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

**Position on Accountability, Inclusion, and Transparency**

Accountability, inclusion, and transparency are essential to ensure those with disabilities receive quality services. This involves advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities resulting in improved choice in consumer and family-centered services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Activities include interagency coordination and collection of data resulting in improved services, supports, and other assistance. Such activities promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion in all aspects of community life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

# **The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) believes individuals with developmental disabilities must define their own quality of life/services. All service systems, such as education, employment, health, housing, childcare, recreation, transportation, and any other system that impacts persons with developmental disabilities, shall be health accountable to provide transparency with the services they provide. This includes identifying problems and making improvements that enhance the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.**

**Policy Recommendations:**

1. Support compliance with all laws, certification requirements, licensing standards, and contractual obligations to hold service systems accountable for their adherence to legal and regulatory requirements.
2. Promote and support individuals to find and maintain relationships with people in their communities beyond paid providers and caregivers, encouraging accountability for community integration and personal connections.
3. Ensure access to home and community-based services and supports that are planned and implemented in keeping with each individual’s unique needs, expressed preferences, and decisions concerning his/her life in the community, with mechanisms in place to hold providers accountable for meeting these needs.
4. Empower individuals by embracing the principles of self-determination and applying person centered practices.
5. Demand statewide transparency from information management systems that assist in collection, tracking, trending, and analysis of meaningful personal outcomes, with systems in place to hold those managing data accountable for accurate and meaningful reporting.
6. Ensure access to information and supports necessary to affect public policy at the local, state, and national levels, with a focus on presenting information in plain language and accessible formats. Systems should be held accountable for providing information that is clear, understandable, and effective in fostering informed decision-making, including for individuals with visual, auditory, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities.
7. Ensure access to information about services and supports that individuals and families need to make informed choices, with accountability measures in place to guarantee the accuracy, relevance, and timeliness of that information.
8. Empower individuals by supporting the independent living philosophy which is based on the belief that persons with disabilities have the same basic human rights as persons without disabilities to participate in and contribute to community life, while holding systems accountable for upholding these rights.
9. Implement clear, accessible grievance procedures to allow individuals with disabilities and their families to report concerns and hold systems and providers accountable.
10. Strengthen oversight mechanisms to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in developmental disability services without creating additional burden or limiting access to care.
11. Increase training requirements for law enforcement and first responders on interacting respectfully and effectively with individuals with developmental disabilities.
12. Expand accountability measures across all service systems to include independent monitoring, community input, and enforcement mechanisms when rights are violated or services fail.

Last Review Date: