

**Draft Minutes**

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

Legislative Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, March 30, 2023

2:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held via video-conference only:

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

**To Join the Zoom Meeting**

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

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

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

SILC Members Present: Obioma Officer, Linda Vejvoda, Dee Dee Foremaster, Jennifer Kane, Ace Patrick, Julie Weissman Steinbaugh,

Guests Present: Steven Cohen, Sondra Cosgrove, Deanna Gay, John Rosenlund, Regina Daniel, Kelcy Meyer, Lori Lutu

Quorum was present, consistent with SILC’s Policies and Procedures Manual.

CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

ASL Interpreters: Janett Serpa and Tory Jaramillo

1. Public Comment

(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

Deanna Gay: She is back in the direct support field, suggested that loan forgiveness be extended to direct support professionals. There is a difficulty in obtaining and retaining caregivers. Encouraged a collaboration between the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Aging and Disability Services Division. She would like to see job creation instead of putting people with disabilities into positions that may not fit.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2/22/2023 **(For Possible Action).**

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Linda Vejvoda motioned to approve the draft minutes. Ace Patrick seconded the motion, the members voted, and the motion was carried.

1. Overview and Discussion Regarding Governor Lombardo’s Executive Order 2023-003.

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Dawn Lyons: Governor Lombardo’s Executive Order 2023-003 requires that all state agencies and boards and commissions submit ten recommendations for removal of regulations from the Nevada Administrative Code, as well as recommending amendments to some of them as can be justified.  
Public workshops are required to be held, to get public input on that. However, there are some exemptions that count.  
The Statewide Independent Living Council is a federally funded and federally regulated council, and does not really fall under any of the state regulations.  
State regulations apply, but the SILC does not create any and does not have any say in them.  
She believes the SILC is going to request an exemption. They are having a public workshop the following day at 11:30 am.  
Information on the SILC’s website, the meeting should be listed with its link on NVsilc.com under the meetings tab, she looks forward to any public information regarding that which people would like to share.  
  
Since the SILC is probably going to request an exemption, it's not mandated that they hold this public forum, but they wanted to anyway because they do want to hear feedback.

Dawn submitted her talking points as a meeting material so people are welcome to look that up because she has some ideas about attending other public workshops and what people could potentially do to impact or affect those by giving their public comment at those public forums.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Employment First Strategic Plan **(For Possible Action).**

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Sondra Cosgrove: SB 431 will get a hearing. That means as soon as it is scheduled, there needs to be public comment so they can get as many people as they can to say they support this bill and why. They will also put into the public record that they want Employment First, what it would look like, and they hope that coordination will happen with the disability community, and to speak with the governor and his staff.

Steven Cohen: Asked when the Secretary of Education and Workforce would be hired.

Sondra Cosgrove: As soon as the new fiscal year starts in July, there will be a 90‑day window for them to appoint or hire the person to come in.  
It looked like it was a relatively short timeline that this person needs to get up and running as quickly as possible.

Dawn Lyons: Asked Sondra Cosgrove to work with her to get something written up for the SILC to approve to put forward. Sondra Cosgrove agreed.

Ace Patrick: Asked for an overview of the bill.

Sondra Cosgrove: It is a long bill of about 100 pages. There will be seven secretaries including this one. The bill discusses getting rid of Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), and replacing it with something new that should be collaborative with the community. That education and workforce should go hand in hand. The Secretary position is supposed to be interfacing with constituents in the community to decide what it is the office needs to do. Not just being directed by the governor, but outward facing towards the community. She is going to do a zoom meeting the following Sunday. There were six bills that came out and she wanted to read them, discuss them, and then reach out to the Governor’s office for any clarifications needed.

Steven Cohen: Does this mean that administrators and directors are going away or is the Secretary going to just supervise?

Sondra Cosgrove: It looks like they are going to supervise and have the discretion to move things around if they feel it is needed.

Dawn Lyons: In the summary that the senator sent out, it said they would be restructuring?

Sondra Cosgrove: Yes, restructuring was the word, and the SILC wants to make sure and be there to give feedback to the Secretary if requested.

Steven Cohen: He did see that some of the ADSD commissions fall under the secretary, but the SILC is not one of them. He assumed that is because they are federally regulated.

Dawn Lyons: While it's true that SILC is federally regulated, those regulations state the SILC can choose their own DSE.

