P.O. Box 33386

Las Vegas, NV 89133

nvsilc@adsd.nv.gov

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

**Draft Minutes**

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

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2022

 2:00 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**

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

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

Password: NVSILC (case sensitive)

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

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Ace Patrick, Chair

Members Present: Ace Patrick, DeeDee Foremaster, Sabra McWhirter, Lisa Bonie, Kimberly Glass, Julie Steinbaugh-Weissman

Guests: Obioma Officer, Deanna Gay, Cindi Swanson, Dora Martinez, DeeDee Foremaster, Linda Vejvoda, Carley Murray, Kate Osti, Jackie Obregon, Steven Cohen, Kimberly Glass,

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.

Cindi Swanson: In the process of transition, we have been talking about students getting diplomas or adjusted diplomas and learning the benefits of working. She feels that transition starts from the moment of diagnosis and continues throughout life. Next comes setting goals and dreams. Adjusted diplomas are not valued in the job market. Most parents are not even aware of the adjusted diploma.

DeeDee Foremaster: Transitioning does not happen soon enough, especially in the schools. It often happens as the student is leaving school. It should start around age 13 and have Vocational Rehabilitation involved.

Obioma Officer: Everything being talked about so far, are things that are being experienced in the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired communities. There is a subcommittee of education that is focusing on this issue. Covid also put efforts on hold for many students and some were not able to transition properly.

Dawn Lyons: Agenda item number 7 is an opportunity to discuss more about transitioning.

Carley Murray: She is seeing parents who have children in need of transitioning services. They are being told that they need to wait till their children are juniors and seniors in high school.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 6/24/2021 **(For Possible Action)**

Ace Patrick, Chair

DeeDee Foremaster motioned to approve the draft minutes. Dawn Lyons seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations to NV SILC Regarding Future Legislation to Eliminate 14c Waiver Programs and Allow Jobs and Day Training Providers to Distribute Medications to Consumers in Nevada **(For Possible Action)**

Ace Patrick, Chair

Ace Patrick: This is something that Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May has been working on the language for.

Dawn Lyons: Was not sure everyone understood what Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May’s plans are regarding these two issues. It can be looked at more closely when the assemblywoman’s request comes out. One of the ideas being proposed, is that providers can distribute medications so that individuals who are in training, do not have to leave the facility to go home or have someone from the outside come into the work or training space to administer the medications.

As far as phasing out the 14 C program, Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May might not be including other people with disabilities. This group may want to advocate for her to expand on that and perhaps this group could provide feedback for legislators.

Ace Patrick: Agrees with Dawn about this group waiting and seeing what happens and take that information to the full SILC.

DeeDee Foremaster: Suggested tabling this item till they have more information.

Dawn Lyons: This group is unclear about Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May’s plans but could make recommendations about how 14c should be phased out, medications being distributed by providers and day training providers still providing services outside of regular employment, even though they are pushing for employment rather than 14c.

Linda Vejvoda : Her understanding of the bill that Assemblywoman Brown-May is proposing, is that the providers are going to be able to distribute medication on the jobsite instead of a pharmacist.

DeeDee Foremaster: That is her understanding as well.

Ace Patrick: This was put on the agenda to put it on everyone’s radar for when Assemblywoman Brown-May introduces legislation.

Dawn Lyons: Believes that Assemblywoman Brown-May is not planning to come back to one of the meetings of the subcommittees, before she introduces her legislation. Dawn will keep the group updated on any new information that comes her way and asked for people to send new information to her. She suggested that the group create a comprehensive training based on the idea of “Nothing about us without us”. This training could be a focus during legislature. Information about what is happening in Nevada and how people with disabilities are affected.

Ace Patrick: Ideas can be sent to her or Dawn. The group should think about giving public comment.

Dawn Lyons: She personally feels that the voice of the disability community is not being included. She feels that action needs to be taken for advocacy.

Dawn Lyons motioned for the SILC to write a letter to Assemblywoman Leslie Cohen and Brown-May that the SILC be more involved in the planning process and make recommendations to allow the disability community to have their voice heard.

DeeDee Foremaster seconded. Members voted and the motion carried.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations for Future Initiatives Regarding Affordable and Accessible Housing **(For Possible Action)**.

Ace Patrick, Chair

DeeDee Foremaster: The public needs to know about the 84,000 accessible and affordable housing shortage and that more of the housing vouchers need to be accepted.

