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**DRAFT MINUTES**

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

Dates and Time of Meeting: Wednesday and Thursday, October 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

3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181 , 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

Password: NVSILC (case sensitive)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

Password: 707401 (if exclusively calling in; if accessing the meeting via *both* the audio and video feed, please use the *above* password *instead*)

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

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

\*Please note that beliefs and values held by our designated presenters may or may not align with those of the Council.

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Verification of Posting

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

**10/12/22 Attendance:**

**Members Present:** Havander Davis, Vickie Essner, Mary Evilsizer, Dee Dee Foremaster, Sabra McWhirter, Raquel O’Neill, Obioma Officer, Kate Osti, Cheyenne Pasquale, Renee Portnell, Ace Patrick, Linda Vejvoda, Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh

**Members Excused Absent:** Jennifer Kane

**Members Unexcused Absent:**

**Guests:** Peter Whittingham, Cindi Swanson, Steven Cohen, Lisa Bonie, Cody Butler, Jennifer Richards, Lisa Torres, Catherine Nielsen, Adrienne Navarro, John Rosenlund, Scott Youngs, Jack Mayes,

**CART Provider:** Becky Van Auken

**ASL Interpreters:** Nicole Dunn & Jamie Jaramillo

**Staff:** Dawn Lyons & Wendy Thornley

**10/13/22 Attendance:**

**Members Present:** Havander Davis, Vickie Essner, Mary Evilsizer, Dee Dee Foremaster, Sabra McWhirter, Raquel O’Neill, Obioma Officer, Kate Osti, Cheyenne Pasquale, Renee Portnell, Ace Patrick, Linda Vejvoda, Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh

**Members Excused Absent:** Jennifer Kane

**Members Unexcused Absent:**

**Guests**: Teresa Campbell, Jake Sinderbrand, Cindi Swanson, Lisa Bonie, Lisa Torres, Cody Butler, Jack Mayes,

**CART Provider:** Becky Van Auken

**ASL Interpreters:** Chip Royce & Jamie Jaramillo

**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.

10/12/22 Public Comment:

Dawn Lyons: Ace Patrick received a letter from Richard Whitley, the Director. She read the letter aloud.

“Dear Ace Patrick,

Our office has received your complaint regarding the Aging and Disability Services Division's handling over the recently allocated Administration for Community Living funds for public health workforce.
In following up with the division, it appears that an error was made on the grant application process and that a critical deadline was missed.
The division has implemented a corrective action plan and new processes to ensure this does not happen in the future as federal funding for ADSD services are critically needed in Nevada.
Administrator Schmidt has informed me that you and the Executive Director, Dawn Lyons, were able to meet in person to discuss your concerns.
As the designated state entity, ADSD is committed to working closely with the Statewide Independent Living Council on any future funding opportunities and to improve communication and planning efforts with the SILC.
Thank you to all the members of the council for your work on strengthening the council and creating a strong plan for independent living.
Your voice and advocacy are critical to ensure the state is working to improve access to independent living supports and services statewide.
Your dedication is appreciated.”

The letter was signed by Richard Whitley.

Ace has requested that this matter be an agenda item for the January SILC meeting.

Ace Patrick: She appreciated the Director addressing the matter at hand. She also appreciated Dawn reading the letter out loud and the meeting with Dena Schmidt but feels that the matter has not been fully addressed.

Peter Whittingham: He was looking at a recent survey from a resource fair and noticed that many people had not heard of the SILC. He felt that the SILC has changed his organization professionally. The SILC facilitated his attendance at the Self Advocacy Conference where he met several people who then attended the Down Syndrome organization and changed their direction in a very positive way. He noted that Dawn Lyons had been very accommodating and thanked her for that. He has also introduced several people to Lance Ledet and the Nevada Assistive Technology Council. The interactions with new technologies that they had not heard of before, have been described as magical. He thanked the SILC for himself and the Down Syndrome organization and looks forward to future collaborations.

Cindi Swanson: Thanked everyone for the hard work and mentioned that it was a phenomenal agenda. She noted that she has noticed that a large amount of federal money was “left on the table” and thought there would be more heated discussion about it. She would like to see the leaders look at where and why the group is missing out on so much money.

Dawn Lyons: Gave some background information regarding federal funding. It may have something to do with the Vocational Rehabilitation funds that every year, since the beginning of her knowledge, at least, Vocational Rehabilitation always has a shortfall of being able to draw down federal funding because of the match requirement from the state.
And it's not something that has been ignored or that no outcry has been happening.
But it's definitely something they talk about every year, and they try to troubleshoot.
Everyone is looking at ways to address that.

10/13/2022 Public Comment:

No public comment.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 13 & 14, 2022 **(For Possible Action)**.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh,

Havander Davis motioned to approve the draft minutes. Ace Patrick seconded. Members voted. The motion carried.

1. New Member Announcements and Mentor Assignments.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh: She welcomed two new members, Obioma Officer, the Executive Director of the Deaf Commission and Linda Vejvoda, the Independent Living Specialist at the Rural Center for Independent Living (RCIL).

Dawn Lyons: Offered to assist the mentors.

Renee Portnell: Offered to assist with mentoring the new members.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh also offered to mentor the new members.

1. Update Regarding the Youth Action Council Activities.

Cody Butler, Youth Leader

Cody Butler: Introduced himself physically. He gave an update on scheduling software with automated reminders to support people with Executive Functioning challenges, which is particularly relevant to people with developmental disabilities. He found a couple of promising brands to investigate when funding allows. He is also working on a survey to send to the school districts in the state to get baseline data regarding what students view as being priorities for services in the state. They are also working on building a Youth Action Council presence within the IL network and will be approaching SILC members soon. He is attending the APRIL conference virtually. Youth Action Council member recruitment is still a challenge that he is working on. He has noticed that youth mental health is not in a good place and many youths that he has talked to about being on the Council have low self-esteem and don’t feel like they have anything to offer.

Renee Portnell: Asked Cody if it would be helpful for older people with mental illness, to talk with younger people to help get rid of the stigma of mental health issues.

Cody Butler: He does feel that people having their mental health issues validated would be a good thing.

Renee Portnell: People do feel isolated, and she does not see a lot of advocacy for youth with mental health issues.

Ace Patrick: Asked Cody if mental health issues or the fact that the Council is a volunteer opportunity with no pay, might be making it harder to find new members.

Cody Butler: Young people are very busy and yes, the money is a big problem too since students need to work to afford to live, so volunteering is hard for them.

Ace Patrick: All those things Cody listed are contributing to youth mental health issues. Being on the Council would be a good way to learn advocacy for self as well as others.

Cody Butler: He predicts that it will be difficult to grow the Youth Action Council without funding.

Linda Vejvoda: Thanked Ace for bringing up the issue of funding. She asked Cody if he had money in his budget to create flyers for distribution and outreach.

Cody Butler: The Youth Action Council has a general-purpose flyer that they hand out to different organizations. They could make another flyer that focuses on youth mental and emotional disabilities.

Dawn Lyons: Introduced herself physically. She appreciated Cody bringing up youth mental health as a barrier to Youth Action Council membership recruitment. The SILC can help Cody with printing of flyers. She also mentioned that the Youth Council has the same reimbursement policy that the SILC has.
If they must be reimbursed for transportation, for missing work, for anything like that, just to attend meetings or to be a part of the Youth Action Council business, SILC can reimburse them for that.
She can get with Cody later to explain the process for that if he's not aware. This reimbursement is also available to SILC members for things like childcare.

Julie Steinbaugh: Would like to do some brainstorming about membership and create ideas at the next meeting in January.

Cody Butler: That would be helpful.

Ace Patrick: Commended Cody for the work he has been doing with the Youth Action Council, particularly, his newsletter. She encouraged the other members to read his newsletter.

Raquel O’Neill: Described herself physically. She also commended Cody on his newsletter. For Youth Action Council membership, she suggested a short, 30-second video about being excited for such a great networking opportunity, being involved in something bigger than oneself, and how this can open doors for youth who are looking for a future career path. Not just jobs or a temporary thing, but a life-long meaningful action, advocating and learning how to use one’s voice. Perhaps this video could be on Tik Tok.

Cody Butler: Liked the video suggestion and thanked Raquel for her feedback.

1. Discussion and Updates from Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)

Cheyenne Pasquale, Designated State Entity (DSE) Representative

Cheyenne Pasquale: Described herself physically. She gave an update to say thank you to all the council members who were able to participate in the ADSD council and commission training at the beginning of September.
She thinks it was a good opportunity and they are looking forward to hosting more opportunities in the future and continuing their efforts to support the SILC in the good work that they are doing.
It was really beneficial for their team and they hope that it was enjoyed by all.

