

**Draft Minutes**

Name of Organization: Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC) Transition Workgroup

Date and Time of Meeting: November 4, 2020

11:30 a.m.

This meeting will be held via video-conference only:

In accordance with Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement

contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

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

**To Join the Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9299041434?pwd=NmM5Tk1Od3ltRzg1enhRYTU3WDdUZz09>

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

Password: NVSILC (case sensitive)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

The number provided may incur long-distance telephone carrier charges, and is offered as a regional call-in number, only.

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

Passcode: 707401

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdGvZ9R9O5>

Meeting Materials Available at: <https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/>

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Patricia Unruh, NV SILC Chair

Members Present: Patricia Unruh, Kimberly Glass, Lisa Bonie, Jennifer Richards, Mary Evilsizer, Julie Steinbaugh & Lucy Wroldsen

Members Absent: Dee Dee Formaster

Guests: Mark Tadder

CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

Staff: Dawn Lyons & Wendy Thornley

1. Public Comment (Members of the public will be invited to speak, however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Please clearly state and spell your name. Public comment may be limited to 3 minutes, per person at the discretion of the chair. Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined or consideration by the public body, and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken).

Patricia Unruh: Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Determination and Appointment of a Volunteer Transition Workgroup Chair **(For Possible Action)**.

Patricia Unruh, NV SILC Chair

Dawn Lyons nominated Patricia Unruh. Julie Steinbaugh seconded. Patricia Unruh was voted in as the SILC Transition Workgroup Chair.

1. Review Current and Alternative Curriculums and Personal Care Attendant (PCA) State and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMA) Requirements.

Workgroup Chair

Dawn Lyons: She went through the materials that were sent to the group. Some of the material related to PHI best practices for Personal Care Attendants and went through several different state models. She focused on Washington state because it is not that big and is similar to Nevada. Their program’s credits also transfer into home health aides or nursing assistant. The Nevada model does not have that. A lot of people who rely on personal care attendants at home to stay in their home, are losing them mostly because of Medicaid rate cuts.  
A lot of service providers were no longer taking Medicaid and were only asking for self‑paid clients. This excluded a lot of people with disabilities because they're often low‑income and some people are institutionalized because they don't get the care at home without their PCA that they need.  
They are trying to brainstorm solutions and try to figure out what they can do and it will take awhile to advocate for Medicaid rates to go up.  
  
They had talked about looking at curriculums where they could educate the nursing schools to include PCA training in some of their credit courses so that people could get a discount to move up into the medical or nursing fields.  
They could help educate these training facilities to make sure that they are working with the nursing educational facilities in that regard.

Lisa Bonie: Years earlier, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL), had investigated incentivizing people to go into PCA work and how to retain them. PCAs become trained and then leave due to low wages, non-reimbursement for travel time between consumers resulting in the job sometimes costing them money. NNCIL and Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL), explored creating a pathway for PCAs to continue training and education to become CNAs and also to go to nursing school, assisted by a scholarship program.   
  
Mary Evilsizer: Clark County has similar issues with high unemployment. They lost a lot of PCAs due to the money and needing people who are suited to this work.  
  
With the Covid-19 pandemic, many PCAs opted out of working because of the fear of contracting a contagious disease.  
The two centers helped to create a coalition, and at that time Medicaid was in far better shape, so they were able to work with Medicaid, who does understand what people are going through in the community.  
Their goal with the coalition was to standardize the salaries and at that time they were able to get the salaries up to $11 an hour.  
Then they worked towards a certificate that an individual personal care attendant, could obtain and they worked with all the PCA providers in the community to enlist their support to standardize the training. Many PCAs are leaving to go to other jobs that pay more. Some providers have started a 401k plan for their PCAs, and they do provide health insurance and travel costs. Those are the rare few companies that also have private pay.

Dawn Lyons: Nevada has waiver programs that provide PCA services for either the elderly or disabled or intellectually and developmentally disabled to get them out of or keep them out of institutions and be able to stay in their own homes. Some individuals need the kind of care, only available in a nursing home setting.

Lisa Bonie: A huge barrier to people being in a home setting is a huge lack of affordable and accessible housing in Nevada.

Jennifer Richards: The Commission on Aging (COA) has also been discussing this issue, and they are drafting a letter of concern on the impact of the Medicaid rate cuts on the community, including this issue for personal care attendants or aides. It’s on their November 10th meeting to review and approve the draft letter.

Kimberly Glass: She uses PCA services and has also been in human resources for a corporation that staffed direct support staff for the intellectually disabled as well as another corporation that staffed for elderly care. She suggested sourcing medical students for PCA care. It is experience they could put on their resume. Possibly an internship program. Her companies in the past have done this with great results. Wages would still be an issue and need to be addressed.

