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# **Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC)**

# **MEETING MINUTES**

**Date and Time of Meeting:**

Wednesday & Thursday, April 10 & 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

**Location of Meeting:**

This meeting was held via videoconference only via Zoom:

**MINUTES**

1. **Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions on Day 1:**

**Members Presents:** DeeDee Foremaster, Ace Patrick, Havander Davis, Jennifer Kane, Mary Evilsizer, Sabra McWhirter Clark, Peter Whittingham, Cheyenne Pasquale,

**Members Excused Absent:** Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair, Obioma Officer

**Members Unexcused Absent or late:** Victoria Essner, Linda Vejvoda

**Guests:** Belz & Case Government Affairs – Scribe by Rewatch, Cindi Swanson, Lori Lutu, Margaret Marcucci, Mark Tadder, Penelope No Last name, Robin Kincaid, Sam D’Ambrosio-Garcia, Sondra Cosgrove, Steve Black, Carolyn Carr, Regina D, Sabrina Schnor

**CART Provider:** Becky Van Auken

**ASL Interpreters:** Henry Yandrasits, Lagundo Sandoval

**Staff:** Dawn Lyons, Carole Hanley

**Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions on Day 2:**

**Members Presents:** DeeDee Foremaster, Ace Patrick, Jennifer Kane, Mary Evilsizer, Sabra McWhirter Clark, Victoria Essner, Peter Whittingham, Victoria Essner, Linda Vejvoda

**Members Excused Absent:** Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair, Havander Davis, Obioma Officer, Cheyenne Pasquale,

**Guests:** Belz & Case Government Affairs – Scribe by Rewatch, Cindi Swanson, Lori Lutu, Margaret Marcucci, Mark Tadder, Penelope No Last name, Robin Kincaid, Sam D’Ambrosio-Garcia, Sondra Cosgrove, Steve Black, Cheyenne Pasquale, Carolyn Carr, Regina D, Sabrina Schnor

**CART Provider:** Becky Van Auken

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**Staff:** Dawn Lyons, Carole Hanley

1. **Beginning Public Comment for Days 1:**
* Caroline Carr informed that Senator Jacky Rosen’s office can potentially help constituents with federal agencies, IRD, Security Administration, passport, and Medicare issues.
* U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen's Office: Molly Rose Lewis - Northern Nevada Office - mollyrose\_lewis@rosen.senate.gov - 775-560-1824
* Carolyn Carr Regional Representative at the Office of Senator Jacky Rosen Carolyn\_carr@rosen.senate.gov O: 702-388-0274
* Ace Patrick verified all meeting documents were posted online in compliance with Open Meeting Law.

**Beginning Public Comment for Days 2:**

* Cindi Swanson shared that Nevada has a program called a host home provider or Supported Living Arrangement (SLA). A person can be an SLA for family or non-family member. The funds for this service have been cut. Some individuals were cut as much as $500.00.
* It is unknow what funding was cut. The funds go to Dunn Garvin and are distributed to the host providers. A request for an informational chart for where the money comes from and how it is distributed was made.
1. **For Possible Action on Day 1:** Approval of Minutes from January 10 & 11, 2024.
* Mary Evilsizer noted that on page 4 included 9% be changed to 69% of SNCIL services for housing, page 30 BPQI be changed to BPQY.
* Dawn Lyons noted that the introduction of Riley was entered in the public comment section instead of the information section for members and public introduction.
* Mary Evilsizer motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections,
* Ace Patrick second the motion
* All approved.
1. **For Information on Days 1 and 2**:

Member Introductions and Public Introductions from Individuals Interested in Council Membership and Member Announcements.

* Margaret Marcucci made her interest in being on the Council known.
* No other new members were noted.
1. **Presentation and Discussion Day 1:**

Updates from the Centers for Independent Living:

Southern Nevada Center for independent Living (SNCIL)

* A banner quarter with 100 new intakes and 833 processed INR’s calls with 581 service requests.
* Service request breakdowns as follows: Advocacy and legal services 33%, housing 42%, independent living skills training 8%, peer counseling 1%, preventive services 1%, transportation services 12% and vocational services 4%.
* Assisted clients with obtaining paratransit, personal care attendants, affordable housing, Social Security benefits and other independent living skills.
* Participation in several youth transition functions, Social Security presentations, a meet and greet for legal support.
* The annual Veterans Stand Down normally held will not be held this year.
* The City Council has approved October 5th as Disability Awareness Day.
* The APRIL Conference will be on the weekend of October 12th.
* The TRIP and DIF programs financing administration infrastructure portion work continues. The purpose of the project is estimated to start in May.

Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL)

* Housing has been the top discussion this quarter with rents being increased substantially.
* Sparks has a program called STRAP that provides housing assistance for those who live in Sparks or Reno.
* Residents that live in section 8 housing are being turned out.
* Casino owners are buying old motels and bulldozing them in West Reno.
* A 17% increase for those that are blind, or low vision has been noted this quarter for not having a vocational goal.
* The numbers of information referral contacts have increased 100% since last year.
* Re-established relationships with over 150 referral agencies at the end of 2023.
* The Sparks office has started a blind and low vision program that meets twice a week. It teaches how to use various technical devices along with other topics such as transportation and housing.
* Partnering with the Washoe School District in several activities to help provide life training skills to blind students and teach them how to find resources.
* NNCIL is now a repository for COVID 19 kit distribution.
* Coordinating efforts with SNCIL to develop an emergency plan and install it on both websites. Final focus groups and presentations are being developed.
* Met with the Carson City disaster planning team and Carson City fire fighters. Using real life examples to help determine what could be done better during emergencies.
* Staff attended a presentation from FEMA on what information should be shared with shelters in case of an evacuation.

Rural Center for Independent Living (RCIL)

* 41 people were in the Nights Off the Street program.
* Health and Human Services assisted with placement for individuals that were to disable to be on the streets.
* Work is being done with area nursing homes to help individuals transition into a new housing project that will open soon.
* The Roadhouse Inn in Carson City tried to evict everyone with 30 days’ notice. The residents were able to advocate for themselves.
* 61 intakes were performed,
* DeeDee Foremaster is working with a gentleman whose court date was rescheduled because of improper representation.
* Work continues in Elko with the school district and the Alzheimer’s groups.

Report and Discussion Regarding the State Assistive Technology for Independent Living Program (AT/IL Program)

* Multiple pages of his data have been provided.
* He gave a brief history of the program.
* He explained the intake process, goal setting, assistive technology needed, project costs, and stories of two clients.
* The average cost of a case is $9,000 which is equipment only, no administrative costs or staffing.
* If a consumer can stay in their home versus a care facility, it could save Medicaid hundreds of thousands over the course of a decade.
* The total program budget is $1.6 million, it's about $300,000 and that is six full-time staff, two locations, North and South, the computers for lights, internet, etc.

Updates and Discussion Regarding the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC)

* Raquel O’Neil will return to work on the Council.
* Dawn Lyons is a SILC representative on the Council.
* Anyone who is interested in NSRC can contact Dawn Lyons.

Updates and Discussion regarding Aging and Disability Services (ADSD)

* ADSD’s previous Advocacy Attorney, Jennifer Richards has been replaced with Shawna Brennan based in Las Vegas.
* Sam D’Ambrosio Garcia is the new Community Engagement manager and will be working closely with Cheyenne Pasquale.
* ADSD is expecting over 300 people at the upcoming ADSD Conference in Reno.
* There will be 30 workshops with tracks including: Diversity, Equity and inclusion, person-centeredness, workforce, development and innovative collaboration.
* ADSD is in the middle of an outreach and rebranding project. The have finished the research and information gathering stage and has a vendor working with them on this project. The focus will be on brand identity and the foundational elements of ADSD’s messaging.
* Next major phase is examining the website and developing new content.

Updates and Discussion Regarding Employment First

* Will be meeting again in two weeks.
* Planning employment fairs in Reno and Las Vegas on June 25th and June 27th, then later, in the rural areas.
* Still working on an Executive Order for Employment First in the state of Nevada, the Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovation (GOWIN), is on board.
* Members of Employment First have been giving presentations around the state.
* The SILC is interested in working with Employment First regarding getting construction companies to contract and employ more people from the disability community on construction projects in the state.
* There was a webinar from Colorado that focused on Employment First being introduced from grade school through high school. There will be a presentation at the upcoming Silver State Self Advocates Conference in August in Nevada.
* Anyone interested in going to the Silver State Self Advocates Conference in August can reach out to Dawn Lyons.

