

**Minutes**

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

 Legislative Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2023

 1:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held via video-conference only:

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

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1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

SILC Members Present: Dee Dee Foremaster, Ace Patrick, Linda Vejvoda

Guests Present: Steven Cohen, Kelcy Meyer, Sondra Cosgrove, Autumn Blattman, Catherine Nielsen, Dora Martinez, Cindi Swanson

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

CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

Staff: Dawn Lyons and Wendy Thornley

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.)

Cindi Swanson: There is a woman in Boulder City, NV who uses a wheelchair, Boulder City sidewalks are narrow, old, and broken up.

For several years, when this woman gets to her sidewalk that is dangerous for her motorized, heavy wheelchair, she will move into the bicycle lane in the street. She has been doing this for a long time.

This week a police officer threatened to ticket her because she was in the street, and she said that she must be in the street because the sidewalk is unsafe for her.

She rolled home and he chased after her and explained to her support person that she could get ticketed. Cindi and her husband wondered if there is a law that if someone must be on the sidewalk, is there a law in Nevada that says there must be sidewalks?

Her son lives in a subdivision in Las Vegas that has no sidewalks, and it is in an incorporated area.

This will probably come up at the Boulder City council meeting.

She has also sent documentation and laws that police must be trained in how to support people with disabilities.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 3/30/2023 **(For Possible Action)**

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Ace Patrick motioned to approve the draft minutes. Dee Dee Foremaster seconded. The motion was carried.

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

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Dawn Lyons, Executive Director

Sondra Cosgrove: The Governor has vetoed some bills and has threatened to veto the state budget. She has talked to reporters and they've asked her why the governor would veto his own budget.

It is because if they don't have a budget that triggers a special session and they must go into special session, when the governor calls a special session he gets into a proclamation and sets the agenda for the special session.

He can do a special session to allow them to only talk about his bills.

Even though there hasn't been a lot of movement on SB 431, she has not seen much more about that.

She does know that Chair Flores was talking with the Governor's office about ways to make that bill better so that it could be passed but she has not seen exactly what they are talking about.

Even if that bill doesn't make it through by June 5th, there's a possibility that they are going to have a special session and just the Governor's bills will be on the agenda, and they will have to be voted on.

There's no way to kill them in special session.

Steven Cohen: The next Employment First meeting will be on Monday at 9:00 am. He reached out to the Association for People Supporting Employment First (APSE), and attended a webinar the previous Friday, in New Jersey, his home state.

It mentioned that Employment First was codified in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). It was clarified that the principles are what's codified in the definition of Competitive Integrated Employment.

An APSE representative may be joining Steven and others on Monday, if she is not able to join, Steven will try to get her for the next meeting.

Sondra Cosgrove: They know that DETR already works with WIOA grants.

If it's already in there, that would already be something that DETR had accepted.

Steven Cohen: The reason he thinks the Governor proposed to not get rid of DETR but reorganize it is because of unemployment.

Steven does have some concerns about it, but it wasn't enough to oppose it when it was heard on the Senate side. He is open to continuing the discussion with Chair Flores and/or the governor's office on that one.

Sondra Cosgrove: From what Chair Flores said during that hearing, there's a possibility that that bill could get pulled apart into other bills, because the Nevada Way program doesn't really fit with anything else within that bill.

There were things in it that Chair Flores was more comfortable with, and they pulled it out and may integrate it into other bills.

Dawn Lyons: She can see them taking it apart. She is concerned because a lot of work and progress that has been done may be lost in the new agenda process.

Sondra Cosgrove: She could see the Governor being willing to take that piece out and set it to the side so the rest of SB 431 could make it through.

Steven Cohen: If they can't get it into a bill this session, apparently Senator Lange is willing to carry it for the next session.

Cindi Swanson: Perhaps by being patient and waiting until the next session, they will have more time to capture all the things that they want instead of being “kind of in this” and “kind of in that”. Waiting and having it packaged properly makes some sense.

Dawn Lyons: It sounds like this group is having an Employment First discussion instead of Monday at their Employment First committee meeting.

She clarified how SILC subcommittees work and that they require two SILC members to be a subcommittee. That means that anyone present can ask to speak.

1. Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding the Following Non-Exempt Alive Bills Currently in the 82nd Session **(For Possible Action)**
* AB 68: Regional Facilities Assessments

Dee Dee Foremaster: AB 68 is vital, she stated that seriously mentally ill children are being shipped out of the state for years with the parents signing away their parental rights which is rather horrifying.

Dawn Lyons: AB 68 is a reaction to the Department of Justice (DOJ)'s investigation and their finding of Nevada being guilty of violating ADA and Olmstead.

It is very important as SB 68 which the group has spoken about, because it does have to do with providing housing to persons who are mentally ill, persons with traumatic brain injuries, and people that fall through the cracks typically.

The SILC, put out a news article through Public News Service saying it's just not enough. Not that it wasn't a good start, but it's just not enough and that much more is needed in Nevada.

* AB 69: Mental Health
* AB 78: Jobs and Day Training Medication Administration

Steven Cohen: This is a situation where if a person needs midday medication, there needs to be a certified nurse to administer that medication. Even if it's in pill form.

This bill would exempt them from that requirement.

This bill has been read twice in the Senate but keeps getting pushed.

It will be voted on quickly and then would go to the Governor's desk from there.

* AB 116: Down's Syndrome Information Act

Steven Cohen: This bill would require providers in the medical field to provide information on Down's Syndrome for either prenatal or post-natal diagnoses.

Cindi Swanson: It is an important aspect for people who have prenatal inflammation. She thought it was a federal regulation.

The Down's Syndrome groups in the Clark County area, were promoting it and there seems to be some push back.

Steven Cohen: This one has passed the Second House Committee and was pulled from a vote the day of this meeting.

It was amended in the Assembly and passed unanimously in the Assembly.

It's just waiting for a Senate vote at this point.

* AB 137: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis

This item was tabled.

* AB 161: Driver’s License/Registration Disability Designation

Dawn Lyons: Catherine Nielsen has been doing most of the footwork on this between the Deaf Commission, SILC, and on behalf the DD Council.

Because the Disability Community members have very strong opinions about what information they would like to disclose publicly about their disabilities.

The letter is public, and she can post it with the materials later after this meeting.

The letter is from the three councils, giving background and information about how they feel about their disability diagnoses being public information and how they are opposed to the potential discrimination it could cause.

Not only would they prefer it to be voluntary, but they would also like to see the proper training rather than having to put a designation on an ID that doesn't necessarily mean anything unless there is training behind it.

That was something else that Catherine put into the letter from them.

Steven Cohen: He and Catherine had a productive meeting with the ACLU the morning of this meeting. They came up with a compromise to switch “communication impairment” to “communication need” as the compromise that they came up with.

And then “impairment” except for language disorders, will become “to communicate that affects the ability of the person to communicate” to be consistent throughout.

They agreed to hold off on the training piece until next Session because it would potentially not be germane to the original bill and Catherine Nielsen will be running a campaign around it to promote more training for law enforcement.

This was a combination with Assembly Bill 133, which is dead.

AB 133 was originally Deaf and Hard of Hearing and then AB 161 was originally autism only. So they merged to create this communication need.

* AB 206: Deaf Commission Interpreter Seat

Steven Cohen: AB 206, would add a 12th seat to the Deaf Commission where that person is a registered interpreter through Aging and Disability Services.

He will be proposing next Session to add a 13th seat, even if it's a public seat.

It's typical that the Boards, Commissions, and Councils have an odd number of seats to avoid potential for tied votes.

* AB 242: Elections

Sondra Cosgrove: This bill made it out of Committee the day of this meeting. It says that if someone is voting in person, they must use a machine, they cannot use paper ballots.

Dora Martinez: When she went to her voting poll location, they did not have internet temporarily. Some of the ADA coordinators did not know how to use the machines. This bill will help implement accessibility and people will have a choice of using the ADA machines. It’s a great bill.

* AB 246: Elections

Sondra Cosgrove: This is a language access bill. The Chinese community, largely in Clark County, make the argument they are large enough in numbers, that they would qualify federally to have voting materials written in Mandarin.

And they are looking at census data and records.

Instead of having to go through that process and then not being able to use Mandarin in the next election cycle, this bill here would allow Secretary of State and registrars to have a certain amount of discretion to provide materials in a language that's being requested by community members.

This is a bill that's permissive and allows that to happen.

