NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

­­­Project Status Summary

FFY’ 25 First Quarter Project Status Summary

For the period of October 1, 2024, through December 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):**

The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) collaborated with AzulBlue, a nonprofit community organization based in Las Vegas, under the leadership of Director Olivia Espinoza. This engagement primarily involved AzulBlue parents and advocates, many of whom are parents of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

On October 15, 2024, a town hall meeting was held to provide a platform for members of the Latinx I/DD community to express their needs and priorities as the Council develops its next five-year state plan. Approximately 25 attendees participated over the course of the 1-hour and 45-minute discussion, surpassing the initially planned one-hour timeframe due to strong engagement from participants.

**Discussion Overview**

The meeting began with an introduction to NGCDD, including its mission and role in supporting the community. Although NGCDD does not provide direct services, it funds external organizations that offer crucial supports to the I/DD community and provides education and resources. The discussion yielded valuable insights into the needs and challenges faced by the Latinx I/DD community.

**Key Concerns Identified**

1. **Education and Teacher Preparedness**
   * Parents emphasized the need for better training for educators in managing student behaviors effectively.
   * Concerns were raised about instances of mistreatment and abuse within classrooms.
   * Many advocated for the installation of cameras in classrooms to ensure student safety, particularly for nonverbal individuals who cannot report abuse.
2. **First Responder Training**
   * The community called for increased education and training for first responders on de-escalation techniques and appropriate interactions with individuals with I/DD.
   * There was concern over the use of handcuffing in situations that could be handled with more understanding and compassion.
   * The Council provided information about Justin Hope’s advocacy efforts and committed to investigating why certain counties, including Clark County, have not implemented necessary training.
3. **Services and Activities for Older Children and Adults with I/DD**
   * Parents reported a lack of adequate services and recreational activities.
   * Concerns were raised about the affordability of programs, with requests for free or low-cost activities such as swimming lessons.
4. **Legislative and Advocacy Challenges**
   * Discussion included a BDR (FA-11 form) introduced to the legislature but lacking proper backing.
   * Parents were encouraged to actively participate in the legislative process by testifying and advocating for their concerns.
   * There were frustrations about pediatricians’ reluctance to complete necessary forms for I/DD diagnoses, leading to delays in services.
5. **Access to Therapy Services in Schools**
   * Families expressed the need for in-classroom, one-on-one therapy to prevent conflicts between school attendance and therapy sessions.
6. **Legal Assistance and Advocacy Support**
   * Concerns were raised about the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) not providing adequate legal support for I/DD-related issues.
7. **Direct Care Provider Shortages and Transition Services**
   * Parents cited insufficient wages for direct care providers as a major barrier to service availability.
   * A lack of adequate transition services for individuals aging out of school-based programs was also highlighted.

**Ongoing Statewide Town Hall Meetings**

In addition to the October 15 town hall, NGCDD continued hosting virtual statewide town halls on October 3 and December 18, 2024. Information about the outcomes of the town halls is available in the town hall report.

**State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Training**

On November 22, 2024, NGCDD staff attended the ITACC/NACDD Training Series webinar, focusing on:

* Understanding national I/DD data
* Enhancing data literacy
* Improving data accessibility
* Utilizing data for storytelling and advocacy

These initiatives are instrumental in equipping Council members with the tools necessary to drive meaningful policy change and community support.

**Outreach and Fiscal Manager (OFM):**

## The Outreach and Fiscal Manager (OFM) attended the Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada’s Buddy Walk in Las Vegas on October 19 & 20, 2024, with the Executive Director and Intern. This was a well-attended event with approximately 80 people who stopped by the NGCDD vendor table. Many were interested in what the Council does and information on education for their school aged children.

**Public Health Liaison (PHL):**

We continue our ongoing relationship with the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) and Heather Lafferty, Chief Resilience Officer, NDEM. The PHL in coordination with Ms. Lafferty has continued to support Emergency Preparedness efforts through their presentations across the state. They host weekly calls with local and national organizations to gather information to advance the planning efforts. Continued efforts focus on creating additional educational materials to close gaps in getting information to the community in plain language and ensuring that all materials are accessible.

The last G-197 course for the year took place in Elko in early November 2024. The G-197 will be offered again throughout 2025 and can be found on the Nevada Training and Qualification Systems (NTQS) website. Both our PHL and Heather had made their rounds to all three regions of the state. To date, we have successfully trained over 80 participants in just these 3 courses over the year.

