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**Minutes**

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

Dates and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, January 12 & 13, 2022

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:

The public may also 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

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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 Verification of Posting

Ace Patrick, Chair

**Roll Call for 1/12/22**

Members Present: Havander Davis, Ace Patrick, Vickie Essner, Mary Evilsizer, DeeDee Foremaster, Jennifer Kane, Sabra McWhirter, Raquel O’Neil, Kate Osti, Cheyenne Pasquale, Renee Portnell, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

**Members Excused Absent:**

**Members Absent:** Erik Jimenez

**Guests:** Jack Mayes, Sondra Cosgrove, Scott Youngs, Steven Cohen, Marina Holcomb, Conor Fogel, Cindi Swanson, Dora Martinez, John Rosenlund.

**CART Provider:** Becky Van Auken

**Staff:** Dawn Lyons, Wendy Thornley

**Roll Call for 1/13/22**

**Members Present:** Ace Patrick, Vickie Essner, Mary Evilsizer, DeeDee Foremaster, Erik Jimenez, Jennifer Kane, Sabra McWhirter, Raquel O’Neil, Kate Osti, Cheyenne Pasquale, Renee Portnell, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

**Members Excused Absent:**

**Members Unexcused Absent:**

**Guests:** Steven Cohen, Marina Holcomb, Sondra Cosgrove, Temma Hammond, John Rosenlund, Autumn Blattman, Jack Mayes, Dora Martinez, Cindi Swanson,

**CART Provider:** Becky Van Auken

**Staff:** Dawn Lyons and 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 public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

**Public Comment for 1/12/22**

Connor Fogal: Connor submitted his written Public Comment, and it was read by Dawn Lyons: “My name is Connor Fogal and I have cerebral palsy and use a wheelchair and wanted to add this to future agenda. Connor Fogal Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities. My electric wheelchair broke September 6th and I've been in my manual chair getting sorer and sorer I called to ask if they could do anything in the meantime and they said no just sent the letter to your doctor and this was after the first week. Monday September 15th, I called them to SEA what the status of my order was, and they were still waiting for the doctor to send it back that was week two. September 20, I called and just got the stupid letter back now. They are waiting for Medicaid. On September 28th, I called them to check on the status of my order and waiting on the insurance to approve it. I called them on October 4th and then said that all but one got approved and we had to resubmit it to insurance. I called to check on the parts for my chair yesterday, October 12th, and they said they are still waiting on authorization from my insurance. We're looking at about a month and a half without my chair. It literally took all of me not to cuss them out. I'm so mad that I want to make a difference not for me but all people with disabilities because nobody must suffer for months without their chairs. Most of our chairs are our lives. That's how we get independence. If we don't have our chairs, we don't have our lives. Monday October 18th, I called the corporate office and they said it does take up to 69 days to deliver. I said Well that's unacceptable. I said I can speak with the manager, and he was available and called me and all he did was put me through to the local office and yet I'm still waiting. November 9th they were fixing my chair and found a wire wrapped up in one of the motors and it was leaking. Now they must order two motors. It will probably be another two to three months before I get my chair. Two weeks ago, I called, and they were still waiting for Medicaid to approve the order. I called them last week and they said that they somehow lost the order and have started it all over again and it will be a while. I'm just so disgusted how these people take their sweet time. Thank God I have a job I can do remotely. Otherwise, I would be out of a job if it weren't for my coworker letting me borrow an electric chair. I would like to ask we put this on the agenda. Connor.”

The Chair decided that this subject will be an agenda item on the SILC’s April agenda.

Julie Steinbaugh: Agreed that it was a terrible situation and thanked Connor for bringing it to the SILC’s attention.

Sabra McWhirter: Asked if Connor lived in the Las Vegas area. Connor replied that he lived in the Reno area.

Renee Portnell: She cannot move around a lot with the use of her legs, and she has an electric scooter, she cannot get into a vehicle to go anywhere. She feels stuck at home. She does not have the money to modify a vehicle. She can sit in her scooter and drive around with other assistive technology that she needs. She does not have use of one arm. Trying to find money to buy a vehicle to move around is just as hard probably as Connor trying to get his chair back. She wonders if there are ways around for Connor. She also wonders if there are options for someone like her to make a van accessible for her and her scooter, if she does not have the $100,000 needed to make the changes.

Dora Martinez: Regarding the testing for COVID. Here in the north, the city or the county opened three new testing sites that are drive‑through, Bartley Ranch, North Valley, and Eagle Canyon. These are all wonderful for people who have cars to drive through, but for people who can't drive, don't have a car, and can't rely on public transportation because it's unreliable. They can't access those drive‑through sites because, for those who utilize that system, it's outside of the ADA.

Those people are stuck trying to get Uber or taxi but if there is a line, they will be on the meter, and it becomes expensive. She would like to try to work with the county regarding providing a walkable or where a bus can go and people with disabilities or people who don't own a vehicle can walk by and get a test or even a vaccine.

Right now, they're all drive‑through and it's impossible, she has done it and had to argue with the people, but she got her vaccine. She does not have a car and they were telling her she must have a car. She wanted to put this issue on the SILC’s radar.

A lot of visually and or speech impaired people she has spoken with, are clients of Vocational Rehabilitation and have been told by their Vocational Rehabilitation counselor that if they cannot use their service, the clients must close their plan. She was a client of Vocational Rehabilitation and is opposed to this. She would like to put that on the radar as well and would like anyone from Vocational Rehabilitation to clarify that if that's within the power of Vocational Rehabilitation to force a client to close their IEP.

John Rosenlund: Asked Connor Fogel about his wheelchair situation. He asked if it was that the company is dropping the ball or is it an issue with approval through insurance?  
Also, is there an option to get a loaner that will make Care Chest understanding that it might not be ideal.

Sabra McWhirter reiterated John's question.

Dawn Lyons: Suggested sharing Sabra and John’s contact information. She understands the barriers with Covid testing and vaccines and thinks this is a time-sensitive issue that the SILC should be looking at.

Linda Vejvoda: Rural Center for Independent Living (RCIL) is working with the COVID relief system through Welfare. Welfare recently informed RCIL that Welfare is not going to be having doctors and nurses go out to home‑bound people to administer vaccinations.

RCIL is working with local practitioners to get them out into the rural areas to people with transportation issues.

RCIL is offering assistance to wheelchair users who can get into a car to get them to drive-through vaccination sites.

DeeDee Foremaster: RCIL is doing a lot of legal advocacy lately.

Raquel O’Neil: Blind Connect has found an in-home medical testing resource that is professional, timely and sensitive to needs, they are nationwide and accept a variety of insurances, appointments are scheduled on a day or next day basis for in home services. A nurse comes to the home and connects the individual with a physician on an iPad. To make an appointment and learn more about them, call (504) 370-9966.

**Public Comment for 1/13/22**

Raquel O’Neill: She is Chair of the Rehab Council. She noted a public comment from the day before, about concerns relating to case closures and the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

She has investigated these and wanted to provide a bit of insight to the group in case people need further follow up.

The case closure is defined through Vocational Rehabilitation as when a client abdicates their right to be reached and to participate in their program as well as they have decided or decided with their counselor to stop their services.

During this time of the pandemic, lots of grace has been provided to individuals as far as being reached. They are reaching out to their counselors, and they are not hearing from their counselors at this time which also can happen.

