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

**Draft Minutes**

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

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, July 7, 2021

1:00 p.m.

This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the following location:

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Aging and Disability Services Division

3416 Goni Road Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706

And via video-conference at:

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

**To Join the Zoom Meeting**

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Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

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

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Ace Patrick, Chair

Members Present: Vickie Essner, Erik Jimenez, Sabra McWhirter, Ace Patrick, Julie Steinbaugh, Kate Osti, Havander Davis, Mary Evilsizer, Jennifer Kane,

Members Excused Absent: Raquel O’Neil

Guests: Deanna Gay, Linda Anderson, Steven Cohen, Lisa Bonie, Cindi Swanson, Bryan Hilbert, Ted Nagel, Linda Anderson

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 first and last name, if unique or otherwise unfamiliar to the Subcommittee. 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.

Dawn Lyons: Reminded people to state their names before speaking.

Bryan Hilbert: He is here to observe and serve in any way needed.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2021, and April 8, 2021. **(For Possible Action)**.

Ace Patrick, Chair

Havander Davis motioned to approve the minutes. Sabra McWhirter seconded. Members voted and the motion carried.

1. Introductions and/or Announcements Regarding New Participants and Interested Parties.

Ace Patrick, Chair

Ace Patrick congratulated the new members; Dee Dee Foremaster, Raquel O’Neil, and Julie Steinbaugh as well as welcomed the new SILC Youth Action Leader, Marina Holcomb.

Raquel was not in the meeting. Dee Dee, Julie, and Marina introduced themselves.

1. Discussion Regarding AB253 Changes to Open Meeting Law for Public Bodies.

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: Explained the changes to AB253. The biggest change is that now the SILC can have virtual meetings if it is posted appropriately, and it is explained on the agenda, how to join the meeting virtually. Presently, the SILC will continue having one physical meeting place available for meetings in addition to having virtual access.

1. Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Client Assistance Program (CAP).

Jack Mayes, Executive Director, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC)

Jack Mayes: He introduced himself. Discussed the outline of services available to NDALC’s clients. He gave the history of NDALC becoming the protection advocacy office in 1995 after it moved out of state government and they did not initially have the CAP program that stayed with the state until a few years ago, when it was decided to move it out of state government, and it was moved into the organization. There is an NDALC agency in every state and a Native American organization in the Four Corners area of Arizona as well. Information is the number one thing that people need, followed by education, referrals, legal counsel, technical assistance, negotiation, mediation, investigate reports of suspected abuse, and neglect.

They review their priorities every year.

The Client Assistance Program (CAP), is a federally funded program designed to assist individuals with disabilities in resolving problems they may be experiencing with any of Nevada’s federally funded rehabilitation programs.

This includes eligibility for Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bureau of Services to the Blind or Visually Impaired, applicants to the or client of the Independent Living programs, or if they are seeking information about Vocational Rehabilitation or Title One of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).   
Those are the areas that are mandated by the grant from the federal government.  
Specific areas that NDALC provides services under CAP are; information referral, individual case advocacy, and systems advocacy.  
When should someone contact the client assistance program?  
When they are denied the right to apply for vocational rehabilitation or independent living services, they need help understanding their rights or responsibilities, when they disagree with their vocational rehabilitation or independent living provider on their goals or services, when they have problems or delays in obtaining services, or if they object to their case being closed.  
If a person feels that they would like help in those areas, please contact NDALC.  
As a client, they have a right to, apply or reapply for rehabilitation services, receive a timely decision on their eligibility for services, based on an assessment of their disability, they have a right to receive an explanation in writing indicating the reason they were denied eligibility for a service.  
They have the right to receive an explanation about services that may be available to them.  
They have the right to be partner with their counselor in making informed choices for their rehabilitation plan.  
They have the right to be assured of complete confidentiality of their case record.  
They have the right to review their rehabilitation case record with a staff member present.  
They have the right to participate with their counselor, in any decision to close their case.

They have the right to appeal a decision with which they do not agree.  
They have the right to be informed of the client assistance program.  
They have the right to be provided a form of communication that is appropriate to accommodate their disability.  
The CAP program can provide information, support, strategies for negotiating systems and services, assistance reviewing a person’s individualized plan for employment, and representation for due process.  
The client assistance program pleads an individual's cause in speaking or writing in support of an individual.  
They do two types of advocacy, formal and informal.  
Formal would be where they actually represent an individual, either in a hearing or a formal proceeding.  
Informal would be where they negotiate and discuss items with, say, the counselor or administration.

