Self-Advocacy Coordinator Status Summary

FFY’ 17 Second Quarter Reports

For the period of January 1, 2017 through March 31st, 2016

Table of Contents

[Informed Decision Making by Individuals w/IDD 2](#_Toc473539634)

[Self Advocacy (IA) 4](#_Toc473539635)

[Glossary Of Terms 8](#_Toc473539636)

Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Compiled 4/28/2017

By: Catherine Nielsen

# Please note that some activities will be listed out of order. This is due to varying responsibilities and start dates.

# Informed Decision Making by Individuals w/IDD

Goal Summary – (Addresses education/training, cultural diversity, targeted disparity, resource knowledge & network collaboration). Increase and strengthen the knowledge of individuals with I/DD to promote/encourage informed decision making about their choices leading to improved quality of life, increase independence, productivity and full inclusion in their communities.

**Goal 1, Objective 1.1**: Partner with three Hispanic Organizations in Nevada to Provide greater access to information and services for persons with I/DD.

Organization(s):

Project Summary:

Activity 1A) Engage in outreach to targeted Hispanic communities statewide to promote improved access to information and services.

* Catherine reached out to AZULBlue and Milagros Escondidos and established a working partnership with each. In March, Catherine flew down to Las Vegas, to meet with Luis from AZULBlue and attend a Milagros Escondidos meeting. AZULBlue expressed interest in partnering to put on their advocacy conference in September. In the past NCED had provided them funding but were unable to this year. We will work together to determine how our money and time will be best spent.
* Catherine also distributed several copies of the Toolkit in Spanish to both AZULBlue (20) and Milagros Escondidos (20).

Activity 1B) Eliminate barriers to accessing Council systems change, advocacy and capacity building initiatives by translating important and relevant documents created by the Council to Spanish.

* Catherine is working with Sherry, Executive Director, to gain translation services to translate materials and provide interpretation during meetings as necessary.
* Catherine reached out for support from Family Support Council in Gardnerville, who translated the tool guide surveys into Spanish. We are also working on getting our brochures translated into Spanish.

Activity 1C) Distribute translated materials to identified Hispanic organizations and groups across the State with follow up communications to those agencies to gauge the impact of the materials.

* Catherine distributed several copies of the Tool Guides in Spanish to both AZULBlue (20) and Milagros Escondidos (20). Due to the timing of the distribution, the impact will be included on future reports.
* Catherine also distributed (10) Tool Guides in Spanish to the United Latino Community in Carson City.
* Catherine distrusted (30) Tool Guides in English and (10) Tool Guides in Spanish at the Pow-Wow at Wooster High School.

Activity 1D) Provide increased level of support and information to the Hispanic Community during legislative sessions.

* After meeting with AZULBlue, they requested a copy of the legislative bills that we are following. Catherine provided this too them. AZULBlue also expressed interest in attending legislative sessions in regards to bills SB224, which discusses cameras in the special needs classrooms. I provided AZULBlue with a copy of the legislative contact book found at the Nevada State Legislature gift store. This book has the information for all the Nevada representatives.

Impact of Activity

* A line of communication has been opened between the Council and these two organizations.

NGCDD Expected Outcomes:

* Spanish speaking individuals with I/DD and their families will have the information they need to access services and reduce barriers to supports.
* Strong relationships with culturally diverse agencies and organizations will increase collaborative efforts with the Council.
* More Spanish speaking individuals with I/DD and their families will actively participate in making truly informed choices that effect their lives.
* There will be an increase in Hispanic individuals/groups testifying at the Legislature re: disability issues.

Of Note:

A line of communication has been opened between the Council and two Hispanic Organizations and a partnership has begun to build. We have increased the information provided to the Spanish speaking families in Southern Nevada for access to services and reducing barriers to supports in their life via the Tool Guides, thus more Spanish speaking individuals with I/DD and their families will actively participate in making truly informed choices that effect their lives. Our goal with the Self-Advocacy conference is to continue to increase this number. By providing information on how to contact their local legislation, there will hopefully be an increase in Hispanic individuals/groups testifying at the Legislature on disability issues.

**Goal 1, Objective 1.2**: Partner with NV Communities for 6 community based events and activities held in all regions of the State to educated and inform individuals with I/DD, families and professionals about important and emerging disability related issues, services and supports available.