She encouraged people to reach out to the Client Assistance Program.

She has a listing of the Southern Nevada office, Elko office, and the Northern Nevada office to reach the Client Assistance Program. She also wanted to mention that when a case is closed through Vocational Rehabilitation services, there is a quality control team that reviews the case prior to closure and a supervisor also reviews the case prior to closure.

She takes those concerns very seriously as the Chair of the Rehab Council and wanted to share that information. She invited people to reach out to her if there are any other questions.

Mary Evilsizer: At the meeting on the prior day, there was some discussion about possible locations for home vaccinations. SNCIL verifies an individual with a disability and then gives them information that SNCIL researched. Then the consumer calls SNCIL back to assure the information did work for them.

For in‑home vaccinations, the Southern Nevada Health District has the following phone number: (855) 635-0235.

The eligibility criteria are that the individual must have a disability and must be home‑bound. Southern Nevada Health District will do the vaccination and deliver the test kit. Right now, they do have the Pfizer and Moderna for the first vaccinations. They do have the Moderna booster, but they don't have the booster for Pfizer.

Kate Osti: NDALC is the client assistance program in Nevada. Any time an individual has concerns with case closure or other concerns, they may call to do an intake; the phone number is toll free 1-(888) 349-8150.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2021 **(For Possible Action)**.

Ace Patrick, Chair

Raquel O’Neil motioned to approve the draft minutes. DeeDee Foremaster seconded. Renee Portnell abstained. Members voted and motion carried.

1. Report and Discussion Regarding Vocational Rehabilitation’s Pilot Program for Pre-Employment Transition Services in Rural Nevada.

Daphne DeLeon, Program Officer

Ace Patrick: Daphne DeLeon was not able to come. She will send her report and Wendy will send it out.

1. Report and Discussion Regarding Aging and Disability Services’ Independent Living Program.

John Rosenlund, Director, AT/IL Program

John Rosenlund: Went over the data points of the report that he had submitted as a meeting material. He stated that it is like the information he provided at the prior SILC meeting in October for 2021. That was the caseload statistics and data from the AT IL program that was unvalidated at the time. The data has since been updated into the report that Dawn has drafted and was included in the meeting minutes. John put together a three‑year look at where the IL program has been and where they are at now. This included the last three years, 2019, 2020, and the year 2021 that closed federally on September 30th.

Page 9 is where the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program information will start showing up in the annual progress report in that document. Dawn drafted and attached it there. This is where it gets into some of the Consumer Service Records (CSR), that report the federal dollars that are received. The Part B and it breaks that caseload down into how many cases were carried over from the prior year.

People that hadn't finished their services up for whatever reason and then the new ones that came on during the year. And these numbers are very close to what was reported in October.

They had 353 consumers “totally served” is how the government put that in that report.

That includes the 194 carried over and 159 new consumers that came in.

Over the three years, it's static as far as last year in 2021.  
They did have less consumers coming into the program. Roughly about a 13% decline.

The program stays right around that average number of consumers. They are on track to maybe jump up to the 2020 numbers this year, based on what they are seeing coming in so far.

The rest of the report breaks down the consumers they have served with some of the general demographics. Why were those consumer cases closed? And some of that will relate to what the consumer wanted. Whether the consumer moved, they withdrew, the consumer passed away, or if the goals were met.

Those are consumer decisions in most senses of the word unless they have been unable to contact them and that's determined through that process. Last year they had 136 cases that were closed. The majority of those being with goals met and next biggest one is withdrawn where they have people that they may not be able to contact by phone, email or whatever.

The IL program has a set of processes that they go through. Many attempts through email or phone contact and then the IL program will provide them with a write‑up and hopefully they will reach out to the IL program. Going further into the report it breaks down how many people had an Independent Living plan, how many had a waiver, etc.

Demographics like how many consumers are under the age of five, are all federal requirements for the reporting. Historically this program serves people pretty much from 25 and older. It is a program that is to support individuals with disabilities that are living independently and removing daily living barriers with assistive technology. The demographics repeat what is being targeted and that's keeping people living in their communities.   
Most of the consumers typically fall in that 60 and over age range. As people are aging and getting less independent, those are some of the areas that it seems the IL program is always hiring.

It's where people are at as far as race, ethnicity, type of disability, and so forth. They report how many individual services, and that can be little services may have happened through the entirety of the case.

It's difficult sometimes to report those things because information and referral may be provided to somebody 30 times while working with them in 18 months. The important highlights have to do with independent living goals.

What are people requesting and what are those primary areas and do they look different from year to year. In the independent living goal area, there are five or six areas the program was designed to affect in the consumer’s lives. That is supporting them in their necessary daily living environment.

The number one area of set goals is always self‑care.

That's a historic thing and that is something that carries on over the last three years. Most of the goals set, fall into those self‑care areas.

Bathing, toileting, taking care of themselves, preparing a meal, and maintaining their daily living.

The secondary goal area is called Community-Based Living, where home access issues are addressed with this program. Getting into and out of the house. Getting through doorways, addressing those types of issues and barriers.

Third in line is mobility and transportation. Those are transportation goals where somebody is seeking to improve their personal transportation by having modifications to a vehicle or obtaining a vehicle that's modified.

Fourth after that is communication. That is primarily hearing. There is a goal area called information access and technology. That may be for an assistive technology that helps that person with being able to access information online, et cetera, that ties to that necessary daily living.

There is also one that falls under nursing home transition. Further in this report, there is information that documents how many goals are tied to a transition or how many are tied to a prevention.  
Simply because that goal isn't selected does not mean those things aren't happening, but those things fall under self‑care or home access or some other area. The person's true goal is to be able to get into the home and that's where that goal may be developed.

On page 15 is the broader description of the program and the end survey data for that program.

The program survey data is very important and has impacts. A voluntary survey people receive and must physically mail back, they usually get over 50% return rate, with a current 46, or 47% return rate with the pandemic taking affect. The survey can be submitted anonymously.  
  
Those are the important parts of the data that were presented in October. He encouraged members to look at the data and reach out to him if there are pieces of this caseload that they are trying to understand better or that he can be helpful in providing that information in a different way.  
One important piece that was not in the report, are the service records by county.  
He has that information of how many consumers are coming into the program and going out by county. It gives some tools to work with to make sure that the IL program are both doing outreach in those areas, and if there are needs out there that people know where to get hold of the IL program.

Sabra McWhirter: Mentioned in the chat that an electronic version of the ADSD survey is being sent over for John’s review, this should aid in the survey return rate.

Ace Patrick: Asked if the surveys are going through the mail as well as online.

John Rosenlund: That option is being explored. they want to give the consumer those options. Independent Living specialists should be working with the individuals and be very knowledgeable in the survey if that's going to be a barrier for the person to return. They do want them to highly encourage the individual to respond.  
They want to make it easy for people to respond, so his emphasis on people returning a voluntary survey is an indicator. He feels that roughly 50% of surveys are thrown away. Care Chest will be providing that online possibility. They can also offer to have someone talk to individuals who may be having difficulty filling out the survey.   
They want to separate the Independent Living Specialists from that so there is no indication that the consumer is not being swayed in any way.  
Asking open questions about their choice and control and what their opinion is of that is very important.