Sondra Cosgrove: Asked Steven if he saw anything that stood out and he said not yet.

Steven Cohen: Asked Sondra to send the link to Sondra Cosgrove’s meeting to Dawn to distribute. He also asked when the next Employment First meeting was scheduled for.

Dawn Lyons: April 17th, Monday at 9:00am.

Steven Cohen: By then committee passage in the first house will have passed so they will know whether it has gotten a hearing or if it is going to be exempt.

Sondra: The governor’s bills are automatically exempt, which means they will go to the end.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Bullying in Schools **(For Possible Action).**

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Linda Vejvoda: RCIL has had experiences in the Carson City school district with children being bullied until their families removed them from school and becoming homeschooled. She feels that students with special needs are often the victims of bullying.

Dawn Lyons: This is not only a Nevada problem, but also a nationwide problem. Schools and education systems are not supposed to allow bullying. She is sure they prefer that it did not occur. She believes that bullying starts from the top with the administration and school staff. If they play favorites, how are children going to follow any rules appropriately about bullying?  
She thinks the education needs to start with the administration.  
Starting at the top, there is a need to inform them about that aspect of the bullying that's happening in their school where it's not creating any resolutions but it's adding to the problem.  
That might be something that the SILC can put in the next State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), because they do see it happening a lot.  
She asked Jennifer Kane if the SILC can get some more data from the Department of Education about data that’s been collected from the school districts in Nevada.

Jennifer Kane: She represents the Nevada Department of Education, in the Office of Inclusive Education, she is on the special education side of things. They also have an office for State and Respectful Learning Environments, there are a lot of laws associated with this. And a few years ago, they developed a link to remove many of the biases and things that were being talked about that tend to have happen in individual sites.  
It was created as the place for people to report bullying outside of the schools, so it is the state level. She shared the following link:

<https://doe.nv.gov/SafeRespectfulLearning/Home/>

<http://safevoicenv.org/>   
  
If it is reported through Safe Voice there is an investigation process that happens that the school must follow through with and is overseen by folks out of the Department of Education and the Office of Safe and Respectful Learning.  
She is not the person within the Office of Inclusive Education. She does secondary transition, which is why she is on the Nevada SILC, working with transition age youth to get them to post‑secondary education training, employment and independent living, which is why she fits so nicely on the SILC.  
They have experts at the department that work in the Office of Safe and Respectful Learning that will be able to support and answer questions and talk about the laws in Nevada that are in place for these exact things being talked about.  
Like Dawn said, this is not a Nevada‑specific problem.  
But that doesn't matter. When you are a parent, it is a problem for your child.   
In this case it sounds like it is causing them to need to be home schooled and have counseling. That's exactly what that office is created for and what Safe Voice was created for was to remove many of those biases and things that can happen and really have an oversight for bullying that hopefully cuts through some of those issues.  
She hopes that people will reach out, utilize, use Safe Voice, much money has been put into social emotional learning and everything related to this through COVID funds but also prior to that as well when this office was created and Safe Voice was created.  
She is happy to connect people with the professionals in that office.

Dee Dee Foremaster: The Carson City School District has a problem with bullying regarding

students with disabilities. RCIL has supported three families who chose to take their children out of public schools. The families did not receive support from the schools.

Dawn Lyons: Asked if Dee Dee had used the Safe Voice link for addressing bullying that Jennifer Kane had just provided in this meeting. Dee Dee had not been in the meeting at that time, so Dawn gave a brief description. She also mentioned the data that the SILC would be getting regarding bullying in the school system. She suggested that Dee Dee access the Safe Voice link to assist the families that RCIL works with and submit a report so they can investigate the issues that Dee Dee spoke about.

Dee Dee Foremaster: RCIL was not able to get anything done and so the children were taken out of school by their families. RCIL has provided information for socialization assistance for the children.

Sondra Cosgrove: She is on the Nevada Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. They are about to start a study to look at the shortages of professionals, not just teachers in the schools and what's happening to the kids and families because of these shortages.  
She wonders if there's shortages of teachers’ aides and other professionals who are in a school that would assist the teacher if the bullying was going on or that would be out at playground duty or be in the lunchroom.  
She asked Jennifer Kane if that is something Jennifer is hearing about from the schools that just don't have enough bodies in the building?