Organization(s):

Project Summary:

Activity 1A) Public Awareness Collaboration Events (PACE) will be developed in communities across the State to inform individuals with I/DD, their families and professionals about resources and/or topics of concern identified by consumers in the Council’s 5 Year State Plan to include targeted disparity, emerging issues and areas of emphasis identified in the DD Act.

* Catherine attended the Pow-Wow at Wooster High School and spoke with 6 people with an I/DD, 17 family members of, and 96 people of the public and informed them on the Council. Many were also provided the Tool Guide (numbers are reported in goal 1, Objective 1.1).
* Both Catherine and Kari attended the planning meetings for both the Spring Fling and the Journey of Hope. The Spring Fling is aimed at educating the I/DD community and their families about resources and topics of concern within the Northern Nevada community.
* Catherine and Kari attended the DAC Agency Mixer in March which included around 35 professionals from the I/DD community.
* Catherine and Kari attended meetings with the Western Nevada College staff to plan the Journey of Hope friendship event to be held in June 2017.

Activity 1B) PACE Events to include at least two specific events relevant to un/underserved populations.

* Catherine attended the Pow-Wow at Wooster High School with a vendor booth. We had approximately (6) people with an I/DD, (17) family members of an individual with an I/DD, and 96 other members of the community stop by the booth and gather information.
* Catherine met with AZULBlue in March to discuss a partnership for a Self-Advocacy conference to be held in the South for the public but primarily targeting the Hispanic community.

Impact of Activity

* A total of 12 individuals were added to our interested parties list from the Pow-Wow. 5 self-identified themselves as family members of a person with an I/DD and 6 self-identified as professionals who work with people with an I/DD.

NGCDD Expected Outcomes:

* Individuals with I/DD, families and professionals will be educated about important and immerging disability issues, services and support locally and nationally.
* More people with I/DD, families and professionals will make truly informed choices, therefore reducing barriers to accessing supports and services.

Of Note: None

**Goal 1, Objective 1.3**: Participate in a minimum of 6 (councils/committees/coalitions) to promote communications within and between agencies to ensure cohesive information about services and supports are available.

Organization(s):

Project Summary:

Activity 1B) Self-Advocacy Coordinator will attend statewide committees and councils compromised of multiple agency representatives and bring that information back to the self-advocates.

* Catherine and Kari attended the Disability Agency Coalition (DAC) meetings in January, February and March as well as attended the DAC Agency Mixer in March.
* Catherine attend the CAAN (Carson Agency Action Network) monthly meeting in January and February and met with 15 different agencies in the Carson/Reno area to discuss cohesive information about services and supports available in our community.

Impact of Activity

Activity 1B)

* Attending the DAC meetings allowed the Council to have input on how/where the events take place. The DAC mixer was a success, and we received a total of 31 new contacts for our contact list for Self-Advocacy opportunities.
* The NGCDD is now being featured in the Community Resource Guide produced for the Northwest Nevada Communities, due to meeting the author of the guide at one of the CAAN meetings. This increases our exposure and awareness within Nevada.

NGCDD Expected Outcomes:

* Increased communication within and between agencies.
* Increased interagency collaborations.
* Council will ensure the voice of our consumers is heard within those agencies.

Of Note: None

# Self Advocacy (IA)

Goal Summary – Addresses advocacy, education/training, cultural diversity, targeted disparity & network collaboration). Ensuring individuals with I/DD have the education and training necessary to participate in advocacy and policy making activities.

**Goal 2, Objective 2.1**: Establish/strengthen minimum of 1 State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with I/DD.

Organization(s):

Project Summary:

Activity 1B) Self-Advocacy Coordinator will convene regular meetings (video-conference, telephone or in person) with I/DD Network representatives and individuals across the state to promote relationship building, information and resource sharing.