The individual choosing their goals and finding if those goals did impact their lives, are strong aspects and count more than counting how many ramps were built or how many grab bars. When people respond that it's had an impact on their life and there's one piece in there that had a positive impact on their life, he noted that this year they are at 98%.  
This is probably the first time in many years that they have had somebody respond that it wasn't a positive impact. There have been some negative responses regarding conflicts with a staff person and a vendor, and the consumer is mad at everything.  
However they would still say they have a positive impact from the program. The IL program wants to hear about and understand this even though it is uncommon.

If a consumer puts those comments in the survey, the IL program can address those issues. Earlier in this meeting someone mentioned barriers to things such as, going for vaccinations. If there are barriers that are Assistive Technology related, such as screen readers, wheelchairs, mobility equipment, etc., the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative wants to be aware of those things. They cannot address transportation issues.  
He encouraged people to reach out to Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative partners, Care Chest, Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities, and Nevada AT Resource Center.

1. Report and Discussion Regarding Consumer Trends at the Centers for Independent Living.

Lisa Bonie, Executive Director, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL)

Mary Evilsizer, Executive Director, Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL)

Lisa Bonie was not present.

Mary Evilsizer: Thanked everyone who participated in Disability Awareness Day (DAD). There was a great turnout. Many families with children attended. They are planning for an in-person event for next year, depending on what the Covid situation is, at that time.

Dawn Lyons: Asked if SNCIL is open for people to pick up tests or vaccines.

Mary Evilsizer: Parents are looking for information. SNCIL is collaborating with the Clark County community school system and have invited the Social Security Department. SNCIL is developing a presentation that is going to be archived and included in the school system of the parents to help their children apply for Social Security benefits at the time that they should.

SNCIL received 42 new intakes from Disability Awareness Day, and they are planning for an in-person event next year.

Clark County is experiencing a housing crisis.

Once an individual requests service from SNCIL, that individual can be provided that service

six or seven or eight times during that year. Once the service request has been made, it's ever ending until the goal is complete.

October 1st is the beginning of SNCIL’s fiscal year, and they have developed 142 new goals with consumers. Of those 142 new goals, 116 or 79% of those goals are for housing. At the last council meeting she did report that around 72 to 75% of their service requests are for housing.

SNCIL provides different services for housing. One of the constant requests is for assistance through SNCIL’s IL skills training, their peer counseling, and their guidance assisting individuals to apply for accessible housing.

There are about 11 housing facilities in Clark County.

Of the 116, SNCIL assisted 12% to complete the accessible space housing application and to train them how to stay on the list. The next type of housing is community-based living.

This is for individuals who want to find their own housing. SNCIL has resources and to them to develop what is known as a Housing Strategy Plan.

The individual selects the zip codes they want to live in, SNCIL gives them listings of apartments that are in their zip codes and guides them toward different resources to identify available housing.

SNCIL is one of the partners through a memo of understanding (MOU), with HUD housing for the emergency housing voucher.

During this period, with the emergency housing voucher, SNCIL had 42 requests to help individuals utilizing SNCIL’s services to complete the application. Once the application is complete, SNCIL submits it directly to the HUD agency and then HUD screens it to make the final determination to see if the individual is eligible.

There are several eligibility criteria that must be met. SNCIL also screens individuals to assure they are going to be eligible before the application is submitted.

Of the 116, 42 or 36% were assisted with the emergency housing voucher application, which is through the recovery program. SNCIL partners with HUD with the mainstream voucher application process. Individuals must be 18 to 61 years of age, have a disability, and must be living at or below poverty income level.

Of those 116, 31 or 27% received SNCIL services and training skills sessions to submit the application for the mainstream voucher. SNCIL screens individuals prior to application process and helps them to develop a file of all the information they're going to need. It's pertinent that they be on target with everything otherwise they get denied and the process must start again. SNCIL offers rental assistance for individuals that due to COVID, cannot pay their rent right now.  
SNCIL had 20 rental assistance requests that they fulfilled and that was 17%.

Through their COVID funding, SNCIL can provide assistance with utilities and during this period, they had five requests for utility assistance or 4%.   
SNCIL has about 30 more goals that were set. They had about four individuals they helped with a paratransit application. SNCIL prescreens and helps the individuals walk through the application process.

If the individual is denied, SNCIL guides them through the appeal process.

SNCIL had three families request assistance to apply for first time Social Security benefits.

They had a series of transportation requests, and others were miscellaneous requests for service within the community.

SNCIL uses advocacy, training, and self‑advocacy, to help all consumers that come to the center, help themselves.

SNCIL is currently offering Covid tests. Individuals can call at 702‑889‑4216 for walk in and drive in tests. This information is on the website.

She stated that in the Las Vegas area, the Texas station is doing their drive by clinic again and it's well organized and quick and efficient. The walk-in clinics are available. Walgreens has an ample supply, some of the CVS pharmacies have one out and some have run out of the booster and the test but if you can't find it at CVS try Walgreens. Smith's grocery stores are stocked with the boosters and don't have the tests.

SNCIL will be submitting their PPR report which was just approved by the Administration for Community Living. ACL did move on to select a new data company.

With that new data company, they are now taking SNCIL’s data as they input it on to a computer software package. It works great. SNCIL was one of the alpha testers.

There is a national website that is being developed and SNCIL’s data will be open to the public.

NNCIL also got their data moved and both Centers will be sending their data on Friday.

If a person's goal is to get an Associate of Arts degree, SNCIL will work with them, Vocational Rehabilitation, education, it may take someone five or six years to get an AA.

If they want to drop the goal, it's their choice.

She thanked the SILC regarding funding to send students statewide, to the NICL conference.

SNCIL wants to partner with the SILC’s Youth Action Council. She had reached out and confirmed that the NICL Conference will be both in person and online.

Dawn Lyons: Thanked Mary for the detailed consumer data. Dawn asked Mary to clarify if SNCIL is open to the public to pick up Covid tests.

Mary Evilsizer: They do not come to the clinic. They call and SNCIL takes their information and submits the information. The individual then gets an email telling them the date and time for their test.

SNCIL cannot find home tests to purchase and distribute to their consumers.

Dawn Lyons: Is there a plan including an alternative method for people to request that testing and information?

Mary Evilsizer: SNCIL will verify that availability before offering it.

They had a goal of stocking and distributing tests but have not been able to acquire them. The federal government announced that on January 1st, they were going to be rolling out free test kits. SNCIL has not seen any in the community.

SNCIL has done some research and found the Hispanic community are the least immunized. SNCIL is partnering with different groups to support a vaccine clinic in Hispanic communities in Clark County. SNCIL will try to find tests and or help people fill out the paperwork to get tested, including assisting with transportation such as Uber.

Ace Patrick: Asked Mary about the national website for free covid tests.

Mary Evilsizer: She does not know anything new. There is a new national housing website, however she is not sure how they will be able to find housing when SNCIL has had such difficulty.

Raquel O’Neill: Asked Mary if SNCIL has many people who have their housing vouchers that are in a holding pattern. She also asked about what kind of emergency housing is there for people like that? Like if they cannot get into an accessible place?  
Is there any emergency situations like that that have come up?  
Does SNCIL have many people with housing vouchers in the Las Vegas area? She thanked SNCIL for helping people with all the paperwork.

Mary Evilsizer: Most of SNCIL’s individuals are in holding patterns.

SNCIL has the capability to make referrals to the mainstream and to the Recovering Voucher Program. There were four recovery vouchers out of approximately 90 applications that SNCIL turned in, so 96% are in a holding pattern for the emergency voucher. There is virtually no emergency housing. Most of the homeless shelters that SNCIL works with, are at maximum capacity.

SNCIL has assisted in getting homeless people get into hotels and motels. This assistance will stop when the CARES Act money runs out. This leaves no emergency housing.

Nevada is one of the states that has the least amount of affordable and accessible housing for the individuals that have the need.

Raquel O’Neill: There are people in nursing homes or in skilled facilities waiting to get released that cannot. They want to live independently but they're having trouble finding housing.

If she hears of anything, funding or otherwise, she will let Mary know.

She also asked if there is any additional funding coming out to help with housing, putting people in the hotels?

Mary Evilsizer: There was an NOFO for that and the deadline to submit the NOFO was January 1st. SNCIL is keeping an eye on the state to see who gets that funding and is starting to do their research.

As part of SNCIL’s October 1st to December 31st numbers, SNCIL did assist two individuals with transitioning from a nursing home to the community. Nursing home transitions take priority.

SNCIL is also working on diversions, that is preventing individuals from entering an institution when they could live in the community.

Blind Connect helped an individual complete one of the intake forms that SNCIL got in the mail.

ACL has given SNCIL permission to get verbal signatures to begin with and hard signatures when assisting with filling out forms.

1. Report and Discussion Regarding Consumer Trends at the Rural Center for Independent Living (RCIL).

DeeDee Foremaster, Executive Director, RCIL

DeeDee Foremaster: Housing vouchers don’t work. Housing vouchers are like getting the golden ticket, but they don't work. Mainly because they set a ceiling on how much the rent can be. And the ceiling has not been adjusted for over two years. It's very outdated. Carson City only has two apartment complexes that will accept vouchers.

With 100 housing vouchers in the rural areas, only 30 of those vouchers are being able to be utilized. There is no emergency housing. She deals with this every day.  
It costs between $800 to $850 a month for a motel room with no furnishings and basically nothing on the inside.

She has volunteers that help with collecting and putting furniture in empty places. She works to forge relationships with apartment complexes.

Most people on SSI, which is a lot of the disabled community, don't get much more than $800 a month. They pay $800 a month in rent, and they have very little left.

Raquel O’Neill: Are they also requesting double the rent when people move into an apartment or house? Are there apartment complexes still requesting that the person provide up front, move and move out money so that would cost almost $2,000 for most people.

This is another point that she would like to help advocate for, so is curious if DeeDee is running across this there as well, where they can get in with a voucher replacement, but the place is asking for the total amount like $2,000 versus $400 for somebody to move in.

DeeDee Foremaster: Yes, they are. They are gouging the homeless and the disabled population. I mean, we have a motel here that is a $600 deposit non‑refundable. The tenant must prove that they are earning three times the amount of rent.

Raquel O’Neill: $1,800 a month?

DeeDee Foremaster: $2,400 per month in Carson. A developer in Reno razed four or five hotels to build low-income housing and has not started in the last four years. A casino owner has agreed to give up a property to build workforce housing, which is different than low-income.

Workforce means that your 60 to 120% of the low‑income schedule.

And low‑income is considered 60% or less of the poverty level.

Nothing is being done in Carson City.  
  
There is a scale that is used. Workforce housing is 60% and above up to 120%. If a person reaches over 120%, they are asked to leave the housing.

It does help Nevada’s low‑income workers, which are vital to the economy. Without low‑income workforce, there will not be employees for the restaurants, the casinos, for the economy for the State of Nevada. Both kinds of housing are desperately needed.

RCIL is currently working on a disabled hiker’s program. It lets people rate hikes and puts information on the net on where to hike. They organize group hikes. It's at the disabledhikers.com website.

As RCIL staff travel throughout Nevada with the vaccine program, they are looking at some areas for the disabled hiking program website.

It’s important for everyone to stay physically fit. RCIL is partnering with the Disability Vaccine Access Opportunity Center and encouraging people with disabilities, to get vaccinated. RCIL is giving information and getting rid of misinformation. She did six intakes in the last week at RCIL, and none of them have had a vaccination. The disabled community is not being reached.

People who are home‑bound can get a reasonable accommodation letter to get services in-home for the vaccine. For housing, RCIL has partnered with 15 property managers. RCIL has made about 60 referrals and gotten 23 people into housing.

RCIL has been doing a great deal of advocacy work in the justice system in the rural areas. When a disabled person is arrested, they are often steered into working on a plea deal when they probably should not have been arrested to begin with.

Dawn Lyons: She has read news of at least two housing development companies that have received grants to provide some type of affordable and accessible housing in Clark County. She doesn’t expect to see anything until late 2022 at least.

DeeDee Foremaster: Clark County is doing much better on that issue than here in the rurals in the North.

Dawn Lyons: All these topics are important to talk about, and there is a place to talk about them on the agenda.

Topics such as when subcommittees are discussed, what will be worked on in those subcommittees, and when they should meet, that's the prime opportunity to talk about what kind advocacy work and what kind of education the SILC needs to be doing in the community and which subcommittee should be talking about it.

1. Update and Report Regarding the Youth Action Council

Marina Holcomb, Youth Leader

Marina Holcomb: She has been working hard over the Summer to get a youth group together so that they can start a council and work together on bridging that gap from high school to after high school life and what it looks like for young adults.

It was hard to find out recently that their website hadn't been working.

She hadn’t received any messages from people that had applied or maybe had interest in the Youth Action Council. Fortunately, the website has been fixed so now people are sending her emails. She met with a young man named Cody and this week she asked him to be part of the council. They now have their first Youth Action Council member.

She has also started an Instagram page to get more appeal from the younger generation that's involved in social media.

DeeDee Foremaster: A lot of the people that RCIL work with, do not have access to computers or the internet. She is wondering if there is a phone number that they can call that is connected with the Youth Action Council.

Marina Holcomb: She put her phone number and email address into the chat: (775) 230-4237 and her email is marinaholcomb@adsd.nv.gov

Renee Portnell: Asked Marina what is the age range for the Youth Action Council?

Marina Holcomb: The age range is from 10 years to 30 years of age.

Jennifer Kane: Has had the pleasure of working very closely with Marina. Marina is one of the young adult facilitators for the Nevada Student Leadership Transition Summit. Jennifer suggested different ideas for Marina to recruit Youth Action Council members, from the Nevada Department of Education Office of Inclusive Education.

The next facilitator training is in February. Jennifer will set aside five minutes at the training so Marina can share about her work with the young adult facilitators and see if anyone would be interested in joining from that group.

Marina could send an email out to all the teams, including adults on the team, and ask them to share the information with the students now and let them know more information will be coming at the virtual event, at least that will get word out to them sooner.

Jennifer and Marina will set up a time to talk outside the meeting and see if there are other ideas they can come up with for recruitment.

Marina Holcomb: Agrees that that is a great idea. She will speak at both the virtual and the in-person February meetings. She also thinks it would be a good idea to send an email out prior to that.

Havander Davis: Suggested that Marina reach out to the Parent Training and Information Center, Nevada PEP and see if the parents have children who would be interested in joining the Youth Action Council.

1. Introduction and Make Recommendations Regarding NVSILC.com Website Maintenance by Serwind Netzler **(For Possible Action)**.