Does the client assistance program have to assist every vocational rehabilitation client?  
According to rehabilitation services, NDALC does not have to provide services to everyone.  
They have the discretion to decide, sometimes it is not a winnable case, or a client may be unreasonable in what they're asking.  
In that case they will discuss that with the individual and help them understand why, what they are seeking may or may not be available.  
There is not a right or entitlement to the client assistance program services.  
Anyone who's services are denied, terminated or reduced by NDALC’s CAP program, can appeal that program through NDALC’s grievance procedure.

When must the VR agency inform individuals about the client assistance program.  
The VR agency must inform individuals during the following times; when somebody applies for VR services with the development of an individualized plan for employment, when there's a placement on an Order of Selection which has been discussed by VR lately, and whenever services are reduced, suspended or terminated.  
99% of NDALC’s complaints and concerns relate to vocational rehabilitation, but they do cover independent living services as well.  
If anyone has concerns with the Centers for Independent Living or the State Independent Living program, NDALC can look into those as well. Kate Osti, who works for NDALC’s office in Las Vegas, is a member of the SILC, partly as a representative of the CAP for the SILC.

1. Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS) the NV SILC is Supporting.

Daphne DeLeon, Statewide Transition Coordinator

Daphne DeLeon: Thanked the committee for inviting them to give a status report.  
They fund a pre‑employment transition services/transition and this project had two components, the first one is to provide partial funding for the Northern Nevada Transition coordinator to look at the services they were providing, and enhancing independent living skills of high school students with disabilities by providing free transition services.  
The second component was to do a rural parent outreach pilot where they had two consultants provide outreach regarding self‑advocacy, which is one of the transition services activities for parents at the third, fifth, and eighth grade level.  
For this meeting’s materials, she submitted a status report with attachments.  
Her deputy administrator, Mechelle Merrill, was also attending virtually and she was there if there were other questions.  
The first component of their status report, was the partial funding of the PreETS coordinator, one of the projects they did this year was the creation of a virtual 10‑week job club.  
This was a class held outside of school on a Zoom platform for one to two hours per week for ten weeks.  
Students received all five PreETS activities, self-advocacy, job exploration, postsecondary counseling, workplace readiness, and work‑based learning.  
They ran five sessions of the job club, serving 28 students. Ten of the 28 were students that were served outside of Washoe and Clark counties.  
An equal number of Clark and Lyon County students were able to access this opportunity.  
They are continuing to plan for job clubs, they have one going currently in the abbreviated summer program.  
They will be developing a dual language job club which will be Spanish and English for next school year. The goal is to provide support for their clients, their high school students with disabilities who are Spanish language speakers, so they can be successfully placed next Summer in the Summer internship program, a five‑week paid internship with a dual language employer statewide.   
They have heard there is a need for this type of opportunity to provide PreETS and so they are looking forward to continuing that in the next school year.  
The second component of the project is called the Rural Parent Outreach Pilot, in attachment 2, there is a copy of the draft presentation that their consultants, one from Churchill County school districts, and one from Douglas County school district, created.

They created two phases for this project.  
Because of the impact of the school closures and continuing COVID‑19 situation, their consultants decided it was best to develop the curriculum and deliver it to staff to get feedback, and then look in the 7th phase in September to deliver the training to the three parent groups.  
In attachment 3, there is a post training survey and she pulled out some excerpts.  
Twenty four of the attendees reported that they increased their knowledge of self‑advocacy, that was a pre‑employment transition activity that they were providing training on.  
Seventeen of the attendees said there was no increase in their knowledge of self‑advocacy. The data, shows that is because those seventeen staff came into the training with a fair to high understanding of the topic of self‑advocacy.  
At the bottom of attachment 3, there are sample comments and feedback from the staff and overwhelmingly, it's very positive in terms of this is good information, critical information, for our parents to start hearing to better enable them to support their student, their child, when they get to high school in order to increase their independent living skills by maximizing access to pre‑employment transition services.  
One thing they did say was to create a flyer or something that parents could take away with them, when they walk away from the training, they have a list of resources, resources for programs, resources also for contact information in terms of how their child can maximize access to Pre‑employment Transition Services.  
She is pleased at the tasks they were able to complete by June 30th and looks forward to the second phase, getting feedback and observing the delivery of the third, fifth, and eighth grade parent training sessions by their consultants in Churchill County and Douglas County school districts.

Julie Steinbaugh: Asked what types of disabilities the kids have.