Updates and Discussion Regarding Takeaways from Conferences Attended by Members

* Valuable information research and technology was gathered at the Children’s Excellency Council (CEC), regarding transition. There are personal assistant robots to expand quality of life in Japan.
* Nevada Department of Education Office of Inclusive Education was able to pay the registrations for 140 Nevadans to attend the DCDT Conference in Reno in October. This conference had some of the best national technical assistance centers presenting.
* The Nevada Student Leadership Transition Summit had high school students from Humboldt County and Clark County School District present along with adult allies, family members and service professionals present about the work they are doing to have a voice in their futures and their planning through student Del-directed IEPs and creating space in school culture for disability pride for students.
* Mechelle Merrill and Jennifer Kane co-presented on their new formal interagency agreement they signed in 2023. They were trying to get to a place of more seamless transition as agencies working together. And shortly after they signed that in February of 2023, the DIF became available through seamless transition on April 5th.
* It's been ages 14 and up and now with the DIF grant it's down to age ten so we get to look at elementary to middle school transition ask that excites me because it's a huge transition for students going from being with one teacher all day through all of elementary school to having to move to a campus with usually at least three times as many students as elementary school and navigate through multiple teachers and multiple courses through the day.
* The next DCDT Conference International is in Chantilly, Virginia April 16th through the 19th.
* The SILC Congress provided amazing networking and insight into how the SILC interacts with the CILs and how the national Center connects with the state SILC.
* The PAC RIM conference in Hawaii had an incredible number of conferences and breakouts.
* The APSE conference was an incredible amount of information. SILC is hoping to partner with the Hawaii APSE chapter to We were hoping that we can partner with the Hawaii APSI chapter to get Nevada its own chapter establishing but there's a lot of that must be done to get to that point.
* Linda Vejvoda and Dawn attended Iowa's APSE conference last year and were told that the SILC could piggyback off another chapter in their region and since Hawaii is also in Region 9, they have been in a lot of conversations with them about the possibility of basically piggybacking off their chapter and having them mentor the SILC into a position until the SILC can get into a position to actually create their own chapter, which the SILC is trying to become a 501(C)(3) as a SILC so it might be a little while before we can get there with our APSE chapter.
* The Hawaii SILC is assisting the Nevada SILC with paperwork regarding the 501(C)(3).
* Perhaps at the next meeting, Obioma Officer and Peter Whittingham can give an update on the SILC Congress that they attended.

Updates Regarding Details of the Department of Education’s Disability Innovation Fund (DIF), Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project

* At the July SILC meeting, Dawn Lyons will be giving the DIF updates to the Council.
* The Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project received almost $10 million for a five-year grant from their federal partners at the Rehabilitation Services Administration, internally their Nevada project through that grant is called the Nevada Transitions Roadmap Through Innovative Partnerships (TRIP). This talks about taking children through transition periods.
* The DIF grant is called the Pathways to Partnership Innovative Model Dollars Demonstration Project.
* The point of the grant is to get Nevada to a place of seamless transition.
* Children aged ten through 13 and youth aged 14 to 24 are being served with this grant.
* Vocational Rehabilitation doesn’t currently serve all the way to the age of ten and under IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. State local education agencies don't serve the age of 24.
* Nevada State Rehabilitation Services Administration is a required partner.
* There are three pilot agencies that are involved to assist with focusing on rural and remote rural Nevada, Carson City School District, Humboldt, and White Pine County School District.
* The first two years of the Project will primarily be working with the pilot partners.
* Year three will see the Project rolling out to additional regions and years four and five will see it expanded statewide.
* The definition of “Family” will be expanded to include parents, siblings, grandparents, coaches, and possibly someone at the church as the support system of children and youth with disabilities. The full network needs to be supported.
* Getting approval from the interim finance committee to bring the $10 million into Nevada happened in December.
* The Nevada Department of Education and nine other partners are associated with the grant, (four of those nine have never received funds through the Nevada Department of Education before).
* It is hoped that the partners will have funds by May.
* All the partners met on March 28th.
* The Memorandums of Understanding were written in March. They are redone every five years or sooner if there is need for revision.
* Nevada TRIP was operationalized and the work that each partner was responsible for, was defined and organized by quarter, for each of the five years of the grant. This was done to enable partners to measure and ensure hitting benchmarks.
* As the website and app are developed, the “road map” of resources will take form to assist for each of those transition junctures from elementary to middle school, from middle school to high school, and from high school to the world beyond.
* A cooperative agreement with TRIP’s federal partners needs to be signed and delivered by the 30th of April. TRIP’s first six-month semiannual report also needs to be done.
* An advisory group is required as part of the grant to assist with charting the course of this project. This will be comprised of members of each of the ten partners. Ten percent of that membership must be children and youth with disabilities and members of their support networks. Ages are 10 to 24 for children and youth, so TRIP is looking for representation volunteers. They are also looking to have an initial collection of resource mapping of other people and agencies that they might want to ask to be part of the advisory workgroup.
* SILC members were invited to become part of the advisory workgroup. The first meeting will be towards the end of May or the beginning of June.
* TRIP needs to make sure whether the staff is onboarded here as the Youth Action Council leader for the SILC or a contractor as the Nevada Department of Education Office of Inclusive Education or someone at the Northern or Southern Nevada Centers For Independent Living or out in the local education agencies or Vocational Rehabilitation, all of those people are onboarded in a way that they all get the education about the background and the expectations of what is Nevada TRIP.
* Partners who have never received money from TRIP will be receiving notifications soon reflecting that in the near future as part of the process.
* Once approved, partners will be able to expend funds and request reimbursement monthly.

