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**Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC)**

**Draft Minutes**

**Date and Time of Meeting:**

Wednesday & Thursday, October 4 & 5, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

**Location of Meeting:**

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://us02theyb.zoom.us/j/9299041434?pwd=NmM5Tk1Od3ltRzg1enhRYTU3WDdUZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9299041434?pwd=NmM5Tk1Od3ltRzg1enhRYTU3WDdUZz09)

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

Password: NVSILC (case sensitive)

**Date Published:** 9/11/2023

**Draft Minutes**

1. **Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions:**

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

**10/4/23 Attendance:**

Members Present: Havander Davis, Vickie Essner, Jennifer Kane, Sabra McWhirter, Raquel O’Neil, , Cheyenne Pasquale, Renee Portnell, Ace Patrick, Linda Vejvoda, Peter Whittingham, Dee Dee Foremaster

Members Excused Absent:, Obioma Officer, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

Members Unexcused Absent: Mary Evilsizer, Kate Osti

Guests: John Rosenlund, Jack Mayes, Cindi Swanson, Lori Lutu, Lance Ledet,

CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

ASL Interpreters: Elizabeth Anthony & Valerie Sturm.

SILC Staff: Dawn Lyons & Wendy Thornley

**10/5/23 Attendance:**

Members Present: Havander Davis, Vickie Essner, Mary Evilsizer, Jennifer Kane, Raquel O’Neil, Cheyenne Pasquale, Renee Portnell, Linda Vejvoda, Peter Whittingham, Dee Dee Foremaster,

Members Excused Absent: Obioma Officer, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Ace Patrick,

Members Unexcused Absent: Kate Osti, Sabra McWhirter,

Guests: Lisa Bonie, Lori Lutu, Richard Blanchette, Cindi Swanson

CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

ASL Interpreters: Elizabeth Anthony & Valerie Sturm.

SILC Staff: Dawn Lyons & 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. To provide public comment telephonically, dial **+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter **929 904 1434** and passcode **707401**. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comments 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.)

**10/4/23 Public Comment:**

Cindy Swanson: She was told that there is money available to create the No Wrong Door system, but her family has had some very mixed results with contacting and utilizing information services.

Dawn Lyons: A No Wrong Door steering committee has been formed, Cheyenne Pasquale from Aging and Disability Services, might be able to speak more about that.

No Wrong Door has been housed in Aging and Disability Services for a while and they are looking to improve it.

She is part of the steering committee, but they have only had one meeting so far.

Renee Portnell: Her oldest daughter got a job at the Boys and Girls Club and will start next week.

Vickie Essner: Thanked everyone for their support as she is taking care of her husband, who is in hospice.

**10/5/23 Public Comment:**

Raquel O’Neil: Discussed the Pathways to Partnership grant award. It’s a great time to look at and reevaluate the age of transition and how it’s viewed in the state of Nevada.

She had a conversation recently for Nevada to look at the age limitations for considering transition-age students with disabilities to increase that for similar reasons, one trend is to increase that age past the age of 21 or 22 and there are other states like Michigan where the age is 26 and serving students with transition needs.

The second reason for advocating for increased age was because there is only so much a school district can do in the timeframe for things like independent living, travel skills, cooking, budgeting, finances, job readiness, with the transition-age student past graduation of high school.

The third reason was the distribution of services, she is hoping that this new grant will allow them to collect good data about services in rural areas for transition-age students and perhaps do a further reach of the survey to find out how many people in Reno, Washoe County, and other counties are being served and feel like they are adequate by the time they are discharged from transition age 22.

They need to hear from consumers and their families to know if that's a good age.

She wants this on the radar as a potential advocacy item for the next legislative session to consider expanding the transition age.

1. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes from July 12 & 13, 2023.

Renee Portnell motioned to approve the draft minutes. Linda Vejvoda seconded. The members voted. The motion carried.

1. **For Information**:

Member Introductions and Public Introductions from Individuals Interested in Council Membership and Member Announcements.

Dawn Lyons: Currently there are no new members, Dawn is corresponding with a couple of interested people.

The recruitment notice for the SILC’s Youth Outreach Specialist went out the previous day and is posted on the SILC website. If anyone knows someone between the ages of 17 and 32 who might be interested in leading youth advocacy for SILC or in the Independent Living Community, please let Dawn know. They are looking for as many candidates as possible. It is a contract and will be approximately 30 to 40 hours per week. It is partly funded by the grant program that is through the Department of Education that Jennifer described at the last meeting, and partially funded by the DD council for their transitions.