Jennifer Kane: As a parent of a student in Clark County School District and her role at the department within the Office of Inclusive Education, the folks that she meets with regularly are the special education district administrators.  
Her most recent meeting was on January 18th. She is looking into having an international conference for secondary transition coming to Reno in October, which the Office of Inclusive Education will be hosting.  
She is trying to find out how many teachers and educators these directors are willing to support attending that event, so they can help fund their attendance and support the districts.  
Through that conversation, they are saying that it's not that they wouldn't support their teachers going, especially out in the rural areas, but just don't have any subs to cover if they send teachers to the event.  
Substitute teachers are in great shortage in the rural areas.  
She lives in Las Vegas and her daughter attends school in the Clark County School District. She knows there are hundreds of teachers short and they are approaching April.  
She has a project through funds where they are paying for and training qualified paraprofessionals to go out and work with career and technical education teachers to open up doors for students from special populations not only students with disabilities, but actually six special populations outlined in career and technical education law.  
They are trying to create situations where there's additional support in the program so that counselors can recruit kids into the program, and case managers can do that because what the data shows is that students with disabilities and students in other sub populations who participate in career and technical education graduate with higher diplomas and are ready to the workforce because they have workplace readiness skills.  
She works with paraprofessionals on another project and paid for and provided funds for these people through a competitive grant and there were a number of those positions that went unfilled this entire year.  
Two positions were in Clark County and some rural areas where they were able to hire someone but didn't, they didn't stay and weren't retained.  
From Jennifer’s personal experience, her limited projects sound like it is an issue across the board for all kinds of school.  
Her daughter attends a public, neighborhood elementary school in Clark County School District. They are fortunate to have most of the positions filled because it's a school that people want to work at that has a really strong tradition as a family oriented, small school but that's not the case for majority of schools, they are struggling for everything.  
They don't have enough bus drivers, it's across the board.  
So that's half Jennifer as a parent, half with a foot in CTE at the department and half as a transition person within the Office of Inclusive Education but she thinks it's a problem across the board.

Steven Cohen: Asked Sondra Cosgrove if Dr. Hunt and her counterpart at UNR are doing the behavioral health study, if they are studying teachers as well or if there is somebody in the College of Education that is studying it.

Sondra Cosgrove: They are looking at shortages and they are starting to say it is professionals across the board. Because they could have a licensed qualified teacher but if they have no support services to help them they get overwhelmed. But DEI knows that is going on.

Dawn Lyons: She does know that the teacher and staff shortage is a huge problem.  
She also knows that prior to the shortage being a problem, even when her adult daughter was in grammar school in a different state, her daughter’s teacher was picking on her.  
There are multiple occasions where teachers or staff are the ones bullying the children with disabilities.  
There is a need to educate and that's where there is a need to focus because if they don't start there, it's not going to change between the kids.

Ace Patrick: Her brother has been a teacher in Washoe County School district for close to 30 years now. He has told her that they have a shortage clear across the board with everybody. That includes custodians and everybody, bus drivers, bus attendants.  
Ace has heard that the Clark County School District was thinking of purchasing properties like apartment complexes to provide housing that teachers can afford and asked if anyone else had heard about that.

Sondra Cosgrove: There was a hearing on that, the previous day at the legislature.

Ace Patrick: Wonders why the teachers could not just be paid more. Ace doesn’t see anything nationally that protects kids from being bullied but does see that each state individually has its own statutes and Nevada does have that.  
The first thing on the list, is to go directly to the school district and file a complaint.  
What does someone do if the school district isn't willing to hear them, especially when it comes to kids with disabilities? Especially those diagnosed with mental illness.

Steven Cohen: Put a previous presentation in the chat from Office of Safe and Respectful Learning (OSRL). <https://DOE.NV.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards_Commissions_Councils/State_Board_of_Education/2017/December/Item11NevadasAnti-BullyingLaws2017.pdf>

Jennifer Kane: There is also a shortage of school sites, especially in the rural areas.

Sondra Cosgrove: Put a link to AB37 in the chat. The Rural Behavioral Health Policy Board sponsored AB37 to create a behavioral health workforce center at UNLV: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023/Bill/9566/Overview>

Here is a story on the school districts becoming landlords: <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/as-teachers-struggle-to-find-affordable-housing-ccsd-looks-to-get-in-landlord-business>

Linda Vejvoda: Even though there are charities that are supporting non-bullying, it should start with the teachers, supervisors, principals, and vice principals. They should be taking classes and learning the soft skills on how to treat and be respectful to those who have special needs or are going through any kind of mental issues. She experienced bullying in school herself and did not receive any support from school officials.