In terms of new grants that were awarded to ADSD, she believes that the last time she provided a brief summary of some of the different grants that they were working on, and since that time, they have received two grant awards.
The first is a life span respite grant, this is actually the third, active grant that they have.
This newest grant is focused on building a respite delivery system for families of children with a dual diagnosis.
It's looking at building that respite system from the ground up.
They are partnering with the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Division of Child and Family Services and Nevada PEP.

They also received the notice of award for the No Wrong Door Governance Grant.
The goal of this grant is to help advance their efforts under their Nevada Care Connection efforts.
They have been building this idea of a No Wrong Door system for several years, and there's been some areas where they have had a lot of success and other areas where they still have work to do, and this grant is specifically focused on establishing their Governance and Administration Foundation. One of the things that they are doing with this grant is to develop a steering committee to help in these efforts.
They would love to talk with the SILC and have a volunteer from the SILC to be part of that steering committee.

Dawn Lyons: Asked Cheyenne if there was going to be a No Wrong Door steering committee.

Cheyenne Pasquale: That grant must go to the interim finance committee for budgetary approval in December. They are balancing out a few other projects and potentially launch the steering committee in December or January. If there is somebody that is interested in the No Wrong Door philosophy and being a part of that governance structure and that steering committee, please let them know.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh: Asked if ADSD is looking at respite models from other states.

Cheyenne Pasquale: ADSD has looked at other states and the gaps that they know they have here in Nevada. first step is really going to be looking at an assessment of those gaps and where there's some natural opportunities and then looking at ways that we can build on some of those natural opportunities for the initial wins and then building a system over time, which she is a big fan of looking at what other states do.
It doesn't always work perfectly in Nevada.
If they can borrow some inspiration from other states, then she is all for it.

Julie: It’s called creating the Will.

Cheyenne Pasquale: Agreed with Julie. The next week at the October interim finance committee there are several projects that we're hoping to get approval on, and these projects are ones that will be funded by the governor's office with ARPA fiscal recovery funds.
She grouped them into two broad categories, but there are some projects to address one‑time funding for wait lists for programs including the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program, home safety modification and repair program, and their homemaker program.

They are also looking at several capacity building projects.
One of them that the SILC might be interested in is the Personal Care Workforce Impact Project. ADSD is going to be working with a variety of stakeholders and community partners to create a caregiver training institute.
Helping get personal care attendants home health aids the training that they need that's required for their licensing.
This project will also include some funding for helping agencies with recruitment and some incentives.
There's a lot of moving parts and a lot of details to figure out.
It's going to be ultimately a way that ADSD can help support the workforce and ensure that they have an easy way for people to be trained.
They also have a project that is called the Community‑Based Care Capacity‑Building Project and this is specifically targeted to increasing the number of beds available in residential facilities for groups.
Another capacity project is part of their No Wrong Door efforts, and this is building capacity for resource and service navigators, which includes hiring additional resource and service navigators as well as expanding their training and certification that they are working on for navigators.
Finally, they have a project that is their Healthcare Literacy Project.
There's a couple of different things in this project.
It includes redesign of the ADSD website so that their information is presented in a more modern way that makes it easier for individuals to find information about their programs and services.
It also includes some funding for some marketing and outreach to increase awareness of ADSD programs and services and to ensure that their materials are accessible to individuals across the lifespan.
She is not sure if the summary has gone out already, but the agency was planning to send a summary of these projects to all advocacy bodies.

The last update is a very preliminary sort of conversation, but she had the opportunity to attend a conference in August, and one of the sessions that she went to was regarding community engagement and stakeholder engagement.
This has been near and dear to her heart. There was a robust community engagement model that was implemented by Colorado's state Medicaid agency.
This model utilizes a team of individuals to work with programs across the agency to ensure that community engagement is happening consistently throughout the planning processes for new programs and program changes.
The Colorado model includes a number of different aspects of community engagement.
It includes training for other members of the agency in terms of the different types of community engagement. It includes a public‑facing website for project updates and communication.
So it is something that they are looking to replicate in Nevada.
They are in the beginning stages of examining the information shared by Colorado to determine what capacity they have now within their existing structure and then the ultimate goal of having a very robust community engagement model.
She will continue to share updates and information and engage in conversation as they explore what they have the capacity to do and then where they want to go ultimately.

Dawn Lyons: She loves Colorado.

Ace Patrick: It sounds like a few items of Cheyenne’s update are for the Transition Subcommittee when they start meeting again. Especially addressing the PCA training, she is very interested in that because she has been wait listed for two months now for a PCA again.
She asked Cheyenne if she was talking about more beds in nursing care facilities, assisted living, or group homes.

Cheyenne Pasquale: That project is specific to group homes.

Ace Patrick: She looks forward to the Transition Subcommittee Workgroup meeting again and having more of Cheyenne’s information presented as she gets it.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh : Welcomed Obioma Officer to the Council and they look forward to working with Obioma.

Obioma Officer: Thanked her.

1. ADSD Olmstead Plan Open Public Discussion, Q&A and Make Possible Recommendations **(For Possible Action)**.

Cheyenne Pasquale, Chief, ADSD

Cheyenne Pasquale: Thanked the SILC for sending in questions regarding the previous Olmstead Plan. She was not involved in the development of that plan, but she did solicit input from her colleagues. She went through each question and provided information.

The first question is, the plan from 2016 to 2021, how was that timeframe decided?

Unfortunately, they were not able to answer that question specifically because the individuals who led development of this plan are no longer with the agency. A lot of strategic plans are five‑year plans, so she suspects it was something along those lines.

The second question is why are we only seeing it now?
Where has it been all these years?

Again, the leadership of ADSD changed prior to the plan being widely disseminated and posted to the website. Because of those changes in leadership, the plan was not fully implemented.
If they look through the goals and objectives, there are some areas where they have made some progress and some areas where they still have opportunity.

That also answers question No. 3, which is what is the implementation status of all these goals, where can people find a follow‑up report or was there a dashboard?

For this plan, there was not an implementation report or an annual report.
For the new plan, they are anticipating once they complete the new plan, they would publish an annual report and focus on the accomplishments during that previous year, any challenges that they faced, and highlight what their focus is for the coming year.

Havander Davis: Are there any other agencies besides your agency that is helping with the Olmstead plan?

Cheyenne Pasquale: The current Olmstead plan that ADSD is working on is more geared towards ADSD with the thought that they will identify activities and items that need to be addressed by other state agencies.
Her understanding is that the Division of Public and Behavioral Health is in the process of completing their own Olmstead plan.
She is not certain where they stand in that, but their idea would be to cross‑reference that plan as needed as they go through the planning process.

Havander Davis: Other than that other agency, are you guys planning on working with anyone else?

Cheyenne Pasquale: Right now, the Steering Committee is consisting of individuals from their advocacy groups and their stakeholder groups.
But it does not include representatives from the state Medicaid agency or the Welfare Division.

Continuing with the questions, is an outline for the plan ready, starting in 2022 and can we see it?

There's not an outline for the plan yet but they will share progress and share those materials as the planning process gets started.

The next question was: Can more than one person representing the whole of people with disabilities be involved in the creation of the next plan in some way?

In looking at the volunteers that they have for this steering committee, there is representation from a diverse group of individuals, additionally, there will be different outreach opportunities, and so other opportunities for input and participation along the way in terms of development of the plan. This will include key informant interviews and focus groups throughout the planning process.

Question Six is: Where is the integrated person‑centered service delivery system outlined in goal No. 1?

This goal continues to be in progress. It's part of the larger No Wrong Door concept.
Additionally, ADSD continues to offer person‑centered thinking training for all team members and continues to explore changes to their assessments and service plans across their programs to emphasize person‑centered practices.

Another big impact to their system is going to be the HCBS final rule that is going into place under Medicaid. That final rule has a lot of implications for person‑centeredness and client choice, and so as they continue to work with the state Medicaid agency in these efforts, they will continue to evolve.

Ace Patrick: Where are they pulling representation from for the Steering Committee, is it the Council or Commissions?

Cheyenne Pasquale: Yes, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh from the SILC is on the Steering Committee.

Dawn Lyons: Asked when the Steering Committee will meet next.

Cheyenne Pasquale: They have reached out to the contractor, SEI to determine when that first meeting will be, probably in November. It is delayed because it took the contractor a bit of time to prepare data that ADSD had asked for.

Question 7: Can we get an update on the implementation of presumptive eligibility for Medicaid in goal 2.4.

This is an area of opportunity for Nevada.
There has not been any formal efforts to implement presumptive eligibility, but she thinks that this is a good activity that will need to be considered in the new plan, particularly for individuals at high risk of institutionalization.
Question 7 is an area of continued opportunity for Nevada.

