**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2025**

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: Stacey Alaribe, Committee Chair; Max Lowe, Vice-Chair; Anna Marie Binder; Heather Lafferty; Dora Martinez; Santa Perez; Renee Portnell; Vivian Turner; Cindi Swanson; Peter Whittingham

Committee Members Absent: Kathleen Kingston; Christine Riggi; Jodi Thornley

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Alysa Marquez, Intern; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant; Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager; Steven Cohen, Legislative Liaison

NGCDD Staff Absent: Ellen Marquez, Self-Advocacy Coordinator; Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison

Public Present: Richie Bednarski; Kammy Kinkade; Ester Kwon

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe, at 10:04 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on March 6, 2025.

# Land Acknowledgment

Max Lowe, Policy Committee 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

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

* Mr. Lowe stated he is set to meet with the chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee on information on crimes victims with disabilities.
* Dora Martinez thanked the council and spoke on being a part of the event on March 3rd , a film showing of “Our World in Our Words” and a panel for the stars of the films.
* Cindi Swanson gave snaps to Southwest for their flight accommodations. She was able to fly with Santa Perez and the southwest team was very helpful.
* Anna Marie Binder agreed with Ms. Swanson comments.
* Peter Whittingham thanked the council and their efforts during the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day events.
* Catherine Nielsen spoke on the Governor's proclamation recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The council has the official proclamation and has been able to post it. She also spoke on a letter being sent to federal representatives about potential Medicaid cuts.

# Approval of February 2025 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the February 20, 2025 Committee meeting minutes. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the February 20, 2025 Committee meeting minutes as written. Renee Portnell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Review of Position Statement on Applied Behavioral Analysis and Other Therapy Types for Individuals with I/DD

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

Ms. Nielsen gave a brief background on the position statement referred to the document titled “Draft Position Statement on Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Other Therapy Types”. She also discussed the changes. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

**Ms. Swanson motioned to recommend to the Full Council for approval the Position Statement on Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Other Therapy with the recommended changes. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Review of Position Statement on Housing

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

Ms. Nielsen gave an in-depth overview on the position statement. She referred to the document titled “Position on Housing”. She also discussed the previous recommended changes. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to recommend for approval to the Full Council the Position Statement on Housing with the recommended changes. Anna Marie Binder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously**.

# Review of Position Statement on Self-Advocacy

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

Ms. Nielsen gave an in-depth overview 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.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to recommend for approval to the Full Council the Position Statement on Self-Advocacy with the recommended changes. Ms. Portnell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Review of Position Statement on Crimes Against Individuals with I/DD

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

Ms. Nielsen gave an in-depth overview on the position statement. She referred to the document titled “Draft Position Statement on Crimes”. She also discussed the previous recommended changes. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

**Ms. Binder motioned to recommend for approval to the Full Council the Position Statement on Crimes Against Individuals with I/DD with the recommended changes. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Discussion of Topics for Potential Position Statements

Ms. Alaribe 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. Position statements for fiscal accountability, accountability in general, service animals, and mobile delivery/transportation were discussed.

# Review of Current Bill Draft Requests

Ms. Alaribe 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 Senate Bill 74 which proposes the elimination of boards, commissions, and/or committees that may be deemed duplicative. She also discussed the new temporary position of Legislative Liaison which will be held by Steven Cohen. She discussed the work they have been doing as session progresses. She opened this item for discussion.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Policy Committee meeting will be April 17, 2025 at 10 am via Zoom.

# Public Comment

Ms. Alaribe asked if there is any public comment, verified meeting information, and stated how to submit public comments telephonically. None was given.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.