Dee Dee Foremaster: If the students see adults bullying, they will also bully.

Dawn Lyons: Faculty and staff need training; they are not educated and do not understand how a child with special needs, is to be treated. How are they going to enforce that between children?

Ace Patrick: Teachers must be careful about being sued. When something is happening in their classroom, they can send the student to the principal’s office. Ace feels that teachers have more than they can oversee. They are not trained because they are not supposed to be trained to do this. Parents who will possibly sue a teacher because a teacher has done something and it's gotten back to the parent via a student, there are a lot of legalities, and Ace feels, a lot of complications.  
It's easy to sit and say teachers need to have more training, they are going through a lot.  
The struggle is real and Ace’s brother has said he's scared to interfere in any confrontation or altercation. He's worked with high school and middle school kids from some pretty low‑income areas where there's a lot of gang violence.  
He's now in an elementary school where he's seeing kids acting out in school that aren't even special ed kids.  
He's spending a lot of time trying to just get the class to be manageable so that he can teach.

Linda Vejvoda: Teachers do have a lot on their plate, but it starts from the top.  
The principals, vice principals, the people that are running the school, those are the ones that should be accountable for giving favoritism, because that's what RCIL has seen.  
Dee Dee Foremaster has personally seen that at the school that two students had to be removed because of the bullying. The school felt that it was the two students’ issues, not the other students.

Ace Patrick: Leadership needs to come from the Principals, Vice Principals, school boards, the trustees, and the superintendent. There need to be laws.

Dawn Lyons: It does not matter if the problem is with teachers, students, or administration. The problem is that there is a problem. The education of staff, needs to happen. She understands that the teachers are overwhelmed and empathizes with teachers in the position that they are in these days, especially with everything else that is going on after COVID. The point is to educate staff of the education system on how to appropriately interpret children with special needs. When Dawn’s daughter who is on the spectrum, was in first grade, her teacher thought she was being stubborn. The daughter did not understand what was going on. She was happy go lucky and did not really try to be stubborn or have an attitude.  
The teacher misinterpreted her daughter’s behaviors as being rude.  
So the teacher would, every day, make Dawn’s daughter stand on the wall and watch everyone else play at recess until Dawn found out. Then Dawn had meetings with the school.  
But the point is what if her daughter were nonverbal? It's not the student's fault.  
They're not trying to have these behaviors all the time, sometimes they are and it's not the teacher's fault.  
They just don't understand what those behaviors are and how to interpret them.  
If the teachers are educated, if they are given the tools, then anything that is legal related, anything that could create some kind of a lawsuit situation, that's between the administrative staff and the teachers to sort out administratively. That's a different issue as well.  
It’s a better opportunity when there is less staff to get this message out that's so important and fine tune it before they are fully staffed so they can have a full staff of fully educated, ready and willing able workers to work with students and cope with what's really going on.

1. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding AB161: A Bill that Would Have Disability-Specific Personal Health Information Made Public **(For Possible Action).**

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Dawn Lyons: AB 161 material is on the SILC website. On Tuesday the Commission, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council all had a special meeting to approve an educational letter to submit to Congress or to the Nevada Legislature, together, they wrote a letter that on behalf of the Councils and Commissions stating that it is important for them to understand, because the original bill that was merged with another bill that was intended for people with autism was merged with bill AB 161 that was for the Deaf community.  
The different Councils and Commission had the suggestion of putting something on a driver's license to indicate that the person is communication impaired. That's what it merged as into AB 161.  
The disability community had huge issues with that so they got together and discussed those issues.  
They wrote those issues into a letter and approved it at that meeting on Tuesday to go ahead and submit that from everyone.  
Some of the highlights of that letter included their concern about private health information being shared even though it's a very vague description. People could interpret that in many different ways and could discriminate against a person because of it.  
For instance, if someone went to apply for a job and had “Communication impaired”, on their driver's license, the employer might assume that they are not able to do the job.  
Or that the employer won’t want to give the applicant the time and they don't have to tell why because Nevada is an “at will” state.  
There's a concern that if someone went to a nightclub, that the club staff would see “Communication impaired” on the driver’s license and might say well that the person can't come into the establishment, there could be a lawsuit. The individual could be refused service.  
The outcome so far from the workgroup was they had changed it to be voluntary, if someone wants to put something on their driver's license, they can.  
If not, it can just be in the registry on their registration.  
The workgroup thinks that was a more appropriate action and the initial intent of that was well intended. It was well meaning, because they were concerned about someone being pulled over and an officer not knowing that the driver can't hear them or whatever it might be.  
But it was those concerns that the workgroup wanted to voice and make sure that it was being handled more appropriately with the person who is going to be affected, having that choice. The letter is on SILC’s website.

