P.O. Box 33386, Las Vegas, NV 89133

Website: <https://www.nvsilc.com/>

Email: [nvsilc@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:nvsilc@adsd.nv.gov)

Phone: 702-757-7990

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

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date and Time of Meeting:**

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

**Location of Meeting:**

This meeting will be held via videoconference only:

The public may observe this meeting and provide public comment on Zoom.

**Minutes**

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

**Members Presents:** Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair, DeeDee Foremaster, Ace Patrick, Mary Evilsizer, Sabra McWhirter Clark, Peter Whittingham, Obioma Officer,

**Members Excused Absent:** Havander Davis, Cheyenne Pasquale, Jennifer Kane, Linda Vejvoda,

**Members Unexcused Absent:** Victoria Essner,

**Guests:** Margaret Marcucci, Sam D’Ambrosio-Garcia, John Rosenland, Lori Lutu, Dave White Jr., Catherine Nielsen, Steven Cohen, Kelscy Meyer

**CART Provider:** Becky Van Auken

**ASL Interpreters:** Henry Yandrasits, Nicole Dunn

**Staff:** Dawn Lyons, Carole Hanley

1. **Beginning Public Comment for Days 1 and 2:**

**Day #1**

* Catherine Nielsen: The bylaws that are listed on Aging and Disability Services website for the Statewide Independent Living Council differ from the bylaws that are listed on the Statewide Independent Living Council's website.   
  So, I don't know which one is accurate or most up to date, but I wanted to just make a point of that so that you can get it updated.
* Dawn Lyons will investigate it.
* Obioma Officer: The 2024 Disability Conference will be held in Las Vegas July 15th through July 18th.  This is a disability inclusive conference. There will be many people from the Deaf Community attending. This will be a good time to network and socialize with them.

**Day #2**

* Katie and Chris Walker say: We need more funding to keep people going in independent living we need support when no one wants to listen please keep funding the program we need people to support and help.

You guys are the only ones that care and help us.

* Katie Walker.

Lisa Donovan: I wanted to let you know how important RCIL is to our area in northeastern Nevada.

* Some folks need help with support services in the Elko area and they are tough to come by unless you can somehow get connected with Rural Regional.

My son is autistic and somehow doesn't meet our guidelines and RCIL has been helpful in trying to help us find services he needs.

* Melissa:

RCIL is important to the community in Elko Nevada.

I am a healthcare worker in home health for seniors and the disabled.

I believe there is not enough funding and F workers being paid to do their jobs that's why the healthcare system is broken.

Melissa Ure and Angelina Berry.

* Kitty Nash: Ms. Lyons, I'm writing this on behalf of RCIL in Elko.

Elko may be a small town in Nevada, but we need help.

A funding for RCIL is so important.

Most of the citizens that need RCIL cannot afford it.

Without funding for RCIL, we have people that cannot get the help they need.

We don't have the resources that are available in bigger cities.

Please reconsider the funding budget and help Elko, Nevada, respectfully, Kitty Nash.

* This is Margaret Marcucci.

We have other people -- Margaret Marcucci, RCIL, Elko support staff.

I know my lights aren't working right and part of my office.

We have -- we will have more comments toward the end.

There are other people that have approached me to do that.

Katie asks Chris walker I watched those two grow up.

And they're my babies.

And they depend on us.

That's all I have to say.

Thank you.

1. **For Possible Action on Day 1:** Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2024.

* Minutes are tabled until the next meeting, so everyone has ample time to review.