Serwind Netzler, Independent Contractor/Web Developer

This item was tabled.

1. Introduction and Make Recommendations Regarding Training Videos and Golden Network.TV **(For Possible Action)**.

Temma Hammond, President/CEO/Co-Founder

Temma Hammond: Thanked the group for taking time with her and looks forward to moving ahead with these projects. She recently located some of the training films that she did up in Northern Nevada for the state and is going to do a transfer and send it to the group for them to look at how the process went forward at that time.

It shows the benefit of using a really produced piece to get the messages across.

She worked with Gary Lyons at the time who was working at the state offices, and he showed her the way that the state needed to have it done and it worked very well. They did those two years with them. They won several national awards. Having produced pieces seemed to work the best when it's getting people's attention and making them remember what they have seen. She will send the training films out. She has been going over the training document that Dawn sent her. They will work together to determine which segments are the most important to get done first, and how the levels need to go thereafter.

She will put a proposal together in the coming weeks. Filming and editing are the most time‑consuming but with a good program to follow, it all flows into place.

Dawn Lyons: Temma is the president, CEO, and cofounder of Golden Network TV. It's the production company located in Southern Nevada.

She approached the SILC after their panel discussion about providing them with a documentary to report on what work they are doing as a council and how that's extended into the public.

Dawn has sent Temma the SILC’s training materials so she can get an idea of what the SILC had in mind as far as the video trainings. They wanted to make their training process easier for their new members and the public. Dawn would like to see Council members be involved in that process and to have a workgroup on the side to be available at different times to help Temma with this process and give her input.

Ace Patrick motioned to approve the Golden Network.TV producing videos for the SILC with assistance from the SILC. Renee Portnell seconded. After the discussion below, the members voted, and the motion carried.

DeeDee Foremaster: Has worked with Temma for many years. and she always turns out wonderful documentaries and does a great job. DeeDee thinks this would be an asset to the SILC.

Mary Evilsizer: Thinks it's a wonderful service. She has seen some of the products and they are excellent. It's a wonderful way to communicate to everyone the value of the Council. She wonders about the cost.

Temma Hammond: Budgets will be presented. They will be simplified and very easy to follow through. Her crews and executive team all want this to get done.

Mary Evilsizer: Thanked Temma. The costs for quality productions are expensive and the work that Temma does produce, is very professional.

Raquel O’Neill: If needed she is happy to assist with helping to ensure that videos are completely accessible for the blind using descriptive audio and contrast.

Ace Patrick: Is excited about this project because the Council has been talking about YouTube, Instagram, and other things. Having Temma and her crew being willing to do this for the SILC, especially with the documentary, is great. She would like to know more and be involved as much as possible. She hopes other council members feel the same way. She feels the Council needs to continue to do education. The training videos can be for SILC’s new council members as well as the SILC’s Youth Action Council.

Dawn Lyons: Appreciates those who have spoken up that say they are interested in being involved in the process. She would also like to reach out to see if there's someone from the Deaf community who would like to provide their professional input. If the group can think of anyone else who would be an asset to this process, let her know and she can get in touch with them.

Temma Hammond: She has been affiliated with the Silent Network, which is a network for the Deaf, the Hard of Hearing, and the hearing, for over 20 years. David Pierce is the head of the Silent Network. He lives in Texas, and he is willing to assist in what they are trying to do. It is very important for him in what he's done and created on Silent Network. He is also on Roku. The Silent Network is a network showing many kinds of programming.

DeeDee Foremaster: Her daughter has a disability and would like to take part.

1. Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding 2022 & 2023 NV SILC Subawards **(For Possible Action)**.

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: For Fiscal Year 23, she noticed a funding opportunity is going out a bit earlier. Aging and Disability Services has a brand-new grants process.

They are revamping and rearranging it, so they just need the SILC’s input sooner than usual.

She will have those NOFOs for Fiscal Year 23 and make sure they're distributed probably out in late February, so that everybody has time to get their proposals in before the end of March so the Council can choose who they want and award at their April meeting.

The SILC’s Fiscal Year 2022 subawards have all gone out and been distributed except for Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, they received their subaward in October, but she hasn’t received their signature to accept that money yet. She reached out to them the day before the meeting and hopefully will hear back from them soon.

The SILC will be awarding the Community Chest, which is a nonprofit organization.

The SILC will have some discretionary funding. They will be able to have last minute purchasing decisions for things that the SILC would like to get without having to go through state vendors or the state process. Those are the kind of extra things they already have in their budget.

They can sponsor individuals to go to conferences, like the DD Council does. They will be getting that subaward so that the SILC can access that funding as well.

Mary Evilsizer: Is the SILC looking for input on ideas for program expansion or is it going to be a year where programs are on a three‑year cycle and automatically funded?

Dawn Lyons: They will take the language from last year's for fiscal year 22 and carry that over.

Mary will email Dawn with some ideas.

1. Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding SILC Budget and Program Progress Report **(For Possible Action)**.

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: She did get the program progress report posted to Day 1of this meeting. It does have updates as of the day before the meeting with the IL state IL program's data.

She hopes people will reach out to her with input. She provided the SILC portion of the data and the information.

That portion starts with page 33 where they update on where they are at with goals and objectives of their SPIL, what they have accomplished and what kind of barriers they have run into. Those are the important parts to focus on.

She would like to hear any input, suggested additions, changes, information that they would like her to include on it in the little brag section or even in their barriers that she might have forgotten about.

Ace Patrick motioned to approve the SILC budget with Dawn’s updates.

Sabra McWhirter seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

Dawn Lyons: It didn't have to do with the PPR as much as it was an update on the fiscal year 21 budget which they have the additional year to spend down what they have obligated. She wanted to point out that at the bottom left of the Fiscal Year 21 tracker that she posted; it shows an approximate remaining amount left to spend down.

She did not include in that total, her portion of the travel that they have spent because Fiscal has a much more comprehensive detailed list of what the SILC has spent on travel for the fiscal year, and she does not receive all that information up front. She didn't use her totals for that, she used Fiscal's totals to come up with her totals at the end.

It's going to be approximate because there's always something that hasn't filtered through the Fiscal system yet. There are things that need to be adjusted on the state end of things. Other than that, that's a close estimate.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding State Plan Objectives, Progress and Timeline **(For Possible Action).**

Ace Patrick, Chair

Ace Patrick: According to the State Plan, the SILC is on track. They can discuss more of this when they go to the next agenda item 14, under D when they talk about the SPIL workgroup.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding NV SILC Subcommittee Planning **(For Possible Action).**
2. Legislative Subcommittee: Last meeting-June 23, 2021. Renee Portnell is the Chairperson.

Starting next week on another council’s legislative subcommittee will be happening and Renee will keep this group updated on any new information.

Dawn Lyons: She knows that other legislative interim subcommittees have started meeting. If anyone who's interested in any topics that they would like to address with these interim committees to get with her privately. They can investigate what needs to be addressed so they can put those on an agenda for the Legislative Subcommittee meeting.

One issue that she has come across, is that the U.S. Access Board is seeking additional information for advisory guidelines for aircraft on-board wheelchairs. That comment closes January 17th so she was wondering if they could approve if they are interested in providing educational comment to that access board about on‑board aircraft wheelchairs.

There's been concerns about weight limits being too limiting. If this is something that's important, she would like people to contact her. They could perhaps, draft an educational letter about their experiences and what information they would like to relay to the Access Board.

