**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from January 30, 2025**

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Zoom [https://zoom.us/j/](https://zoom.us/j/8)87493919504

Meeting ID: 874 9391 9504

NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities  
406 East Second Street, Carson City 89701

# Special Notes

* All items reviewed during this meeting are available for view on the NGCDD website; under the event created for this meeting: [www.nevadaddcouncil.org](http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/)
* Bolded text under a heading indicates an action taken by the NGCDD.

# Introductions

Committee Members Present: Max Lowe, Vice-Chair; Anna Marie Binder; Kathleen Kingston; Heather Lafferty; Dora Martinez; Christine Riggi; Cindi Swanson; Peter Whittingham;

Committee Members Absent: Stacey Alaribe, Committee Chair; Santa Perez; Renee Portnell; Jodi Thornley; Vivian Turner

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

Public Present: Steven Cohen; Kammy Kinkade; Ester Kwon; 702-606-9087 (no name)

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Vice-Chair, Max Lowe, at 10:04 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on January 24, 2025.

# Land Acknowledgment

Max Lowe, Council Vice-Chair, provided the land acknowledgement as follows: The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, as a program whose designated state agency is the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, acknowledges, honors, and respects the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land and recognize the State of Nevada is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwu, Newe, Numu, Wa She Shu, and Hopi tribes. 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

Mr. Lowe asked if there was any public comment, verified meeting information, and stated how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Cindi Swanson stated there is so much information coming down the pipeline about Federal monies being cut, grants being cut and I think it's important that we know what financial position our organizations, such as the DD. Council. I know a few people who yesterday got letters like pink slips. We need to know what you all need to support what we all do. She also stated the Commission serving persons with disabilities is looking for more people. If anybody is interested in joining that group, it would be appreciated. The link to the
* Ms. Ortiz stated a correction to agenda item five ich is a discussion only item. The title and body state “Budget Committee”, however; they should state “Policy Committee”.
* Heather Lafferty stated thank you to the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disability and Catherine. During the Los Angeles (LA) Wildfires, the centers for independent living reached out to Catherine, in coordination with the Division of Emergency Management; she was able to get 600 hygiene kits directly to the disability community impacted in LA. She flew down and drove them there herself. We just want to say thank you for that effort and supporting our disability partners in California. It's had a huge impact on the IDD community.

# Approval of Minutes from the October 2024 Meeting

Mr. Lowe asked if there was a motion to approve the October 17, 2024 Committee meeting minutes. He opened this item for discussion.

**Dora Martinez motioned to approve the October 17, 2024 Committee meeting minutes as written. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried with Kathleen Kingston abstaining.**

# Information on Chair and Vice-Chair Elections for Budget Committee

Mr. Lowe introduced this agenda item and reiterated the correction to the title from “Budget Committee” to “Policy Committee”. He deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for further conversation.

Ms. Nielsen gave a brief background elections for Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy Committee to take place at the February 20, 2025 meeting. She will be reaching out to members for nominations shortly. She opened the discussion to committee members.

# Review of Position Statement on Restraints and Seclusion

Mr. Lowe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation.

Ms. Nielsen gave a brief background on the position statement and previous points discussed in the December Full Council meeting. She referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position Statement on Restraints and Seclusion”. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

# Review of Position Statement on Self-Advocacy

Mr. Lowe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation.

Ms. Nielsen gave a brief background on the position statement. She referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position Statement on Self-Advocacy”. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

# Discussion of Topics for Potential Position Statements

Mr. Lowe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director for conversation on potential position statements for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Ms. Nielsen listed the current position statements and discussed the background for this agenda item. She opened this item for committee members to discuss potential topics that the committee can create position statements for.

# Review of Current Bill Draft Requests

Mr. Lowe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director for further conversation.

Ms. Nielsen discussed the list of currently available bill draft requests on the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS) and reviewed how to access the NELIS system for the upcoming 83rd legislative session. She also discussed proposal to move the Developmental Disabilities Council under the proposed Nevada Health Authority and the proposed budget released by the Governor’s Office. She stated the current amount of BDRs available is quite extensive and they are currently listed with vague descriptions. As session opens, these descriptions will have more information. She also discussed the new temporary position of Legislative Liaison which will be held by Steven Cohen. She opened this item for discussion.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Policy Committee meeting will be February 20, 2025 at 10 am via Zoom.

# Public Comment

Mr. Lowe asked if there is any public comment, verified meeting information, and stated how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Ms. Nielsen stated that legislative session begins Monday February 3rd. Staff will be in and out of the office attending those sessions. Please allow some grace with the communication timelines. We have a 24 hour follow up time period typically, but it might be extended to about 48 hours. If it's urgent, you do have our contact information to be able to call us. I appreciate you and thank you for hanging in there, especially as session gets going

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.