1. **For Information on Days 1 and 2**:

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

1. **For Possible Action Anticipated for Day 1:**

Annual Nominations and Election of SILC Officers Including Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

* Mary Evilsizer nominated Julie Weismann as Chair.
* Julie accepted; no others were nominated.
* A roll call vote was performed and all approved.
* Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh was voted in as Chair.
* Dawn Lyons nominated Havander Davis as Vice Chair, stating that she spoke to him, and he had he would except the nomination.
* DeeDee Foremaster nominated Peter Whittingham who excepted the nomination.
* Discussion of how votes would be casted ensued.
* Catherine Nielsen: Per open meeting law the actions and deliberations of the public must be conducted openly, so private chatting you still must read on the record the votes.
* Dawn Lyons will get clarification from the Deputy Attorney General (DAG)s.
* Catherine Nielsen: Per the messaging that her office has received from the DAGs, you do have to read each comment in the chat.  She suggested deferring to the DAGs regarding the policy that comments made in the chat must be read out loud because it could make these votes null and void.
* In a private vote to the Executive Director Havander Davis was voted in as Vice Chair.
* The Vice Chair appointment may be revisited after confirmation from the DAGs has been received.
* Mary Evilsizer nominated Ace Patrick for Treasurer; Ace excepted the nomination.
* Ace Patrick abstained from the vote, all others approved.
* Ace Patrick was voted in as Treasurer
* Dawn Lyons nominated Sabra McWhirter for Secretary,
* Sabra abstained, all approved.
* Sabra McWhirter was voted in as Secretary
* Peter Whittingham: His thoughts are to make sure that the proper process is supported by the appropriate laws and bylaws that we may wait until we get some advice from the DAG to validate this process and especially the position of the vice chair.
* Dawn Lyons: I have several years' experience talking to the DAG about elections, and in this matter in particular, I have asked in the past if someone needed to be present for there to be a vote for their election, and the DAG has informed me they do not have to be present as long as they have agreed to the nomination and does not have to be in public. They can agree to it in private.
* Dawn Lyons will contact the DAG to get a formal answer on this.  If the DAG decides that this is not the case anymore and that this is not valid, then the SILC will revisit this vote.
* Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh stated that she would be gone the next day but is interested in continuing as Chair.
* Dawn Lyons: Does not think that they will have to redo any other vote unless the DAG says that they completely did all this wrong, which she doesn’t think they will.

**Day 2 Continuation of election of the Vice Chair of the SILC:**

* Dawn Lyons: Did hear back from the DAG and they did say all votes must be public and there are no secret ballots, so we'll have to do roll call vote this time.
* Peter Whittingham and Havander Davis were both nominated.
* Members conducted a roll call vote. 5 votes for Havander Davis and two for Peter Whittingham.
* Havander Davis was elected as Vice Chair for the SILC.

1. **Presentation and Discussion Anticipated on Day 1:**

Presentation by Dave White Jr. Regarding the Development of a Disability Cultural Center at UNR

* Dave White Jr.: He is trying to spearhead a Disability Cultural Center at the University of Nevada, Reno as well as other universities across the state.  A place, where disability is not just looked at through the lens of getting accommodations, but more so looking at the culture, looking at all of what makes disability unique and awesome. Everything will be looked at including neuro diversity as well as physical disabilities.

**Overview and Review of Training Protocol for SILC Members**

* Peter Whittingham had requested a review of the training protocol for SILC members.
* Dawn Lyons provided a checklist as a meeting material. It is on the SILC website under the “Training” tab.

**Updates from the Centers for Independent Living:**

**Southern Nevada Center for independent Living (SNCIL):**

* Mary Evilsizer: This last quarter they did receive or process 765 information referral calms, 833 service requests, including the information.
* Of the service requests that they had, 26% were for advocacy or Legal Services. The next category is housing and modification and shelter services.
* Of the service requests they had, 59% were for housing.
* That continues to be the lead service request in Clark County. They had about 22% requests for independent living skills training, peer counseling, individuals received peer counseling by coming to the center, peer counseling is one individual with a disability providing support, guidance and information for another individual with a disability. They had five situations where they were able to prevent individuals from living in nursing homes. They have done a lot of outreaches and partnered with the Clark County School District for school to work transition students.
* SNCIL and NNCIL are working on a disaster preparedness website that will be launching in August. They will present it to the SILC.
* Disability Awareness Day has been scheduled for October 5th, Saturday, from ten am to 2:00 p.m. The flyer is posted on the SNCIL website.

**Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL):**

* Lisa Bonie: NNCIL saw a 28% increase over the last quarter, in calls for information and referral calls. Corporations are buying many rental properties and increasing the rents exponentially, so there is not a city-based landlord.
* There may be advocacy regarding this in the next legislative session.
* NNCIL has had a 38% increase in peer counseling, and has an extensive

Blind and low vision program, peer counseling, and support groups.

* NNCIL will be present at the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities’ Silver State Self-Advocacy Conference in August in Reno.
* SNCIL and NNCIL has been working with the Emergency Preparedness Departments around the state.
* Mark Wellman Day is like Disability Awareness Day, and NNCIL is in a partnership with the city of Sparks and next year will be the 20th Anniversary. This year, they had more than 200 people attend.
* NNCIL is working closely with the school district for their blind and low vision students, hosting an ice cream social with them. NNCIL will be offering independent Living skills training in their kitchen.
* NNCIL is also collaborating with the National Federation of the Blind for a STEM academy that will be happening in their office on Saturday, August 24th, for K-12 students, and there are several STEM people coming in from Baltimore to teach as well as local educators who will be here.
* They have also been contacted by the museum system to help them to make their facilities as well as their product, their exhibits and whatnot accessible.
* For outreach, NNCIL will be in Fallon, Fernley, Carson City, and Douglas County every month. They have distributed more than 2,000 Covid tests in the last quarter.

**Rural Center for Independent Living (RCIL):**

* DeeDee Foremaster: RCIL’s recreation club is doing well and adding members, four of which joined the previous night. The Support Group is also doing well. Many people are coming into the Center, and they desperately need help. There are people on oxygen that are living in their cars with their service animals. There are people out in the middle of the desert in broken-down trucks that are veterans that need services out in Fallon.
* The Elko office is growing and overwhelmed as well. Without any funding, they cannot help all the people coming into their offices. There is an apartment complex that has 200 people on a waiting list. Both DeeDee and Margaret are not drawing a salary currently due to no funding.
* RCIL currently does not qualify as a Center for Independent Living due to not enough data for the ACL, but the SILC has a goal in its next SPIL to collect that data. The rural consumers need to attend the SILC meetings and give public comment.

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

* John Rosenlund: After the state fiscal year, he will have more data. He gave a brief program description.

**Assistive Technology Act services**.

* Services under the AT Act, focus on helping people make informed decisions and to be able to find what's most appropriate.
* For the Federal Fiscal year (FFY) 2024, October 2023 through June 30, 2024, 256 consumers, the lions share carried over from last year.
* 83 of those were new consumers that came on since that time.
* 45% of those consumers service records have been closed.
* 75% of those closed cases the goals were met.
* 23% of those were closed either due to unable to contact the person or withdrawn.
* Expectations of not having a wait list for FFY 2025.
* Estimated costs are approximately $1.3 million with 83 different goals that don't have a solution determined for yet.
* Approximately 144 (55 %) individuals of consumers are active right now.
* The FOCIS position within the AT Resource Center program will be three parts, supporting AT/IL consumers, create a mechanism that peer users can get involved and the home modification vendors. Las Vegas recently had one added.
* Staffing, it is difficult to find someone that understands what Independent Living is.
* Funding that was included in the wait list funding is specifically for blind services.
* VR has two orientation mobility training specialists hired. There aren't any mobility training specialists that are not already employed somewhere.
* VA orientation mobility specialist. VR has had that open position for over a year.

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

* Dawn Lyons is the SILC representative on the Nevada State Rehab Council since Raquel has retired from the SILC.
* At the last meeting of the Nevada State Rehab Council, they reported that some audits needed corrective actions regarding the Rehab Services Administration (RSA). Those reports are posted publicly, Dawn can provide the link.