Question 8: What changes have been made for the support of caregivers in goal 3.2?

There has been a lot of work around caregiver supports in Nevada. There have been several pieces of legislation passed that provide benefits for caregivers.
For example, in the 2021 session, the bill was AB 190 which establishes employee leave for caregiving and broadens the definition above and beyond the federal FMLA definitions.
In 2017 the bill was SB223, which makes it easier for individuals to use healthcare power of attorneys to designate placement preferences.

 And then AB216 which covers cognitive assessments under Medicaid and includes billing provisions for caregiver consultations to promote access to information and referral.

There are efforts through our Legal Services under our older American Act funding to ‑‑ to establish pro bono efforts to assist individuals in completing advanced directives including powers of attorney and the declaration of life sustaining treatment in Nevada.

 In terms of other initiatives outside of the legislature, she mentioned earlier their lifespan respite grants. Right now, they have the three active grants that are focused on developing training for individuals interested in providing respite, recruitment, strategies, and developing a list of training individuals that are interested in providing respite.
They are focusing on recruitment in a variety of ways, including the development of internship programs and other non‑traditional respite services.
They are also looking to implement recommendations from the RAYS Act. There was a national report that was just published in the last two weeks that includes around 63 recommendations for states to consider in caregiver supports.
They are looking at incorporating some of those efforts into their lifespan respite.
They have worked over the last few years to incorporate caregiver support in consultation within the Nevada Care Connection framework, and they are looking to enhance certification options for navigators to specifically support family caregivers.

 They have also worked with the Director's Office and the grant management unit to ensure they are not duplicating efforts with available resources and ensure that respite is more widely available.
They have just published their first annual Nevada Care Giving report.
This is a new report that they are starting as a result of their respite grant activities.
So a lot is going on, but there is still a lot to do in terms of caregiver support as well.

Question 9: What has been done to expand housing and transportation options in goals 4.1 and 4.2?

Housing continues to be a challenge especially considering the pandemic.
They have worked to expand supports available to individuals as well as expanding eligibility for services such as homemaker services.

They have engaged in conversations with the housing divisions, housing advocate and they continue to partner with the Silver State Housing Registry to ensure that there are housing resources listed in there.
But it is one of those issues that's a significant challenge and doesn't seem to have a real easy answer.
Transportation is also in that bucket.
It was the end of last year or early this year their DHHS agencies and the Nevada Department of Transportation have come together in a workgroup to share information about funding opportunities, transportation services, gaps and challenges that they are seeing to try and improve collaborations.
They have been meeting briefly and it has been sort of informational to see what is out there, what is each agency doing and then what opportunities do they have.
So that's those next three questions.

Havander Davis: Asked Cheyenne what she thought could be done about housing. It's one of the biggest issues and part of the Olmstead is to help people live in the least restrictive environment so, what can be done about that?

Cheyenne Pasquale: That’s a great question and there is no easy answer. She thinks it would be beneficial for the SILC to invite the Nevada Housing Division to the table to understand the efforts they are doing. Earlier this year, the Governor’s office awarded $500 million to support housing initiatives in Nevada and she believes that the bulk of that went to the Nevada Housing Division. Perhaps they could give updates to the SILC.

Question 10: What are the national core indicators used in goal 5.1 and what are the changes to services recommended based on these indicators.

Unfortunately her colleague that's the expert of the core indicators was not able to join today but the national core indicators are a standard set of measures used across participating states to assess outcomes of the populations being measured.
There's some different types of surveys that the state can be involved in, and her understanding is they participated in the Natural Core Indicators Survey once in the 2016‑2017‑year for older adults and people with disabilities, but they participate in the survey annually for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
They have a couple of the reports published on the ADSD website.
She can share that information with Dawn to send out for follow‑up.
She loves coming to meetings to learn and share the reports for the first time by doing this research. The reports are quite lengthy.
If the SILC would like to learn more about the national core indicators, they could invite her colleague who is their expert.

Question 11: The plan provided statistics for growing institutional population of people with IDD. How does the next plan address lowering the institutional population rate for people with IDD?

That is the key goal of an Olmstead plan, and there are a lot of opportunities, and as they develop their plan, their biggest challenge will be prioritizing those opportunities and those activities, along with engaging their stakeholders with ongoing advocacy to all relevant agencies to ensure that this is a systemic effort.
Going forward, it should be focusing on lowering that institutional population.
That's what they really need to see throughout their goals and objectives.

The last question: What happened to the Olmstead plan from before the 2016 one?
Can we see it and the final report on it?

They do not have an electronic copy of the ten‑year Olmstead plan that existed prior to this plan that they have been able to find yet.
This is one that may live somewhere in their archives.
They will continue to try and find that.

Dawn Lyons: Wanted to get clarification from question 10 with the national core indicators. Cheyenne said she could share the links that Dawn could share with the group.

Cheyenne Pasquale: Agreed.

Dawn Lyons: That would be awesome.
Because some of them are nerds and like to read those lengthy reports.
Also, who was it that Cheyenne said could come and present more at a future meeting?

Cheyenne Pasquale: It will be Meagan Wicklund.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Would like to know a little bit about in‑home services. She is concerned about the rural areas, that need in‑home services, like visiting homemaker services, and can't seem to be able to access that.

Cheyenne Pasquale: In terms of the Olmstead plan, that is going to be an area that they must address. They recognize that there are challenges in the rural areas, and it's part of the larger systemic issue that they are having with workforce challenges across the board.

Dawn Lyons: Adrienne Navarro informed her where to locate the information about the Legislative Appointed Council regarding in‑home services and PCS care, so Dawn was able to share that with the Chair of the Transition Workgroup.
When they meet, they will be discussing that and seeing where the state is at so far and what kind of information is going to be included in the Olmstead plan or be considered.
She encouraged people to keep an eye out for the subcommittee or the workgroup information to come.

Mary Evilsizer: The Centers For Independent Living are curious to find out who the plan will be handed off to for monitoring and implementation after it's complete.

Cheyenne Pasquale: The monitoring of the plan in statute, falls to the Commission on Services for People with Disabilities (CSPD), but she thinks the monitoring of the plan falls to all of their advocacy bodies.
It’s her opinion that as they look at their annual report and their efforts to keep all stakeholders engaged, not only throughout the planning process but through the implementation process, there's a charge for all of their stakeholder groups.

John Rosenlund: Anything pertaining to the original Olmstead plan should be in the ADSD SharePoint. He believes they moved all the old Office of Disability Services files on to SharePoint. They may not be accessible.
He pulled a copy of the 2005 Olmstead Plan goals that were presented to the legislative committee back at that time, but there should be a file within the Office of Disability Services files that was moved off the server and onto SharePoint. There's probably a wealth of information on those original rules.

Dawn Lyons: Expressed appreciation for Cheyenne’s willingness to answer the SILC’s questions when she didn't have a lot of background and involvement in the original Olmstead plan that was provided to them to begin with, because it's such an important topic moving forward.
She agrees that all the advisory bodies should be part of the monitoring.
She is concerned that the CSPD is going to be the named monitor for that plan.
But as long as they include other entities in that, that would be fine.
She is also curious as to how that monitoring system is going to be developed.

Cheyenne Pasquale: She is looking forward to this project, and is anxious to get it off the ground.

1. Presentation and Consideration of an Annual Public News Contract **(For Possible Action).**

Jake Sinderbrand, Outreach and Partnership Manager Public News Service

Jake Sinderbrand: He is with Public News Service (PNS), they are a public interest newswire working on a mission of building local beat journalism around underreported topics.
He had the chance to speak with Dawn about a month ago, and she had invited him here to speak with everyone about what they do and how they can help to build on the council's work.
PNS is the news wire for public interest news.
They operate as a network of local and state focused news wires in 38 states around the country.
PNS does reporting on everything from disability services and awareness issues, to voting access, to public health, to education, and the broad array of topics that are often missed or misrepresented in the media ecosystem as it becomes increasingly nationalized and increasingly sensational.
To do that, they work in partnerships with nonprofits, foundations, community groups, and others to help to fund a beat of journalism with PNS around the topics they work on. They then work in a partnership with their journalists to build and develop an ongoing beat of stories around issues they feel need more coverage and lifting voices they feel need to be better represented and how media presents the topic.

