**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2024**

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**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; Melissa Bart-Plange; Anna Marie Binder; Stacy Carlston; Ellen Frias-Wilcox; Jennifer Frischmann; Vickie Ives; Randall Owen; Ashley Price; Art Reitz; Vivian Turner

NGCDD Members Absent: Stacy Alaribe; Lisa Bonie; Taylor Chaney; Kathleen Kingston; Gabriel Tejada; Brynlin Thornley

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Alysa Marquez, Intern; Ellen Marquez, Self- Advocacy Coordinator; Marisol Rivas, Project Manager

NGCDD Staff Absent: Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant

Public Present: Justine Chevalier, Steven Cohen, Jack Mayes, Lindsey Parobek Miller

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Christine Riggi at 9:13 a.m.

Executive Director, catherine Nielsen verified that the agenda for this meeting was posted to the appropriate locations on August 27, 2024.

**Land Acknowledgment**

Ms. Riggi 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.

* Ms. Nielsen stated that the partners in policy making program application is open. If anybody is interested in applying for partners and policy making course, they can go on the council’s website and find the information there about applying. Please send this information to anyone who may be interested. It's also on the council’s social media and went out on the listserv.

# Approval of June 2024 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Riggi opened the floor for discussion of the June 7, 2024 minutes.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the June 7, 2024 minutes as written. Vivian Turner 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. Ms. Nielsen then invited Alysa Marquez and helped her present on her approved CLDF application to attend the National Association of Councils on developmental Disabilities Annual Conference in Washington, DC on July 21-26, 2024. This item was opened for discussion.

Mis. Riggi tabled this item in case other CLDF participants joined the meeting later.

# 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 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 their second annual gala. This item was opened for discussion.

Ms. Rivas presented on behalf of Best Buddies to discuss the Employment Grant for FFY 24. She spoke on two employment trainings session they have hosted. This item was opened for discussion.

Ms. Rivas invited Ellen Marquez, Self-Advocacy Coordinator to present on behalf of Global Technical Communications (GTC). Ms. Marquez discussed the Interpreter grant for the FFY 24 and referenced the quarterly report. This item was opened for discussion.

# Evaluation Committee

Ms. Riggi introduced this item. She discussed the information from the Evaluation Committee meeting on August 15th to include recommendations for Council activities for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 25. She invited Ms. Nielsen for further discussion. This item was opened for discussion.

# Budget Committee

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and deferred to Vickie Ives, Budget Committee Chair, for discussion.

Ms. Ives introduced the topic for discussion: 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

# Executive Committee

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and provided information on the suggested plans for FFY 25 from the May 13th Executive Committee Meeting. She discussed the upcoming contract with GTC for the interpreter grant project. She invited Ms. Nielsen for further information. Ms. Nielsen thanked state purchasing in executing this contract and making the process quick and easy. This item was opened for discussion.

# Committee on Seniors, Veterans, and Adults with Special Needs August 26th update

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further information. Ms. Nielsen provided information on the August 26th event during the Committee on Seniors, Veterans, and Adults with Special Needs meeting at the Legislature. There was a total of 75 participants with most of them in Southern Nevada. This item was opened for discussion.

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

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. 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 remaining town halls as follows: Pahrump, NV on Sept 16, 2024; Mesquite, NV on Sept 17, 2024; Las Vegas, NV on Sept 18, 2024; and Elko, NV on Sept 23, 2024. She also discussed the three virtual town halls that will be held in October, December, and January. She encouraged committee members to share this information with anyone interested in attending. The survey has received about 330 responses online, 100 responses through the English paper copy, 25 responses through the Spanish version, and 12 responses through the American Sign Language (ASL) version. This item was opened for discussion.

# Third 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 FFY 24' Third Quarter Project Status Summary 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.

# Developmental Disabilities Network Partner Presentations

Ms. Riggi introduced this item. This item was tabled. Ms. Riggi stated all updates would be shared via email in needed.

# Self-Advocate and Family Member Updates

Ms. Riggi introduced this item and invited any self-advocates and family members to present information of importance for their individual agencies.

Ms. Riggi spoke on attending the Northern Nevada Buddy Walk on behalf of the council. She truly enjoyed the event and seeing how things have changed and grown with the Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada. She was able to take some of her kids as it was a family event, and they had a blast as well. She thanked the council for the opportunity.

# Agency Updates

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

Jennifer Frischman with Aging and Disability Services (ADSD) stated they held a public workshop for benefits counseling as a new service in their I/DD waiver. That's really exciting. They don't have many providers. They currently have one provider but hope to recruit more. This will be an available service under the waiver. They have developed their budgets. She cannot share much at this point. They do present to the Governor's finance office on September 24th. Catherine and she were on a call on Tuesday or Wednesday. It was really amazing how many agencies stepped up and Northern Nevada as a whole. She gave ADSD a whole lot of credit. They identified all the people that they served within the fire area, the evacuation zones, and all of the folks in long term care. They got all that information over to DEM and Homeland Security. They had assistance from other agencies and were ready to evacuate folks. They were able to find some other places for them to go and made sure that they had everything that they needed. She gave kudos to everyone that worked on that project. Catherine and she were both on call all night. It was really wonderful to see the collaboration to make sure that people remained safe.

Vickie Ives with Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) stated that They have been sharing resources with DEM specific to maternal and child health populations and persons with developmental disabilities in relation to the wildfire. Their public health preparedness group was also deeply involved in the response. She gave her appreciation for all the hard work everyone is doing in that space around resource sharing and the Access and Functional Needs group. She wanted to mention some sad news. A resource that they've had for many years in the State; the medical home portal which really aggregated national, state, county, and local resources for families and children special healthcare needs; experienced a really severe cyber-attack. They would have to rebuild the entire site so that resource has gone away. DPBH is currently looking for other population health level and medical home supporting activities. There's a five-year maternal child health needs assessment that includes children, youth with special healthcare needs, pregnant persons, people of childbearing age, and youth generally that will help inform these activities. She will definitely be sharing more about opportunities around listening sessions surveys. She encourages members to share with their partners and consumers served. They really want a wide and varied statewide voice. They've made some gains in staffing as well. She also spoke on some upcoming immunization partnerships with the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) around expanding the sensory friendly vaccination kit resources and information. If members have areas that they think need mobile vaccination support, please reach out. She also highlighted the availability of RSV vaccinations for elder persons, pregnant persons, and the very youngest as resource. They are looking to ensure access.

# Agenda Items for Consideration

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

Ms. Nielsen stated as the next legislative session approaches, she would like to add a standing agenda item for legislative updates as the council goes through the next session. Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) are already going out into the community right now. They're very limited on the information that can be received from them. However, as information goes out there, it's important that standing updates are provided to the Council to determine if there's any input or things to the bring the attention of the Council.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Full Council meeting will take place on December 5, 2024 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. None was given.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.