**Updates and Discussion regarding Aging and Disability Services (ADSD)**

* This item was tabled.

**Updates and Discussion Regarding Takeaways from Conferences Attended by Members and Information Regarding Upcoming Events and Conferences**

* Dawn Lyons attended the Nevada Disability Rights Network Conference (NDRN), as a representative of the PAMI Council. The PAMI Council is an advisory council under the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) and the PAMI Council advises the NDALC about mental health. They do have an opening on the Council.
* Catherine Nielsen explained that the PAMI Council is housed within NDALC, and it stands for Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness. It was established in the Mental Illness Act of 1986, and they look at both institutional and community settings. They advise on investigations and allegations of abuse, neglect, and any rights violations for people with mental illness in the State of Nevada.
* Dawn Lyons met with Kate Osti who is the new Executive Director at NDALC, about partnering with the SILC.
* DeeDee Foremaster and Dawn Lyons will be attending the NICL Conference.
* The Youth Outreach Specialist was going to go but she is no longer with the SILC. Dawn will explain that better at the next meeting. The SILC is again recruiting. The Youth Outreach is important to the SILC.
* DeeDee Foremaster and Dawn Lyons will be attending the Nye County Social Services Fair and will be doing some outreach in Tonopah.
* Havander Davis may be going to the Real Talk Youth Impact Program on Tuesday, July 23rd in Las Vegas. The APRIL Conference will be coming up in October and anyone interested in going can contact Dawn. Dee Dee Foremaster would like to go.

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

* The SILC was approved for a grant from the Department of Education. Without a Youth Outreach Specialist or expenditures, the SILC is working on grant revisions for the current two years of the 5 year award.
* Vocational Rehabilitation has been making progress on their Nevada TRIP website and app. Their advisory committee will be starting and there is onboarding and training available. The first advisory meeting will be soon.
* Due to the SILC not having a Youth Outreach Specialist, the Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities has withdrawn its grant funding.

1. **For Possible Action Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion and Final Council Consensus Regarding the Federal Fiscal Year 25-27 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Submitted to the Administration for Community Living (ACL)

* Ace Patrick motioned that the $86,000 each year that the SILC currently has allocated in their draft SPIL for the state IL program, be transferred into a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the community IL services and that the state IL program receive the $30,000 in the first year and $47,905 on the second and third years.
* Sabra McWhirter seconded the motion. The members conducted a roll call vote, and the motion passed.
* Dawn Lyons: She and Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh have worked with the DSE leadership to come up with a compromised suggestion for section 4.3. regarding how the SILC has chosen to utilize state staff, which Dawn read to the SILC.
* “Per CFR1329.15E, the SILC shall, consistent with state law, supervise and evaluate its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this section.
* As DSE staff, the State of Nevada carries responsibility to and liability for all employees.
* The DSE will not direct or supervise the activities of the SILC staff nor will they be responsible for personnel actions.
* DSE staff will not be assigned duties that may create a conflict of interest with the SILC operations.
* SILC has established policies relevant to situations in which state policy interferes or creates conflict with SILC business, SILC policy shall be followed if it does not conflict with state or law where SILC policies don't exist related to personnel information technology and fiscal processes, state administrative policies and procedures will be followed as long as they do not make personnel determinations for the SILC.
* In instances where conflicts arise the SILC chair (or vice chair when the chair is unavailable, and time is sensitive) and DSE will meet to resolve conflicts to the extent allowed by state and law policies as well as the federal assurances.
* In the event conflicts cannot be resolved at the organizational level, both the state, (DAG), and federal authority, (ACL), will assist in conflict resolution.”
* Jeff Duncan: “It's a non-negotiable for us because the DAG is our lawyer, I'll be brief so it's nothing to do with the DAG being there as an independent, we are under the DSE, therefore we would need our DAG at the table with ACL, it's really that simple.”
* Mary Evilsizer motioned to accept the verbiage for the personnel issue as described, including the DAG. Vickie Essner seconded the motion. The members conducted a roll call vote, and the motion passed. It will be incorporated into Section 4.3.
* Ace Patrick motioned to approve the changes to the SPIL to submit that they have discussed and approved. Vickie Essner seconded the motion. The members conducted a roll call vote, and the motion passed.
* The SPIL will be submitted within the SILC’s extension deadline.

