**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2024**

**ZOOM**

**Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**406 East Second Street**

**Carson City, NV 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

NGCDD Members Present: Chair, Christine Riggi; Vice-Chair, Max Lowe; Stacy Alaribe; Anna Marie Binder; Lisa Bonie; Stacy Carlston; Taylor Chaney; Ellen Frias-Wilcox; Vickie Ives; Kathleen Kingston; Kate Osti; Randall Owen; Gabriel Tejada

NGCDD Members Absent: Melissa Bart-Plange; Ashley Price; Brynlin Thornley; Vivian Turner

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

NGCDD Staff Absent: Ellen Marquez, Self- Advocacy Coordinator

Public Present: Barbara Bessol; Autumn Blattman; Shauna Brennan; Celeste Brooks; T. Brower; Justine Chevalier; Steven Cohen; Cynthia Crawford, interpreter; Michael Falater; Veronica Fiscus; Robin Kincaid; Patty Kuglistch; Justin Langford; Morgan Langford; Lori Lutu; Allyson Manumaleuna; Jennifer Marquez; Kristen Peck; Sonna Robison; Jessica Wylie; Henry Yandrasits, interpreter; Britt Young

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Christine Riggi at 9:03 a.m.

Executive Assistant, Rebecca Ortiz verified that the agenda for this meeting was posted to the appropriate locations on November 22, 2024.

**Land Acknowledgment**

Max Lowe, 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. Riggi inquired if there was any public comment. She verified meeting information and how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Britt Young stated she is with Nevada Pep and wanted to remind everyone that Nevada Pep is still providing live and on demand trainings for parents, caregivers, and providers. You can find that at our website at www.nvpep.org under our resources tab.

# Approval of September 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Riggi opened the floor for discussion of the September 13, 2024 minutes.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the September 13, 2024 minutes as written. Vickie Ives seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Consumer Leadership Development Fund Presentations

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director, for further information.

Ms. Nielsen stated she would share the presentation materials received on behalf of Chris Ripke and Joey Thompson. Ms. Nielsen then invited the recipients in attendance to present. Justin Langford and his family presented on his approved CLDF application to attend the Cal-Nev-Ha Aktion Club Leadership Development Conference in Sanger, CA on October 4-6, 2024. Jeanette Shoemaker presented on her approved CLDF application to attend the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Phoenix, AZ on July 25-28, 2024. Veronica Fiscus presented on her approved CLDF application to attend the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Phoenix, AZ on July 25-28, 2024.This item was opened for discussion.

# Presentation from IEP Defenders

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Mike Falater and Sonna Robison, for further information.

Mr. Falater and Ms. Robison gave a presentation on behalf of their organization, IEP Defenders, and what services they offer. This item was opened for discussion.

# Presentation from Clark County Foster Care

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Allyson Manumaleuna, for further information.

Ms. Manumaleuna gave a presentation on behalf of their organization, Clark County Foster Care, and what services they offer. This item was opened for discussion.

# Grantee Presentations

Ms. Riggi introduced this item to the council and deferred to Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager to introduce the grantees and open the floor for their presentations.

Ms. Rivas invited Celeste Brooks and Jessica Wylie from Best Buddies to discuss the Employment Grant for FFY 24. Ms. Brooks gave an overview of the grant activities and objectives met. This item was opened for discussion.

Ms. Rivas invited Justine Chevalier from Gigi’s Playhouse to discuss the Transition Grant from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 24. She spoke on their Gigi Prep program, Gigi Fit program, and gave an overview of the grant activities and objectives met. This item was opened for discussion.

Ms. Rivas invited Patty Kuglistch from Global Technical Communications (GTC) to discuss the Interpreter grant for the FFY 24. Ms. Kuglitsch gave an overview of the grant activities and objectives met. This item was opened for discussion.

# Committee Membership Discussion

Ms. Riggi introduced this item. She discussed the document titled “Committees and Members 2024”. She invited Ms. Nielsen for further discussion. This item was opened for discussion.

# Committee Updates

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and deferred to Stacy Alaribe, Evaluation Committee Chair, for discussion on updates from the Evaluation Committee.

Ms. Alaribe gave an overview on topics discussed in the Evaluation Committee including planned activities for FFY2025, the ongoing townhalls, and the quarterly summary reports. This item was opened for discussion.