Our AFN Disaster Coalition, “Wednesday Brief”, have been key over a number of events that took place throughout the year that included the Davis Fire that impacted Washoe county September 2024. The number of participants across state agencies, local non-profits and other key stakeholders within our disability community continues to grow.

FEMA courses have also been added to expand on additional areas of need.

## 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 individual’s 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):**

This past quarter, the PM remained actively engaged in scheduled meetings and additional advocacy efforts. The PM participated in the NACDD Public Policy Meetings, NACDD Monthly Task Force meetings, and the NACDD Medicaid Task Force meetings led by Erin Prangley. These meetings provided valuable updates on policy changes at the national level and facilitated discussions on state-specific developments.

In November, the PM attended the CAAN (Community Advocacy Advisory Network) meeting and gained insight into the resources offered by Nevada Urban Indians. Notably, the organization provides a wide range of services, including medical clinics in Carson City and Reno, which are open to all individuals regardless of Native American heritage. They also offer programs and activities for youth, broadening access to essential community supports.

Additionally, in December, several NGCDD staff members, including the PM, participated in a NADRC (National Alzheimer’s and Dementia Resource Center) webinar on **Supporting People with I/DD and Dementia in Adult Day Programs.** This webinar, supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), highlighted the increased risk of dementia among individuals with I/DD, particularly those with Down syndrome. The training provided valuable insights into early indicators of dementia, best practices for specialized day programs, and caregiver training to better support individuals experiencing cognitive decline.

These ongoing engagements and learning opportunities continue to enhance the Council’s advocacy efforts, ensuring that policy recommendations and initiatives align with the evolving needs of the I/DD community.

**Outreach and Fiscal Manager (OFM):**

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

The OFM attended the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting via ZOOM on November 14, 2024. There were technical issues with ZOOM and the meeting had to end and restart several times during the meeting.

Katherine Fuselier, Data Manger, gave an overview of discipline and behavior data.

Lisa Ford, Chief Strategy Officer, discussed the Statewide Plan for the Improvement of Pupils (STIP) 2025-2030 Proposal. The STIP reflects feedback and input gathered from school districts, education partners, and stakeholders across the State.

The OFM attended the Human Rights Commission (HRC) meeting via TEAMS on December 19, 2024. Several of the individuals discussed money management and what steps were being taken to assist with budgeting while other individuals discussed freedom of movement. These situations come from individuals who have had other housemates who have had issues with self-harm leading to having to lock up medications. Corrections have been made which include bringing in a new Program Manager.

Other discussions included money management and Supportive Decision Making for other individuals.

**Public Health Liaison (PHL):**

Our Public Health Liaison remains dedicated to supporting and engaging with various councils, commissions, coalitions, committees, and boards, focusing on key areas such as transportation, employment, self-advocacy, health, and emergency preparedness.

She actively participates in weekly briefings with the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) and serves as a member of several critical groups, including the Statewide Independent Living Council’s Employment First Task Force (SILC), the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC), the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association, and the Nevada Assistive Technology Council. Additionally, she takes part in national discussions, such as the weekly Partnership for Inclusive Disasters calls and the NACDD policy calls held weekly and quarterly. Regionally, she joins bi-weekly meetings with Region-9 Emergency Support Function (ESF)-8 Partners.

Our Public Health Liaison will continue to advocate for the full integration of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and access and functional needs (AFN) before, during, and after emergencies or disasters. Through education and awareness, she strives to ensure that individuals within these communities not only have a seat at the table but also a strong and informed voice in decision-making processes across all platforms.

## 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:**

In October, GTC reviewed and revised outreach and marketing activities for social media, email campaigns, and virtual platforms.

Per NGCDD’s request, GTC revised the application and survey to comply with federal requirements. The application form and survey were updated and approved on October 3, 2024. GTC collaborated closely with the IT team to finalize and upload the revised application and survey, which were posted on the ASL Anywhere website on October 9, 2024. Additionally, a spreadsheet containing consumers’ contact information, minutes allocated, and demographic data was updated and completed on October 4, 2024.

On October 10, NGCDD requested GTC to add "Middle Eastern/North African" as an option under the “Race” section of the application form. The update was implemented on October 11. GTC drafted an email announcing the exciting news about the Nevada Mobile Communication Access project and sent it to 139 customers on October 9, 2024. On October 15, GTC texted 100 consumers individually to notify them about the new 61 minutes available.