1. **For Possible Action Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion and Possible Plan to Draft a Letter to the National Organization for Statewide Independent Living Councils (NA SILC) Regarding Developing a Proposal to Change Current Independent Living Language Including the Use of the Term “Consumer” to the Administration for Community Living (ACL)

* Tabled until November’s Council meeting.

1. **For Possible Action Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion and Approval of FFY24 Remaining Budget and Future Conference Plans

* Dawn attached the current summary of the SILC’s expenditures. There were no questions or concerns.

1. **For Possible Action Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion and Approval of Future Meeting Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: October 2024

* DeeDee Foremaster motioned to move the next SILC quarterly meeting to November 6th an 7th.
* Vickie Essner seconded. The members voted and the motion passed.
* Suggestions for agenda items for the next meeting:
* Orientation and mobility yesterday, the gap in service in Nevada and discussing how SILC can assist with that.
* The SILC will be deciding on their Notice of Funding Opportunities, Dawn will send those out shortly.

1. **Ending Public Comment for Days 1 and 2:**

**Day #1**

* Peter Whittingham: “My comment, Julie, is related to the election process earlier on in the agenda for vacant positions on the council.

And I will say for the record that my profound respect and admiration for the Chair prevents me from commenting on her categorization of comments made earlier.

Suffice it to say that as an organization that is governed by rules and regulations, I noted that the Executive Director indicated that she is going to secure or maybe obtain some comment or feedback from the DAG regarding that process.

Based upon the rules and charter that govern this council, in addition to anything else that the DAG comments on, I think it would be informative for us as a council for this and for subsequent voting processes for the DAG to comment on the appropriateness and/or compliance with the rules for the Executive Director, a non-voting member, to have nominated a member to the board.

And I noted also that the Executive Director did in fact indicate that she might have mistaken or misspoken in her nomination and should have perhaps indicated that she was attempting to nominate an existing member or secure a vote for an existing member.

But the question is whether or not those comments had already poisoned the well and perhaps even compromised the election process.

And so it would be informative for me as a member and I suspect for others as well if the DAG were to take a good look in terms of the role that the Executive Director can appropriately play in the selection of or the election of members and specifically in this case whether or not her nomination, in spite of her apologies later, were sufficiently so damaging that it could have well compromised the election process.”

Dawn Lyons: Actually, the Executive Director is typically the one who holds the elections and facilitates them because they're not allowed to be nominated.

Anybody in the council is allowed to make a nomination.

I'm just trying to be clear up some of your questions in there.

And even though I felt like I misspoke, technically, I can make a nomination.

It doesn't really matter who makes the nomination.

I just advised at the last meeting that you contact the person who you're nominating to make sure they're in agreement that you nominate them is all.

But I did I’m going to share this with the group as a public comment I sent an email to the DAG during our break, and I'm going to read it to you so that you know that I sufficiently addressed your questions.

It says hello.

SILC held our annual elections today virtually during our meeting.

And the question came up that I felt the need to get clarification on from you.

When we have more than one nominee and voting members prefer to vote anonymously, is it mandatory to read all votes aloud along with who the person is who voted, or can we just simply read how many votes there were for each nominee?

Also, in the past, I have been informed that the nominee does not need to be present for the group to take a vote as long as the person nominated agrees to it in advance.

Is it a violation of open meeting law to get their acceptance of the nomination prior to the meeting if they know they cannot be there that day?

