**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2023**

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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  
808 West Nye Lane, Carson City, NV 89703

# 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: Santa Perez, Committee Chair; Stacy Alaribe; Jennifer Frischmann; Heather Lafferty; Max Lowe; Dora Martinez; Jack Mayes; Renee Portnell; Christine Riggi; Cindi Swanson; Jodi Thornley; Vivian Turner

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Ellen Marquez, Self-Advocacy Coordinator; Alysa Marquez, Intern; Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant

NGCDD Staff Absent: Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager

# Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Santa Perez 10:01 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on April 7, 2023.

# Public Comment

Ms. Perez asked if there was any public comment.

* Catherine Nielsen stated that the Affordable Housing Day at the Nevada State Legislature will be held on May 1, 2023. It is similar to the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day and the Deaf Day.
* Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated that she is currently attending and presenting at the Access and Functional Needs Conference in Colorado with Heather Lafferty from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management. They are receiving lots of positive feedback on Emergency preparedness needs and are working on putting together a position statement for the council.
* Max Lowe stated his interest in the Affordable Housing Day at the Nevada Legislature and added that the Arc Organization will also be having a presentation on affordable housing.
* Dora Martinez gave appreciation to Santa Perez calling her a rockstar for presenting on SB315 the proposed bill of rights for persons with disabilities from Senator Schieble. She also recounted her experience with the Regional Transportation Commission ACCESS program. They have been sending taxis for her to use in the early morning before full light and have not been helping her to the vehicle. The vehicles are also too small for her service animal and she is afraid he will get injured. She asked if there were statistics or a position statement on Transportation that she could share at the RTC meeting next week.
* Ms. Nielsen responded saying the council does have a position statement on Transportation and that she would connect with Ms. Martinez on the statistics she can find after the meeting.

# Approval of Minutes from the March 2023 Meeting

Ms. Perez asked if there was a motion to approve the March 23, 2023 Committee meeting minutes.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the March 23, 2023 Committee meeting minutes as written. Cindi Swanson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Jennifer Frischmann, Heather Lafferty, and Renee Portnell abstaining.**

# 2023 Legislative Update

Ms. Perez deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director for conversation on the upcoming Legislative session and initiatives.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the document titled “BDR List for Legislative Year 2023” and discussed some key bills and initiatives the NGCDD has been tracking. She stated that the deadline for bills to be passed through the Assembly and Senate Committees’ Work sessions was April 14, 2023. She opened this item for discussion.

Ms. Nielsen invited Jack Mayes from the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center to discuss the bills and initiatives the NDALC are tracking. She opened this item for discussion.

# Position Statement on Mental Health

Ms. Perez deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director.

Ms. Nielsen referred to “Draft Position on Mental Health” and summarized the document. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to recommend the approval of the “Draft Position on Mental Health” with the recommended changes to the Executive Committee. Mr. Mayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Position Statement on Language Access

Ms. Perez deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director.

Ms. Nielsen referred to “Draft Position on Language Access” and summarized the document. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to recommend the approval of the “Draft Position on Language Access” with the recommended changes to the Executive Committee. Mr. Mayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Position Statement on Ableism

Ms. Perez deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director.

Ms. Nielsen referred to “Draft Position on Ableism” and summarized the document. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to recommend the approval of the “Draft Position on Ableism” with the recommended changes to the Executive Committee. Mr. Mayes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Next Meeting Date

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on May 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM.

# Public Comment

Ms. Perez asked if there is any public comment.

* Mr. Mayes stated that he had recently attend a training on Open Meeting Law where they were told that committee members were not supposed to be sharing during public comments because technically they are not public. The council should consider adding an agenda item to future meetings for member announcements so members can state comments or ask questions separate from public comment.
* Ms. Nielsen stated she would be reaching out to the Deputy Attorney General’s office for further clarification on this item.
* Ms. Swanson stated that her son who has disabilities recently received paperwork from a State of Nevada regional center that contained an offensive and antiquated term and she believe it spoke to the position statement on Ableism.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.