Some of the other requirements about making sure sample ballots come in preferred languages and if there's signs at the polling location those are also in all preferred languages.

Dora Martinez: American Sign Language (ASL) is also being requested because English is not everyone’s first language.

* AB 265: Mental Health

(This was discussed previously.)

* AB 286: Elections

Sondra Cosgrove: There's a lot of disinformation going around about this bill.

This is not voting from prison; this is not somebody who has been convicted of a crime and sent to prison to serve a sentence. This is saying that when somebody has been arrested on suspicion of committing a crime and for whatever reason they are being held in jail before their trial, technically they are not guilty until proven guilty, so they don't lose their right to vote unless they have committed a felony and sent to prison.

They want to make sure if people are in jail awaiting trial pre-conviction, during an election time, they would be able to vote from jail.

They would be able to have their mail-in ballot come to them, fill it out and have someone deliver it for them.

This bill will make sure people are not being disenfranchised because they are in jail on suspicion of, but not convicted of a crime.

That one is still making its way through.

Democrats are in favor and Republicans are not.

Technically, if a person were in jail and their mail-in ballot came to their house right now, they could have someone bring it to them and fill it out.

They're just making sure if that happens that that person is not going to be in trouble.

Dora Martinez: Hopes that ASL is included.

* AB 302: Inmate Integration Driver's License Access

Sondra Cosgrove: People who have committed crimes would be able to get a driver's license. It’s important for everyone who has been convicted of certain crimes and their ability to get an ID or driver's license.

It is criminal justice related, but it's also related to people who have committed certain types of crimes, but they would be now allowed to get a driver's license.

The discussion over voter ID was shut down but because it is never talked about, getting everybody an ID, there hasn't been enough invested into the DMV to make sure it has enough capacity to get everybody an ID.

So hopefully they will figure out how to work through this because it's important to make sure that everybody can get an ID and not be stopped because they can't get a birth certificate.

AB 135 says a person must have a Social Security Number to get a DMV issued ID and need to have a DMV issued ID to get a Social Security number.

They had to exchange that.

They had to say somebody can get their ID and sign saying they are eligible to get a Social Security Number, their ID and get their Social Security number.

So they had to change the law.

Because it was a catch 22 and they couldn't get either.

Dawn Lyons: Thanked Sondra Cosgrove for explaining the bills and bringing attention to them.

Sondra Cosgrove: What's interesting is both those bills had unanimous support.

Not one person said no.

Assemblyman Gray, a very conservative Republican who watches how the money is spent, said. “Why don't we write to say the state has to give everybody an ID?” and then he said, “My brother has mental health issues and sometimes has been homeless and we've had problems getting him an ID”.

Ace Patrick: Asked what the status of these bills was.

Sondra Cosgrove: They're having to decide how they're going to implement them. They would like them to be implemented starting July 1, the new fiscal year.

The DMV is saying they have a certain amount of capacity so they could probably process some free IDs and drivers tests but they're not sure after a certain point of capacity if it would be too much for their old computer system, they would then have to go in and manually key in all this information.

The DMV is asking to wait two years before they implement them because then they will have new computers and new software. Legislators are saying no, they want it implemented now. Both Republicans and Democrats voted in favor of those bills.

* AB 414: Health Care Power of Attorney

This item was tabled.

* AB 422: Fetal Alcohol/Autism Spectrum Disorders Pilot Program

This item was tabled.

* AJR 1 (81st Session): Persons with Disabilities Constitutional Amendment

Steven Cohen: This one would remove outdated disability language from the Constitution. It is scheduled to be heard within the hour for a work session. He asked Sondra Cosgrove to clarify what the constitutional amendment process is.

Sondra Cosgrove: The legislative route for constitutional amendment means it must pass, written in exactly the same way in consecutive legislative sessions, back-to-back. After it's passed a second time it directly goes to the ballot for the people to vote on in the next cycle so that would be 2024.

Constitutional amendments don't go to the Governor's desk.

There's no possibility of a veto or getting caught up in partisan fighting.

As soon as it's passed by both houses it goes to the Secretary of State's office with instructions to put it on the ballot in 2024.

Dawn Lyons: Reminded everyone that this is the constitutional amendment that SILC members gave their personal testimony on, and the SILC wrote an educational letter about this as well.