Ms. Riggi deferred to Stacy Alaribe, Policy Committee Chair, for discussion on updates from the Policy Committee.

Ms. Alaribe gave an overview on topics discussed in the Policy Committee including previously reviewed position statements. This item was opened for discussion

Ms. Riggi deferred to Vickie Ives, Budget Committee Chair, for discussion on updates from the Budget Committee.

Ms. Ives gave an overview on topics discussed in the Budget Committee including the current Council budget and the recommendations for use of funds for FFY 25 including information on the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) increases. She invited Ms. Nielsen for further discussion. This item was opened for discussion.

Ms. Riggi then gave an overview on topics discussed in the Executive Committee including the four internal policies titled “SUPPORT PERSONS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY”, “STAFF DUTIES, HIRING, AND SUPERVISION POLICY”, “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION POLICY”, and “COUNCIL MEETING AND AGENDA DEVELOPMENT POLICY”. Ms. Riggi deferred to Ms. Nielsen for further information. Ms. Nielsen read each document thoroughly.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the “SUPPORT PERSONS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY”, “STAFF DUTIES, HIRING, AND SUPERVISION POLICY”, “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION POLICY”, and “COUNCIL MEETING AND AGENDA DEVELOPMENT POLICY’ with the amended changes to the “SUPPORT PERSONS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY”. Kathleen Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 25 Activities, Timeline, and Budget, Annual Report

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen provided a summary of planned objectives and activities for FFY 2025 including the iCan Bike camps, the interpreter grant, and other known projects. She referred to the document titled “FFY 2025 NGCDD Activities, Timeline and Funding Matrix”. This item was opened for discussion.

# Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 24 Annual Report

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen provided a brief summary of the FFY24 annual report. She referred to the council’s website where the report can be found. This item was opened for discussion.

# 2025 Legislative Session Information

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen provided a brief summary of the currently available Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) and information on the 2025 Legislative Session. She referred to the council’s website where the bill tracker can be found. This item was opened for discussion.

# Statewide Town Halls for 2026-2031 Five Year State Plan

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen discussed the Statewide Town Halls to gather information to formulate the Council’s 2026-2031 Five Year State Plan. She discussed the survey created to help facilitate this. She discussed the past town halls: Pahrump, NV on Sept 16, 2024; Mesquite, NV on Sept 17, 2024; Las Vegas, NV on Sept 18, 2024; Elko, NV on Sept 23, 2024; and a virtual one in October. She also discussed the remaining two virtual town halls that will be held in December, and January. She encouraged committee members to share this information with anyone interested in attending. This item was opened for discussion.

# Fourth Quarter Project Status Summary for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further discussion.

Ms. Nielsen spoke on behalf of Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison. She discussed efforts and initiatives under objectives 1.3 and 1.4 including the Partnership with the Division of Emergency Management. She then invited council staff to discuss portions of the report.

Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager, referred to the document titled " NGCDD Fourth Quarter Report”. She gave a brief overview of its contents. She spoke on efforts and initiatives under objective 1.1 including the Lunch and Learn education series and various conferences attend by staff. She invited Ellen Marquez, Self-Advocacy Coordinator, to speak on efforts and initiatives under objectives 1.2. This item was opened for discussion.

# Council Member Updates

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited any council members to present information of importance for their individual agencies/activities.

Ms. Nielsen spoke on the opened position for the council. She will be working with the governor’s office to get these appointed. She also welcomed Katie Osti with the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center as she has been officially appointed to the council.

# Council Calendar and Future Meeting Dates

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further discussion.

Ms. Nielsen spoke on 2025 Council Meeting dates and referred to the document titled “NGCDD 2025 Calendar”. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the NGCDD 2025 Council Calendar as written. Ms. Osti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously**.

# Council Annual Training

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further discussion.

Ms. Nielsen spoke on the 2025 annual council member training. This will be a closed training for members and will include presentations for community presenters. It will be held on March 12, 2025. She opened this item for discussion.

# Agenda Items for Consideration

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and opened it for discussion.

Mr. Lowe mentioned having an agenda item to address more information on service providers and how the state of Nevada can encourage them to come here and work with people with disabilities.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Full Council meeting will take place on March 13 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will take place via zoom.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Riggi inquired if there was any public comment. She verified meeting information and how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Ms. Alaribe requested calendar invites for the 2025 meeting dates.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.