Ace Patrick: Asked about what recommendations could be taken back to the SILC.

DeeDee Foremaster: The existing housing complexes that are not letting people in, should accept vouchers for 10-20% of their available housing units to integrate people into the fabric of the community. Inclusion is vital. One situation is that some people who have experienced homelessness, have lost their social skills, and need to relearn those skills before going into community housing. Tiny homes can be used both as a stabilizing factor in people’s lives and a training opportunity to relearn social skills. There are some people who cannot relearn, and so tiny homes would be a permanent solution. Accessible housing is not readily available, especially in the rural areas. California has a law permitting people to build a mother-in-law unit in their back yards. Transitional housing is not as affective as permanent housing for people to become stable.

Dora Martinez: As an issue for a possible bill to propose, she has heard at the Reno Council meeting, that municipality can’t control rent prices, it must be passed at the State level. For someone receiving ADI or SSDI, the median income is very high, for some seniors and families with children, the rent is around $700 to $900 per month and that is still high.

Steven Cohen: The interim government affairs meeting is coming up and will be focusing on this topic, perhaps the SILC members could provide public comment.

Dawn Lyons: Proposed that this workgroup provide public comment as individuals to that committee. That meeting will happen before the next SILC meeting, and she can send out the information that Dora Martinez sent her.

Dora Martinez: Asked if a person will be submitting public comment at the meeting, should they present themselves as individuals or SILC members.

Dawn Lyons: Recommended people give personal testimony to the interim group so the message is more impactful.

Ace Patrick: Everything else must go through the SILC.

DeeDee Foremaster: The bill that did not pass was B317, that came up last legislative session, which relates to landlords not being allowed to discriminate against rental applicants who have housing vouchers. Oregon has a law prohibiting this discrimination.

Ace Patrick: Here in Nevada, some landlords or apartment complexes require that an applicant have income that is three times the amount of the rent (the Three Times Rule).

DeeDee Foremaster: There are many ways of discriminating against the disability community, keeping them in substandard housing. The “Three times rule” is one of many. Most of the people who are on the streets are the elderly and the people with disabilities.

Dawn Lyons: Wants to give credit to the Governor for putting this in his state of the state address. He is making it a priority and there are new, affordable housing complexes being built.

Dawn Lyons motioned for the SILC to write the Governor a formal letter asking to include people with disabilities when discussing the need for accessible, inclusive, and affordable housing. Ace Patrick seconded. The motion carried.

Dora Martinez: There is an architectural commission that the people in this group could be part of. This group’s members could provide public comment to bring this to the commission’s attention. That Commission receives Federal money. There will be a webinar on the 16th regarding that architectural law.

Ace Patrick: We must define what is meant by accessible. She would like to see true accessibility in housing. She took a tour of Betty’s Village, an accessible housing development in Las Vegas, that was quite impressive. She would also like to see integration of different generations as well.

Dawn Lyons: The main Council is meeting in April, which gives them time to put something together for a proposal. She suggested that a small number of individuals contribute information. They need to start thinking about how they want to contribute data or information from personal experiences. This could be part of a formal letter to provide as public comment to committees like the architectural committee. This would be in addition to the letter to the Governor. Some of this group’s members could meet informally to put data together to provide to the SILC.

Dora Martinez: Affordable, obtainable, and integrated housing must be in the lines of public transit so that people are not stranded in their homes.

Ace Patrick: She suggested that short videos could be produced for blind and vision impaired individuals.

DeeDee Foremaster: Low-income housing as well as workforce housing, need to be understood and discussed.

Dawn Lyons motioned to recommend to the SILC, some information that can be included in a letter to the Governor as well as to other working committees regarding accessible, inclusive, and affordable housing with transportation available.

Ace Patrick seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Home and Community Based Services (<https://publications.ici.umn.edu/rtcom/briefs/brief-two-hcbs-outcome-measurement-tools-current-state-approaches-to-measurement>) and Changes Surrounding Personal Care Services (<https://dhcfp.nv.gov/Pgms/LTSS/AmericanRescuePlan/>) **(For Possible Action).**

Ace Patrick, Chair

Dawn Lyons: Had provided this webpage link to the members, relating to find the true definition of what Home and Community-based Services (HCBS), are. The closest thing she could find, were the outcome, measurement, and tools for how they assess their home and community-based services. It was still difficult to define. She will reach out to them again for clarification. HCBS provided the second link to provide information about what HCBS is currently working on with the American Rescue Plan, as far as home and community-based services, including the $500 that they made available to Medicaid providers for the personal care system. At the bottom of their page, it talks about a timeline and Dawn will reach out to them to get more information about that. She invited the group to send her any questions that they would like her to ask Medicaid when she speaks to them.

