**NV Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from May 22, 2025**

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

Meeting ID: 874 9391 9504

Password: 12345

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; Santa Perez; Renee Portnell; Cindi Swanson; Jodi Thornley; Vivian Turner

Committee Members Absent: Heather Lafferty; Dora Martinez; Christine Riggi; Peter Whittingham

NGCDD Staff Present: Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director; Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant; Steven Cohen, Legislative Liaison

NGCDD Staff Absent: Alysa Marquez, Intern; Ellen Marquez, Fiscal and Outreach Manager; Marisol Rivas, Projects Manager

Public Present: Diana Collins

# Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by NGCDD Policy Committee Chair, Stacy Alaribe, at 10:04 a.m.

Rebecca Ortiz, Executive Assistant verified the agenda for this meeting was posted to the proper locations on May 13, 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.

* Ms. Alaribe spoke on the iCan Bike Camp to be held in Reno, NV on the week of June 16th. They are currently still looking for volunteers if anyone is interested.
* Mr. Lowe spoke on the Camp RennerVation. They are also looking for volunteers. They have two sessions in Northern Nevada: Youth Camp on June 30 -5th, 2025 and Teen Camp on August 3-7th, 2025.

# Approval of April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Alaribe asked if there was a motion to approve the April 17, 2025 Committee meeting minutes. She opened this item for discussion.

**Anna Marie Binder motioned to approve the April 17, 2025 Committee meeting minutes as written. Renee Portnell 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.

**Ms. Binder motioned to recommend to the Full Council for approval the position statement on Accountability, Inclusion, and Transparency with the recommended changes. Cindi Swanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# 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.

**Ms. Binder motioned to recommend to the Full Council for approval the position statement on Transportation with the recommended changes. Ms. Swanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# 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. The position statement was tabled to the next policy committee meeting.

# 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.

**Ms. Binder motioned to recommend to the Full Council for approval the position statement on Service Animals with the recommended changes. Jodi Thornley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

# 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 vision care, overall health care, and 504 plans in education were discussed. How to use these position statements to model success were also discussed.

# Discussion and Review of Current Bill Draft Requests

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

Ms. Nielsen discussed testimony and information given by the council and council staff on current bills pertaining to the I/DD community. Specific conversations on bills included SB 78 Revises provisions relating to boards, commissions, councils and similar bodies. (BDR 18-301); AB 247 Revises provisions relating to persons with disabilities. (BDR 19-574); AB 395 Revises provisions relating to services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. (BDR 40-841); SB 366 Revises provisions relating to Medicaid. (BDR S-1040); SB 140 Revises provisions governing certain programs of treatment established by the juvenile court. (BDR 5-62); SB 174 Revises provisions relating to pupils with autism spectrum disorder. (BDR 34-53); SB257 Revises provisions relating to autism. (BDR 38-106); SB380 Revises provisions relating to autism spectrum disorders. (BDR 23-118); and SB398 Revises provisions relating to health insurance. (BDR 57-731). Ms. Nielsen also gave thanks to Steven Cohen, the council’s Legislative Liaison, for his tremendous work for the 2025 Legislative session. She opened this item for discussion.

# Next Meeting Date

The next policy committee meeting will be held June 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. over Zoom.

# Public Comment

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

* Ms. Swanson spoke on starting a disability caucus within the Democratic Party in Clark County. She also encouraged, if anybody wanted to have an extra piece of job to do, to look at what the Republicans in the State are doing and see if we can start a disability caucus with the Republican Party.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.