple neighboring jurisdictions were in attendance. Their second course was held in Las Vegas, the room was at capacity. In late fall a course will be held in Elko rounding out all three regions of our state.

## 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:**

**Projects Manager (PM):**

Council Staff and the Planning Committee continue to plan our upcoming 2024 Silver State Advocacy Conference in August.

Council Staff are members of the Employment First Coalition and have presented for agencies on the importance of hiring people with disabilities. There is a proposed Executive Order in the Governor’s Office that would implement Employment First in Nevada. The Projects Manager continues to attend monthly online White House Aging and Disability Calls. These calls highlight various topics in the disability community and how they are being addressed in the forefront of government.

Staff has also been working on planning and advertising for the upcoming Statewide Town Halls to gather input on our next Five-Year State Plan beginning on October 1, 2026.

The Projects Manager has also been in attendance for the SARTAC meetings in support of Self Advocate, Dora Uchel, who has been working hard on her grant on educating other Self Advocates on voting, the Legislature, and civil rights. Dora is at the end of her project which included a presentation to SARTAC. Staff worked with Ms. Uchel on making her presentation accessible as well as highlighting her work. The voting videos presented to are available to everyone on YouTube, and the Secretary of States Website.

Other meetings and committees attended by the PM are NACDD Policy Update Calls and NACDD State Policy Task Force.

**Public Health Liaison:**

Our Public Health Liaison continues her support and attend 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. Attends all NGCDD Full Council/Subcommittees, isa part of the Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center- Board of Directors & PAMI Council (NDALC), is a member of the Rare Disease Advisory Council & Education Committee (RDAC),a commissioner for the Nevada Children's Commission & Education Committee (NVCC), a member of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NESHE), a participant to the NV Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, attends the NVEP Vaxx, attends weekly briefings with the Division of Emergency Management (DEM), member of the Statewide Independent Living Council Employment first taskforce (SILC), member of the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC), member of the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association- Summit Planning Committee (NEPA), as well as a member of the Nevada Assistive Technology Council

During this reporting period our PHL was appointed as a member of the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee. She will advocate for integration on behalf of the I/DD and AFN population before, during and after an emergency and/or disaster. Attends National call like the Partnership for Inclusive Disasters.

**Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC):**

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

The SAC attended the Human Rights Committee (HRC) on February 22, 2024, via ZOOM. There were concerns about one person who was having his food locked up while his roommates had keys to access their food. The discussion provided information about he has access, but the staff will open the cupboard and allow him to have what he wants but will limit how much due to his inability to regulate his eating and keep his diabetes under control. Two other issues involved guardianship of these individuals. The Committee agreed to review these in 6 months to allow further documentation on whether these individuals should be on a Supportive Decision Making (SDM) agreement.

The SAC and the NGCDD Intern attended the Board of Examiners (BOE) meeting on March 12, 2024, in Carson City. This meeting had the contract for Global Technical Communications (GTC) on the agenda. The SAC attended to answer any questions the committee may have had. There were no questions, and the contract was approved.

## 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:**

Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC):

GTC emailed, video phoned, and texted consumers to ask them to re-submit the

application to comply with federal requirements.

To promote the 60 minutes in the new fiscal year, GTC made videophone calls and sent emails and texts.

A video of Frank and Car Dealership was posted on ASL Anywhere Facebook, and

GTC shared it with current consumers, including past and potential consumers.

Some consumers contacted GTC and asked for information on video remote

interpreting, expressing interest in having employers/human resources consider ASL

Anywhere for their communication needs. GTC provided flyers and/or referred them to

GTC National Executive Sales.

GTC received and processed applications from returning or new consumers. The new

consumers were informed of their eligibility for the ASL Anywhere app and given

directions for downloading the app. Information on app training was shared. GTC

notified returning consumers about the addition of 60 minutes to their mobile. A few

consumers were asked to re-submit the application because they used the wrong one.

GTC informed several individuals of their ineligibility. Consumers' information was put

into the database.

GTC followed up with new consumers to see if they needed assistance with

downloading the app or using it.

GTC monitored the ASL Anywhere dashboard and identified 13 consumers who

downloaded the app but did not apply for ASL Anywhere interpreting services. GTC

sent them an introduction email and encouraged them to fill out the application.

From monitoring the dashboard, GTC reached out to consumers who were experiencing problems with their app or were unable to connect to the interpreter. GTC assisted them in resolving tech issues with their app.

GTC met with the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

and obtained information on organizations of diversity for the purposes of community

meetings on Zoom.

GTC called and texted consumers individually, encouraging them to use ASL Anywhere interpreting services.

GTC assisted a DETR-BVR staff member with her login issue.

GTC developed a flyer for GTC's presentation and sent it to consumers.

GTC prepared a presentation for the Las Vegas Deaf Seniors and gave it on March 7,

2024.