Dawn Lyons: Medicaid CMS requires 75 hours of training for a PCA certificate or to be qualified to be reimbursed by Medicaid as a PCA. Perhaps this group could write a letter to coordinate with the COA, to put the SILC's name on that letter, to provide multiple  people, multiple entities that support and are concerned about this issue, but also to send a letter to the Board of Nursing to see if they would be willing to consider including PCA training as incentive towards nursing programs.

Patricia Unruh: Suggested seeing about Job Corps training people through their CNA training program. Many Job Corps participants are going into the medical field. There are also placement services for trained participants. Giving gas mileage and insurance reimbursement is also needed to retain CNAs.

Jennifer Richards: She provided the following information to the group.

<https://guinncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Guinn-Center-Helping-Hands->

Commission on Aging had a presentation on Personal Care Agency Trainings <http://adsd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnvgov/content/Boards/COA/2020/AGC%20Caregiver%20and%20Administrator%20Training%20Requirements.pdf> Attachments from the presentation including an outline of requirements.

The Legislative Committee on Health Care is also sponsoring a bill on training for certain unlicensed caregivers.

BDR 454

<http://adsd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnvgov/content/Boards/COA/2020/November%2010,%202020%20Commission%20on%20Aging%20Agenda.pdf>

Here is the agenda for the next COA meeting.

The Legislative Committee for Seniors, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs is sponsoring a Bill Draft Request to authorize the use of Employee Leave for care‑giving time.  
This BDR379 is being considered this session.  
Persons would be able to use their time however they need to, especially for care‑giving purposes.  
She doesn’t have the language yet, but it has been submitted.

Lucy Wroldsen will send a list of Medicaid certified providers for PCAs in Nevada to Dawn so that Dawn can contact them to see if they are willing to have these conversations and see what they are willing to do towards working with nursing schools, to get their perspective.

The group agreed that anonymous surveys could be developed for both providers and PCAs to give feedback. Kimberly Glass will create a list of questions for providers and for PCAs for their input and send to Dawn.

After getting said feedback, the group will assist Dawn with drafting a letter to the Board of Nursing to initiate talks of collaborating on incentive programs where nursing credits can be given to PCAs and training programs can lead to them moving into the CNA or nursing programs. Legislators would also be included in this collaboration once they are educated about the issues and are given the compiled data.

Julie Steinbaugh will send sample PCA curriculum to Dawn for distribution to the group.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Potential Models to Use for SILC Education Plan and Which Entities to Recommend SILC Present to **(For Possible Action)**.

Workgroup Chair

Dawn Lyons: Would like to have a plan of action and have tasks assigned. She can contact half the list of PCAs and discuss these series of events that are not working. Ask them questions about how to best support them and provide the survey to them.

Kimberly Glass: Will work on questions for both Providers and PCAs and send them to Dawn.

It was agreed that there could potentially be three surveys, one for providers, one for PCAs and one for consumers. There was discussion of educating consumers about what they can expect and what their rights are. Perhaps the group will reach out to the providers first, via Zoom. Patricia will help with contacting people as well as creating a platform statement. The CILs could ask their listservs to find people using PCAs.

Dawn will attend the next COA meeting on November 10th, to see what they have already done.

Mary Evilsizer: Feels it would be helpful to have enrollment people join this group.

1. Approve Next Meeting Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date **(For Possible Action)**

Workgroup Chair

The next SILC Transition Workgroup meeting will be on Thursday, December 10th at 1:00 pm till 3:00pm.

1. Public Comment (Members of the public will be invited to speak, however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Please clearly state and spell your name. Public comment may be limited to 3 minutes, per person at the discretion of the chair).

Patricia Unruh: Thanked everyone for coming and is looking forward to what this group does next.

Dawn Lyons: Thanked everyone’s willingness to address these issues.

1. Adjournment

Workgroup Chair

**NOTE:** We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Wendy Thornley at (775) 687-0551 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may email her at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) According to NRS 241.020, supporting materials for this meeting is available at: 3416 Goni Road, #D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Wendy Thornley at (775) 687-0551 or by email at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov).

***Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:***

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://www.adsd.nv.gov> and <https://notice.nv.gov>

**In accordance with Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 there will not be a physical location for the** **Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC) Legislative Subcommittee.**

 As per Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 3: The requirements contained in NRS 241.020 (4) (a) that public notice agendas be posted at physical locations within the State of Nevada are suspended.

 As per Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 4: Public bodies must still comply with requirements in NRS 241.020 (4)(b) and NRS 241.020 (4)(c) that public notice agendas be posted to Nevada’s notice website and the public body’s website, if it maintains one along with providing a copy to any person who has requested one via U.S. mail or electronic mail.

 As per Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 5: The requirement contained in NRS 241.020 (3)(c) that physical locations be available for the public to receive supporting material for public meetings is suspended.

 As per Nevada Governor Sisolak’s Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 6: If a public body holds a meeting and does not provide a physical location where supporting material is available to the public, the public body must provide on its public notice agenda the name and contact information for the person designated by the public body from whom a member of the public may request supporting material electronically and must post supporting material to the public body’s website, if it maintains one.