It's about the derogatory language that was in the state’s constitution for people with disabilities and didn't use Person First language. The SILC wanted to make sure that was updated and supported this bill from the beginning.

* SB 4: Senior and Disability Rx Program

Dawn Lyons: SB 4 is the Senior and Disability RX program phase-out.

They are changing the program so they are taking it out of legislation, basically, and then putting it in differently.

Steven Cohen: SB 4 just passed out of assembly Health and Human Services the prior day.

* SB 43: Aging and Disability Services (ADSD) Boards and Commissions

Dawn Lyons: SB 43 is the bill about Boards and Commissions, and changes some of the membership of some like the Commission on Aging (COA), and some of the requirements are that the CSPD report to the SILC and work with them on the SPIL, so there is no overlapping of efforts and services.

There were some Deaf Commission membership changes there as well.

* SB 68: Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health

Dee Dee Foremaster: She wanted this one to go through. It has supported living for people with mental illness and who have chronically been on the streets.

Steven Cohen: Asked if this was the “facility assessment bill” and the assessments are paying for supported living.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Confirmed it. It provides people to go into the home and help with supported living arrangements.

Steven Cohen: That would be one of the regional centers though, wouldn't it?

Dee Dee Foremaster: No, because this isn't just for people with developmental disabilities, it would be for people with traumatic brain injuries as well as people who have been chronically homeless or seriously mentally ill.

Dawn Lyons: Asked Dee Dee to explain more about the bill and what she hoped to come out of it.

Dee Dee Foremaster: People who have been on the streets for quite some time, have lost their independent living skills. They have forgotten how to live independently in a house or apartment basically.

They just need a little follow through and help in that respect.

People with severe mental illness need monitoring as far as medication if that's what they have asked for assistance on. It includes helping people to get back and forth to their mental health appointments. It has a lot to do with working with the courts if they've been arrested, and helping them to be able to stay in secure housing.

It's a supported housing bill.

Dawn Lyons: Who is responsible for this? Does this bill create positions within the state, or does it create a requirement for facilities to have an assessment or how exactly does this bill come across?

Dee Dee Foremaster: Probably through Mental Health. It might be someone who has cognitive limitations and severe mental illness. They might get referred to Rural Regional and Rural Regional decides that the person does not fit Rural Regional’s criteria because they're mentally ill first, and so there's always this constant ongoing battle on whether they are mentally ill or have cognitive problems.

Therefore the person falls through the gaps in the system and gets no assistance.

It will probably be run through Carson City Behavioral Health and have attendants that will assist people in having a better quality of life and learn to live in a sheltered environment successfully.

Dawn Lyons: Sounds like it creates the services necessary for people who have received these assessments. But it doesn’t seem to address who's responsible for doing the assessments themselves.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She is not sure who will end up being responsible, possibly Aging Services and then to the local entities like Carson City Behavioral Health or whatever health organization in that area who needs those supports in place.

She wants to stop the cycle of putting people into housing, then they go off their medications, they then cycle back, get in trouble with the police, the police arrest them, they end up back in mental health, and back into unsupported housing.

Dawn Lyons: Asked the group if anyone knew who would be doing these assessments.

Steven Cohen: DCFS is running it, it passed Senate Judiciary last week and it was read the second time in the Senate the day of this meeting, which means it could be voted on as soon as the next day or afterwards, seeing no money element of it, it could go to the Governor's desk from there.

Dee Dee Foremaster: This will save the state a great deal of money because the people will quit cycling through the courts, the emergency rooms, and the sheriff's office. It will keep people who need services to be able to successfully live independently in the community. They will be able to do that with attendants assisting them and eventually those attendants will be able to fade out if that's possible.

Ace Patrick: Asked Dee Dee if this would be for people who are already being housed either institutionalized or in group homes, because the state still does not have enough housing. If they are unhoused, how will that support happen?

How are you going to get services to them?

Dee Dee Foremaster: Hopefully it will be people in existing housing as well as people who are transitioning off the streets into stable housing.

Ace Patrick: Can think of complexes in the Washoe County area that were housing people who have addiction problems, mental illness and they did not fit in very well with the community in which they were living. They didn’t have the support.

Dee Dee Foremaster: In certain areas it's better than others.

It's not good in Carson City.

Linda Vejvoda: Motels are being torn down in Carson City.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Some are in Carson, but Lyon County is also terrible.

