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



**Position on Informed Choice**

# Informed choice occurs when a person, with or without reasonable accommodations, understands all the options available to them, including the benefits and risks of their decisions. The process of informed choice doesn't have an end and doesn't just occur onetime. Informed choice is part of an ongoing process of engaging people in person-centered conversations about their goals. An informed choice allows an individual with disabilities to be in control of their life’s decisions and ensure they’re making meaningful choices about what will impact their future.

# **The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) believes that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities should be provided with all options that impact their life and should be provided the opportunity to experience their options before making a decision.**

# Policy Recommendations:

* Information shall be given to the individual making an informed decision in the manner most appropriate to their communication needs and that is understandable to the individual.
* Individuals, families, caregivers, and guardians shall be engaged regularly in conversations about their goals and aspirations to include employment, housing, transportation, health, to include supported decision-making discussions.
* Encouraging individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to enact supported decision making in all aspects of their life.
* Information on all available options shall be provided in a way that is easily understood and will include benefits, risks, and steps to move forward, if desired.
* Informed choice process shall include an opportunity to visit and observe all options available, to include people with lived experience and to talk with them about their experiences.
* Ensure that choices are respected, and individuals will not be forced to do something that they don’t want to do.
* NGCDD also believes that agencies should ensure informed choice through written policies and procedures, standardized assessment and career planning tools, provider competencies, training and technical assistance, and ongoing monitoring.