Updates Regarding the Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities Transition Grant to NV SILC

* SILC is trying to rehire a new Youth Outreach Specialist and the deadline to submit resumes is April 23rd.
* Dawn Lyons attended the Miracle Minds Conference and the State Fair. Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh and Havander Davis assisted Dawn Lyons at the table. Some resumes were submitted, and the SILC hopes to start the new Youth Outreach Specialist at the beginning of of May.
1. **For Possible Action on Day 1:**

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Revised Purpose of Approved SILC Subaward Funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (FFY24).

* SNCIL was awarded a $33,000 grant by SILC.
* An amendment is being sought to help alleviate the gap in housing.
* The original subaward goals were to use $20,000 to provide youth transition scholarships.
* The cost of screening for eligibility for assistance and what type of assistance such are first month’s rent, key deposits, home set ups cand personal cost are all factors in the housing cost.
* The housing assistance will help individuals such as the homeless, those who are at high risk of being homeless, institutionalized persons wishing to live in the community and those who are staying in the community but need one-time assistance.
* Historically the full cost of transitioning to permanent housing has cost $3,500. The current grant structure would only allow for 9 individuals to get assistance. The projection of those getting assistance would be higher if allowed to use $30,000.
* Dawn Lyons noted that the SILC members agreed in January to tentatively approve the change as housing is a top priority.
* Mary Evilsizer asked about the scholarships. The center has started approaching the transiting training by holding workshops for nutrition and RTC bus keeping the training in the center instead of paying outside entities.
* The center also is part of the Nevada Department of Education that just received the DIF grant that the CILs Part C will be providing. This grant will help children from second grade until the age of 22.
* Peter Whittingham verified that the scholarship funds are being supplemented by other funds such as the ACL.
* The motion to amend the subaward to SNCIL to change the goal from scholarship to full housing assistance for Clark Count Nevada was made by DeeDee Foremaster.
* Peter Whittingham second the motion
* All approved
1. **For Possible Action Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Draft Federal Fiscal Year 25-27 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) to Be Submitted to the Administration for Community Living

* Dawn Lyons posted the Draft SPIL based on feedback from town halls, stakeholders, councils, and the public.
* The inclusion for RCIL as a Part B Center for Independent Living and Aging and Disability Services review letter of approval is included in the draft.
* RCIL satisfied 725 requirements and was designated as a Part B state entity as ACL instructed.
* Additional guidance was provided that was not included in the draft but can be included in the SPIL workgroup in June.
* Having RCIL as a Part B Center does not make them eligible to apply for Part C and a definite procedure for creating a new center in Nevada.
* Continued work is needed on the disaster planning process.
* Reminder that all first responders and outlining volunteers need to be trained on how to be dementia friendly.
* Mary Evilsizer motioned to postpone the approval of the draft SPIL until June 12th at 1:00pm so the additional items can be included.
* Sabra McWhirter second the motion.
* All approved
1. **For Possible Action on Day 1:**

Discussion and Possible Approval of the NV SILC Policies and Procedures Manual 13th Edition