It's a sort of cooperative for developing quality local news in the NGO sector focused on your expertise to build journalism that they then create and distribute free of charge to outlets around the state with a focus on reaching communities that are not as well served by news media, reaching people outside the bubble of public interest journalism as it exists right now.
And bringing more people into that conversation.
He wanted to share a little bit of what that sort of journalism looks like and shared his screen.
For an example of the sort of stories that they do, everything that they do is designed to be short form, multi‑platform so it goes out in audio format, print, digital, podcast, script announcer can read over the area as if it's their own content.
It is designed to be easy to access and then of course also published on their site where every story lives forever.
As a resource for their members and others doing outreach work to include in their social media campaigns, and because PNS is a trust project certified news room, their content tends to do very well with social media algorithms.

Lastly he wanted to show the SILC their media usage report detailing the outlets they know picked up their story through direct distribution.
It will run on everything from top of the hour news updates on commercial radio stations to digital broadcasts, small community newspapers, internet radio, and other outlets across the state.
One was also picked up around the country, but the focus is always reaching every corner of Nevada particularly in those smaller markets.
They can estimate for example, the story reached more than a million people in some form, typically they are seeing a local pickup of anywhere between 80 and 100,000 people across the state.

The way their membership is structured is built around ongoing beat of journalism.
They don't want to do just a one-off story that people may see and then forget but build a beat of generally about eight stories per year. So that they are touching back on issues regularly.
They are in regular contact with the council to develop stories, to connect them with sources, whether that's people on the Independent Living Council, providers the SILC works with, people who utilize services directly, advocates, academic experts and others and build this beat of multifaceted reporting over time.

The cost for membership is $5,500 annually, although that is flexible based on each organization's budget. When he and Dawn spoke, they established it was $3,500 based on the budget.

The idea is to make it as accessible for any nonprofit as possible doing public interest work while, of course, on their end, having the resources to build these relationships, hire talented journalists, and change the media ecosystem to feature the issues and perspectives the SILC brings to their work more prominently.

Dawn Lyons: Thanked him for his presentation. It was $3,500 because the SILC is small and a nonprofit.
She wanted to also mention that she thought personally that this would be a wonderful opportunity for the SILC because they could open this up for the Centers for Independent Living to also share this resource with them.
And get the messages out about programs, services, and just spread the message about independent living.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh: Yesterday they were talking about the need to get the message out that the SILC exists, and that they do good work.
She agreed with Jake's service, the answer to some of the SILC’s issues in terms of public recognition.
She would like to hear from other council members what their thoughts are, or if they have questions for Jake.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She thinks that this would be an incredible resource for the SILC as well as the Centers for Independent Living, to be able to get their word out because the SILC is just so busy out in the field, working with people that they don't have a lot of time to do a lot of news releases.

Sabra McWhirter: She is aware of PNS so was excited to see them on the agenda. She and Jake feel the same as Dee Dee and many other people on this call that it's more important, than ever that during this time of life, that we have folks that are reporting on the geopolitical and socioeconomic situation that we have, especially among people that have disabilities and all the marginalization that occurs.
She doesn’t think there's enough voices out there. Is the SILC able to share the stories that PNS produces if they credit Public News Service? Are they able to link to share that information?

Jake Sinderbrand: He clarified that the stories wouldn't be a direct promotion of SILC itself, but news about why the work they do matters and how it affects people's lives and of course, lifting up their voices.
In terms of how the stories are distributed, they would send a copy that's ready for social media distribution as soon as the story is released, it is totally unrestricted for media outlets as well as for the SILC and any other nonprofits they share it with to use in whatever format they like.

Mary Evilsizer: In the Center for Independent Living movement and the SILC movement they can never have enough marketing.
She believes the biggest comment they get is that Centers For Independent Living are the best kept secret because once individuals discover them, they are a treasure of resources, peer support, and guidance.
She appreciates the stories that they are sharing about the benefits of the services.
She asked if there is a subscription fee that they would need to cover?

Jake Sinderbrand: Essentially it's a membership.
So whether it's through Statewide Independent Living Council or some partnership with Centers For Independent Living, there would be a membership fee, that's the $3,500 amount that had been discussed and then that membership essentially gives the SILC, the ability to work with one of PNS’s journalists to pitch stories on an ongoing basis, about eight per year, and then the stories are all free to use for anyone who wants to use them.
That's how PNS works to change some of the incentives in journalism so they can get quality news out there.

Mary Evilsizer: Asked if, as a membership organization, the SILC would be guaranteed at least eight stories per year?

Jake Sinderbrand: Exactly.

Dawn Lyons: Jake presented the package that she thought would work best for the SILC because they are small. As an IL network they could work together to create eight stories for them to distribute for each year.
The SILC is looking at paying that fee to do that.
The Centers for Independent Living will have a lot more stories to tell than the SILC.
So they will count on stories from the Centers for Independent Living as well.

Mary Evilsizer: Also mentioned the wonderful work that the IL services does with the adaptive equipment and Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC), with the legal cases they are taking on. She thanked Jake, Julie, and Dawn for coordinating this presentation.

Ace Patrick: Asked Dawn if the SILC would be partnering with the Centers for the cost?

Dawn Lyons: The SILC would be covering the cost; it is in the outreach budget. The SILC can share with the Centers for Independent Living, and partners that have important stories to be heard that have to do with the Independent Living Network and Independent Living in general.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She feels that it would be an incredible asset to the SILC’s outreach throughout the State of Nevada, including the rural areas.

Dee Dee Foremaster motioned to approve the use of this news media with a $3,500 for the membership as described. Mary Evilsizer seconded the motion. The members voted and the motion passed.

Dawn will reach out to Jake to set this up. Jake will be invited to a future meeting to give updates. The membership start time is flexible.

1. Review and Make Recommendations Regarding SILC Recruitment Statement, SILC Onboarding, and Training Materials **(For Possible Action)**.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

Dawn Lyons shared the training materials on her screen.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh: When she joined the council, she found this training guide, but it only listed the documents that new members should look at without any real guidance saying exactly why those documents were important to new members.
In collaboration with Dawn and Ace, she redid the objectives. It's suggested topics that mentors might consider discussing.

Dawn Lyons read it aloud: “The title is Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council Learning Objectives for New Members.”
Prospective new members and her/his assigned mentor can use the following materials and talking points for preparations to be recommended to join the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council.
The first one says Nevada SILC Fact Sheet.
The purpose of that is to know the origin and function of SILCs, the duties and responsibilities of a SILC, and the requirements to be a member of Nevada SILC.

The second bullet says SILC bylaws and Statewide Plan for Independent Living or the SPIL, and the reasons are to review current goals and objectives and discuss how SILC's budget promotes these.
The next bullet is “Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended”.
And the purpose is the importance of the legislation regarding SILCs.
The next bullet includes summaries of Disability Rights Legislation.
And it suggests to choose two laws and explain their importance to the Independent Living Movement.
Then there's “Independent Living versus Medical Model Paradigm”.
To be able to explain the differences between the paradigms and how that drives what the SILC does.
The next bullet is, “Open Meeting Law in Nevada”.
That would explain the basic principles of the law and explain why that law applies to the SILC.
The last couple bullets are to be committed to Nevada SILC's mission, vision, and purpose by participating in a committee or workgroup of your choice and interest.
Attend at least one SILC meeting until formally appointed a member of the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council and to apply to be appointed to Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council and has a link to the site where the SILC has their application available.

The original one just had a couple different extra bits of language in there that sounded more like it was going to be a quiz, it's not going to be a requirement to pass or fail or anything in order to become a member.
It's a great guide sheet for mentors to go over with SILC members and prospective SILC members to look at to see what's going to be required of them to know.”

Ace Patrick: Commended both Julie and Dawn on their work on these objectives.

Linda Vejvoda: She feels the new version is easier to read. She is glad to be part of the SILC, her workplace (RCIL), very proud to be able to work in an environment that is going to help her grow even better as a human being, and to understand what other people go through. When she met with Dee Dee, she was in denial of her disabilities. Dee Dee pointed them out to Linda. It's not just physical or mental, physically, but even learning and the learning things is a big deal too. She thanked everyone for welcoming her.

Sabra McWhirter: Welcomed Linda to the Council.

Obioma Officer: She appreciated that she was given a list of objectives and things she can work on as a new member. She asked if she would be given a mentor.

Dawn Lyons: Confirmed that the new members would be given a mentor.

Dawn Lyons: Read the membership recruitment statement. “Ed Roberts, the founding father of Independent Living, said if he could start over, he'd name IL interdependent living because we need to stand together, advocating for our rights if we want to see meaningful change.
It's also because so many people confuse IL with housing.”
Independent living is actually everything that helps us achieve our goals, can be housing but can be support or assistive technology.
The works to improve IL services throughout the state.
We also teach others about what the IL philosophy means and why it's important to us.
Our council needs people like you to be the voice of Nevadans with disabilities of all types.
We want all experiences at the table, so no one is left out.
What kind of talents or skills do you have?
The SILC could use yours!”