Dawn Lyons: Everyone would like to see some of these things happen. She is going to read the text of the bill and will bring the information back to the next Legislative Subcommittee meeting. She has not read all the bills on this agenda. She will be reading the rest of the bills and encourages everyone to do the same. She will send out some information on this important subject.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Has not had time to read the entire bill. It will allow people with severe mental illness to have the stability that they need for housing, to be successful.

Steven Cohen: This bill is brought on behalf of one of the rural counties, they are trying to create parity with Clark and Washoe Counties in terms of the fee that's paid for regional facilities for the treatment and rehab of children.

He thinks this bill might be a response to the Department of Justice’s (DOJ), investigation that said that people are being sent out of state because there's limited treatment options here.

* SB 119: Telehealth

This item was tabled.

* SB 191: Changes to Applied Behavior Analysts’ Requirements
* SB 279: State as Model Employer
* SB 315: Persons with Disabilities' Bill of Rights
* SB 411: Changes to Autism Court and/or Autism Commission Membership
* SB 422: Emergency Management

This is about third-party delivery robot drones in the community and on university campuses. It was agreed that it’s better to have it on the university campuses.

Dora Martinez: Joined Steven and Cindi in talking with the representative for the Starship company that makes these robots. Now it's strictly for the universities and some community colleges, but not in residential areas.

They also advised the company on making their commercial more inclusive of ASL users.

Their audio advertisement was not a hundred percent well put together.

Cindi Swanson: Feels the discussion went well and she feels good that it will only be on campuses. The company is very willing to work with the disability community. She feels confident that it's going to be useful to those areas.

Dora Martinez: Believes that if the municipality wants to have the robots in their local places, they will need to do another Bill Draft Request.

1. Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding the Potentially Exempt Alive Bills Currently in the 82nd Session **(For Possible Action)**
* AB 37: Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center

Sondra Cosgrove: This creates the Behavioral Health Workforce Center and Nevada System of Higher Education and will probably be housed at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV).

UNLV would be the hub and then it would have spokes out to the other institutions of higher education in the community like University of Nevada Reno (UNR).

They are going to hire people to make sure that workforce development for behavioral and mental health professions are integrated. Going off in a model where they have mentoring that goes to the middle schools to make sure if someone wants to go into those fields, they get mentoring all the way K through 12th and then able to go to the community college and then to one of the universities.

Right now that bill is passed and looks like they're going to get the money, $2.1 million.

They quibbled a little bit over spending $20,000 on making sure they could have contact with the people in Nebraska, by flying back and forth, but besides that there was no pushback against it so that bill would go through.

The companion bill to that was AB 69. It's not dead.

That's the one that says if you come to Nevada to teach in the Workforce Center and you have a student loan, they forgive the loan.

That one is not dead.

AB 37 is going to move and is going to get signed.

We're not sure about AB 69 yet, though.

AB 45 is the Treasurer’s bill that would provide tuition assistance for people who want to go into behavioral and mental health degrees and if they work here would get tuition assistance.

But it would be nice if we had AB 69 as well.

That means we can get professors to come here and work in those degree programs.

Dawn Lyons: Because the SILC had a presentation on this earlier in the year, it's good to hear that it's making it through, and it's supported and it's coming out alive and well and that this is going to be the reality soon.

So exciting to hear that news. Good to know that because it was a really well written bill, and it was thoughtful about all considerations in regards of behavioral health education. It was an amazing bill and glad to see that it's coming through.

Now, if they could just make psyche education free, then she would go into the profession

Sondra Cosgrove: Fingers crossed that AB 69 will go through because they can get more people to teach and start working with the Treasurer’s bill getting tuition taken care of. Dr. Sara Hunt, the one that did the presentation on the bill for the SILC said as soon as it's passed, she's willing to come back and talk about implementation and how fast they can get that done.

Dee Dee Foremaster: It is so needed in the state of Nevada to have mental health professionals, there's a horrible shortage, and people are waiting months just to see someone.

Dawn Lyons: She had talked previously about her own daughter's experience of being dropped by her provider because they just didn't have the time to see her and couldn't prioritize her.

That's terrible because she couldn't find another provider.

Dawn and her daughter had to drive out of state to get her to another provider and they were lucky enough to be able to do that.

