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



**Position on Health Care**

Individuals with developmental disabilities are more likely to experience early death, chronic conditions, and preventable health conditions, compared to persons without disabilities. Even with access to care, people with developmental disabilities often have difficulty recognizing and communicating their own health care needs. Moreover, there is a significant shortage of qualified, trained health care professionals who are prepared and willing to treat them.

**NGCDD believes that comprehensive health care must provide affordable health care coverage, improved quality, and better cost control, while addressing the significant health and health care disparities faced by individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition to improving access to quality medical care for persons with developmental disabilities, the health care system must improve the way our State provides long term services and supports related to health care (such as assistance and supervision with activities of daily living, taking medication, and preparing meals).**

**Policy Recommendations:**

Comprehensive health care must adequately address the following:

* Access to affordable health care coverage for Nevadans with developmental disabilities, removing any bias based on pre-existing conditions, congenital impairments, or whether the intervention is habilitative or rehabilitative in nature.
* Assure greater access to quality care by health care providers trained to meet the medical needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.
* Provide appropriate, accessible health care for individuals with developmental disabilities.
* Ensure all policies and programs result in the creation of equal treatment in health-related services to all individuals.
* Encourage inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities in prevention and wellness programs.
* Develop and strengthen the “medical home” model to meet the health care needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.