**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from April 17, 2025**

Zoom [https://zoom.us/j/](https://zoom.us/j/8)87493919504

Meeting ID: 874 9391 9504

NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities  
406 East Second Street, Carson City 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

Committee Members Present: Stacey Alaribe, Committee Chair; Max Lowe, Vice-Chair; Anna Marie Binder; Kathleen Kingston; Heather Lafferty; Dora Martinez; Santa Perez; Cindi Swanson; Peter Whittingham

Committee Members Absent: Renee Portnell; Christine Riggi; Jodi Thornley; Vivian Turner

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

Public Present: Shauna Brennan

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe, at 10:03 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on April 11, 2025.

# Land Acknowledgment

Max Lowe, Policy Committee 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

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was any public comment, verified meeting information, and stated how to submit public comments telephonically.

* Catherine Nielsen stated one of Nevada’s senators is coming to make a floor address this evening. If anyone is available at 5 o'clock, you're welcome. If anyone is in the area to join at the Carson City Legislature from the gallery, you would see Senator Jackie Rosen doing the address tonight. You can also watch it online on the legislative website.

# Approval of March 2025 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the March 6, 2025 Committee meeting minutes. She opened this item for discussion.

**Mr. Lowe motioned to approve the March 6, 2025 Committee meeting minutes as written. Ms. Alaribe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# Review of Position Statement on Accountability

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation.

Ms. Nielsen gave a brief background on the position statement referred to the document titled “Position on Accountability, Inclusion, and Transparency”. She also discussed the proposed changes. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

# Review of Position Statement on Transportation

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation.

Ms. Nielsen gave an in-depth overview on the position statement. She referred to the document titled “Position on Transportation”. She also discussed the previous recommended changes. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

# Review of Position Statement on Dental Care

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation.

Ms. Nielsen gave an in-depth overview on the position statement. She referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position on Dental Care”. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

# Review of Position Statement on Service Animals

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director, for conversation.

Ms. Nielsen gave an in-depth overview on the position statement. She referred to the document titled “DRAFT Position Statement on Service Animals”. She also discussed the previous recommended changes. She opened the discussion to committee members for their input.

# Discussion of Topics for Potential Position Statements

Ms. Alaribe introduced this agenda item and deferred to Ms. Nielsen, Executive Director for conversation on potential position statements for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Ms. Nielsen listed the current position statements and discussed the background for this agenda item. She opened this item for committee members to discuss potential topics that the committee can create position statements for. Position statements for caregivers and direct support professionals and quality of life and care were discussed. How to use position statements was also discussed as a future agenda item.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm at the loss of quorum.**