The quarterly survey was disseminated to all consumers who used ASL Anywhere

services.

GTC sought testimonials from 15 consumers who used ASL Anywhere services.

GTC reached out to four individuals, asking if they were interested in giving video

testimonials. They declined because they were not very comfortable doing it.

A consumer asked GTC if she could accompany her to the DMV and help with her

driver's license. GTC referred her to NV Care Connection in the hope that they could

assist her.

GTC met with a deaf consumer who lives in the Reno area and asked him if he could

help spread the word about ASL Anywhere interpreting services to the deaf community. He was more than happy to do so. GTC will send ASL Anywhere flyers.

An email with the video "A Perfect Way to Communicate with A Tax Preparer" was

disseminated.

Several consumers asked GTC for more information on the minute packages when their minutes ran out. They said they could not afford to purchase the minutes.

A consumer asked if GTC could help pay for interpreting services for her treatment. She provided GTC with the service provider's contact information. GTC National Executive Sales contacted the service provider to see if they could purchase the minute package.

Several consumers attempted to use ASL Anywhere after business hours, prompting

GTC to remind them of the operating hours.

GTC received numerous requests from consumers for technical support. Consequently, GTC decided to create a video addressing issues such as updating the app version, clearing the cache, rebooting the device, and recovering passwords. Instructions on how to perform these tasks were included, and an email containing the video was sent to the consumers.

Emails and texts were sent on January 3rd, February 6th, February 7th, February 19th, March 4th, March 11th, and March 28th.

A total of twenty-six (26) individuals filled out the application online. Twenty-one (21)

individuals were eligible for the app and 60-minute packets, while five consumers were

ineligible due to incomplete applications, duplication, or the absence of a cell number.

GTC contacted twelve (12) individuals, requesting them to re-submit the application due to specific information required by the Federal funder. Eleven (11) re-submitted the

application, and GTC emailed and thanked the consumers.

The data revealed that most individuals learned about ASL Anywhere from

agencies/service providers (22), word of mouth (21), and social media (11).

Regarding social media usage, the consumers use Facebook, fifty-two (52); Instagram

thirty-one (31), and use other platforms such as TikTok, LinkedIn, and Snapchat. Seven (7) consumers don’t use any social media platforms.

GTC assisted four individuals in filling out the application and two individuals in

downloading the ASL Anywhere app, providing online training on how to use the app.

A consumer who was hospitalized and scheduled for surgery the next day contacted

GTC due to frustration with the hospital's lack of communication. Since the hospital

didn't have video remote interpreting (VRI), GTC helped her fill out the application and

download the app.

A total of 55 people attended the Las Vegas Deaf Seniors event, where GTC and four

seniors assisted 19 consumers with the application and app download. Fourteen out of

17 were eligible for the 60-minute packets, but most seniors already had minutes. The

attendees appreciated the presentation and gained new information about the app.

Fourteen (14) consumers were contacted when the ASL Anywhere dashboard indicated they were experiencing problems with their app. GTC provided technical support and/or troubleshooting.

Feedback has been positive. Here are a few comments.

I used the ASL Anywhere app when I was in the hospital with my son. He was in ICU. The hospital said they could not get the interpreter. I love the app, but I need more than 60 minutes. I wish I could have more minutes so that I could use it at work. The app will help me communicate with my boss better. I am frustrated for not being able to communicate with the hearing person. Thanks to the DETR-BVR counselor for introducing me to ASL Anywhere.

I have no problem with the ASL Anywhere app. I use it with my counselor for my treatment. The interpreters sign very clearly—they are very good! Unfortunately, the minutes are gone. I need more minutes for my treatment.

I really want my employer to consider ASL Anywhere for my communication needs. I am so frustrated because of the lack of interpreters for my meetings and training. I love ASL Anywhere.

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:**

**Projects Manager (PM):**

We continue to provide education and resources on emerging needs by providing an array of online classes and workshops, we completed two Partners in Policy update classes. We were approached with a need for an update class to inform and educate prior Partners graduates on new policies and we successfully completed two online classes with great speakers on new and emerging topics of interest. Each class consisted of about 20-25 attendees. Some of the topics covered were updates on new legislative policies, emergency preparedness, supported decision making, phasing out of 14C, ABLE Accounts, Rights and Resources, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Issues, and other Advocacy topics.

These classes were only provided to prior Partners Graduates to give them the opportunity to stay updated on emerging needs. On that same topic of emerging needs, we have been working in house to bring weekly Lunch and Learns that NGCDD staff and have been attending as well as anyone else that would like to join. These Lunch and Learns like stated earlier are short one-hour sessions with topics on emerging needs like, 14c phase out, internet safety, resources for teachers on I/DD and other great topics. And to top that off our Executive Director has been working on getting out to most cities in Nevada for townhall meetings in the city and rural areas. The town hall meeting will help the I/DD community to come together to voice their concerns and other points of need.

**Public Health Liaison:**

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 PHL both presented for our Lunch & Learn 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. Heather and our PHL were able to head out to Boulder City and present to their citizen review board on Emergency preparedness. Heather and our PHL also had a training in Northern Nevada for the Northern Nevada Independent Living Center’s staff and PR Agency, as they navigate the creation of a statewide website for emergency preparedness for our disability community. Dawn Lyons and our PHL presented at the NYE County Coalition on Employment First efforts that have been on going with the Employment First taskforce.

**Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC):**

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

The SAC attended a ZOOM meeting with Catherine Nielsen and Chris Hovis from Southwest Airlines (SWA) on January 18, 2024.

The discussion pertained to having someone from SWA attend the Self-Advocacy Conference in August. Suggested topics included all things relative to customer service policies, Federal regulations, what to expect if flying with a service animal and tips for people who have mobility issues (i.e. people using wheelchairs).

The SAC met with Suzanne Towse in Gardnerville about creating a non-profit for the programs she is providing for adults with disabilities on January 29, 2024.

The SAC discussed using people first language as her program is currently called “Activities for Disabled Adults.”

The SAC provided information needed to begin a non-profit organization and what the NGCDD could possibly assist with getting the non-profit status started.

The SAC attended the exit meeting with the Administration on Community Living (ACL) on February 29, 2024, via ZOOM. The ACL conducted a series of monitoring of subgrants from the DD Councils. They provided the feedback from their monitoring allowing the NGCDD Staff to ask questions to provide more accurate and consistent information.

The SAC attended the Carson Valley Aktion Club in Gardnerville on March 18, 2024.

The SAC discussed and handout information about the Self-Advocacy Conference in August and information about the 2026-2031 5 Year State Plan. She discussed the importance of hearing the voices of those with disabilities and what they would like to see the NGCDD working on during that period. She handed out the survey in English and Spanish and discussed the use of the QR code to be directly linked to the survey.

The SAC attended the Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) and Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) meeting with Dora Martinez on March 21, 2024, via ZOOM. Ms. Martinez presented her Fellowship Project: Voting Accessibility for ALL. The SAC provided information about the NGCDD’s participation and support for Ms. Martinez.

# 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:**

**Projects Manager (PM):**

The PM has been working on getting our Silver State Advocacy Conference venue accessibility and all other needs finalized. Since securing our venue at Grand Sierra Resort the PM has been working closely with the venue managers on securing accessibility, food, audio video and staging. This has been a great and fun experience and hope to report once we have completed and executed our Conference. Self-Advocates have been great in voicing all their wants and needs for this conference and we hope to give them a great and successful conference. We are still finalizing all speakers and break out speakers and sessions. This Conference will also highlight our Partners in Policymaking students on the second day for their graduation**.**

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## 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:**

**Projects Manager (PM):**

Our YES program currently is on hold as it was shared with the SILC and they are still finding ways to complete their grant and get a Youth Outreach Specialist to complete the transitioning programs established in their grant. The SILC will be presenting on the current status hiring and plans to expend their grant.

## 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:**

**Public Health Liaison:**

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 Integration of Access and Functional Needs into Emergency Management, which two courses have already been completed in Carson City and Las Vegas with a third being held in Elko later this year. There have been multiple requests for this course to be taught to other organizations, agencies. They are making efforts to address these requests and expand additional materials in the meantime.

**Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC):**

GTC met with the Executive Director of the NV Commission for the Persons Who are

Deaf and Hard of Hearing about the possibility of reaching people of diversity,

including the deaf black community and people of color.

GTC sent an email to the President of People of Color and asked for a video chat

about the possibility of having a community meeting via Zoom. I hope to make it happen in the next quarter.

## 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:**

**Self-Advocacy Coordinator (SAC):**

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.

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:**

**All Staff:**  
The iCan Bike Camp in Southern Nevada, scheduled to take place from March 11-15, 2024, at Green Valley High School in Henderson, is a collaborative effort between the NGCDD and the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED). The event aims to facilitate the learning and empowerment of individuals with disabilities in riding a bike. The camp can accommodate up to 40 riders. There is a need for 60-80 volunteers to assist and support riders during the camp.

Interested participants, both riders and volunteers, are encouraged to register via the official iCan Shine website: [iCan Bike Las Vegas Registration](https://icanshine.org/ican-bike-las-vegas-nv/).

NGCDD has undertaken the responsibility of providing financial support by securing the gymnasium and payment to iCanShine.

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](mailto: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.

Details for an upcoming iCanBike Camp scheduled for June in Reno will be presented at the next Council meeting.

## 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: October 1, 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:**

Best Buddies will create and develop project-specific training content 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 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 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:**

**Projects Manager (PM):**Best Buddies (BB) has been doing a great job on their grant by completing all their activity goals so far. They are also on top of their budgeting and continue to strive to hit their target activities. This past quarter they continued to deliver trainings to individuals and family with I/DD on employment rights and options. In March Best Buddies trained 5 individuals with I/DD in-person setting. Due to scheduling conflicts they had to move their employer training to April which they will be reporting on next quarter. They continue to collect valuable information from their pre and post surveys and have seen firsthand how the information has empowered individuals. When asked 60% percent of participants had heard about integrated employment options individuals with I/DD and 80% percent had never had a job coach and never offered any support. 100% percent of the individuals indicated it was very important to find employment. The surveys also showed 80% percent were not aware of their employment rights and 40% percent had never attended any training.

On the post event surveys 75% percent would like more information and 75% stated they had a better understanding of integrated employment options for individuals with I/DD. The results of these surveys show the need for continued training and support for individuals. One Participant “Jodi” stated she had previously attended a training but was a great refresher and would like to learn more about seeking a position in a field that she loves. She hopes this is the begging of her search for her dream job. 10 surveys were distributed (5 pre, 5 post).

## 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:**

**Executive Director:**

Staff has had several meetings with Guinn Center Staff to discuss completion of their Housing Report. Staff has also met with Council Members individually and Aging and Disability Services Leadership and Staff, to gather feedback and information on any concerns and requested remediation. The Guinn Center is remediating the report and will submit a report for consideration and for approval at the June 7th Council Meeting.

## 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:**

**Projects Manager (PM):**

Gigi’s Playhouse held their Grand Opening on March 9, 2024, and began programming for the I/DD community on March 11, 2024. Site managers and volunteers give 3-4 tours per week to families and individuals with I/DD. Durin this past quarter they have had 138 signups of families and 24 individuals. Since Gigi’s is run mainly by volunteers, they continue to recruit volunteers from local colleges and universities. From their recruitment this last quarter they were able to sign 76 new volunteers. They were also able to recruit 4 volunteers for their Gigi Fit program. They went through training this past quarter and have been certified for Gigi’s playhouse as well as for Gigi Fit. They have been able to contract a Dr. that works that work with UNLV also and is working closely with the founder of Gigi Fit who is also a Dr. Their Gigi Fit has been successful to the point of having a waitlist right now for new enrollments to the program. The great thing is they have increased their participant intake.

Gigi’s has made a connection with Clark County School District and will be attending their district wide transition event in April. This event will help in finding families who are interested in the transition progress. Gigi’s has been really involved in the community and has outreached to resource fairs and partnered with other organizations such as Down Syndrome Connections Las Vegas, The Matthew Foundation for Super Fest 2024 in February and did a presentation on ABLE accounts for families in February. Gigi Fit had their 3rd   
Annual fun run, walk and kids dash for Down Syndrome which brought together over 400 participants. There was a free resource fair at the event and included lots of organizations and partners like, NCED, Best Buddies, Childrens Heart Foundation and NEIS and lastly UNLV. A point of impact it being able to bring more resources to the I/DD community.

A story of Impact was from David’s mom who stated “As a mother of an adult son with Down Syndrome, I am so happy that Gigi’s Playhouse has opened in Las Vegas. About three weeks ago, I heard Gigi’s Playhouse was opening and had an adult fitness class. He has been going for two weeks, and he has a smile again!” “David enjoys seeing the other adults in the fitness class and smiling and doing the exercises with them and the instructors are great with him and the rest of the class. My son David has had a very rough couple of years. “He was diagnosed with dementia”. She continues by saying that during this period David developed several conditions. She continues to say that he now looks forward to his fitness class each week and hopes he will want to join another activity soon. -Sarah Abraham (proud mom of David Abraham).

## 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.

**Of Note:**

**Projects Manager (PM):**

Multiple recruitment flyers continue to be shared throughout the State for a Youth Outreach Specialist. The recruitment for the position is taking longer than expected we are monitoring this progress but have met with Dawn and have addressed the possibility of on extension as the expectations of starting the grant is halted because of the hiring of a Youth Outreach Specialist. As of right now they have received two resumes and hope to present at the May 29th PIP class once the position is filled. Because of this regression we are hoping to extend the funding as SILC has spoken to us about the possibility of recruiting taking longer than expected. SILC has stated that they expect someone to be hired in the month of April, but we don’t know if this is still a tangible objective. We will continue to monitor the progress to see if other recurses should be explored to avoid losing more time and possible funding. Because the new hire would still need to be trained there is a possibility that the timing would need to be extended even more to get the grant objectives and activities started. The SILC has stated their intentions are to continue and follow through with the grant, regardless of the timeline delay.

# 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.