Ace Patrick: Her PCA did receive the $500. Her PCA is paid less than $15 per hour with a small amount of gas reimbursement. Ace’s PCA puts a lot of mileage on her own car, to do her job. PCAs who work for private insurance companies are paid closer to $30.00 per hour.

Dawn Lyons: This is an ongoing discussion. She has heard much public comment at Medicaid townhalls and legislative forums, that the pay for PCAs is much too low. She is aware that Medicaid has been doing studies on rates to see where they should increase. Kirsten Coulombe was at a meeting that Dawn attended and stated the rate could be up to $16.00 per hour. Dawn will reach out to Medicaid and ask if they have the results of the studies or if they are having any townhalls soon. She will also ask about the timelines on the Medicaid website. At a recent DD Council meeting, Medicaid talked about PCA rates for the BD Waiver, and she is concerned that the rates are not going up across the board. This group needs to advocate for that as well.

DeeDee Foremaster: When was the last time Medicaid PCAs received a raise? She thinks that Medicaid would say that they just gave them a $500 bonus. They would need to be making $15 per hour to make it in this housing situation.

Dawn Lyons: We know the government does studies, but it takes so long to act on the results, that the studies are outdated. This group could advocate for a decent increase in rates.

Dora Martinez: AB495, regarding Medicaid and Medicare wages, passed in the Interim Finance Committee. Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton has reached out. Dora and Kimberly Glass will be providing public comment to that committee, regarding PCA rates.

Dawn Lyons: We could also advocate for the lowest paid employees who must pay a lot of upfront fees even when they are unemployed. One of those items is for PCA certification and training. This group could advocate for a waiver program for low-income individuals. The Governor has said he would like to make it easier for small businesses to get a start. This group could address this with the Legislature and possibly create a waiver for licenses or certifications for people who have little or no income.

Ace Patrick; It needs to be clear what it means to be home-based services as opposed to community-based services. Large companies who hire PCAs do not have an investment in the people they hire. The disability community ends up with PCAs who do not have enough training.

Dawn Lyons: There are two things that this group can work on, Dawn can send the group’s questions to Medicaid and then the group can contact Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton and ask her questions about the possibility of a waiver for fees like the original bill that she supported before. Ask why it failed or why was it dropped.

It was decided to invite Medicaid to come to the next SILC meeting.

DeeDee Foremaster: There are some questions that only Medicaid can answer. When she worked as a caregiver for Medicaid, she was required to pay for her own Workman’s Compensation insurance. There are a lot of underlying expenses for PCAs.

Dawn Lyons: Asked Dora Martinez if she could reach out to Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton with the group’s questions around higher wages for PCAs and to include in the conversation if the Assemblywoman might support a bill that would include a waiver of fees for licenses or certifications. Dawn will also bring up these issues at the April SILC meeting if Medicaid sends a representative.

Dora Martinez: She will try to contact the Assemblywoman.

DeeDee Foremaster: Many PCAs need to go into the Legislature to provide public comment regarding how hard it is to get by on the current pay rates.

Dawn Lyons: She has heard a long list of personal testimonies in the last legislative session.

Dora Martinez: This group needs to organize its advocacy efforts and participate in legislative sessions. PCAs and the disability community need to show up and give testimony.

Dawn Lyons: Agrees with Dora that it does affect many people who could end up in institutions without caregivers. The legislature needs to hear from the disability community. She asked Dora if she would be willing to reach out to Assemblywoman Carlton with the group’s questions.

Dora Martinez: She is willing to reach out to the Assemblywoman even though the Assemblywoman is not running for office again. She will try to find out who is taking the Assemblywoman’s seat. She would like someone to go with her to speak with the Assemblywoman.

Dawn Lyons: Suggested Dora work with her about getting someone to go with Dora.