GTC requested NGCDD’s approval to send invoices twice a month and received confirmation from the State Fiscal Agent that this was acceptable.

In November, a press release was drafted and approved, while a letter of introduction was developed and distributed in December.

Upon receiving each application, GTC sends an email to notify returning or new consumers of their eligibility for the ASL Anywhere-Tive app and/or the additional 61 minutes added to their mobile plans. The email includes instructions for downloading and using the Tive app. Follow-up emails are sent to ensure consumers have successfully downloaded the app and to offer training if needed.

On October 28, GTC met with NGCDD to review the reporting procedures.

GTC monitored the dashboard and identified four consumers who had downloaded the ASL Anywhere or Tive app but had not applied for the free interpreting services. To encourage participation, GTC sent them an introductory email with the application link. Additionally, GTC identified several consumers attempting to use the ASL Anywhere app and reached out to remind them to use the Tive app instead.

GTC collaborated with the Marketing Department to brainstorm ideas for reaching out to new and returning customers.

On November 5, GTC sent an email with a signed video to 14 consumers, encouraging them to download the Tive app. On November 6, GTC followed up by texting 74 consumers individually with the same request.

At NGCDD’s request, GTC provided updates during the OIDD Update Call on November 20.

On November 13, GTC drafted and sent a survey email to all 138 consumers individually. Follow-up emails containing the survey were sent on December 6 and December 17. GTC also contacted 20 individuals via email, text, and videophone to request their testimonials.

On November 16, GTC texted 43 consumers, asking if they were interested in receiving an additional 61 minutes.

On November 21, GTC met with NGCDD via Zoom to discuss registered interpreters in Nevada. The dialogue focused on finding solutions to ensure interpreter quality and increasing the number of interpreters available in the state. The scope of work for reporting was also reviewed.

On November 25, GTC contacted all Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation-Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation offices and Nevada Care Connects via email and phone to confirm that they had successfully transitioned from the ASL Anywhere app to the Tive app.

GTC sent an email featuring a signed video and flyer to current and potential consumers about a Black Friday deal.

Emails with flyers were sent on October 9, November 25, November 27, and December 23. GTC participated in NGCDD’s Zoom meeting on December 5 and presented a summary of activities from the last quarter.

In response to inquiries, GTC received emails from the Lee School of Business – Accounting Department and IEP Defender, providing them with the requested information.

On December 13 and 14, GTC participated in the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s 2024 Engagement Conference, hosting a booth to share information about services.

GTC representatives collaborated with the Marketing Department to brainstorm survey ideas for interpreters and consumers, drafting a list of potential questions.

A total of sixty-nine (69) individuals completed the online application. Sixty-seven (67) were deemed eligible for the ASL Anywhere app and 61-minute packets. Two applicants were contacted and asked to re-submit their applications as they had used the incorrect form.

Two individuals were ineligible because they did not have a cell phone number. Follow-up emails were sent, but no responses were received.

**Consumer #1**

Thanks to ASL Anywhere representative for giving me resources to help advocate for my rights at my work. In the past, I had to use my 60 minutes for the group meeting. Now the employer brings the ASL interpreter for the group meetings. One thing I wish for the employer is to purchase minutes and use the app for one-to-one meetings. I am so happy! I can utilize my minutes for my personal use.

**Consumer #3**

I haven’t used the app yet because I must save the minutes for the emergency purposes. 61 minutes are small, and it will easily be gone in a short time.

**Consumer #4**

I am so happy to have Tive app! It is worthwhile! I used it when I was at the dentist. It was easier to communicate with the dentist. He explained the issue very clearly and the interpreter used ASL. I understood! Thanks to ASL Anywhere-Tive! ASL Anywhere representative asked him if he asked for the interpreting services. He said no. The app would do.

**Consumer #8**

I signed up for ASL Anywhere, but I had not used the app or minutes yet. Patty sent me email about re-applying for the mobile interpreting services and encouraged me to transfer to Tive app. I did re-apply for the second 61 minutes, but I didn’t download Tive app. I kept postponing until Patty met me in person at the conference. She encouraged me to download the app while she was there and could provide tech support if needed. I did it! I will try to use the app at my work.

