**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2025**

**ZOOM**

**Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**406 East Second Street**

**Carson City, NV 89701**

# 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

NGCDD Members Present: Chair, Christine Riggi; Vice-Chair, Max Lowe; Stacy Alaribe; Anna Marie Binder; Lisa Bonie; Taylor Chaney; Ellen Frias-Wilcox; Vickie Ives; Kathleen Kingston; Kate Osti; Randall Owen; Brynlin Thornley; Vivian Turner

NGCDD Members Absent: Melissa Bart-Plange; Aimee Bailes; Autumn Blattman; Cate Guzy; Gabriel Tejada

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Alysa Marquez, Intern; Ellen Marquez, Self- Advocacy Coordinator; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant; Marisol Rivas, Project Manager

NGCDD Staff Absent: Steven Cohen, Legislative Liaison

Public Present: ASL Interpreter Carolyn; ASL Interpreter Lacey; Bridget Bonheyo; Sam D’Ambrosio-Garcia; Shelly Freed; Heather Gibbons; Michelle Gorelow; Shannon I.; Robin Kincaid; Lori Lutu; Jack Mayes; Obioma Officer; Katie Pfister; Kelissa Plett-Merritt; Jennifer Q.; Rique Robb; Stephanie Robinson; Peter Whittingham

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Christine Riggi at 9:03 a.m.

Executive Assistant, Rebecca Ortiz verified that the agenda for this meeting was posted to the appropriate locations on March 6, 2025.

**Land Acknowledgment**

Max Lowe, Vice-Chair provided the land acknowledgement 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**

Mr. Lowe inquired if there was any public comment. He verified meeting information and how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Kathleen Kingston stated she attended the Together for Choice conference whose mission is advancing the rights of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live, work, and thrive in a community or setting of their choice last year in Las Vegas. She also thanked the council for the work on the position statement on Housing that has information on intentional communities and housing choice. She is planning on attending the conference again this year with friends.
* Lisa Bonie stated Mark Wellman’s Adventure Day and Abilities Expo will be held June 1st this year. It will be held at the Sparks Marina starting at 10 am to about 2 pm. They will have adaptive kayaks, a climbing wall, and adaptive bicycles along with a resource fair. She encouraged everyone to come out and attend.
* Obioma Officer thanked DD council for supporting the Deaf Day which will be held on April 28th. It will be held at the Legislature in Carson City from 8 am to 4 pm. She encouraged everyone to come out and participate.

# Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lowe opened the floor for discussion of the December 5, 2024 minutes.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the December 5, 2024 minutes as written. Ms. Riggi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and invited Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director, for further information.

Ms. Nielsen presented names of nominees for the chair and opened the floor for any additional nominations. She then conducted a vote. This item was opened for discussion.

**Ms. Riggi motioned to approve the appointment of Max Lowe to Council Chair. Ms. Bonie seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Lowe abstaining**.

Ms. Nielsen presented names of nominees for the vice-chair and opened the floor for any additional nominations. She then conducted a vote. This item was opened for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the appointment of Anna Marie Binder to Council Vice-Chair. Ms. Bonie seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Binder abstaining.**

# Presentation from Las Vegas Deaf Seniors and the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Speech Impaired on the Deaf Engagement Conference and Potential Support for the Deaf Seniors of America in Kansas City, Missouri

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

Ms. Nielsen gave further background and introduced Shelly Freed and Obioma Officer. Ms. Freed and Ms. Obioma gave a presentation on the Deaf Engagement Conference held in Las Vegas in December 2024 with council funding. They also presented information on attending the Deaf Seniors of America Conference in August of this year. This item was opened for discussion.

**Ms. Binder motioned to approve the council cover the cost of registration, airfare, and hotel for two representatives from the Las Vegas Deaf Seniors to attend the 2025 Deaf Seniors of America Conference. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously**.

# Grantee Presentations

Ms. Binder introduced this item to the council and deferred to Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager to introduce the grantee and open the floor for their presentation.

Ms. Rivas invited Ms. Nielsen and Ellen Marquez to discuss the Global Technical Communications (GTC) grant further. They discussed a potential change in the GTC contract to eliminate the need for an interpreter report and add support for first responders to receive training and sign language packages. Ms. Marquez then invited Bridget Bonheyo from GTC to give a presentation on their quarterly report. This item was opened for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motion to approve the amendment of GTC’s contract to eliminate the need for an interpreter report and add support for first responders to receive training and sign language packages. Kate Osti seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Aging and Disability Services Division ADA Title II Policy Presentation

Mr. Lowe introduced this item to the council and introduced Samantha D’Ambrosio-Garcia for their presentation.

Ms. D’Ambrosio-Garcia gave a presentation on the ADSD ADA Title II Policy Draft. This item was opened for discussion**.**

# Presentation from the Arc of Nevada

Mr. Lowe introduced this item to the council and introduced Michelle Gorelow for their presentation. He also invited Ms. Nielsen to give more information on this agenda item.

Ms. Nielsen gave a brief background on the organization and the presentation to be given. Ms. Gorelow gave a presentation on the organization and services provided by their agency. Additionally, she discussed a proposal for support. This item was opened for discussion**.**

**Ms. Binder motioned to approve up to $15,000.00 of support funds to the Arc of Nevada. Ms. Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Presentation from Nevada Disability and Advocacy Law Center (NDALC)

Mr. Lowe introduced this item to the council and introduced Ms. Osti for their presentation as the new Executive Director for the NDALC.