Daphne DeLeon: She does not have the specific disabilities for the students that were participating in the job club, but their program is available to all students with an IEP or a 504 plan, so all disabilities are available to the services.

Dawn Lyons: Shelley Hendren presented some information at the SILC’s Legislative Subcommittee meeting, and in that presentation, she mentioned that there was going to be a flood of money coming in for the PreETS program.  
Does that affect the program that we're supporting right now or does that come next fiscal year or is there an overlap?

Daphne DeLeon: The money that's coming in to PreETS doesn't necessarily affect the program right now, especially the rural parent pilot program. There is funding available to continue it and enhance it.

Michelle Merrill: PreETS is almost like a separate pod of money within Vocational Rehabilitation. When they have an ongoing responsibility to provide Pre‑employment Transition Services so they will be doing these individual special programs, that is in complement to the competition-bases of services they must provide and that will go on because that is part of the WIOA, it has been their mandate for years now and they do not foresee that changing.

1. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Feonix Mobility Rising and Neighbor Network of Nevada (N4) N4 Connect Transportation Project.

Amy Dewitt-Smith, Executive Director, N4

Valerie Lefler, Executive Director, Feonix Mobility Rising

Amy Dewitt-Smith: This project has been full speed ahead.  
Their project outcomes were to work with six community partners that are transportation agencies, primarily in the rural areas of Nevada in 2021, the first year, and have another six join them for a total of 12 in 2022. They currently have 14 community partners.  
It has been a fast moving and exciting project.

Valerie Lefler: The goal is to create an information network that allows individuals, caregivers, social workers, care coordinators, anybody who's in that space, to know what transportation options are available in the rural communities. Then in many cases, to be able to book and pay for those rides at the same time.  
It creates what is called Mobility as a Service for individuals, caregivers, and organizations, to utilize transportation.  
This will enhance existing services and create understanding of demand for additional routes.  
It will provide enhanced data, reporting, and provide more connectivity.

The core social determinants of health are, education, access, equality, healthcare, social and community context, and economic stability. She is excited to hear about the efforts of the SILC in these areas.  
This is the first time that Mobility as a Service framework in the United States, launched new technology with the goal of society providing a benefit to individuals in communities.  
The counties taking part in the first two years of the pilot, include;  
Humboldt, Washoe, Pershing, Elko, White Pine, Eureka, Lander, Churchill, Lyon, Douglas, Carson City, and Storey County.  
  
They are connecting the mobility options across the very rural as well as urban areas of Northern Nevada working with senior centers in these rural communities and hospitals.  
They are working with the organizations that are providing rides at low or no cost in many cases for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and members of the public.  
  
They went across the globe to find the best technology partners, fitting the technology to the transit agency or transit partner.  
SKEDGO, the main technology that they are using, is out of Australia.  
ICabbi is from Ireland. Spare is from Canada.  
Across the world, the United States transit infrastructure does not rank among the top.  
  
They believe in human centered design when rolling out the technology and deployment.  
Launching it first to the staff at each of the agencies for testing. Then, they remote it out to three or four more partners who are aware of our passengers. They are going to provide feedback as to what their experience was, and we're going to edit and tweak. One of the things about this technology is that it is fully accessible for screen readers, it's accessible for optimizing for color blindness and large font if anybody needs that on their phones.  
Accessibility is baked into the design of the tech.  
They have users that are using the software with screen readers as part of the testing to ensure accessibility.  
  
They are planning to send it to the agencies in August for the first set of testing, working up to doing a public announcement in November.  
  
They are integrating What3Words, which is the technology that when you divide the earth surface into three‑meter squares, it actually gives the most accurate address down to nine square feet.  
When they were in Ely, White Pine County, the Google maps address actually took them to a rural address instead of a residential address on the other side of town.  
  
Even though the address was the same, the Google maps pulled it to the wrong location.  
What3Words allows them to pinpoint that accuracy to literally the front door and so that's also a help when working in rural communities where sometimes Google maps and the addresses do not match.  
Each of the agencies gets to decide based upon where they're at with their technology, ridership, buses and drivers, to provide transportation coordination, fixed route, paratransit, and deviated fixed route.  
Demand response and volunteer transportation is in one place.  
The RSVP program has respite services and other supportive services offered in these rural counties.  
That information can be shared with the mobile services.  
Because we know many times when you're looking for that ride there may be other things related to that that may be of interest.  
With this platform, individuals will be able to review and request a trip and receive reminders about scheduled trips.  
  