**Consumer #10**

We use ASL Anywhere app once awhile in DETR-BVR office. It is very hard to get the iPad because it is always kept in the IT room or in a supervisor’s office. We don’t have the key to either room/office to get the iPad. When we have an appointment with client, we don’t have a place to sit down and put the iPad on the table. The iPad can’t stand by itself. We tend to meet with the clients in the hallway since there are no tables. The iPad needs to have a stand or something that can be hung on the door. It’s tough to use the iPad.

**Consumer #11**

We have two iPads at DETR-BVR in Las Vegas. One iPad was for the walk-in customers and the other one was for the staff’s use. The main problem is we don’t have good or strong WiFi signal, and we could not use in the offices. We have to go to the conference room or a certain room to get a better signal. It is not reliable. Luckily, I can talk and lipread, but the other staff are ASL users and need the iPad to communicate with the clients. I plan to talk with my supervisor to see if we can get better internet/WiFi services.

## 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:**

**Outreach and Fiscal Manager (OFM)**

The OFM was asked by a parent of a child with I/DD to attend her child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting on November 5, 2024, at Douglas High School (DHS). The parent felt DHS was not providing sufficient support for her child. The meeting was productive and addressed the parent’s concerns. A follow up meeting was scheduled, but the OFM was unable to attend. The OFM reached out to the parent, and she felt the IEP Team is being more supportive of her daughter’s needs.

The OFM met with Chris Salas from Ability Center via ZOOM on November 18, 2024.

Mr. Salas explained the center operates as a free service, relying on partnerships and grants for funding, and primarily serves individuals aged 12 and above with developmental disabilities. He would like to expand the Ability Center to other areas in Nevada with the potential of a center in the North.

The Ability Center focuses on adaptive workout sessions, especially for those who have Down Syndrome; it is a unique program with full-size fitness equipment with pneumatic air systems which allow members to adjust their own weight.

The center offers six adaptive programs which include one-to-one adaptive fitness, small group circuit training, family integration yoga and breathwork, cheerleading, and Friday night fitness. They also partner with the Las Vegas Raiders for a special needs Monday night tailgate party and conducts obesity training workshops.

The center is located at Betty’s Village. Opportunity Village is providing space for this program. The center is open to the public who are in the developmental disability community. They are not affiliated with Opportunity Village. Mr. Salas is hoping to bring the Ability Center to the North but needs a space. He feels that once he procures the space, he will be able to attract donors and receive grants to sustain the program. The center currently received funding from Google, the Raiders, the Vegas Aces, Give Happy Foundation, etc. He is confident he will attract donors that are in Northern Nevada.

**Projects Manager (PM):**

The Projects Manager has scheduled several Lunch and Learn sessions focused on topics of interest and emerging needs within the I/DD community. Due to the success of past presentations, several speakers from 2024 will return in 2025 to share their expertise once again.

Staff continues to expand their knowledge of available community resources, ensuring up-to-date information is shared. Participation has grown, with an average of 30 attendees per session throughout the year.

In the past quarter, topics have included Disability Employment, Becoming Independent and Leaving Home, Housing Options and the Guinn Center Landscape Housing Report, Sexuality and Relationships for People with Disabilities, Medicaid/Medicare, Social Security, and Supporting Mental Health. These hour-long Lunch and Learn sessions have proven to be a convenient and valuable resource, and they will continue throughout 2025.

We look forward to ongoing community support and welcome input on additional topics of interest to ensure these sessions remain relevant and impactful.

**Public Health Liaison (PHL):**

Our Public Health Liaison continues to gather information on the differing needs within the rural and tribal communities. This position will continue to work with NDEM as they navigate meetings with Emergency Managers and community members across the state.

Heather Lafferty, NDEM, and our PHL both presented for the Northern Nevada Public Health, at the Washoe County Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Moapa’s Resource Outreach event was well attended by the surrounding communities including Mesquite, Pioche, Panaca, and Pahrump. Policy Subcommittee Member, Jodi Thornley also attended to represent the Council and provide resources to the community. Ms. Thornley is well known and has a long-standing relationship within her community as a trusted source for many individuals and their families.

The Executive Director, Public Health Liaison, Executive Assistant, as well as Council Members Max Lowe and Stacey Carlston attended the Down Syndrome Organizations of Southern Nevada, Festival of Tree and Lights in Las Vegas where many disability community service providers and members gathered to network and recognize important figures in our community. In attendance included Governor Lombardo and Awardee Linda Smith.