* Dawn Lyons stated that changes were made to clean up the policies to include staff with members abiding by the code of ethics, language around the executive team and how it works with the policies.
* Changes started on page 6 - under disputes of conflict. regarding any potential conflict of interest, all council members (*and staff was added)* shall abstain from conduct that would be deemed as a conflict of interest as outlined in the Nevada SILC bylaws as well as any consequences arising from occurrences.
* Page 7 - the first paragraph that begins with an executive team consisting of at least two of the following will be established. The Chair, Vice Chair, (*and/or Executive Director were added*) and (and/or DSE staff were removed).
* This executive team will have the authority to act on behalf of the SILC in administrative matters (*in the event the executive team is not available, an officer shall stand in for them was added*).
* Page 9 - under annual SILC program progress report policy, the SILC (*chair was added*), staff, and DSE representative will draft the PP revolved according to ACL instruction. (*Chair was added*) and DSE representative along with the SILC staff. This will fall in line with the SPIL instructions and ACL's guidance.
* Under the ethics and member etiquette it says all new members will agree to a code of ethics. The change was made to say (*All current and new members was added*) new members.
* Page - 10 I will not bully, threaten, or intimidate any other council or (*staff member was added*) or stakeholder either during a meeting or outside of meetings.
* Page 8 - I refer all complaints to the executive team of the SILC and (*not the DSE was added*) will act on the complaints from the public only after failure of an administrative solution.
* Page – 11 under evaluation of staff, in the event of a new Executive Director must be hired under State employment the council chair, vice chair and (*DSE was removed*) and put another SILC member in good standing will be members if the interview panel.
* Page 12 – under special reimbursements, SILC reimburses members, partners, (*staff was added*) and associates for all allowable official expenses incurred while doing SILC business.
* Mary Evilsizer motioned to accept the changes to the policies and procedures manual as proposed.
* DeeDee Foremaser second the motion,
* Peter Whittingham asked what a member in good standing represented. (no code of ethics violations or infractions)
* A revision to the motion including revise the policies and procedures manual 13th edition to include a statement regarding what it means to be a member not in good standing was made by Ace Patrick.
* DeeDee Foremaster second the motion,
* All approved
1. **For Possible Action on Day 1:**

Discussion and Make Determinations Regarding the Remaining Spend Down and Conference Attendance for FFY23 Funds

* SILC Congress funds continue to be spent down.
* Upcoming conference that can still be paid out of the 2023 Federal Fiscal budget are the NCIL in DC in July.
* DeeDee Foremaster may attend.
* Employment First disability employment fairs that need SILC representation at. Dawn Lyons will be facilitating and need someone to sit at a vendor table and provide SILC information. Locations are still being determined but the dates are June 25th & June 27th, one in Reno and one in Las Vegas. More details to follow.
* DeeDee Foremaster may attend if held on the 27th in Reno.
* Mary Evilsizer offered to place SILC materials at the SNCIL table if members are unable to attend.
* Funds can be used to pay for the APRIL conference registration but not the trip as it is after September.
* DeeDee Foremaster is interested in going.
* If SILC members are unable to attend more conferences, they could vote to sponsor the NCIL conference. With approximately $20,000 and $3,000 for printing, invitations, programs, and mailing.
* Sabra McWhirter motioned to approve, Ace Patrick second the motion,
* All approved.
1. **For Possible Action on Day 1:**

Discussion and Approval of FFY24 Budget, Objectives and Attendees at Future Conferences

* Dawn Lyons thanked the entire SILC membership for accomplishing the objectives with no known deficits.
* DeeDee Foremaster noted that a resource fair was being held in Tonopah and Pahrump in May and would like to see SILC representation.
1. **For Possible Action Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion and Approval of Future Meeting Agenda Items and Meeting Date: July 10 & 11, 2024

* Dawn Lyons proposed an additional SILC meeting to cover work that still needs to be completed for the Fiscal year 25-27 State plan.
* It was decided that the special meeting would be held on June 12th at 1:00 pm. The next quarterly meeting will be held on July 10 & 11th.
1. **Ending Public Comment for Days 1:**
* Havander Davis mentioned that the Blind Center is getting ready to start a baseball team for the blind and visually impaired. They would like to have enough people so they can compete.
* Havander Davis congratulated Dee Dee and RCIL on their Part B status.

**Ending Public Comment for Days 2:**

* Jennifer Kane shared a story of a person earning a PhD in special education with a focus on disability studies. He had asked if he could share his academic publication.
1. **Adjournment on Day 2 (For Possible Action):**
* Day 1 - 3:51pm
* Day 2 – 3:00pm

**Meeting Materials:**

* Supporting public material provided to the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council members for this meeting may be requested from Dawn Lyons at dlyons@adsd.nv.gov and is/will be available at any meeting locations and the SILC website <https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/>

**AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Statewide Independent Living Council website at <https://www.nvsilc.com/> and Nevada Public Notices website at [https://notice.nv.gov](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=e92e5499cb272963JmltdHM9MTY4NjYxNDQwMCZpZ3VpZD0xNGI5ODlmZS05NDliLTZhNGQtMDE3Yi05YjkyOTUxZjZiNTgmaW5zaWQ9NTE4Ng&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=14b989fe-949b-6a4d-017b-9b92951f6b58&psq=nevada+public+posting&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9ub3RpY2UubnYuZ292Lw&ntb=1)