Renee Portnell: She likes the statement, its to the point and she can see in her head, what IL truly is, and it would work for events where people come to the SILC table and don’t stay long.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh: She came up with some of the verbiage while at the Disability Awareness Days. She feels that the shortness would appeal to younger people.

Dawn Lyons: The intent would be to print the statement on flyers when recruiting new members.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh: It could be used as talking points.

Ace Patrick: Asked if it could be used at functions that SILC members attend or just up on the website.

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh: She sees it as a resource to recruit new members or to educate the public about what the SILC does.

Dawn Lyons: She sees adding the statement to a recruitment flyer.

Ace Patrick: She agrees and thinks the SILC may want to put up flyers like the Youth Action Council is doing.

Linda Vejvoda: When she moved to Nevada, she was not aware of the SILC or of the Centers for Independent Living. She only learned about them when she met someone else who already knew about them and when she watched Ed Roberts.

Havander Davis motioned to approve the SILC recruitment statement including the onboarding and training materials that Julie created. Linda Vejvoda seconded the motion. The members voted and the motion passed.

1. Presentation, Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding Work Qualifications for Individuals with Disabilities to Maintain or Qualify for Social Security Benefits as they Age into Adulthood **(For Possible Action)**.

Teresa Campbell, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security California Inland Area

Teresa Campbell: She worked for security for over 31 years and then Social Security.

We receive a Social Security benefit ourselves, or one of our loved ones receives Social Security.
But this presentation is going to concentrate on what you need to know about your disability benefits when you turn age 18.

Social Security administers two disability programs, and they seem like they're almost the same thing because the acronyms are almost the same, but they are really two very different programs.

One is called Social Security Disability Insurance, or SSDI, and the other one is called supplemental security income, or SSI.
Now, the SSDI payments come from the Social Security trust fund and they are based on a person's earnings.
So it's an insurance that workers earn by working and paying Social Security tax on their wages.
In order to qualify for SSDI benefits, an individual needs to be too disabled to work substantially and have paid Social Security taxes.
It's a benefit for workers, and also for their dependents.
If an individual receives SSDI benefits, their dependent children can receive benefits on their record and often sometimes their spouse can receive benefits if they are taking care of worker's children younger than age 16.
The SSI payments come from the general treasury fund, not from the Social Security trust fund. SSI payments are not based on a person's earnings. SSI is a needs‑based public assistance program.
That means that an individual does not have to have had jobs where Social Security tax was withheld from their pay.

However, in order to receive SSI, an individual would need to have limited income and resources.
That means, for instance, a newborn baby could qualify for SSI benefits if the baby had a disabling condition and the parents had limited income and resources.
So when a child receives SSI benefits, when they turn age 18, we complete an age 18 redetermination.
And the reason for that is the disability criteria for adults is different than the disability criteria for children.
And so the disability criteria for adults is more stringent than the criteria for children.

About 1‑third of the children who receive SSI will not qualify for these benefits as adults.
We also make sure that the child meets the non‑medical eligibility rules meaning the income and resource rules.

When we do the medical redetermination, we ask for the names of any medicines, the reason for the medicines, and any side effects, we ask about hospitals and doctor visits, and we ask if the individual has ever worked and then we get the details of the work activity.
We also ask for the school information and the teacher or counselor's contact information.

The definition of disability for both SSDI and SSI are the same, and the criteria to qualify for disability is very stringent.
It means that an individual has the inability to engage in substantial, gainful activity by reason of a medically determinable impairment which can be expected to result in, or which has lasted or can be expected to last for not less than 12 months.
When we talk about substantial gainful activity, we mean the performance of significant and productive physical or mental work for pay or profit.
And the amounts that we consider to be substantial gainful activity changes every year, so it usually goes up a little bit every year.
For 2022, the substantial gainful activities level would be $1,350 for non‑blind individuals.
That means if somebody is working and they are earning $1,350 a month or more, we would say although this individual has a disabling condition, they are able to work substantially.
Therefore, they would not qualify for Social Security Disability or SSI.

For a blind individual, the substantial gainful activity level is higher.
It's $2,260.

Now, even though we have this amount, this amount of $1,350 a month of earnings, there are some things that we take into consideration.
So that number isn't a firm number and we're going to talk more about that a little bit later.

Now, if an individual was already receiving SSI as a child, engaging in substantial gainful activity would not automatically make the child ineligible for SSI when they turn age 18.
But we would evaluate their prior work activity.
So the best place to look for information about the disability program is online at Social Security.gov and the blue book.
This blue book was written for professionals who are helping individuals who have a disabling condition.
So we call it a blue book because when the book used to be published, before the days of the internet, it was an actual blue book.
But now the information in the blue book would be found online.
So in the blue book, you can find the adult listings and the childhood listings.
This talks about the disability evaluation under Social Security.
So it talks about our process, for instance, the first step is whether or not an individual is working substantially.
If they are working substantially, then we would not send their application for a medical determination.

But if they are not working or not working substantially, then we send their case for a medical determination.
The disability analyst then looks to see if the individual has a severe condition.
If their condition ‑‑ if it doesn't appear that it would last a year or if it's not a severe condition, then the application would be denied.
But if it is a severe condition, then it goes on to the third step, and that is does it meet the lifting level criteria.
So in the blue book you can find listing of impairments.
And then you can even drill down deeper into this, for instance, here if I clicked on digestive system and you can see that this is what the disability analyst is looking for in order to make a favorable determination.
So this really tells you specifically the analyst is looking through an individual's medical records and they are trying to find this precise language.
Now, sometimes the medical records won't contain enough information and the disability analyst may send an individual to a consultative exam, but if they are able to find this information, they are able to find the individual meets the listing level severity, then the application is going to be medically approved.
Now, if you're between the listing level so you have a severe condition, but it doesn't quite meet the listing level or maybe you have a combination of impairments we could also say that equals the listing level.
But let's say an individual doesn't quite meet the listing level.
They are in between.
Then the analyst looks to see if the individual can return to any of their past jobs.
If the answer is yes, then the claim would be medically denied.
If the answer is no, then that means that the analyst reaches out to a vocational expert to see if there's other jobs available in the economy that the individual could do.
And if the answer to that is yes, then the claim would be a medicine denial but otherwise the claim would be approved.
This is a lot to go through and we know a lot of times with disabling conditions, oftentimes they could get better, they could get worse, and also an individual professional could have a different opinion.
And so if an individual receives a denial, it's a good idea to file an appeal, and the reason for that is that many of the appeals are approved.
So even though a lot of initial claims are denied, a lot of the appeals are approved, particularly at the hearing level.
Now, if somebody was receiving a disability payment and they say, “You don't meet the adult criteria for disability”, the individual can receive payment continuation while they are going through with the appeal process.
The appeal must be received within 60 days of the decision.
It must be received within ten days if the individual wants payment continuation.
So Social Security does review disability cases every so often.
Now, when an individual applies for disability, the burden of proof is on that individual to prove that they meet the Social Security Disability criteria.
However, once somebody's claim has been approved, the burden of proof shifts and when Social Security does a continuing disability review, the burden of proof is now on Social Security to prove that the individual no longer meets the disability criteria.
Most cases are reviewed every three years.
Some cases are reviewed every seven years.
If somebody receives a SSI payment and their income is ‑‑ has ‑‑ is so high or their wages, they have returned to work and their wages are so high that they no longer qualify for a SSI payment, we can keep their SSI record active so that they can continue to have Medicaid, but we also do a continuing disability review.
If it's found that somebody's medical condition has improved, then their benefits stop two months later.

For the non‑medical part, for the SSI, we ask information about income, including work activity information about your resources, and information about your living arrangements.

 The payment rates in Nevada and they are going to go up next year because there's going to be an 8.7 percent raise but the SSI payment amount for an individual who is living alone or living with other people but paying their fair share towards the household expenses is $841 a month.
If an individual lives in the household of another, so they are living with other people, maybe with family members and they are either not paying towards the household expenses or not paying their fair share, the SSI payment is $560.67 a month and if an individual is residing in a skilled nursing facility and Medicaid is paying at least 50 % of the cost, the SSI payment is $30 a month.
So for every month that an individual receives a SSI payment, they automatically receive Medicaid.
Individuals who receive Social Security Disability are entitled to Medicare after being entitled to the Social Security Disability for 24 months.
And work incentives.

It's not easy to apply for disability benefits and take a long time and be pretty stressful and you might feel like, “I finally had my approval, and I'm not sure that I want to try to go back to work.”