1. Update and Discussion Regarding Proposed Legislation by Assemblywomen Brown-May and Cohen.

Tracy Brown-May, Assemblywoman, District 42

Steven Cohen: He recently did a status report. He started with Assemblywoman Brown-May’s seven disability bills.

The first one is AB78 that passed the Assembly floor unanimously and is now in Senate Commerce and Labor. The hearing hasn't been scheduled in Senate yet.  
He will come back to that last one since it was mentioned during public comment.  
Assembly bill 99, deals with Medicaid reimbursement rates and providing a cost of living adjustment to all of them.  
That's going to be work sessioned in Assembly HHS tomorrow.  
Assembly bill 100 is a caregiver bill.   
That's also going to be work sessioned in assembly HHS tomorrow.  
Assembly bill 116 is the Down's Syndrome informational bill, that was heard about a week and a half ago and hasn't been scheduled for work session yet.  
Assembly bill 206, which is also going to be work sessioned in assembly HHS tomorrow is going to add a 12th seat to the Deaf Commission, which is a certified interpreter that's registered through ADSD.  
Assembly bill 259 is the subminimum wage phaseout bill and that was heard in Assembly HHS about a week and a half ago. It is exempt so it will head down to the wire on that one.  
Assembly bill 79 as he mentioned previously, was heard a little over a month ago in Assembly Government Affairs.  
The SILC, the DD council and he worked together on substantial amendments to it, and it has not been scheduled for work session yet.

Dawn Lyons: Those amendments were discussed at the meeting. Assembly bill 68 is about adding through taxation, crisis funding for behavioral health service recipients, some housing assistance. She supports the bill, and it is needed, however it unfortunately does not cover the rest of the disability community. Following the “Nothing about us, without us” movement, the bill’s authors and sponsors failed to ask the disability community when creating the bill. She hopes they will amend the bill to include more of the disability population but doubts it will as it is insured through the Division of Public and Behavioral Services.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She testified on behalf of the bill because she has assisted many of RCIL’s consumers with mental health issues, who could not get housing or services. She agreed with Dawn that the whole disability community needs services like this. Housing is what keeps vulnerable people off the street.

Sondra Cosgrove: At the last meeting, she talked about AB 135. That bill was to get homeless youth assistance in getting a birth certificate and then either getting them an ID or driver's license.  
In that hearing, Assemblywoman Gonzales brought the bill and did the explanation.  
When it came time for Q&A, it was Republican Assemblyman Gray who put his hand up first. And he is the person that is counting every nickel and making sure the money is there. And he looked at her and said, “ Why aren't you getting everybody an ID? If the government requires you to have an ID, why doesn't everybody get an ID?” Sondra and her colleagues were shocked that he said that. Assemblyman Gray said, “My family has a struggle with a brother who has mental illness and homelessness, and we struggle trying to get him an ID.” Chair Peters asked him to meet with her right after that meeting to talk with the representative from DMV and see how much that would cost.  
Sondra is watching for AB 135 to come back, and is hoping it will say, “Anyone who needs to get an ID who wants, to sign a piece of paper saying they need help will get help and a free ID.

Steven Cohen: Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen has three bills that are disability related.

One Assembly bill is about accessible museums. That was heard in Assembly Government Affairs last week, and that one is exempt. It has not been scheduled for work session yet.  
It was supposed to have been yesterday or today, but it got pulled.

Dawn Lyons: Catherine Nielsen reached out to Dawn and together they came up with some suggested language changes before they actually move that into a bill form.  
They didn't take all of the suggestions but Dawn saw what they did from what they had and they improved it greatly.  
It was really significantly singling out the blind community and Dawn and Catherine wanted to ensure that the rest of the disability community was considered as well.  
So they have put it in the language and now it is there, and they did that without taking away credit from the organizations that helped Dawn put that one together.  
They actually reached out to the disability community, which is unusual.

Steven Cohen: Assembly bill 255 concerns foster care adoptions of children with disabilities. That one is also exempt.  
That one is capped at age 18 or 19, Assemblywoman Cohen's Assembly Bill 495, the committee is sponsoring to raise it to age 21 to account for students with disabilities that may stay in school to obtain free vocational or college readiness skills.  
Assemblywoman Cohen’s minor guardianship bill was released, that will be heard by Assembly Judiciary. Steven has talked to both her and Assemblywoman Bakkus who seemed to have the two guardianship bill amendments surrounding supported decision making.

1. Update and Discussion Regarding the Following Bill Draft Requests and Bills Currently in the 82nd Session:

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Steven Cohen:

* AB37-Behavioral Health Workforce Development has five other bills.  
  Assembly bill 37 mentioned earlier was heard by Assembly Revenue earlier this month. That one is exempt.
* SB43-Deals with changes concerning the Commission on Aging, the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Commission on Services for Persons Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. One of the changes is the Senior and Disability RX Program and the other is making changes to the Commission on Services for People with Disabilities, Commission on Aging, and the Deaf Commission.  
  Both of those have been work sessioned from Senate HHS but the thing he noticed is that they've been placed on the secretary's desk.  
  He asked Dr. Cosgrove to clarify what happens when that happens?

Sondra Cosgrove: When something gets laid on the Secretary's desk, it means it's being pulled out of the process for some reason.  
And there's a number of different reasons why.  
It could be that the speaker is trying to force negotiations and it could also mean that there's something that they haven't gotten in place, the funding might not be secured yet. There's a number of thit has that could be happening with that.  
Without knowing directly from the speaker or the majority leader why that happened, all we know is it's been now put outside the process and will not move forward until it gets pulled off the desk and put back in the process.  
If it doesn't come off the desk, it's dead.

Dawn Lyons: the Senior and Disability RX Program bill is SB 4.   
That bill may have been removed because it's going to be a NAC, Nevada Administrative Code, that will be eliminated or proposed to be eliminated by Aging and Disability Services.  
Which serves the same purpose as the bill would have because they are completely changing it.  
It may just be on hold because of the recommendations for changes, she is not sure. She does not think that was part of what they wanted to eliminate.

* SB45-Concerns changes to Medicaid’s Personal Needs Allowance bill.  
  That one was heard in Senate Finance the other day.  
  He was a bit perplexed by the fiscal note and raised this during the hearing.  
  It says that if the personal needs allowance is increased, the patient liability for the facility whether it's a hospital, skilled nursing, et cetera, would decrease so then the cost to Medicaid or insurance companies would increase.  
  Shouldn't it be the complete opposite?  
  Does anybody know anything about that one?

It has literally been years since the rate was increased and people in institutions have very little money/allowance to afford even a haircut with the cost of inflation. This is a much-needed increase in personal needs allowance. Dawn can talk with Steven about it more privately, if he wanted.

* SB191-Concerns changes to Applied Behavior Analysts’ Requirements

Steven Cohen: It was referred to Senate HHS.  
It would increase the age cap for applied behavioral analysis to 26.  
The problem he sees with that one is they want to raise the fees for, BCBAs and BCABAs from 100 hours to 550 hours.

Dawn Lyons: They want to change it to a fee for service model similar to another program that they have. Because it's more in alignment with the norm, so to speak, and what their needs are.  
What they are hearing from the public is they want older children to get the same services because they have slipped through the cracks earlier, so they want the older children to start this process and at least get some services.  
But some of them depend on Medicaid or have no insurance, so they want there to be a sliding fee scale available so that more people can participate and that allows a bigger pool of participants.

* SB158-Proposes Cameras in Special Education Classrooms

Steven Cohen: This one would propose cameras in special education classrooms and that has been heard by Senate Education already.  
It is a repeat from the 2019 or 21’ or just 21’ session.  
There was a huge fiscal note and is when he saw Senator Hammond during Disability Awareness Day. He said he is looking for more detail from the school districts particularly Clark and Washoe, of what portion would be installation, what portion would be maintenance, et cetera to try to bring the fiscal note down a little bit.  
Clark County alone may have been like $14 million.

Dawn Lyons: Thanked Steven Cohen for doing all the research and keeping up with the information and bringing it to the group.

1. Approve Next Meeting Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date of May 18, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. **(For Possible Action).**

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

* + Governor’s Government efficiency bill.
  + Senate Bill 411 would seek to make the autism court statewide and then would also revise the membership of the autism commission to make the be school district employees non‑voting members and making changes to the quorum et cetera to account for that.
  + AB 422, the third autism related bill which would, based on a suspected diagnosis, refer children to either Early Intervention and/or the Autism Treatment Assistance Program.
  + The Senior Rx bill
  + The disability Rx bill
  + SB 431
  + SB 246 The English proficiency bill, it should include sign language and other communication methods that relate to the disability community.
  + SB 242 is the other election bill which would increase the number of voting booths for people with disabilities and people who are elderly from one to two and also gives the local election officials latitude that if they find there's more of a disability population in a precinct is what it's called for election purposes, they have the right to add additional booths beyond the two.
  + AB 69
  + AB 195 Student forgiveness
  + SB 135
  + The Assembly Judiciary Committee bill on foster care support for people with ‑‑ for children with disabilities.  
    Assembly Joint Resolution 1 from last session, that was the one that would make changes to the constitution to better reflect disability language as it exists today.  
    That one passed the full assembly within the last couple of days.  
    And it's now been referred to Senate Legislative Operations and Elections.

Steven Cohen: By the time this group meets next, will be a day from committee passage in the second house. So that means if a bill started in the Assembly, it should be in the Senate by then. And vice versa. That is where we will be in terms of the session calendar.  
This group will await any other bills that folks may be interested in before sending off the agenda to the DAG.

Links shared in the chat:

Sondra Cosgrove Vote Nevada : Here is a story on the school districts becoming landlords: <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/as-teachers-struggle-to-find-affordable-housing-ccsd-looks-to-get-in-landlord-business>

Sondra Cosgrove Vote Nevada : That's why the Rural Behavioral Health Policy Board sponsored AB37 to create a behavioral health workforce center at UNLV: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023/Bill/9566/Overview>

Steven Cohen : Here’s an old presentation from DOE’s OSRL: <https://DOE.NV.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards_Commissions_Councils/State_Board_of_Education/2017/December/Item11NevadasAnti-BullyingLaws2017.pdf>

Jennifer Kane, NV : Safe Voice: <http://safevoicenv.org/>

Jennifer Kane, NV : Nevada Department of Education Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment: <https://doe.nv.gov/SafeRespectfulLearning/Home/>

Sondra Cosgrove Vote Nevada : This is the meeting link to read the bill: <https://vote-nevada-blog.org/2023/03/30/vote-nevada-update-3-29-2023/>

Sondra Cosgrove Vote Nevada : <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023/Bill/10447/Overview>

1. Public Comment

(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

John Rosenlund: Just wanted to make a comment and it was based on what something Dr. Cosgrove had said about the engagement with legislative people and people bringing something up that led to changes.  
Somebody asked a question it reminded him of the time when he worked for the Northern Nevada Center For Independent Living and they had a staff person down there providing education for disability related bills, budgets, et cetera.  
This individual always had the receipts and always had a plan and always had the data.  
And being there and providing the education and factual hard data made so much of a change.  
If you're there speaking and you have the backup and you're there and able to speak about how many people are waiting and what services and what those things mean, it can change what happens in the legislative hearing, it can change ‑‑ push them to ask state agencies to do some revisions.  
It's amazing what can happen with a little bit of education.  
When she spoke about that, it reminded him of a little over 15 years ago when that happened.  
It was a big impact to have someone there that knows what they are talking about and can speak to that. When it clicks with that legislative body, it really does make an impact.

Steven Cohen: One other bill is being heard in Senate HHS on Tuesday.  
It is SB 315. Which is the people with disabilities personal rights bill, being sponsored by Senator Scheible. Steven will be testifying on that one.

1. Adjournment

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

This meeting was adjourned at: 3:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Wendy Thornley at (775) 220-7941 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may email her at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) According to NRS 241.020, supporting materials for this meeting is available at:3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Wendy Thornley at (775) 220-7941 or by email at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov).

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

Notice of this meeting was posted at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite181, Carson City, NV 89706

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