**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from February 20, 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: Stacey Alaribe, Committee Chair; Max Lowe, Vice-Chair; Anna Marie Binder; Kathleen Kingston; Heather Lafferty; Dora Martinez; Santa Perez; Renee Portnell; Jodi Thornley; Vivian Turner; Christine Riggi; Cindi Swanson

Committee Members Absent: Peter Whittingham

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; Steven Cohen, Legislative Liaison

Public Present: Linda Anderson; Camille Chalk; Ester Kwon

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe, at 10:02 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on February 14, 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.

* Santa Perez asked a question regarding the travel accommodations for the Developmental Disabilities awareness event in March.
* Catherine Nielsen stated on the evening of March 3, the council will be having an in-person viewing of the “Our World in Our Words” film. Three of the four film stars are on this meeting with us today: Santa, Cindi, and Dora. And if anyone is available, we would love to have you. There will be a question-and-answer panel discussion afterwards as well. It's at the Reno Automobile Museum. The doors open at approximately 5 pm. Registration is open and has gone out via email. It will also be posted on our website today.

# Approval of January 2025 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the January 30, 2025 Committee meeting minutes. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the January 30, 2025 Committee meeting minutes as written. Jodi Thornley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Alaribe abstaining.**

# Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for Policy Committee

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

Ms. Nielsen gave a brief background on the election for Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy Committee. She opened the discussion to committee members.

**Cindi Swanson motioned to elect Stacy Alaribe as chair of the Policy Committee. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously**.

**Ms. Swanson motioned to elect Max Lowe as vice chair of the Policy Committee. Christine Riggi seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Lowe abstaining**.

# Review of Position Statement on Restraints and Seclusion

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 and previous points discussed in the January committee meeting. She referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position Statement on Restraints and Seclusion”. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

**Anna Marie Binder motioned to recommend to the Full council for approval the Position Statement on Restraints and Seclusion with the recommended changes. Mr. Lowe 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 opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

**Ms. Binder motioned to table the Position Statement on Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Other Therapy Types to the March 6, 2025, policy committee for consideration before the March 13, 2025 Full Council meeting. Ms. Swanson 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. This agenda item was tabled.

# 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 opened the discussion to committee members for their input. This agenda item was tabled.

# 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.

# 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 the proposed budget released by the Governor’s Office. 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 March 6, 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.

* Steven Cohen stated regarding SB 174, in a personal capacity, he is waiting on a call back from Senator Ohrenschall and Chair Taylor has scheduled a meeting for this coming Monday at 5:15 pm. Please feel free to contact him offline for more info. The meeting was initially in late March.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.