 And it's completely voluntary if you want to try to go back to work or not.
But Social Security does have certain work incentives in place so that if you want to either start working or if you want to return to work, we can support you in that.
So those who are participating in an approved program called special education, Vocational Rehabilitation, or a similar service can continue to receive SSI even if it's found that they don't meet the adult criteria for SSI.
So a child turns 18, they don't meet the more stringent adult criteria to receive SSI, but if they are participating in a program to help them obtain a good job, then their SSI can continue as long as the program began before the SSI eligibility ended and continued participation in the program will likely result in employment with earnings above the substantial gainful activity level.
So an example of an approved program would be an individual who has an IEP.
If they are working with a Vocational Rehabilitation agency, if they are using supportive services, using an individual developmental plan, a service plan with their school, or if they have a self-support with Social Security and we'll talk more about these plans for achieving self supports in a little bit.
Ticket to Work is an innovative program that can help an individual not just get a job but actually lead to a career with long‑term success.

 So it's a free employment service to help an individual find a job or to maintain success while they are already working.
The Ticket to Work program includes career counseling, Vocational Rehabilitation, job placement and training.
And so again, the Ticket to Work program, they want to help somebody prepare for learning success, they're not just the short term job but maybe something that's going to last through a career that can maybe last 20, 30, 40 years.
In order to participate in Ticket to Work you would call 1866 your ticket.
And we have a different work incentive under the SSI program.
First is the earned income exclusion where we don't count the first $65 of the gross earnings or one half of the remainder.
And there's an example of that coming up.
The student earned income exclusions where we exclude $2,040 a month of your earnings up to a yearly maximum of $8,230.

The plan for achieving self‑support, property necessary for self‑support, and impairment related work expenses.
Here's an example of the SSI earned income exclusion.
We have Oscar and Oscar received SSI of $841 a month and he started a job where he's earning $50 a month.
Oscar doesn't have any income besides his SSI.
He has his wages of $500 a month, so there's a general income exclusion, sometimes we call it the Unearned Income Exclusion but it's really a general income exclusion of $20 a month since Oscar doesn't have any other income, we use it for his wages.
Then the earned income exclusion of $65 a month, that leaves us with $415.
We divide that in half and we get $207.50.
That's Oscar's countable income.
Even though Oscar actually has wages of $500, we're only counting $207.50 a month.

So, Oscar used to receive an SSI payment of $841.
However, we must subtract his income from that because SSI is a needs‑based program.
So when we subtract $207.50 from 841 we're left with $633.50. That means that Oscar's income instead of getting $841 a month his total income is going to be $1,133.50 a month.

So, it's increased by $292.50.
So that means the higher your wages, the more your SSI is going to decrease.
But the more income you're going to have overall.

The student earned income exclusion.
This is for youth under age 22 and regularly attending school.
That means they are in college eight hours a week or high school 12 hours a week or they are in training in order to prepare for employment at least 12 hours a week or a transition employment preparation program while in special education.
And the student earned income exclusion is $1,930 a month.
So we have Jim and Jim is working at a grocery store and he's earning $600 a month.
So that means in the course of a year, Jim has earnings of $7,200 a year.
The yearly earned income exclusion is $7,670.
That means that Jim's countable income is zero, that means his wages are not going to affect his SSI payment at all.
The plan to achieve self-support.
This is where an individual can set aside their income and resources to use for a work goal.
So because SSI is needs‑based when you have other income, your SSI is going to go down.
Let's say you have unearned income of more than $861 a month.
That means that you wouldn't receive any SSI at all because your other income is too high.
However, we can set aside that income or if you have resources, countable resources of more than $2,000, we can set that aside if you're going to use those resources for a work goal.
So some examples of expenses would be educational expenses, vocational training, assistive technology, or the expenses for starting a business.
Now, the plan to achieve self-support would be submitted using form SSA‑545, and list a specific work goal and give a specific timeframe.
And then we would follow up, Social Security would follow up with you to see if you are meeting those milestones and we would also ask for receipts so that we would be able to document that your income is going to your plan for achieving self‑support.
So we have Ann and Ann wants to go to school to become an RN.
She's receiving Social Security Disability of $1,200 a month.
So Ann said to us I'd like to apply for SSI, we would tell her I'm sorry but your income is too high.
Your Social Security Disability of $1,200 a month is too high for you to receive a SSI payment.
However, Ann needs $1,180 a month for her tuition, books and supplies she needs.
So we can exclude that under the plan to achieve self‑support.
So we're not going to count Ann's Social Security Disability when we compute her SSI payment.
It means she would be eligible of a SSI payment of $841 a month to be used for living expenses and her PASS funds of $1,180 would be used for her approved planned expenses.
And the impairment related work expenses.
That's where Social Security would deduct the cost of certain impairment related items and services from an individual's gross earnings.
So the item or service would need to be necessary in order to enable an individual to work.
It's needed because of the individual's impairment.
It's not reimbursed by another source.
And the cost is reasonable.
So we have Lou and he has a job and he's earning a thousand dollars a month.
But he has a service animal and he needs to pay vet bills and buy food for his animal, and so we're deducting that as $50 a month and he has prescription co‑pays and needs to take these in order to work.
That's $40 a month.
And he has an attendant, and the attendant is helping him get ready for work and driving him to and from work.
And he pays the tenant $250 a month.
That means lou's earnings are $660 a month.
And that's before we do the earned income exclusion.
So we still do the minus $65 from that divide in half and that would be the amount that would be deducted from the SSI payment.

And additional work incentives include the specs 1619 work incentives, and that's for those individuals who receive SSI, have started to work, their earnings are so high that the SSI payment has gone down all the way to zero.
But we keep the SSI record active so that the individual can continue to have their Medicaid.
They would need to answer some questions, they would need to tell us that they need their Medicaid in order to continue to work, they use Medicaid in the last 12 months, and they expect to use it again in the next 12 months.
And then we can reinstate their SSI without a new application.
So it's pretty easy because oftentimes what happens with wages is we can have some good months and then our wages can drop much lower.
So we would just need to complete the input that wages have gone down or wages have stopped, and the SSI payment would start right up again.

So understanding how work affects your benefits is a lot. And it can be very confusing.
The work incentives are different between the Social Security and the SSI program.
There's some overlap, but we're all in a unique position, and the amount that we earn and our special circumstances, it would be all affect us differently.
And so this is part of the ticket to work legislation.
The work incentives planning and assistance.
And they can provide information and benefits counseling to understand how work and earnings will affect your benefits.
So they can really sit down with you and collect the information and let you know exactly what's going to happen.
So you don't have to kind of guess and be unsure that you're doing the right thing.
In order to locate a WIPA project, you would contact ticket to work at 1‑866‑833‑2967 or you can go on line at SSA.gov page to choose work.ssa.gov/findhelp.

Protection and advocacy for beneficiaries of Social Security or PABSS.
This is also part of the ticket to work legislation.
And so I should say the WIPA and PABSS, these individuals are not, they don't work for Social Security, but they are contracted out.
They're paid by Social Security but they're not Social Security employees.
They wouldn't have any kind of conflict if you're afraid of that.
They're completely out there and advocating for you.
They want to help you.
They want to protect your legal rights for those individuals who want to work, help you identify and remove any barriers to employment, they can help you obtain information about Vocational Rehabilitation services.
To locate a PABSS organization, you would contact ticket to work at 1-(866) 968-7842 or again, at Social Security.gov choose work.ssa.gov/findhelp.

Grants and scholarships.
Because you may want to go to college.
And you might be afraid that the grants and scholarships that you deserve are going to affect your SSI.
Grants and scholarships do not count at income or resources for up to nine months.
They must be used for tuition, fees, and other necessary educational expenses.
Pell grants and student aid loans, Bureau of Indian Affairs, student assistance does not count as income for SSI purposes.
Achieving a better life experience or an ABLE account, these are tax advantaged savings accounts for individuals with a disability.
And so now for SSI, if you're an individual, you can only have countable resources, like money in the bank, stocks and bonds, cash surrender value of life insurance policies, you can only have the resources of $2,000 or 3,000 if you're a member of a couple.
But with the ABLE you can have more in resources.
Now, the ABLE account fund must be used for disability related expenses.
An ABLE account up to $100,000 does not count as a SSI resource.
ABLE accounts are funded by the account owner, family, and friends.
So eligibility in order to have an ABLE account not count as a resource, an individual must be eligible for SSI based on a disability or blindness that began prior to age 26.
Or entitled to Social Security Disability or chimed disability benefit that means that you became disabled prior to age 22 and you're receiving disability because one of your parents has passed away or your parent is receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits.