Some of the agencies allow payment through the app.  
Some want to collect on the bus because they are not receiving credit card payments at this time.  
Some of the transportation providers with the technology integration, are able to see the vehicle arrive in realtime on the app, where it will display and give the estimated time of arrival.

Ace Patrick: Who are the 13 agencies?

Valerie Lefler: The RTC Washoe, Access to Healthcare Network in Reno, the N4 Connect Program, (Amy is launching additional services in the outskirts of Reno), Winnemucca Senior Center, the Pleasant Senior Center, Jumping Around Carson (JAC), Eureka Senior Center, Ely Bus, Get My Ride in Elko, Lander County Senior Center, the Pyramid Lake Tribal Transit, and one or two others.  
It covers the very rural as well as urban areas.

Ace Patrick: The app testing individuals, where are they and how are they chosen?

Valerie Lefler: They have not begun testing yet. They anticipate each agency to nominate a couple of their passengers but, if there are members of this committee that would like to test out the technology, they would welcome that as well.  
They would be happy to have additional testers of the app and the system.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Rural Nevada Center for Independent Living (RNCIL), has consumers that would like to take part in the testing. She talked about the homeless community not having phone access. She asked if it was feasible to add a component with the rural libraries to set up for homeless people to access the ride service.

Valerie Lefler: Said that was a great idea to connect with the libraries with this pilot.  
She thinks they can connect directly with the homeless shelters, there's a network through Northern Nevada they could do a special training session for case managers, front desk personnel, or resource coordinators.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She doesn’t think that people realize the homeless disabled community do not have phone or computer access.

Valerie Lefler: The ability to bring in the libraries is an incredible opportunity because the librarians maybe don't know these transportation options exist. They are the hub of knowledge in the rural communities.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She would like them to contact her when it is time to launch the program.

Valerie Lefler: She asked for Dee Dee’s contact information and will reach out to her.

Dawn Lyons: When would the program expand to Southern Nevada?

Amy Dewitt-Smith: The focus is on rural transportation and then the rest of the state will be covered. Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), has been supportive of the project.  
The grant application used to be just one-year grants and it has been extended to four years.  
They took the opportunity to expand this through, to a fifth year.  
The first two years is in the 12 counties in Northern Nevada.  
They chose to focus on the North and rural areas because the consensus is that Vegas tends to get a lot of innovation first, so this time they wanted to spread the love in the north and the rurals, where it's really needed the most. They will include the last five counties there in the South in Year Three. That is when they will start looking at incorporating things like connecting Lyft and Uber and different volunteer programs and making it a true system. It's such a huge service gap so they wanted to make sure they got out there and prioritized those rural communities and make it a statewide system.  
  
They have gotten feedback from NDOT that they will be supported going forward.

Julie Steinbaugh: Wanted to know if they are familiar with the DMV transportation network.

Amy Dewitt-Smith: She has seen the Network vans and is impressed. Currently, they do not have a contact at the Network.

Ace Patrick: It will be interesting to hear and see what happens moving forward when they roll this out, put out notices and people become aware of this.  
It is great that they are working across the pond as well.

1. Update and Make Recommendations Regarding the Transition Workgroup Initiatives and Findings (For Possible Action).

Ace Patrick, Workgroup Chair

Ace Patrick: The Transition Workgroup has been watching SB340, which creates the Home Care Employment Standards Board, and the Workgroup will be gathering data to report to the DHHS Director. There will be a another Workgroup subcommittee meeting once they have more information on the data.

Dawn Lyons: The Home Care Employment Standards Board have a year and will comeback with data to the Department of Health and Human Services director.  
The Transition Workgroup is going to keep an eye on what they are doing to gather that data and if they put out interim reports. There are supposed to be three members with disabilities to join that Board. The Transition Workgroup will look into what that looks like, and how some of the Workgroup members could apply to be on that Board to be part of that conversation.  
She will keep everyone updated and post information on the SILC’s website  
  
Ted Nagel spoke with a legislator about a bill that would create an ability to collect a direct payment from Medicaid, for Personal Care Attendant (PCA) services, and it got moved into another bill. It was included in AB 495. Although it's not listed on the agenda specifically, she wanted to mention that it allows direct payments from Medicaid for PCA services to the consumer.  
She believes Medicaid is going to have town halls on that and she will post any updates on the SILC website to keep people current.

1. Update and Make Recommendations Regarding NV SILC Legislative Subcommittee Initiatives and Findings (For Possible Action).