It's a terrible problem here in Nevada.

Sondra Cosgrove: One of the things Dr. Hunt will talk about is that they are currently reworking how these degree programs work to make them called stackable degrees.

So instead of saying someone can't do anything until they have a four-year degree or six-year degree, have people earning certifications every semester so they can start getting into the field and providing services the minute they qualify to do that.

It should help so that people don't have to wait six years before Nevada has enough providers.

Steven Cohen: AB 242 made it out of committee on the second side.

AB 242 says if someone is voting in person they must use the machine, they cannot use paper.

The reason this bill ended up getting written is because Elko and Nye County during the last election cycle they wanted everybody to vote with paper and doing recounts.

It became very chaotic.

One of the problems they ran into is that according to federal law, when a person goes to vote in person, everything there must be ADA compliant, and they were going to have one voting machine in each location and everybody else would be voting by paper, but people with disabilities if they self-identified might be able to use the machines.

So the ACLU backed this law to say you can't quiz people on their disability when they come to vote. That's a violation of their civil rights.

And so instead of what they are saying if you want to vote by paper you'll get a mail in ballot to use at home and you can drop it off, if but if you vote in person you need to vote by the machine and that made it out of second committee.

Sondra Cosgrove: AB 246 is the language access bill. The Chinese community especially in Clark County, is trying to make the argument that they are large enough in numbers that they would qualify federally to have voting materials written in Mandarin.

They are looking at census data and records.

Instead of having to go through that process and then not being able to use Mandarin in the next election cycle, this bill would allow Secretary of State and registrars to have a certain amount of discretion to provide materials in a language that's being requested by community members.

It's a bill that's permissive that allows that to happen.

This is also some of the other requirements about making sure sample ballots come in preferred languages and if there's signs at the polling location those are also in all preferred languages.

This bill is still making its way through.

Dora Martinez: In AB 246, they also made it clear about ASL too, because not everybody reads English.

Regarding AB 242, when she went to the polling location, some of the ADA coordinators didn’t know how to work the machines. This bill will help implement that better and then people can have a choice of doing the ADA machine there.

It's a great bill.

Sondra Cosgrove: AB 286 the inmate access bill. There's a lot of disinformation going around about this one.

This is not voting from prison; this is not someone who has been convicted of a crime and sent to prison to serve a sentence. This is saying that when someone has been arrested on suspicion of committing a crime and for whatever reason they are being held in jail before their trial, technically they are not guilty until adjudicated guilty, so they don't lose their right to vote unless they have committed a felony and sent to prison.

They want to make sure that if people are in jail awaiting trial conviction, during an election time, they would be able to vote from jail.

They would be able to have their mail-in ballot come to them, fill it out and have someone deliver it for them.

To make sure people are not being disenfranchised because they are in jail on suspicion of a crime but not convicted of a crime.

That one is still making its way the legislative process.

Obviously that one is breaking down by partisan, so Democrats are in favor and Republicans aren't.

Technically if you were in jail and your mail in ballot came to your house right now you could have someone bring it over to you and fill it out.

Dora Martinez: Hopes that ASL will be included on that bill as well.

* AB 99: Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

Steven Cohen: This seeks to provide a cost-of-living increase for all Medicaid rates. This bill is still in Ways and Means.

* AB 100: Family Caregiver Program, that was heard in Senate HHS two weeks ago and hopefully will go to work session in the next day or so.
* AB 135: Homelessness
* AB 138: Behavioral Health Integration
* AB 195: Inmate Integration Driver's License Access

Sondra Cosgrove: This is Melissa Hardy's bill that says for a year after someone has been incarcerated, they can take the driver’s test for free, get a driver's license for free or get a DMV issued ID for free. AB 135 is anybody under the age of 25 that's eligible to get an ID but can’t get assistance getting birth certificates and be able to get either an ID or driver's license for free.

The problem with those bills is that the DMV is saying they are going through a computer and software upgrade.

And so they don't want to key in a bunch of code to enable AB 135 and 195 and must redo it once they install new software.

DMV is saying they wouldn't be able to follow these laws until 2026.

Legislators are pushing back saying, no, it's very important that folks can get an ID because you must have an ID to apply for social services, rent an apartment, pretty much do anything.

She thinks there's going to be pushback from the legislators on the DMV to go ahead and key in the changes now and then redo it when they get the new software.