But if an individual receives the child disability benefits, then the ABLE account would be excluded up to $100,000.
Or they must have a certification that disability or blindness occurred before age 26.
So maybe an individual didn't start to receive SSI until they were old are maybe in their thirties, but if they have the certification that the disabling condition occurred prior to age 26, the account would be excluded.
Okay.
And some reporting responsibilities under SSI.
So an individual would report any changes in their status because they may affect eligibility for SSI or the benefit amount.
If an individual works and gets SSI, then they must report their earnings.
So the changes must be recorded as soon as possible but no later than ten days after the end of the month in which the change occurred.
So that means October' wages would be reported to Social Security by November 10th.

So Social Security offers a toll-free automated wage reporting telephone system and a mobile wage reporting application.

An individual can also report their wages through their personal my Social Security account.
So you can always go the old‑fashioned way and mail your wages in to the Social Security office every month, but these other ways are much more efficient for getting the information to Social Security.
So you can always mail your pay stubs to the local office.
But you might find that the SSI telephone wage reporting system is an easier way to report your wages and you don't have to worry about where they received, received on time.
You can just report it right over the phone.
That phone number is 866‑772‑0953, or you can report it through the internet wage reporting through your my Social Security account, or through the SSI mobile wage reporting application, SSIMWR, and that's a download free application in Google Play or the Apple app stores.

I hope that everybody had an opportunity to create a my Social Security account.
My Social Security puts you in control ‑‑ gives you access to your own personal Social Security information and really helps you manage your benefits right from the comfort of your home.
If you receive benefits or Medicare with a my Social Security account you can opt out of mailed notices if the notice would be available online, so you can just look at your notices online.
You can request your he replacement Social Security card if you're at least age 18, a U.S. citizen, and you have a state ID.
You can report your wages if you work and receive disability insurance, so SSDI, or supplemental Social Security income benefits and get your benefit verification letter as proof you're getting benefits.
You can check your benefit and payment information in your earnings record.
You can change your address and phone number for Social Security, for SSI we still need to talk to you but under Social Security we can change your address and phone number.
And direct deposit.
You can submit an advanced information representative payee request.
Right now you may be in a position where you're able to manage your benefits.
But none of us know what tomorrow is going to bring.
And so there may come a time later in life when we're going to need assistance to manage our benefits.
And so with the advance destination that means we know who to reach out to if it appears you need a representative payee to help you manage your benefit.
For instance, I have three children, and two of my children I know would be excellent representative payees so I would list them as the advanced designation, my other child, he's a nice boy, but I'm afraid he would maybe think he was doing the right thing but maybe not.
Maybe he would go to the casino with my benefits and think that he was going to double my money for me.
I know who I would list as the advance designation in my own case.
You can request your replacement Medicare card or get a replacement 1099 if you get Social Security because Social Security may be taxable.

Although SSI is never taxable.

If you're not receiving benefits yet, you can still create a my Social Security account so that you can viewer your benefits estimates at different ages possible spouses benefits, request a replacement Social Security card if you need that same criteria, you can check the status of your application or appeal so you can track your application.
You can get proof that you are not receiving benefits.
And you can get your Social Security statement to review.
It provides estimates of your future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits.
We would ask you to check your earnings record to make sure that you have credit for all of your earnings and all of your contributions to Social Security.
And it will tell you the estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid.

 So open a my Social Security account, you go to ssa.gov/myaccount.
And then you sign in or create an account, you provide some personal information to verify your identity including some out of the wallet questions.
So we ask you some questions we think only you would know.
If you have frozen your credit report you would not be able to do this because we get the questions from experience.
But you can unfreeze your credit report, create a my Social Security account, and then refreeze your credit report.
You choose a user name and password and every time you log in we'll either text or email you a security code.
That's an extra layer of security.

Renee Portnell: She is the Payee for her older daughter and wanted to know if it was easy without taking away SSI money from the older daughter to get her younger sister set up as Payee.

Teresa Campbell: Yes, it is. So if there comes a time when you want to the other daughter to take over the payee duties what she would do is contact us, we would interview her, and to make sure that she understands the duties of being a payee and we would also ask your daughter who receives SSI to sign a statement saying she has no objection to her sister being her payee.
If you could also provide a letter saying that since you're older, you're no longer able to manage these benefits.
Let's say ‑‑ and I hope this doesn't happen but let's say you were to pass away, let your other daughter know she would need to go into Social Security to apply to be payee for her sister.
There could be a delay in payment if there comes a time that she doesn't have a payee that your daughter doesn't have a payee.
But then once the new payee is selected, we would start the benefits right up again and if there's any back pay, benefits that had been withheld we'll make sure that money gets to the new payee.

Renee Portnell: She is trying to think ahead for when her younger daughter will need to know what her older daughter will need.

Dawn Lyons: If she had SSI or SSDI, and later wanted to apply for the other, would she need to prove her disability again? Also, what is the range of income allowed to qualify for both?

Teresa Campbell: To qualify for Social Security Disability, you need ‑‑ well you need to have a parent who is deceased or who is ‑‑ receiving Social Security Disability or retirement and that's the child disability payments under the Social Security program.
Or you must have worked and paid Social Security tax and need to have at least six credits and you can earn up to four credits a year.
A credit is earning the $1,510, and Social Security's tax was withheld from those earnings.
So that means if you had yearly earnings of $6,040, you have earned all the credits you could possibly earn in one year.
So you need six credits, so that's about a year and a half of work, if you became disabled prior to age 24.
If you became disabled after age 24, then you need to have ‑‑ a little bit complicated ‑‑ you need to have earned at least one credit for every year after age 24.
And so it depends on really on your age when you became disabled.
But you need a minimum of six credits.
And so let's say that you're 28 years old when you've earned your six credits.
If you became disabled prior to age 24, then we can say you have your six credits and you can qualify for Social Security Disability.
Now, Social Security, we want to be ‑‑ because the disability criteria for SSI and SSDI are the same, however, we do need to send, if somebody's already receiving one benefit and let's say they've earned their credits so now they are applying for Social Security Disability, we do need to send the claims for a medical decision, the disability analyst is taking into consideration that you already qualify for these disability benefits.
And so those claims are pretty easy for the disability analyst to make a determination on since we already have the information that supports an approval decision.

Dawn Lyons: Wouldn’t that put the burden on the person applying, to get all new medical documentation?

Teresa Campbell: We would ask the person to provide the information to us.
So we would ask the individual to provide information about doctor visits and hospitals, we would already have the information from the last application, but from the last application up to the current time we would need the medical information.
Now, an individual doesn't need to actually get their school records or medical information for us, we're going to write to the school and the hospitals and the doctors to get that information.

Vickie Essner: She works for State of Nevada's Vocational Rehabilitation, and a question was posed and they were trying to direct them to the right individual, but if an individual received award for disability and it was not ‑‑ for some reason they are also legally blind and the paperwork did not reflect that or it did reflect it and it was missed, who would they contact and how would ‑‑ what would they do to go about getting that rectified?

Teresa Campbell: That can make a difference particularly with the substantial gainful activity levels.
And so the individual would want to file an appeal, because the decision was made that the individual ‑‑ disability criteria but maybe they didn't address the blind criteria.
They would want to file an appeal so that we could send the case down to the disability analysts, and they could make a determination on the blind issue.

Cindi Swanson: When Teresa was talking about calling in one’s wages, what about filing the individual's speech impaired related work expenses like receipts for transportation and that sort of thing?
That's part of the question.
And once a person kind of catapults into the total SSDI, do they still have to be calling in their wages or wage reports?

Teresa Campbell: Yes, that information when somebody receives SSI or SSDI, those wages should be reported monthly, along with the early.
Now the early, to report that, we do have a form called the 821 where somebody puts down their work information and they would also put down their ERWIs.
Now, an individual doesn't need to report their ERWIs every single month.
They can report it when they have the new job or when the ERWIs change.
When the individuals send in their pay stubs, I would suggest that they include a notice that says please note I have the following ERWI's.
See the 821 that was provided on and the date the 821 was provided.

1. Review and Approve Independent Living (IL) Network Emergency Planning Resource List and Distribution Plan **(For Possible Action)**.

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: As it's in the SILC’s State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), Northern and Southern Centers for Independent Living to create what we were going to do in our SPIL was called something like emergency planning. So what we did was decided there are some resources in the state of Nevada that really all we needed was a disability specific list to put on our websites and to have available for our consumers.
The DD council has a really great plan for individuals to be proactive and get preparedness, have kits ready and things like that.

So submitted as a material the list of resources for emergencies and disasters.
And if anyone needs me to share it I can.
But it really just has the most important links that are helpful specifically for people with disabilities in Nevada.
And so hope you guys have had a chance to look at that and click on the links and thank you Mary and Lisa for your assistance on this and your collaboration, it was important to make sure we're getting the right message out and I thought there might have been another suggestion that one of you had so if you did, please tell me and remind me about that.