In other words, does the nominee have to be on public record stating that they accept the nomination for a valid vote to take place?

Thank you so much for your assistance.

I'm still waiting for a response.

When I get a response, I will inform the council.

And I will read it verbatim.

Does that sound good?

* Peter Whittingham: Dawn, if I may, just to add to that, the specific question and again I feel very uncomfortable doing this because it seems, even to me, that as a person who is involved, I'm advocating for myself, I can remove myself from the process for clarity.

The issue for me as a member is whether or not the process as conducted is consistent with the charter, bylaws of the council.

And what perhaps may have been left out of your email, because I just brought it up, is the specific question is to whether or not the Executive Director, knowing his or her role and different authority and position from members of the voting body, can she or he nominate a member of the board and whether or not it was done mistakenly, in this case, the process as was this morning, did it sufficiently damage or sufficiently poisoned that may have compromised the election process specifically as it relates to the vice chair.

Those are specific questions I would like to have the DAG answer in those fashion.

In spite of your interpretation.

Dawn Lyons: I'll tell you what Peter.

Since that wasn't something that came up earlier and didn't get into my email, I will email you the DAG's email so that you can ask them yourself, how's that?

Peter Whittingham will email his concerns to Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh, and she will forward them to the DAG.

Dawn Lyons: Just for the record, the DAG has informed me in the past that although it's public comment we can answer questions, and it's not considered a discussion as long as it doesn't go into depth.

But if you have something to say about it, you want to make your own public comment about it you are welcome to do so. I want to end on a positive note, and I want to thank everyone for their participation.

It's been a very hectic but good year and gotten a lot accomplished, and I look forward to the year to come.

Thank you all for your hard work and efforts on the council.

* **Day #2**
* See Email Public comment with meeting materials
* Cammie Gerber: To whom it may concern: I host the Community Conversation with Cammie Podcast which airs Monday, Wednesday and Friday on 107.7 on Global One Media Radio.

Global One covers the northeastern Nevada listening corridor.

We reach 20,000 listeners per month and any given show reaches a minimum of 2,000 listeners.

A few weeks ago, I interviewed Margaret Marcucci on my community conversation of podcast.

The topic was RCIL and can be accessed here.

There's a link attached.

With the large number of listeners, we reach there has been a growing awareness of RCIL services and a great need for continued RCIL services in our remote and underserved area.

Unfortunately, I was recently informed that funding for RCIL has been dropped.

My deep concern is that this will leave ow most vulnerable families without RCIL resources.

I have personal experience in this area as I have an adult brother who is high functioning autistic and will live with my parents until he moves to Nevada with my husband and I under our guardianship.

I was elated to learn about our RCIL services as I would be a person in need of their assistance in the not-so-distant future.

I'm reaching out to let you know that RCIL is needed in northeastern Nevada.

On behalf of my good friend Margaret Marcucci who is the RCIL representative for this area, I stand by her and her passion for RCIL work.

Margaret is a great force for good in our community and donates her time to a multitude of organizations that assist the most vulnerable in hour community and help to bridge the gaps in resources.

Margaret is an advocate for our northeastern Nevada families in need and I stand with her and RCIL.

I hope you will reconsider the funding opportunities for this organization and the needs of the families in rural Nevada.

Cammie Gerber.

* Jen Landman: Hello Dawn and others on the SILC.

I hope this letter finds you well.

My name is Jen Landman, we've spoken a little bit before via email and I attended some Zoom meetings with you this past winter.

I'm a volunteer at RCIL in Carson City, I've always sometimes been a client in the past. As far back as 2009. And I'm currently a client again.

Off the top of my head, I have two stories about DeeDee Foremaster and the Rural Center for Independent Living that I'd like to add as public comment.

I came to Carson City for the first time in 2009.

I was taking a quote, gap year, unquote, away from college to serve with AmeriCorps vista and UNR Center For Excellence in Disabilities.