So it's not money on those, it's just wrangling with the DMV.

* AB 259: Sub-Minimum Wage Phase-Out

Steven Cohen: This is still in Ways and Means.

Cindi Swanson: Had a question, the subminimum wage initially came out at the beginning of the session. Some of the things that she thought she saw was that it wouldn't pay subminimum wage to people with developmental disabilities.

She thought that there is a need to communicate that 14c needs to be eliminated from the state.

That means people who are blind and wheelchairs, cross categorically.

As it stands now, is that what it looks like? Or is it a separate piece for individuals with disabilities?

Dawn Lyons: It does eliminate the 14c waiver.

* AB 252: Accessible Museums

Dora Martinez: The IT community thinks the fiscal note is going to go higher than what's already on AB 252, but they just need to turn on the switch and make it accessible on the museum websites.

She is talking with the IT folks and Linda DeSantis from Enterprise IT Services, is off until June 5th, so they are talking through the staff and hopefully will get that in before it does die.

Cindi Swanson: Her husband looked at the plans for the museum in Boulder City which is a state museum, and he was very disappointed with what the plans looked like.

She talked to the City Manager because he's going to be in Boulder City and he said, “If they get a building permit, I think we need to remind these folks that every structure, everything we do has to be born accessible. Got to start off accessible.”

She is very concerned about this piece.

While Dora is working with the people in Carson City, Cindi is reminding the people down South to not accept these plans unless they're accessible.

As an example, they have a building in Henderson that is an ice-skating rink which is new, and handicapped parking is on the end of the building and the handicapped door is on the other side of the building, which in an ice-skating rink, that's a block and a half long.

DOJ is coming after people not so much for meeting the margins of the law, but access.

If someone is in a wheelchair trying to get out of the place and get to where the handicapped door is, it becomes tough.

She reminds them about “Nothing About Us, Without Us”, and to please make it accessible. That is her concern with museums.

With every building that goes up in this state, that is everything, websites, everything, must be borne accessible.

She thinks there are going to be real struggles with this museum.

Dawn Lyons: Agreed with Cindi. Dawn and Catherine Nielsen put a letter together and advised people behind that bill that the SILC would appreciate if other people with disabilities were also taken into consideration, not just the blind, and that it was important to remember that everyone needs accessibility.

The bill language was revised to include consulting other disability organizations besides just the blind organizations. She appreciated their effort.

She feels that lawmakers need to be reminded about it until they get it.

* AB 255: Foster Care Disability Support Expansion
* SB 45: Changes to Medicaid’s Personal Needs Allowance,

Steven Cohen: This would change the personal needs allowance to match the PNA for supported living arrangements and group homes.

That one has not been updated since the early nineties

Dawn Lyons: She listened in on this discussion and there was some opposition to it. She was surprised because as a person who has worked in high dollar Medicaid programs in the past, she is quite familiar with that tiny little allowance that people are given when they are in an institution, and it's pathetic and pitiful and been like that too long. She can't imagine that it could be that high of a dollar item that there would be any reason not to give people a little bit more to exist on.

She thinks it's $30 or $35. The majority was not opposed, they were in favor of giving people a raise.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Feels that the amount of pay for the people who work for Medicaid is pathetic.

* SB 158: Proposes Cameras in Special Education Classrooms
* SB 237: Crisis Intervention Hotline

Sondra Cosgrove: The new mental health emergency number is 988 instead of 911. It has a small fee that's going to be associated with everybody's cell phone bill that will go into a special account to fund 988 to make sure it always has operators, there's always somebody to get you connected and make sure it stays fiscally sound.

Even though it's technically raising a fee it had enough support to make it through.

The following is a discussion regarding AB 79, and SB 279.

Steven Cohen: AB 79 was regarding the 700-Hour Program and that bill is dead. AB 259 is still in Ways.

SB 279 is still in Finance.

AB 269 corrects the subminimum wage phase out.

SB 279 is regarding Nevada being a model employer. That wasn’t tied in with the Governor’s bill on employment. They replaced AB 79 with SB 279. Essentially to make the state walk the walk and talk the talk as being the gold standard for employment for people with disabilities.

Cindi Swanson: When the subminimum wage initially came out at the beginning of the session, one of the things that she thought she saw, was that there wouldn't be pay for subminimum wage to people with developmental disabilities.