Mary Evilsizer: After they discussed these contacts, some of the staff at her center, she had them call the numbers, and they reviewed the DD council's plan and they have a wonderful training program but after calling some of the numbers, SNCIL would encourage that everyone contact, make personal contacts, friends, neighbors, someone that can actually react in a quicker time and that would be essential like the DD council's plans that's a great place to started for anyone. Sounds simple but it's critical.

Renee Portnell: Is there a way to make sure people in the community that have disabilities have a ride if they don't have family members or friends that are close by and can grab them and drive them out of the area that's flooding or on fire, whatever the emergency is?

Dawn Lyons: That isn't a question that she specifically looked up when she was looking at emergency resources, but those are the kinds of things that are important to know about.
Maybe the Centers For Independent Living might want to chime in and give some information about what might be available out there.
They often refer people to services like that, but she doesn't know specifically herself if there is one or especially for the rural areas, she seriously doubts there's emergency ride services.

Mary Evilsizer: We thought of that, too. For somebody that doesn't have family and friends really one of the best places you can look towards is 911, they will connect you with the fire department.
Also, if you have a neighborhood association crime stopping group object your block we have found them to be good volunteers, but otherwise, contact 911, let them know about your situation, and they will reach out to see what volunteers are in place in that particular crisis or emergency. But you need to have a plan. 911 is a plan, better than no plan. So, it's a place to start.

Raquel O’Neil: Henderson has an emergency preparedness department and so does North Las Vegas, the city of Las Vegas does as well.
She has been approached specifically by Jeremy Hynds regarding the blindness community and he did have discussions with paratransit about a system in place for emergencies as long as people are registered with the emergency management areas of Henderson, Las Vegas, and north Las Vegas depending on where you live.
It's really important that they let individuals with disabilities know that they need to voice their need in advance if that is something that they would like to participate in. But it is available.
Not sure if that's on the list of resources or not.

Dawn Lyons: That's a good point. She read the introduction statement before the list and it says an emergency or natural disaster can happen when we least expect it.
For those of us with disabilities, it's even more important to have a plan and be prepared.
The Nevada independent living network would like to offer a list of some of the valuable resources available.
There are many county specific resources listed on each county website.
But the list below offers statewide and individual resources.
Remember you can always call 211 to get immediate resources, 988 for a mental health emergency, and 911 if you need any other emergency assistance.
And then of course it lists the ones I mentioned.
She can add in there where it says there are many county resources available, she can add there are many county and city specific resources.

Raquel O’Neil: I think that would be a good clarification point.
And then are the county and city emergency management teams listed in it the resource list.

Dawn Lyons: I didn't because there are 17 counties in Nevada, and there's a bunch of cities beyond that. So, I just sort of generally said that

Dee Dee Foremaster: She is up in fire country and thinks it might be important. She is going to contact her regional transportation system in the area, and see if they do indeed have listings for people with disabilities that may not have transportation in these specific rural areas in case there is a natural disaster and they cannot get out.
It might be good for those in this area to maybe put a little fire icon next to the people that are really in dangerous fire areas, because fire sweeps very quickly, within a matter of moments up here, and it's hard for people with disabilities to be able to safely get out.
She is going to suggest to the transportation division for the people that do not have transportation and maybe it might be nice if all of the centers tried to help with any list that may not be available or get people connected up.
She is connected into an emergency response where if an emergency or disaster occurs, they have a city‑wide telephone system that clicks on and alerts people in the area.
She will check a little more about the resources in this area, and in the rurals, because Virginia City has had a couple of fires that spread so quickly that it overwhelmed the entire fire department, which is very small.
So we do have a lot of small communities out in the rural areas where fire can get out of control rather quickly.

Dawn Lyons: There's a lot of different things that happen in different areas whether they are rural or not.
And so it's important to contact your local numbers or your local websites to see what is available and if something isn't, to advocate for that in your area.
Because the SILC can advocate for statewide but we can't cover every single area that others may live in.
So that's something that's important and if we could always assist in the language or typing something up for anybody, we can assist with that kind of stuff, we can educate, we can reach out for you if you can't. But we need to know about it. You need to be proactive.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She is concerned in particular with transportation out in the rural areas, a lot of people can't even make it to the store, let alone anywhere else.
Certainly not out of their homes when there is an emergency like Carson City is famous for floods in January.
We get all this snow before January and then suddenly we get a warm storm in, it melts all the snow up above and floods the entire city.
And so it's not unusual to have that problem here.

Dawn Lyons: She also suggested that people find out which shelters accept service animals.

Mary Evilsizer motioned to accept the description and the list presented to the SILC regarding statewide emergency contact information specific for individuals with disabilities including the language with city in the introduction. Dee Foremaster seconded the motion. The members voted and the motion passed.

1. Discussion Regarding Survey Results and Announcement of Drawing Winner **(For Possible Action)**.

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Dawn Lyons: The drawing was random with Wendy Thornley as a witness. Chrissie Kastanza from Las Vegas was the winner. Dawn put it on the website and sent Chrissie a congratulations. She should have already received her prize.

The survey results link has been put on the SILC’s website and sent to the members. The final count of participants was 77. In the survey, mental health has caught up with accessible housing as the top concern and need. The SPIL workgroup can focus more on the data and other reports and assessments from around the state that include people with disabilities.

So that's the other option I thought of too. But who knows what ACL will say.
She has a meeting with them next Wednesday that all of you are invited to go to and you should have received that invitation. It just came out recently.
It's called the Office of Independent Living.
Hopefully they will have update for that about that for the SILC then and they will learn more about that. But as far as the SILC’s goals, they are on track.
There is one thing that they are a little bit behind on and that's because Cody needs more Youth Action Council members. He's agreed that the Youth Action Council can adopt the SILC policies and procedures until there become more members of the Youth Action Council that they can discuss that.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She knows many young people that she can connect with Cody and the Youth Action Council.

Dawn Lyons: Asked if anyone else had any questions about the goals or objectives on the SPIL or the budget she submitted. One other thing to explain the overage on the spending on the expenditures for fiscal year 22, is because of Aging and Disability Services fiscal issue from fiscal year 21 where the SILC is going to have additional spending money that will be included in fiscal year 23.
All of that overage will be processed, it will go into the travel category.
And it will be included in that ‑‑ it's just a matter of moving money around, but it's going to be done officially through Aging and Disability Services.

1. Discussion and Approval of Suggestions for Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date **(For Possible Action)**

NV SILC Annual Meeting Scheduled for January 11 & 12, 2023 at 1:00pm

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

 Logistics of sharing the news resource

To manage the meeting time properly and cover all that needs to be covered, it is suggested to be two three-hour meetings instead of two, two-hour meetings each quarter. This would also allow for breaks for CART and Interpreters.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Agrees that the SILC is discussing important information.

Havander Davis: He is in favor of the extended meetings and reminded the group that some people are attending while they are at work and not everyone will be able to stay.

Dawn Lyons: Understands what Havander is saying and reminded the group that the SILC does have a reimbursement policy to compensate members for hours missed at work.

Ace Patrick: SILC Councils in other states have day-long, quarterly meetings.

Raquel O’Neil: For those of us participating on multiple councils and multiple meetings, I really like being able to cover everything in a timely fashion and also really like the idea of continuing to collaborate with other councils and maybe hosting presentations, co‑presentations together like being able to invite other councils to the Social Security presentation that you held and if something the VR council was held that would be appropriate for IL likewise.
And so if the more that they can do that and collaborate together so that nobody is having items and presentations on their agendas that could be shared, she is all for it.
But when they have different council meetings with same presentations, that's where it becomes hard for her.

Dee Dee Foremaster motioned to increase the meeting time to two, three-hour meetings on consecutive days for each SILC quarterly meeting. Ace Patrick seconded the motion.

The members voted and the motion passed.

Meetings will now be three hours long, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Pacific Time on two consecutive days each quarter. The next meeting will be on January 11, 2023.

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.

**10/12/22 Public Comment**:

No public comment.

**10/13/22 Public Comment**:

Ace Patrick: Congratulated Julie for completing her first SILC meeting as Chair and Havander Davis for Vice Chairing his first SILC meeting. She also congratulated Obioma and Linda on becoming new SILC members.

1. Adjournment

 Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

 **10/12/22 Meeting adjourned at:** 3:00 pm

 **10/13/22 Meeting adjourned at**: 2:59 pm

**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 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. 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 by email at wthornley@adsd.nv.gov.

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

Notice of this meeting was posted at:

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Aging and Disability Services Division

3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite181, Carson City, NV 89706

and on the Internet: <https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/> and <https://notice.nv.gov> and <https://www.nvsilc.com/>