Renee Portnell: Would like to be included in the legislative subcommittee. Now that she uses an electric scooter, she has noticed there are places where they built a ramp, but they put a corner on it.  
So unless a person can get out of their chair, turn it around, and continue, they are stuck at that corner. This has happened to her often. Insurance takes forever and she doesn’t think the legislators get the hint of what's going on.

Dawn Lyons: Thinks they could write a quick educational letter and give some advice towards this board before the 17th if the members get together with her outside of the meeting and it will be personal testimony. It's not something that the SILC must endorse necessarily. The SILC does have some agenda items that they would like to address quickly with the Legislative Subcommittee.

Sondra Cosgrove put in the chat: Her organization Vote Nevada, is doing a legislative advocacy training session for the Interim Session on January 22nd. It's open to the public and Vote Nevada’s regular meeting is on January 22nd from 9:00 to 10:30 via Zoom. They will focus on advocacy strategies for the legislative interim session as well as the process for the Governor's budget which also happens during the spring.

She encouraged anyone that would like to attend that, to sign up.

The 22nd is too soon to have a subcommittee meeting, so they will end up having something after that. Sondra Cosgrove will be invited to talk about what Vote Nevada has come up with.

The end of February sounds like a good time for a legislative sub-committee meeting. Julie has tons of airline experience and would like to be part of the sub-committee.

Dawn will work with Renee and schedule a time to meet. The letter will not need SILC endorsement if it is only going to be personal testimonies and education. If the group wants a formal letter from the SILC, they will need the SILC’s endorsement to do that.

DeeDee Foremaster: Feels that it is vital. She motioned to send a formal educational letter about the barriers to utilize transportation systems for people with disabilities. Renee Portnell seconded. Members voted and the motion passed.

Dawn Lyons: Anyone with ideas can reach out to her for agenda items.

1. Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee: Last meeting-Sept. 28, 2021. Sondra Cosgrove is the Chairperson. This subcommittee had sent a letter to the Governor’s office but have not yet heard back.

Dawn Lyons: ADSD and Vocational Rehabilitation also sent a letter of support for the Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee’s letter.

Sondra Cosgrove: The two other things that committee was tracking was the AB 450 interim study on workforce development in community colleges. The Governor did appoint the members of that committee and put the chancellor, Melody Rose, in charge at the end of December. Sondra knows the committee has been formed. But they don't have any meetings planned. She is assuming they will start meeting in February.

The other thing that the Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee is watching, is that the last legislative session passed AB 184, which gave money and authority to the lieutenant governor's office to help temporarily have Melody Rose’s office become an advocate for small business development.

Anyone who wanted to start a small business would be able to go to her office and get help.

The state has a new lieutenant governor, so Sondra did reach out to her and made sure she was aware of what AB 184 was. She wasn't aware but was very excited about it.

Sondra is hoping that things will settle down, and Melody Rose may need to hire a communications officer who might be able to come to the next meeting for the Integrated Workforce Development subcommittee if they meet in February.

Dawn Lyons: Wanted to mention that there is a policy development committee that met earlier on this day, that she attended, with several different entities.

It was members of NCED, CSPD and many more entities. They had Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May and a couple of vital people from Vocational Rehabilitation. That is basically what the SILC talked about was Integrated Employment, the Gwinn centers report on employment for people with IDD, and how there is declining progress despite this task force that was created several years ago, possibly in 2018. It was supposed to go through 2026 and even though the strategic plan is in place for the state, it's not working the way it was thought it would.

They had some discussions about that, the Assemblywoman had to leave the meeting early, so they didn't get to hear what Bill Draft Requests she and Assemblywoman Cohen put together. Dawn is hoping at the next meeting they will inform the SILC, or the SILC could find out sooner.

It would be a good thing to talk about in the Legislative Subcommittee as well, so everyone is on the same page and working together, because this seems like a good community effort.

DeeDee Foremaster: The sooner integrated employment moves forward, the better.

Dawn Lyons: Asked if the BDR's that they are expecting from these two assembly women on Integrated Employment, belong in the Legislative Subcommittee or in the Integrated Workforce Subcommittee, or both so they can address different aspects of integrated employment issues?  
She also has some ideas about how the SILC could move forward educating about how that could work better for the State of Nevada.

Ace Patrick: My personal feeling is both places because we have different people meeting in both places. It should be added to the agendas for both subcommittees to get as much input as possible. Some people might be able to meet for one of those regular meetings and not the other or vice versa.

Dawn Lyons: Agrees that it belongs in both because they can talk about the actual bill drafts in the Legislative Subcommittee, but they can go farther than that with what they are planning on doing with the Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee.

Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh: Feels that the Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee can influence the SILC on the Legislative Subcommittee.

Dawn Lyons: That would be a good argument to have the Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee meeting prior to the Legislative Subcommittee meeting.

DeeDee Foremaster: The more this is talked about, and the more meetings the SILC has, the more they will be ready for action.

Sondra Cosgrove: She and Dawn will work out the date for the Integrated Workforce Development Subcommittee.

1. Transition Workgroup: Last meeting-June 24, 2021.

Ace Patrick: This group has been working on issues regarding Personal Care Assistants (PCAs). Many people are losing their Personal Care Attendants. Now with COVID, many PCAs have been afraid to come into homes. The Transition Workgroup has been talking about benefits, education, and raising PCA wages so that they get good quality PCA's that stay around.

There is money coming in that will be available to some of the PCAs that work with Medicaid clients, because not all do, some are private pay.

There is a $500 bonus, but she thinks the time to apply for has passed. Some agencies can apply through Medicaid on behalf of the PCAs that are working with Medicaid clients. She asked Cheyenne Pasquale if she had more information.

Cheyenne Pasquale: She thought that there would need to be some follow up with Medicaid specifically. She believes that their spending plan was approved, and so they are working on implementation. She does not have any specifics in terms of where they are right now.

Dawn Lyons: It is a Medicaid thing, but she believes this is a result of the town halls and listen sessions that Medicaid held a few months back to get the community's input on what they should do with this additional funding that they were given from the government.

They heard loud and clear that it was needed for home care workers so she believes that's why they are offering this additional $500 for PCAs who are paid from Medicaid through these agencies that would then have to apply for that money for their workers.

She is pretty sure the notice went out from Medicaid to all those providers that are listed, that are Medicaid providers. Hopefully they will be getting that additional $500 bonus.

Dawn Lyons: John Rosenlund provided public comment about housing. Mary and DeeDee both explained that that's a huge crisis in Nevada’s communities, and now there's a shortage of affordable accessible housing.

How the SILC can be a bigger part of that process of planning and why people with disabilities aren't necessarily involved in that planning, or at least have a voice at the beginning so that they are not an afterthought or forgotten.

She suggested that it would be a great idea to address that at a transition workgroup. It could be an additional subject they could touch on that is important to the community right now and to the disability population.

They also had some ideas about educational incentives that they didn't really follow through with because they were waiting to see what came out of this workgroup or this legislative workgroup that they created.

She hasn’t heard anything new on that but is going to investigate that. She can add an agenda item to the next Workgroup Subcommittee agenda that addresses that. Hopefully they will have a little more knowledge to move forward with whatever they think they need to do at that point.

It might be wise to have the Transition Workgroup in March.