I was the first person in my family to make it to college and as a person who would figure out later that they are neurodivergent, I was

overstimulated and overwhelmed by college life. So. AmeriCorps it was.

As you may know, AmeriCorps Vista members receive a quote, living allowance, unquote, which is a type of fixed income based on the state poverty line.

Back in 2009, vista members were prohibited from having a second job or even what we now call a side hustle.

I was new in town; my college had been in Oregon.

I didn't know anyone in this area except for my supervisors who were out of town up at UNR anyway.

I had found a room to rent through Craig's list, but it turned out to have a lot of hidden costs that I couldn't afford.

I needed a safe affordable new place to live, and I needed it before rent came due again.

But I was 21 years old, brokers new at figuring out housing rentals, navigating a new and painful set of PTSDS and I anxiety symptoms and in 2009 I hadn't yet figured out that I had autism.

I thought -- I had thought I was just different. Luckily, I met DeeDee Foremaster.

DeeDee had me sit with her and listen as she made a call to prospective landlords, we discussed what she had said, slash, asked and why.

And she asked me what questions I had. Then she had me give it a try.

She also accompanied me to apartment showings and to meet and negotiate with landlords in-person.

One landlord called DeeDee back about renting to me and the landlord said, I want to rent to her but with that income, how can I be sure she's going to pay her rent every month?

She's going to need to pay for utilities and buy groceries and what if she has an emergency.

DeeDee, is I look she must live somewhere, and she knows the first priority is having a roof over her head.

Utilities won't matter if she's evicted for not paying rented so why pay utilities before paying the rent? She knows that no matter what, you pay your rent first.

And she has that living type he said, it's the same every month, no more, but no less either.

After a little bit more negotiation, I had a safe apartment to move into at a rate that even I could afford on my allowance.

Thanks to DeeDee I was able to stay in Carson City and complete my AmeriCorps service. Not only did she get me into the apartment but taught me about housing, budging, and negotiation and self-advocacy I'm going to stop there. It continues but that's past three minutes.

Dawn Lyons: So it is in our materials, and I encourage you to read the rest of that public comment.

* Next one is: To whom it may concern, I know I've known DeeDee Foremaster for almost my whole life. I've seen her tirelessly help people at the expense of her own life, when I talk about DeeDee, I compare her to Mother Teresa in the spirit and light of compassion and love she shows to those who are suffering in Carson City, Dayton community.

When I was going through a rough spot or dark period in my life, I felt like I needed to be of service to my brothers and sisters in my community.

I decided to help and volunteer at RCIL when she still had her drop-in center on Long, the space DeeDee has created for these people -- for the people neglected in our town.

I would arrive around 6am as the warming shelters close at six in the winter in freezing temperatures.

There was always a well-stocked pantry and refrigerator I could prepare chili, soup or another a meal for the cold souls that make their way there over from shelters in the dawn of day.

This location was something I never knew existed nor fully comprehended in the beginning of this journey of this importance.

This was a safe place where people could receive mail, get signed up for Social Security, she even had a pretty good clothing closet for anyone in need from jackets to pants to shoes.

I've seen her on many occasions take veterans, mentally ill, without shoes, to get proper fitting shoes and socks to bring comfort to their spirit. All walks of life came through those doors from families in cars living on the streets disabled veterans and the mentally disabled.

Anyone that walked through the doors were treated as children of God with the love of heavenly angels and could change to a tough loving mother to those who showed up under the influence of drugs or alcohol, protecting the space with compassion and grace.

She's the most experienced soul I've met in that line of work.

Her efforts, ideas, and love are invaluable to hundreds if not thousands of people each year she helps.

I can't even start to describe the depth of importance of RCIL.

It brings me to tears to think her lifelong efforts and love, compassion, and caring of those who are mostly forgotten in our had human family could be thwarted in any way for any reason.

I could spend a lifetime sharing stories and love of Dee Dee who is RCIL, she's the glue that held it together for over 20 years.