* Catherine and Council member, David Sorenson, attended the Carson City People First Chapter meeting in January, February and March. During this time, the location was moved, guidance was provided and information shared on how to run (and sustain) a successful chapter. Catherine and David attended Special Olympics practices (basketball, track and swimming) in the Carson City area to hand out flyers about the People First Carson City Chapter meetings. I answered the public’s questions about the meetings and the details.
* Catherine attended the People First Reno/Sparks Chapter meeting in February and presented on the council and our tool guides. 10 Tool Guides were handed out at the meeting.
* Catherine attended the People First Fallon Chapter meeting in February and presented on the Council and our tool guides. 7 Tool Guides were handed out at the meeting.
* Catherine attended the People First Winnemucca Chapter meeting in February and presented on the Council and our tool guides. 3 Tool Guides were handed out at the meeting.
* We conducted a “state-wide” test meeting in March which allowed all 5 chapters (Carson, Fallon, Las Vegas, Winnemucca, and Fallon) to connect and test the laptops we received from the EPIC grant. This meeting went smoothly and the State-wide meeting was planned for May 22 at 6pm.
* Catherine attended the A-team meeting in Sparks in January and spoke about the council and our current/upcoming projects. She provided tool guides to the participants that may not have had them before. Catherine also provided information on the Advocacy Day at the Legislature to help encourage they attend.

Activity 1C) Self-Advocacy Coordinator will identify and share funding opportunities to assist self-advocacy organizations in achieving/maintain sustainability.

* Kari and Catherine traveled to Las Vegas in January to present a check to the A-team to fund transportation, food, lodging, etc. for the Advocacy Day at the Legislature in February. Specifically, these funds provided the following: $2,818 = bus transportation for 47 people, including 37 self-advocates, 4 parents, and 2 residential personal care staff. $2,182 provided accommodations for 49 people, including 43 self-advocates and family members who drove and another 6 people who elected to fly in. This totals 49 people funded under the NCGDD grant.
* Catherine has contacted all Nevada Self-Advocates that are leading the current people first chapter meetings, to distribute the laptops received from the EPIC grant. One laptop was given to Jay in Winnemucca, one was given to Travis in Reno/Sparks, one was given to Jason Freeman in Fallon, one was given to Santa in Las Vegas and one is being used by the Self-Advocacy Coordinator.

Activity 1D) Self-advocates will participate in the biennial Legislative sessions by bringing forward issues that are important to them and taking a leadership role in developing their own legislative agenda.

* Catherine, Kari and Sherry attend the Advocacy Day at the Legislature February 27th, 2017. The Council is provided funds to the A-Team for transportation, food, lodging, etc. for this event. More than 130 people including Self-Advocates, their families and caregivers, and community members attended this event. We were able to hold over 37 meetings with Senators and Assemblymen/women and their constituents as well as the Lt. Governor and Secretary of State. Self-Advocates were introduced in both houses and they were honored to start the formal session with the Pledge of Allegiance. Galleries for both houses were filled with Self-Advocates observing the legislative process. Attendees were recognized on the official record of the Senate as having attended. Attendees also participated in Legislative Committee meetings throughout the day.

Impact of Activity:

NGCDD Expected Outcomes:

* Self-Advocates will have the guidance, resources, information and support to promote relationship building among themselves.
* Key policy makers/legislature will receive education from self-advocates on disability issues.
* A strong, independent, self-advocacy organization run by individuals with I/DD will exist in Nevada.
* Self-Advocacy groups will work toward becoming financially sustainable.
* Self-Advocacy groups will work together to take a leadership role in developing coordinated legislative agenda’s.
* Increase in number of SA’s showing a united front, testifying at the Legislature.

Of Note:

Self-Advocates were given guidance, resources, information and support to promote relationship building among themselves as well as key policy makers/legislatures. During Advocacy Day at the Legislature these same key policy makers/legislatures were provided information from self-advocates on disability related issues. Currently People First, A-Team NV and Aktion Club are all very strong and successful Self-Advocacy organizations in Nevada that are all ran by individuals with I/DD. Each of the organizations is financially sustainable and independently managed. Several members of the various Self-Advocacy organizations wrote letters to their representatives and our Council member/People First Advisor, David Sorenson testified in support of AB192, which allows for certain requirements for the State of Nevada to use the 700 hour program.

**Goal 2, Objective 2.2**: Support opportunities for a minimum of 10 self-advocacy leaders with I/DD to provide leadership training to youth with I/DD.

Organization(s):

Project Summary:

Activity 1A) Year 1, a Youth Leadership initiative established in 2 regions of the State engaging PIP graduates and Self-Advocacy leaders to provide information to students with I/DD, their teachers and parents regarding self-determination, advocacy, post-secondary education and employment options.