Ace Patrick: Agrees that it would be beneficial to have the meeting in March. She would like to see the housing issue and the educational issues addressed. It will be interesting to get an update from someone from Medicaid as well as to what's happening, especially with what's happening with the reimbursement rate.

Mary Evilsizer: Would like to ask the Medicaid speaker about when the recovery focus groups were taking place, it was mentioned that Medicaid might also have a branch that could come into existence with the recovery funds, for housing to have a little bit of funding to help people. She would like to know if that component was funded.

Dawn Lyons: Thinks it would be a good idea to ask them for an update on the outcome of those sessions in a general way, and what their plan is. She asked Cheyenne if she knew of a plan that's posted somewhere.

Cheyenne Pasquale: She did not, she had this question recently, and does not have a link to a plan posted anywhere.

Dawn Lyons: She will ask about that in general and updates about other subjects with the Medicaid speaker.

DeeDee Foremaster: Has a lot of ideas for housing if the mayors could help address the housing problems and it needs to be a legislative issue to change the laws that exist, so the poor are not being gouged for housing costs. She will bring this up in the housing meeting.

Dawn Lyons: Asked if this should be included in the Legislative Subcommittee.

DeeDee Foremaster: It absolutely needs to happen, because she thinks that unless there's legislative action, this housing problem will never go away. Over 75% of the people who are on the streets in the local areas in the rurals, are homeless since they're disabled and older. It is hard because they've lost a spouse or a partner or even someone that they are care‑taking for. It is a large issue, and without legislative solutions, she doesn’t think there will be a good resolution.

Dawn Lyons: Since these are huge advocacy topics for both DeeDee and Mary and their organizations, if either of them have knowledge of any legislators that would be appropriate to approach about this subject or if either of them could attend the Legislative Subcommittee, that would be helpful.

DeeDee Foremaster: Would love to work with Mary. She thinks Mary has some wonderful contacts in the Southern Nevada area, and DeeDee knows legislators that are open to making legislative changes.

Working with Mary, they could insist that legislation come across for this entire state to change some of the things that are occurring that cause folks with disabilities and the elderly to end up on the streets.

She is alarmed at the numbers that keep increasing and is sure the issues are similar in Southern Nevada.

There is no emergency housing, number one, and number two, there is no housing to be had that is accessible for folks who are on the streets.

Mary Evilsizer: Agrees with DeeDee. Housing was in a critical crisis before the pandemic.

The CILs did partner with the Housing Coalition and that group is amazing. They heard about disability issues, landlords mandating three times the rent, why it is just 10 percent of all the units built that are going to be accessible.

She and DeeDee can represent the disability community and bring them as a force to be reckoned with. She is sure they could get legislators to work with them. If they partnered with the Housing Coalition, their voice would be stronger.

She and the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living have discussed this at length, and she is sure they would be glad to join.

Ace Patrick: Feels that it is important for the CILs to work with the Housing Authority.

SPIL Workgroup: Last meeting-April 29, 2021. Ace Patrick is the Chairperson.

Ace Patrick: She suggested having a SPIL meeting before the end of the fiscal year. They are going to need to have some town halls to include consumer input about writing another SPIL.

Dawn Lyons: They need as much consumer feedback from the consumer survey as possible. June seems to be a good time to start planning. The consumer survey has been on the SILC website for Fiscal Year 22, and she wanted to remind everyone that she can email them a link to the survey to send out. She would like to get the word out that they can find that link on the SILC website and that the SILC needs as much consumer feedback as possible. That is going to have a huge impact on the direction of the next SPIL, where they go with their draft for the town halls that they plan on having.

June seems like a good time to start planning those town halls and to start planning for consumer and public input on a draft first bill. The SILC must have a new SPIL draft submitted to ACL by the end of June 2023. They want to make sure they are on top of that and are prepared. They have the time they need to plan a comprehensive SPIL that addresses everything they need it to.

Mary Evilsizer: Agrees that June is a good time. She likes the strategy that's been used in the past, where they have their town halls and then they preschedule their meetings and edit the document. Both the Centers for Independent Living look forward to working with the SILC on that.

It's not an easy task for the SILC to develop the SPIL. It's one of the primary responsibilities. What was produced last time was excellent in consideration that it was a new format. They were working with the latest previously approved drafts.

She looks forward to a schedule and to developing and submitting a new SPIL on a timely basis. She thanked the staff and all the SILC members because everyone works on the SPIL, and then the monitoring that goes on throughout the year, it's highly appreciated by the centers.

If they didn't have a SPIL, they would not have centers. They must have a state plan for their state to have centers.

The centers appreciate being here to serve their consumers and know that it takes everyone as a unified team to get there.

Dawn Lyons: The SPIL is the three-year State Plan for Independent Living, that the SILC and the IL network puts together for the entire IL network to accomplish in the next three years which starts in 2024.

Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh: Do they have a gauge of how many surveys they have received so far?

Dawn Lyons: It's not that many yet. They did attempt to get some surveys completed at Disability Awareness Day, but there was some miscommunication, and a lot of people took the paper copies and never brought them back, so unfortunately, they didn't get a whole lot of consumer input at Disability Awareness Day.

They did get a couple at Pumpkin Palooza. She would like to encourage everyone to promote the consumer survey so they can get that done.   
  
Mary Evilsizer: The SNCIL has the link to the survey, on their website.

Dawn Lyons: She will resend the survey to all the meeting participants. She will also send the link to the SILC’s web page that has the link to their survey on it so everyone can choose which one to send to their consumers or peers.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Attendance at Upcoming Conferences **(For Possible Action).**
2. **Self-Advocacy Conference:** August 2-4, 2022-Las Vegas.

Dawn Lyons: The Self‑Advocacy Conference is something that the DD council is putting on for the state. Dawn is volunteering to assist with the conference and invited the members to as well. Dawn would like to work with SILC members to put together an independent living workshop to train the IDD population who attend the conference, about Independent Living and the difference between Independent Living and the Medical Model with all the nuances of Independent Living that are so important. She invited anyone who is interested in helping, to get in touch with her. The SILC would like to have a vendor table, so they will need some representation of the SILC there to hand out swag and maybe collect consumer surveys.

Kate Osti: She would love to help with the presentation. John, Sabra, and Julie will be helping.

Jennifer is on the Self‑Advocacy Conference planning committee.

**Possible Attendees:** Dawn Lyons, Wendy Thornley, Ace Patrick, Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh, Sabra McWhirter, Kate Osti, John Rosenlund, DeeDee Foremaster, Havander Davis,

Jennifer Kane: She's already spoken with Dawn about the possibility of utilizing the network of young adult facilitators and students on the Nevada Student Leadership Transition Summit. This teams middle with high school students potentially to look at engaging them and or utilizing youth leadership experts as key notes.

Ace Patrick: Hopes the Youth Action Council will also be involved in this conference.

Mary Evilsizer: Asked Jennifer Kane if she would be interested in other groups having vendor tables distributing information about independent living?

Jennifer Kane: NDE Office of Inclusive Education has already committed to another event for these dates and deferred to Dawn about vendor tables.

Dawn Lyons: She is on that planning committee and believes there's a plan to send out vendor registration information soon. The DD Council talked about that already. She is sure that they are going to be including the Centers for Independent Living in that.

1. **Self-Direction Conference:** April 11-12, 2022. Baltimore, Maryland.