I've no idea who you are or your importance to RCIL's sustainability, and ability to continue to live on but I ask you this, please feel free to call me and I'm happy to share and talk further if I can help RCIL in any way.

May patent heavenly waters of spirit water the seeds she has planted in your heart and the hearts of so many in our community may RCIL continue to bless and let the people who are forgot especially being seen and loved in some way.

* Chris Sandal: Dawn Lyons, my name is Chris Sandal, and I wanted to let you know how important RCIL here is in Elko, Nevada and the rural counties.

I'm a client of Margaret Marcucci and she helped me more than anyone.

I have a processing disorder, speech impairment, generalized anxiety disorder, and depression.

I see a doctor and a counselor and I'm on medication to help.

One of the places he struggles most is at the welfare office.

I have a hard time understanding things, but when Margaret told me she can go with me, that has been a lifesaving gift.

I now get better assistance at the welfare office with her there as she helps me to understand terms and policies.

She has been able to keep me calm and explain things to me.

Whenever I have questions, she's able to help me and if she doesn't know an answer, she finds out and gets back to me.

With all her research, studying, and learning, she knows what to do and where to go.

Having someone here who knows how the rural areas work is critical in a much-needed resource.

The big cities don't understand us out here and treat us like we're in the city.

Rural areas don't have the resources like the big cities.

Rural communities need people like Margaret to help us find answers and resources.

We need people here who understand us and our needs.

As far as the NNCIL, I never knew existed and could be a resource for me to turn to.

However, it wouldn't be helpful anyway because the members of the organization never came out here to assist us.

They are not helping those of us in rural areas.

It is important to have someone in the rural areas to help be a voice and who understands our needs here.

Margaret and the RCIL fills that void.

She's helped me to accomplish things that I didn't think I could because of the support she gave me and continues to give me.

We talk about living on my own, out of my parents’ home, but have decided that it is not the time to work on that yet.

We're working on other things to help me be self-sufficient and confident as possible.

She presents to me choices that allow me to succeed or fail in a safe environment which she provides.

I have found there are a lot of individuals here with disabilities and we're not getting the proper help and support we need.

Any time someone asks me if I know where to go for help, I give them Margaret's information, and I know she'll do her best to help them.

Not only has Margaret helped me but she's also communicated with my mother to help her to understand the choices and guidance that's being offered to me.

Margaret's skill set involves helping the individual which in turn helps the family.

Thanks for your time.

Chris Sandal.

* John Rosenlund: regarding the blind services that will be implemented into the current independent living program.

And I want to give a little clarification as well.

So first off, anything or any conversation regarding trying to establish orientation mobility specialists and where we can find somebody and how people access that program, please reach out to me.

You can reach me pretty much anywhere.

If you don't have my email, get a hold of Dawn.

I don't see anybody on the screen here, captioner and interpreters that probably don't have my email we reach out.

This conversation isn't going to wait until November.

So, reach out to me as soon as possible.

The last part of that is that a little clarification of.

The reasoning why there's the funding is, and I recommend it to stay in that program is because it is the simplest program that has structure, staff, has a mechanism to establish independent living goals and it doesn't matter who the vendor is, the partner can issue authorizations and pay them. Very simple.

All the infrastructure is built in there, all we need to do is find orientation mobility specialists and we can pay them.

So, there's a clarification on the simplicity if -- I assume because I did not make some clarifications as to why those services are there, it's the same reason why the state's autism program launched in that program. Simplicity.

There's existing structure, there's people that can help you develop an independent living goal, and then it's just finding the appropriate service and vendor and pay for it.

So, keeps it simple.

Again, just reach out to me, reach out to Dawn, if anybody has any questions or wants to be involved in that conversation.

**Adjournment on Day 1-2 (For Possible Action):**

Day -1 (3:58PM)

Day -2 (3:09PM)

**Accommodation Requests and 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](mailto: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)