The Executive Director, Public Health Liaison, Executive Assistant and Vice Chair Max Lowe attended the Deaf Engagement Conference in Las Vegas December 13th and 14th. Attendance included other disability community service providers and many individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. A total of 156 people attended the event.

The final report for the Public Health Workforce funding was submitted to the Administration on Community Living, for the position that initially supported the onboarding of the Public Health Liaison. The grant allowed for us to make forward progress for the access and functional needs community in Nevada.

# 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:**

**Outreach and Fiscal Manager (OFM):**

The OFM met with the Carson Valley Aktion Club in Gardnerville on November 18, 2024. The OFM was in attendance to gather feedback from the group regarding the NGCDD’s 5 Year State Plan. The OFM opened the discussion by giving information about the current 5 Year State Plan and why the NGCDD is asking for community input. Concerns from the group were employment, employer education on the benefits of hiring people with I/DD, the need to expand the hours for the transportation in the Douglas County area, as well as to and from Carson City, affordable housing and health care. Additionally, information was provided on the upcoming iCanBike program in 2025.

## 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 Youth Empowering Students (Y.E.S.) program is actively seeking schools to implement the program. There has been several leads and staff are in the process of getting proper approvals. Staff is also exploring putting the Y.E.S. program online to allow for access for the community to watch on their own.

## 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 (PHL):**

Our PHL & NDEM continue to navigate meetings with Emergency Managers (EM) across the state. Forward progress has been made and will continue to connect individuals with disabilities across the state with their local EMs and to provide resources for those interested in participating in Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC’s). The G-197 course, defined by staff, is intended to educate Emergency Mangers and other first responders across the state on the integration of Access and Functional Needs into emergency management. Noting that these courses will continue across the state among the three regions within Carson City, Las Vegas, and Elko. A total of 80 participants have been trained as of November.

Staff continues to receive multiple requests for this course to be taught to other organizations and agencies. Efforts are being made to meet those requests. In the meantime, we have been able to create, and issue expanded materials. As events and experiences grow, we have also made additions to content materials reflecting the ever-changing ways we can learn from incidents.

During this reporting period our PHL has been navigating and building out the “End of Life” road map to help others on situations concerning end of life planning. The end goal is to provide a resource to the community that is tangible and available to help plan for end-of-life care.

## 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:**

**Outreach Fiscal Manager (OFM):**

The OFM and Executive Assistant have worked together on the Partners in Policymaking class for 2025 as co-instructors. They have verified applications and met personally with each applicant. There were twenty (20) applications with twelve (12) completing the initial interview and acceptance. Classes are scheduled for January 11, February 8, March 15, April 12, May 17, June 21, July 12, and August 9, 2025. Each class is eight (8) hours and held via ZOOM. Participants are required to attend the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day on March 3 and 4, 2025, in Carson City. Graduation is scheduled for September 13, 2025, in Las Vegas.

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:**

**Outreach Fiscal Manager (OFM):**

The OFM met with Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director, and Diana Rovetti from the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) on November 8 and December 6, 2024, via ZOOM. Plans are moving forward with a scheduled iCanBike camp in Reno, June 2025. Additional information will be available on this camp by March 2025.

## 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.

**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.

**Of Note:**

Council staff is working with community members to provide education to various groups on employment and reducing barriers to becoming employed for individuals with disabilities. The Council staff has been working with Vocational Rehabilitation to secure a Community Based Assessment (CBA) intern for a portion of the 2025 Legislative session. The Council will report on the process and the quality of the services provided.

## Objective 3.3 - Housing

Improve access to quality housing options and supports for individuals with I/DD Statewide.

**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.

**Of Note:**

During the Lunch and Learn series in this quarter, the Kenny Guinn Center presented the information in the landscape housing report. In doing so, the Council received feedback that the report was not accessible to all that needed the information. The Kenny Guinn Center team remediated the report and ensured that the information is accessible. Attendees reported that the information provided increased their information and knowledge of housing options and resources.

## Objective 3.4 – Transition

# Increase access to quality services and support for individuals with I/DD transitioning into or currently in adulthood.

**Of Note:**

The Council staff is working to collect information on current transition services that are available. This includes what is available through the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as in the community. Many community members have reported concerns during the Council’s town halls concerning a lack of transition services being provided in the community. Staff recently had a meeting with state agencies about the current use of multi-disciplinary teams and how we can leverage a tangible resource to support the various state agency services available. The goal would be to provide a resource that assists in navigating transition throughout a lifespan.

# 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.