Renee Portnell, Subcommittee Chair

Renee Portnell: Unable to unmute. Dawn will get a summary and distribute to the group.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Awardees for Both NV SILC Notice of Funding Opportunities for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 **(For Possible Action)**.

Ace Patrick, Chair

Dawn Lyons: Clarified that there are two Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO). One of them was specifically for Part C Centers For Independent Living and restricted to only them.  
This is in the SILC’s State Plan For Independent Living (SPIL).  
The other NOFO, was for an outside agency who was compliant with the 725 requirements, basically who operates like a Center for Independent Living but who is not Part C.  
That is why Rural Center For Independent Living (RCIL), was qualified to apply for that second Notice of Funding Opportunity.  
Housing and transition were the main objectives.

Both Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL), and Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL), submitted cooperative proposals that have to do with sending SILC’s Youth Leader, some of SILC’s youth people, including some educators, to National Center for Independent Living (NICL), trainings. They can learn more about Independent Living (IL), and the centers and services so we can better work together as a network.

RCIL's proposal was related to housing and transition.

Dee Dee Foremaster: The extreme need for housing and transition in rural areas, is the reason for RCIL’s grant proposal. They opted to make sure that they were providing the needed services for their area.

Dawn Lyons: The eviction moratorium is ending, and so housing proposals are very timely.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Things are critical, and she has been advocating for individuals who were being evicted. There has been bullying during some evictions of disabled individuals.

Mary Evilsizer: Asked about the amount of the goals. In the SPIL, the goal cited $40,000 for the amount for this goal, but she believes they total $60,000.

Dawn Lyons: The Notice of Funding Opportunity that went out to the Centers for Independent Living was $40,000. The one that went out to the community was for $20,000.

Mary Evilsizer: Which SPIL objective is the additional $20,000 coming from?

Dawn Lyons: Objective 1A1 to provide $70,000 in support for federal year 2021.  
$30,000 in federal fiscal years 22 and 23, for new community services and services with the highest need throughout the state using current data.  
The SILC reduced it to $20,000 because they used some of that funding for other processes that fall under that category. They had $20,000 left.

Mary Evilsizer: This also includes the continuation for Vocational Rehabilitation and for transportation, is that correct?

Dawn Lyons: No, the SILC awarded the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation a contract for one fiscal year and that was that.  
The transportation project was a match funding amount for the project, and the SILC has not had further discussions about any continuation of that.

Julie Steinbaugh motioned to accept the award of funding opportunities for fiscal year 2022, with $20,000 going to NCIL, $20,000 to SNCIL and $20,000 to RCIL. Sabra McWhirter seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding the NV SILC Website Content **(For Possible Action).**

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: Whether a person is a SILC member, a consumer, a partner, or anybody in the Disability community, the SILC wants to hear from them.  
The SILC has a page on their website that individuals can submit any suggestions for content that they want to see on the website, or in the newsletter. She has not received any responses yet. Marina Holcomb may be taking over the newsletter. Individuals who are part of the Disability community may advertise for themselves, and the SILC has listservs to get the information out. Individuals are responsible for consumer content and can submit that information on the website or to Ace or Dawn.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Requested Marina’s contact information so that she can send people her way that might be interested in serving on the Youth Board.

Dawn Lyons: There is a place on the SILC website to submit interest if you're interested in becoming part of the Youth Action Council, or contact NV SILC at adsd.nv.gov.   
That's the main body here, that's our email address.

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Bryan Hilbert: The transportation and transit presentation reminded him that he has personally had students that have been denied paratransit eligibility. He is hearing in the community that some people who currently had or have paratransit eligibility with RTC, are having that eligibility removed. RTC is saying there is no appeal to their decision unless a person has a health change.  
He and NDALC are connecting but felt that this group may be able to hear and see that in the community. This is an important issue that may be misunderstood and under diagnosed. As a past paratransit user, he is scared for people if the window of eligibility for paratransit shrinks.   
  
He thinks it would be good if there were viable alternatives, transit wise, if RTC becomes more difficult for people to access.

Ted Nagel: He spoke to Senator Settlemyer, who is the sponsor of the AB 495 bill, and is the head of the committee that's going to be putting together procedures.  
Once the bill is activated, Ted will put together a website so people can be directed to all the information.

Dora Martinez: Would like to have public comment after certain presentations in meetings.

Ted Nagel: He agreed with Dora about the public comment.

1. Adjournment

Ace Patrick, 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: <https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/> and <https://notice.nv.gov> and <https://www.nvsilc.com/>