Steven Cohen put a link in the chat regarding the HCBs. [Home & Community Based Services Technical Assistance for States | Medicaid](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/home-community-based-services/home-community-based-services-technical-assistance-states/index.html)

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Providing a More Robust Social Security Training to Students Transitioning from High School into the Workforce **(For Possible Action)**

Ace Patrick, Chair

Dawn Lyons: She reached out to the regional representative who lives in Colorado but is moving to Nevada soon. She asked Steven if he had any updates on this agenda item.

Steven Cohen: He has not had a chance to reach out to her yet.

Dawn Lyons: Would like to expand the topic since there is a lack in the state around this. She has heard frustrations from individuals about it. She asked Kate about Kate’s visits to the schools to provide training in the area and requested any stats that Kate might have, on how many schools Kate has gone to, which ones were they, how has the response been.

Kate Osti: They are in the process of reconnecting with the special education departments in the Clark County School District, especially the high schools. They do visit the middle schools, but transition is not the main subject. They help the middle school parents know what to ask when they get to the high school. She has been invited to some of the parent support groups that are beginning to start up again after Covid. She invited the members of this group to contact her if they can think of anywhere else, she might go.

Dawn Lyons: It is difficult for people to stay in meetings that go over an hour and a half. She wondered if this is an issue to bring up to the SILC.

Carley Murray: She is in Clark County but works with families statewide. Transition planning is weak across the board. Even when parents are requesting services, they are given the bare minimum and are told to wait till their student is older.

Dawn Lyons: She wondered if Vocational Rehabilitation is receiving more funding. The SILC supported one of their programs to the rural areas like the Pre-Ets program, to start working with middle school students in the rural areas. She suggested inviting Vocational Rehabilitation to the next meeting for updates on that program. She had reached out to Daphne DeLeon, who oversees that program to present at the last SILC meeting, Daphne was unable to attend that meeting. Dawn asked Daphne for a report to distribute. Perhaps someone from Vocational Rehabilitation could come to the next SILC meeting to speak about this program expanding and if it is successful, what are their numbers.

Carley Murray: She has met with the head of transition services for Clark County School District, and they are trying to get these programs out to all the students. Dawn is not sure what the barriers are, or why families are told that these services are only available for juniors and seniors. Many families are not receiving transition services at all, and Vocational Rehabilitation needs to be asked why this is.

DeeDee Foremaster: Transition services should be in place when a student is ending junior high school. This is vital.

Dawn Lyons: Raquel O’Neill is the chair of the Rehab Council as well as a member of the SILC. Dawn will ask Raquel if she has any information.

DeeDee Foremaster: Feels passionate that there is a transition program for eighth graders before they enter the high school, possibly put in place legislatively.

Carley Murray: It is in the Nevada Administrative Code that transition support must start at 14 years old. She has sat in on IEP meetings and there is a Student Statement of Post-Secondary Plans.

Dawn Lyons: The SILC’s Youth Action Council is moving in that direction. They will need to add some more members to get started. The plan is that they want to work with the Centers for Independent Living and do trainings in the schools for the educators. This will help with the students getting support. The Councils, Commissions and Committees need to do something

DeeDee Foremaster: It is vitally important if the youth are going to be successful adults.

Dawn Lyons: There is a need to speak up and provide important testimony. She has had experience with the Clark County School District and could provide personal testimony.

Ace Patrick: Suggested that the SILC could take this up.

Dawn Lyons: Kate Osti put her information in the chat in case anyone would like to reach out to her about a possible outreach or doing a transition class for parents and students:

kate@ndalc.org . Dawn will reach out to Raquel O’Neill about someone from Vocational Rehabilitation coming to the next SILC meeting to talk about transition programs for 14-year-old students. There will be a Youth Action Council update at that time regarding trainings, which is the original goal of the Youth Action Council.

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

Ace Patrick, Chair

After the April SILC meeting, possibly early to mid-June

1. Public Comment

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Steven Cohen: There is a meeting with Assemblywoman Brown-May on the following Monday, at 1:00pm. The Interim Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Disabilities has scheduled their meeting for the following Tuesday at 10:00 am. It will be in person in Las Vegas and virtual in Northern Nevada. Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow is the Chair and Senator Spearman is the Vice-Chair of this committee.

Dawn Lyons: Did Senator Spearman retire?

Steven Cohen: She has one more term and then is running for Mayor of North Las Vegas.

1. Adjournment

 Ace Patrick, Chair

Meeting adjourned 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 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.

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

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