**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Evaluation Committee Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2025**

**Zoom Video:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86785050894>

**Join by Phone**:

+1-669-900-6833

**Meeting ID**: 867 8505 0894

# 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/)
* The recording of the meeting may be requested for detailed information by emailing [rortiz@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:rortiz@dhhs.nv.gov)
* Bolded text under a heading indicates an action taken by the NGCDD.

# Introductions

Committee Members Present: Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe; Vice Chair, Santa Perez; Christine Riggi; Vivian Turner

Committee Members Absent: Lisa Bonie; Randall Owen

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Alysa Marquez, Intern; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant; Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison; Marisol Rivas, Project Manager

NGCDD Staff Absent: Ellen Marquez, Fiscal and Outreach Manager; Steven Cohen, Legislative Liaison

Public Present: Ester Kwon

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Evaluation Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe at 10:09 a.m.

Executive Assistant, Rebecca Ortiz verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the appropriate locations on February 24, 2025.

# Land Acknowledgment

Ms. Nielsen provided the land acknowledgement on behalf of Vice-Chair, Santa Perez as follows: The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, as a program whose designated state agency is the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, acknowledges, honors, and respects the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land and recognize the State of Nevada is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwu, Newe, Numu, Wa She Shu, and Hopi tribes. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to work alongside our Tribal partners. We encourage everyone in this space to engage in acknowledgement and continued learning about the Indigenous peoples who work and live on this land since time immemorial, and about the historical and present realities of colonialism.

# Public Comment

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was any public comment and provided the information to provide public comment telephonically.

* Catherine Nielsen wanted to make note that there are several major things happening on Capitol Hill right now, particularly as it pertains to Medicaid, and I highly encourage everybody in this space, and anybody that you know to voice your opinion about what is occurring to both your state representatives and your federal representatives on both sides, both House and Senate. Though the measure has currently passed the House, we are waiting for a measure to pass the Senate. Now is your opportunity to connect with your members to share your opinion. We are not encouraging you to sway one way or the other. We are encouraging you to take the opportunity to voice how you feel and how this may impact you or your family members. You can go to our website or our Facebook page and find information about how to contact your Federal representatives and your State representatives.

# Approval of August Minutes

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the November 14, 2024 minutes. She opened this item for discussion.

**Santa Perez motioned to approve the November 14, 2024 minutes as written. Vivian Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# First Quarter 2025 Project Status Summary Report

Ms. Alaribe introduced this item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen for a brief overview of the report.

Ms. Nielsen referred to the handout titled “NGCDD FFY 25' First Quarter Project Status Summary Report”. She gave an in-depth summary of the document and the different projects and activities under each of the objectives of the council. She gave an overview on the different conferences attended by staff and council members. She invited Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager, to speak on the grants under objective 3.1, 3.2, and 3.4 respectively. She invited Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Public Health Liaison, to speak on projects under emerging needs and public health. Ms. Nielsen opened this item for discussion.

# Discussion on Plans for FFY 25 Goals and Objectives

Ms. Alaribe introduced this item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen presented information on project planning and funding for FFY 2025. She spoke on further projects on a potential partnership with the Arc of Nevada organization and a potential partnership with the Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada. She also spoke on the iCan Bike program sent for June of this year and the ongoing legislative session. She opened this item for discussion.

# Discussion on Town Halls, 5-Year State Plan Information Gathering, and Current Themes

Ms. Alaribe introduced this item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen presented information on various townhalls council staff has hosted throughout the state. There have been eight in-person townhalls with three virtual townhalls. She discussed the major themes that are currently arising. One of which is that many providers and programs, both state and private, are unaware of what is out there. Many are unaware of what each one of those programs does and does not do, where their funding comes from, etc. She also spoke on the lack of understanding of the limitations within the Nevada Revised Statutes. There are lot of different statutes that impact this community. There has been a couple of people that have felt that state programs lack of accountability when they're unable to meet the program requirements. Other major themes discussed were employment, transportation, and education. She also discussed the town hall report that will be presented at the March 13, 2025 Full Council Meeting. She opened this item for discussion.

# Public Comment

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was any public comment and provided the information to provide public comment telephonically.

* Ms. Alaribe asked about the events beginning on Monday March 3rd. Ms. Nielsen responded by stating the upcoming Monday will be the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day Training and the following day will be the DD Awareness Advocacy Day at the Nevada Legislature. She also stated Monday night would be an opening night for the “Our World in Our Words” film at the Nevada Automobile Museum in Reno, NV.
* Ms. Perez stated the QR code to RSVP for the film event the upcoming Monday night was not accessible. Ms. Nielsen responded by stating that would be fixed by sending out the direct link to the RSVP form.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled to be on May 8,2025 at 10:00 am via Zoom.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.