* Catherine has developed a curriculum with the help and guidance of Kari. We will finish up the curriculum and get the final edits to Sherry for approval before moving onto vocational rehab. Once approved by Vocational Rehab, we will begin approaching schools to request implementation of this curriculum during the 2017-2018 school year. Catherine will, in the meantime, begin observing several special education classrooms, to gain input from their teaching styles.
* A meeting was held with Mechelle Merrill, Bureau Chief of Vocational Rehab, to discuss a partnership and funding opportunities. Once the curriculum is completed, we will present it to vocational rehab for review and approval.

Impact of Activity:

* Due to a change in personnel/permanency of the Self-Advocacy Coordinator position, performance measures are unavailable for this quarter.

NGCDD Expected Outcomes:

* Youth Leadership project is training youth with I/DD in at least 2 regions of Nevada.
* People with I/DD have increased leadership training.

Of Note: This project is still in the pilot year and will hopefully be implemented at the start of the 2017-18 school year.

**Goal 2, Objective 2.3**: A minimum of 1 culturally diverse organization in Northern, Southern and other regions of NV (3 total) will be provided information to provide support to expand participation of individuals with I/DD in cross-disability culturally diverse leadership groups.

Organization(s):

Project Summary:

Activity 1A) NGCDD Members/Staff will establish a partnership with a culturally diverse (cross disability) organization in each region of the State (3 total).

* Catherine has attended several of the Aktion Club meetings of the Carson Valley to provide information on leadership and self-advocacy opportunities. We invited the Aktion Club to Advocacy Day at the Legislature and had 26 members (people with, family of, or professional with family support council) in attendance representing the Aktion Club of the Carson Valley. The council also offered a leadership opportunity for a conference being held in May, to the president of the Aktion Club.
* Catherine spoke at the Kiwanis of Carson Valley club meeting in February and presented on the tool guide and the Council. 10 tool guides in English were provided to the club.
* Catherine also attended several planning meetings in January and February for the Cultural Competencies in Healthcare summit. This event was focused on educating those in healthcare on different types of cultural backgrounds, including disabilities. The vendor fair portion was held February 28th, 2017. Our council member Russell, was a speaker at the event. We added 4 people to our interested parties list. One individual with disabilities and their family member also visited our booth and took 2 tool guides. In addition, I handed out 5 other tool guides and other materials.
* Like mentioned before, Catherine established a partnership with AZULBlue and Milagros Escondidos in Southern Nevada, both of which are Hispanic organizations.

Impact of Activity:

* To Be Determined

NGCDD Expected Outcomes:

* Self-Advocates, cross disability and diverse disability groups will learn from each other and work together in partnership.
* Expand participation of people with I/DD in diverse groups.
* Individuals with I/DD will lead more inclusive lives and have more opportunities to be equally contributing members in their community.

Of Note: None

# Glossary Of Terms

**Best Practice:** A technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has proven to reliably lead to a desired result.

**Changed:** The act of making or becoming different.

**Created:** To cause to come into being.

**Implemented:** To put into effect, put into action, put into practice, carry out, enact.

**Improved:** To make or become better, to raise to a more desirable condition, or quality.

**Policy:** A statement of how an organization or entity intends to conduct its services, actions, or business. Policies provide a set of guiding principles to help with decision making.

**Procedure:** A description of how each policy will be put into action. Procedures often outline who will do what; what steps will be taken, and which forms to use.

**Policy and/or procedure change:** A policy and/or procedure change reflects a course of action that has the potential to create or improve policies and/or procedures regarding services and supports that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

**Promising Practice:** A practice with an innovative approach that improves upon existing practice and positively impacts the area of practice. The practice should demonstrate a high degree of success and the possibility of replication in other agencies or settings, but has not been tested.

**Regulation:** A rule or administrative code issued by governmental agencies at all levels, municipal, county, state, and federal. Regulations are not laws, but have the force of law since they are adopted under authority granted by statutes.

**Statute:** A law or other enactment made by a legislature and expressed in a formal document.

**Statute and/or regulation change:** A law and/or rule or administrative code that has the potential to improve laws, rules, or administrative codes regarding services, supports, and other assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

**Trained, or educated:** Training is an organized activity designed to give information and/or instructions to improve performance or help attain knowledge or skill; educated means to give information about something. This number would not include general public education (web-site hits, newspaper, social media, etc.)