Ms. Osti gave a presentation on their organization and services provided by their agency. This item was opened for discussion**.**

# Presentation from DSOSN with Funding Support Proposal

Mr. Lowe introduced this item to the council and introduced Peter Whittingham for their presentation. He also invited Ms. Nielsen to give more information on this agenda item.

Ms. Nielsen gave a brief background on the organization and the presentation to be given. Mr. Whittingham gave a presentation on the organization and services provided by their agency. Additionally, Ms. Nielsen discussed a proposal for support funding. This item was opened for discussion**.**

**Ms. Binder motioned to approve up to $12,800.00 of support funds to the Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Committee Updates

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and deferred to Stacy Alaribe, Evaluation Committee Chair, for discussion on updates from the Evaluation Committee.

Ms. Alaribe gave an overview on topics discussed in the Evaluation Committee including planned activities for FFY2025 and the quarterly summary reports. She also deferred to Ms. Nielsen for further discussion. This item was opened for discussion.

Mr. Lowe deferred to Vickie Ives, Budget Committee Chair, for discussion on updates from the Budget Committee.

Ms. Ives gave an overview on topics discussed in the Budget Committee including the current Council budget and the recommendations for use of funds for FFY 25 including information on the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) increases. She invited Ms. Nielsen for further discussion. This item was opened for discussion.

Mr. Lowe deferred to Ms. Riggi for discussion on updates from the Executive Committee.

Ms. Riggi deferred to Ms. Nielsen for further information. Ms. Nielsen then gave an overview on topics discussed in the Executive Committee including the four internal policies titled “COUNCIL MEETINGS POLICY”, “COUNCIL PURPOSE POLICY”, “DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS POLICY”, and “GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKERS POLICY”. Ms. Nielsen read each policy.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve all four policies. Vivian Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously**.

Mr. Lowe deferred to Stacy Alaribe, Policy Committee Chair, for discussion on updates from the Policy Committee.

Ms. Alaribe gave an overview on topics discussed in the Policy Committee including previously reviewed position statements. Ms. Alaribe invited Ms. Nielsen for further discussion. Ms. Nielsen gave an overview on each of the position statements up for review: “Position Statement on Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Other Therapy Types”, “Position Statement on Crimes”, “Position Statement on Restraints and Seclusion”, “Position Statement on Housing” and “Position Statement on Self-Advocacy”. This item was opened for discussion

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve all five position statements. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Town Hall Report and Information on 5-Year State Plan

Ms. Lowe introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen discussed the Statewide Town Halls to gather information to formulate the Council’s 2026-2031 Five Year State Plan. She also discussed gathering the information into a report. This item was opened for discussion.

# 2025 Legislative Session Information

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen provided a brief summary of the currently available Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) and information on the 2025 Legislative Session. She also discussed the proposed change on the council from under the Department of Health and Human Services to the Nevada Health Authority and what that would entail for the council. This item was opened for discussion.

# Developmental Disabilities Awareness Training and Advocacy Days Recap

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and invited Ms. Nielsen for further information.

Ms. Nielsen provided a summary of 2025 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Training and Advocacy Days events. She also discussed the support received from Assemblywoman Brown-May and Senator Cannizzaro. She also discussed the proclamation received from Governor Lombardo recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. This item was opened for discussion.

# First Quarter Project Status Summary for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and invited council staff for further discussion.

Ms. Rivas referred to the document titled " NGCDD Fourth Quarter Report”. She gave a brief overview of its contents. She spoke on the Lunch and Learns that offered learning opportunities on different topics. Ms. Marquez to speak on efforts and initiatives under objectives 1.2. This item was opened for discussion.

# Council Member Updates

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and invited any council members to present information of importance for their individual agencies/activities.

Ms. Nielsen spoke on the three new council members that have joined: Aimee Bailes, Autumn Blattman, and Cate Guzy.

Ms. Kingston spoke on volunteering for tuberous sclerosis complex alliance. One of the things that's really successful is every year they do a march on the hill. They have people from different States go and talk to Senators and representatives about the importance of the medical research funding that has been done since 2001. There's a lot of these programs under the congressionally directed medical research programs. And part of that continuing resolution is that the House voted on is reducing the funding of the programs that encompass lots of different diseases like Alzheimer's, diabetes, and all kinds of different things. The house did pass that and now the Senate has to vote on it. Everyone's voice matters.

Randall Owen spoke on the Navigating the Road to Independence Summit on April 18-19, 2025. It will be held at the Truckee Meadows Community College and is supported by the NV Center for Excellence in Disabilities. He encouraged everyone to attend and learn more about transition for youth with disabilities and special health care needs.

Ms. Turner spoke on a new pilot program called Nevada TRIP. It is a grant awarded from the Department of Education for transition services for youth with disabilities. Vocational Rehabilitation is a required partner. This program will begin on April 3rd in the rural areas of Carson City, White Pine, and Humboldt.

Mr. Lowe spoke on his experience moving up to Carson City and participating in the Rural Center for Independent Living. They have a social club called the Rex Club and he has been able to attend the social nights they host.

# Agenda Items for Consideration

Mr. Lowe introduced this item and opened it for discussion.

# Next Meeting Date

The next Full Council meeting will take place on June 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will take place via zoom.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Lowe inquired if there was any public comment. He verified meeting information and how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Ms. Alaribe requested more information on the next film idea that will be supported by the council and offered to help.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.