**NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



**Position on Community Support**

Over 5.4 million children and adults have developmental disabilities, and most of them live at home with families. However, they often receive too few, if any, services and face long waiting lists for needed supports.

**NGCDD believes that people with developmental disabilities should receive community supports to allow them to live in the setting of their choice to enable them to participate fully in community life. Children with developmental disabilities should remain with their family or an alternative family model and receive the necessary supports to enhance community living.**

**Policy Recommendations:**

* Change state services and programs to reflect the preference for community based services versus institutional living.
* Address inequities in access to and funding for direct support caregiver services for all disability populations; including increasing wages for direct support professionals to create a more stable and qualified workforce.
* Ensure the availability of respite care for families with members of all ages and disabilities.
* Promote the use of special needs trusts to financially assist families with disability related expenses to empower people with developmental disabilities to become more self-sufficient and promote the use of asset development.
* Remove waiting lists for community living options by increasing financial and other supportive resources.
* Ensure the rapid movement of individuals with developmental disabilities from institutions to community options with necessary supports and the transfer of the individuals’ funds to the community programs.