She felt there was a need to state the want to eliminate 14c from the state.

That means people who are blind and wheelchairs, cross categorically.

So as it stands now, is that what it looks like or is it a separate piece for searching individuals with disabilities?

Dawn Lyons: In the bill it does specify 14C.

It's just that the language was what was being pushed out as much.

Steven Cohen: Section 14C of the Fair Labor Standards Act which was enacted in 1938.

Essentially stopped, in 2025, Section eight of the bill speaks specifically to 14C.

* SB 431: Executive Branch Reorganization

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

1. Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding the Following Dead Bills Currently in the 82nd Session **(For Possible Action)**
* AB 79: 700 Hour Program
* AB 133: Driver’s License/Registration Disability Designation
* AB 435: Behavioral Health Co-Occurring Disorders
* AB 446: Minor Guardianships
* AB 453: Foster Care Disability Support Expansion

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

This item was tabled except for the discussion regarding the &00 Hour program.

1. Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding Budgets of Interest Currently in the 82nd Session **(For Possible Action)**
* Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
* Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)
* Department of Education (DOE)

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

 This item was tabled

1. Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding Legislative Priorities to Carry Forward During the 2023-2024 Interim and/or 83rd Session **(For Possible Action)**

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

This item was tabled

1. Discussion and Announcements Regarding Outside and Partner Organization Events and/or Information

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

Sondra Cosgrove: On the East side of Las Vegas, there is a group who live there that are thinking about starting a civic engagement working group.

One of the things that people want to talk about is that in Clark County, there are a lot of closed Kmart stores that have been sitting empty.

The Attorney General's office announced that the county is getting about $152 million from an opioid settlement and that money must be used for addiction treatment, behavioral health treatment among other things.

She reached out to the Clark County Commissioner and asked if there would be a way for Clark County to apply for some of that money to purchase one of those buildings.

The one that sits on Sahara across from the DMV and then try and make that a one stop shop.

All the social services, cooling centers, transitional housing, but it wouldn't be in anybody's neighborhood. They could also transition other empty buildings that are eyesores into actual centers where people can get out of the heat and go there for social services.

 This could be done up North as well.

Dawn Lyons: Dee Dee could use that information as well since she is trying to do the same in Carson City.

Dee Dee Foremaster: The former children’s home is sitting empty in the middle of Carson City. She has approached the mayor several times. She would also like to use the old Kmart building for a social service building and possibly turn it into small apartments. The sheriff is behind that idea but the building costs $5 million.

Sondra Cosgrove: She is a Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commissioner. Through that commission they were able to get a partnership between the city and private organizations for the hotels and downtown motor courts that were going to be torn down. Because the buildings fell under historic preservation they were able to stop the demolition and get them refurbished and the city partnered with another group to make them into transitional housing.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She will investigate it.

Dawn Lyons: Thanked Sondra for the update and offered the SILC to help where it can.

Ace Patrick: This is exciting, and Ace knows of several buildings in the Sparks area that are vacant.

Sondra Cosgrove: Vote Nevada will have a legislative roundup meeting on June 10th, to talk about what passed and died and they want to have a community focused discussion about bills that never get hearings.

They will look at bills that need to be fixed but unfortunately because of the partisanship between the two parties, a minority backed bill doesn't have a chance to get heard.

She would like to come up with some way to say stop doing that.

Is there some way just to say you must have a hearing so if we have a bill we can come speak?

1. Discussion and Approve Next Meeting Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date July 6, 2023, at 1pm **(For Possible Action)**

Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

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.)

Dora Martinez: The Blind Center is working with the DMV on a link about people getting their driver’s license and it will be part of their testing.

Cindi Swanson: There's a young woman here who lives in Boulder City who's 18 years old who worked on that legislation.

Ace Patrick: Has almost been hit by cars that did not recognize the white cane that Ace uses.

Dora Martinez: She takes a lot of public buses and there are some people who abuse drugs, there are some bad actors that abuse that.

Ace Patrick: Thanked everyone who is tracking the different bills and updating the meeting participants.

1. Adjournment

 Steven Cohen, Subcommittee Chair

 Meeting adjourned at 3:03 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 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 According to NRS 241.020, supporting materials for this meeting are 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.

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

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