**Attendees:** Dawn Lyons

Dawn Lyons: The Self-Direction Conference came up quickly and the Executive Team decided to send Dawn to gather information to bring back to the SILC about how relevant it is to the Independent Living community and provide input in that community setting.

1. **SILC Congress:** May 16-18, 2022. San Diego, California. Dawn is working on the planning committee.

Dawn Lyons: It is at the same hotel as the year before, the Holiday Inn Bayside next to Ocean Beach, it's a nice area. She is on the planning committee, and this time they are planning a little bit differently. The conference structure will be more of an interactive format.

They stress the importance in working with ILRU, specifically Jeremy Morris from Ohio and Dawn are working with ILRU right now to come up with a plan for how to present SILC 101 information. For anyone new to SILC and who would like a comprehensive introduction to anything SILC related, this is the perfect conference opportunity to learn all about that and ask those questions.

It is important for any SILC members who have never been to SILC Congress before specially to attend this time. She has been working with the Aging and Disability Services fiscal department and HR department to make sure that the SILC has a way to reimburse people if they must miss work to attend that conference or whatever the needs are because it's in the SILC’s bylaws that they can reimburse for reasonable expenses.

She wanted to make sure that she understands the processes to make sure that happens.

She did get another message that someone else was interested. She will have Wendy reach out to anyone who's interested.

They are going to work with California's Covid guidelines to be as safe as possible. There is not a virtual option this time.

There is a plan to record the sessions to watch afterwards if someone is unable to attend.

They are hoping to get a lot more participation and she would love to see Nevada heavily involved this time. Interested persons can reach out to Dawn.

**Attendees:** Dawn Lyons, Ace Patrick, Wendy Thornley, DeeDee Foremaster, Raquel O’Neill, Havander Davis, Marina Holcomb

1. **National Conference on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference:** July 25-28, 2022.

They are in the planning stages for both in-person and virtual for this year.

Ace Patrick: That one usually happens in Washington, D.C.

Some people will be able to attend in‑person and then others can attend virtually if they don't feel safe traveling. She encouraged Youth Action Council members to attend as well, either in‑person or virtually

Dawn Lyons: She believes the Centers for Independent Living are sponsoring youth to attend the NCIL conference. The SILC is encouraging youth to attend because APRIL has the big youth group that meets at the conference. It is not known if the NCIL Conference is going to be virtual or in-person this year or not. Dawn will let everyone know as soon as she hears. According to the SILC budget, they should send no more than two people to this conference.

Virtual may be different because it's quite a bit cheaper without the travel and hotel expense.

If those two people are going to commit to going, the SILC would like them to bring back information about what the in‑person experience was and what they've learned from those workshops.

If anybody is interested in going to NCIL, they need to let Dawn know, she doesn’t think registration has opened yet.

**Possible Attendees:** Dawn Lyons, Ace Patrick,

1. Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) Conference:

October 11-14, 2022, Orlando, Florida. The conference will be in person, and they will be updating their website, later this week.

Dawn Lyons: It's a great opportunity for the youth to attend.

If there are any youth in the Youth Action Council that are interested in going, she suggests that the SILC approve of their conference registrations for that. Then, the SILC will need to see how much funding they have left over in federal fiscal budget for the year before they decide how many people can attend the APRIL conference at that time.

DeeDee Foremaster: Asked where the APRIL conference will be held.

Dawn Lyons: It’s not known if it's going to be in‑person and virtual, or if it will just be virtual. That won’t be known until probably July. It is not known when registration will open.

DeeDee Foremaster: Has gone to the APRIL conference in Oregon and felt that it was wonderful.

Ace Patrick: Attended the APRIL conference virtually.

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

NV SILC Meeting Scheduled for April 20 & 21, 2022 at 1:00pm

Ace Patrick, Chair

Dawn Lyons: The date for the next meeting was pushed back a bit due to other meetings and conferences happening the week before.

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 public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

**Public Comment for 1/12/22**

Cindi Swanson: In looking at Olmstead and understanding how it has evolved since 1999, she understands the goal of Olmstead was to help people get out of nursing homes and institutions, but now there are a lot of people who are disabled who are living in homeless shelters or in the streets. The SILC might have to look at a different level of that, maybe Olmstead is something that needs to be reviewed about how this state is carrying out the intent of Olmstead. She thinks they are missing a big issue in the intention of Olmstead.

DeeDee Foremaster: Noticed John Rosenlund had mentioned in the chat regarding accessible housing. New workforce housing is being built in Carson City. She would like input from John Rosenlund on that project as far as accessibility goes. There is little or no accessible housing in Carson City.

John Rosenlund: He had posted in the chat: He believes it is important to make affordable housing available and give input if there are opportunities to be involved before housing projects start. Looking at accessibility from a point of accessibility that is beyond the mandatory pieces under fair housing. He means looking at universal design. The apartments are built to be all accessible with roll in showers wide doorways et cetera, this should be what everyone drives for, to ensure all apartments are accessible and not just a few.

Dawn Lyons: Regarding agenda item No. 14 that will be addressed the next day, they can have a conversation about whether this belongs with the Legislative Subcommittee or Transition workgroup or maybe both with different aspects of it. She does think this is an important issue they need to address right now.

Dora Martinez: Thanked Dawn for bringing up the legislative level. She is working with one of the Assembly people. She was in the meeting the day before, with the Commerce and Labor Interim Committee and Government Affairs Interim Committee all day the day before. She has reached out because she is concerned about this accessible or inclusive housing. She would like more people to join her in her efforts.

She was at the meeting with the City of Reno Now, regarding the Jacob Neon Light District project. They are building a thousand apartment complexes but only ten percent of that is going to be accessible and they're using the HUD model of affordable housing. But that's not enough. She will try to join the SILC meeting on the next day.

**Public Comment for 1/13/22**

Mary Evilsizer: Thanked the SILC for its work on sending out surveys. There are a couple of important surveys going on in Clark County. The Regional Transportation Commission is obtaining input and they are working hard to get input from the disability community and individuals of all types of disabilities to make improvements in transportation. She thanked the SILC for sending out the surveys for the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities.

She would like the surveys sent again to SILC members to try to get as much input as possible. SNCIL has been forwarding those to their consumers and partners.

DeeDee Foremaster: The Point in Time count is coming up on January 27th. This count of homeless persons, brings federal funding to Nevada counties. It is vitally important to get that count correct. She asked the Centers that if they know of homeless individuals, to let her know.

Dora Martinez: The CILS could have brochures that could be handed out to homeless shelters.

Mary Evilsizer: SNCIL partners with the homeless shelters. The largest women’s shelter usually offers office space for SNCIL when not affected by Covid. They followed up the social media campaign and got a list of places that have been reaching out to them, and with homeless shelters. SNCIL did send them a brochure. It is pertinent to stay involved with the shelters.

They do get individuals with disabilities of all kinds, and they want to help. Center brochures and business cards help to guide them for successful transition.

Dawn Lyons: Asked Mary to relay Dora Martinez’ public comment to NNCIL.

Dora Martinez: Videos need to be audio descripted.

Ace Patrick: Agreed about the need for audio-description for videos.

1. Adjournment

Ace Patrick, Chair

Meeting adjourned on 1/12/22, at 2:55 pm.

Meeting adjourned on 1/13/22, at 3:00pm.

**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:***

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