She is excited to partner with everybody involved and this is huge for the SILC.

Let us know if you know anybody who might be interested.

1. **Presentation and Discussion:**

Updates from the Centers for Independent Living:

**Southern Nevada Center for independent Living (SNCIL)**

Mary Evilsizer: This quarter, SNCIL had 60 new intakes and 717 INR calls. Housing services accounted for 70% of the service requests from SNCIL during the fourth quarter.

Traditionally they run 70 % or 64 of the services requested from their agency for housing.

They had received 300 new HUD mainstream vouchers, but they've given them out.

They can sometimes get the vouchers but not the housing and are advocating that the State of Nevada continue to get mainstream housing vouchers.

Transportation requests are up 25% of the new intake services and they have had a few requests for Assistive Technology which they refer to Care Chest and to AT.

They also had requests for Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) however the providers lack staff.

SNCIL chose the Youth that are sent to the NCIL Conference, and they had fun.

On Saturday, October 7th, from 10 to 2:00 p.m. they will have their annual event, and everyone is invited. This will be their last vaccine clinic with Immunization Nevada as well.

The CILs, northern and Southern Nevada, are involved in the DIF grant.

They will be providing consulting and provision of services in professional development in partnership between the educational system with Voc Rehab and the CILs.

Dawn had the idea to invite Julie Taylor from the RIPA program for remote services out of Denver. Julie was not able to attend the Disability Awareness Day but could take phone calls from 10:00am to 2:00 pm.

Dawn Lyons: Wendy will be flying down to Las Vegas to take part in the Disability Awareness Day, and they will promote the SILC’s employment survey.

Mary Evilsizer: Vocational Rehabilitation will be talking about transitional students and SNCIL will have one other group there talking about school-to-work transitions as well as a couple of employers are there.

Jennifer Kane: The Disability Innovation Fund (DIF), Pathways to Partnerships grant demands certain ages, and it expanded, and this project will serve what they call children, which is defined as ages ten to 13, and then youth which is defined as ages 14 to 24 with disabilities.

This is exciting because they have always been bound by Nevada and federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

They work with youth ages 14 and typically until they reach their 22nd birthday and reach Maximum Age or graduate with a standard or beyond diploma.

They will get to look at helping students and families and their support systems transition from elementary to middle school for the first time.

Many other partner agencies they work with, like Vocational Rehabilitation, tend to also work with students beginning at 14, now they are doing pre-employment transition services and above but obviously they serve lifelong.

The requirements for the grant by bringing it to ages ten through 24, are those ages cross all the systems of all the partners involved.

She is having her first meeting with some elementary school folks on October 10th in Storey County school district, to begin conversations with parents about transition in elementary school.

It forges partnerships in ways they haven't before to address the age range and doesn't limit them to ages ten through 24.

One teacher believes it is important to begin in kindergarten as students move from Part B to Part C.

There is a need to be talking about transition from that juncture.

The grant established parameters don't prevent them from going earlier and later as well.

Dawn Lyons: It's a good opportunity to collect that data on the age differences to be able to expand there and to get more information on that.

The SILC is appreciative to be brought into this grant and partnership.

Because the Centers for Independent Living have a similar outreach position proposed for those outreach specialists to perform or to collect as far as data goes, it would be wonderful to be able to work together on when they hire their people. If they could have similar activities across the board or at least, get on the same page, work with each other, and give each other ideas in that regard.

Jennifer Kane: At the beginning of April, RSA at the federal level put out that they are going to be doing a grant through the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF), and it's called Pathways to Partnerships for model demonstration projects and the overarching theme is getting states to truly seamless transition.

The only two entities who are allowed to be the actual applicants are either state education agencies like the Nevada Department of Education where she works, or state Vocational Rehabilitation agencies.

They met with their partners at Vocational Rehabilitation in Nevada, and it was determined that because the Department of Education, do subawards of sub grants on a regular basis because they are constantly the “flow through” of taking federal monies and giving them to school districts, for example, or to Nevada's parent training and information center, Nevada PEP and all these different entities they already do subawards with.

So VR is not set up in Nevada with that fiscal structure.

It was determined by the two agencies who could apply to the Nevada Department of Education Office of Inclusive Education, that they would be the ones who would formally apply.

There are four required partners, the state education agencies, state Vocational Rehabilitation agencies, this is the first time that the feds have put out a grant that made a required partner out of the federally funded Centers for Independent Living.

There must be at least one of them in a state to be part of the grant.

They opted to ask both.

The Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living and the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living are accepted, and the fourth partner had to be local education agencies, school districts.

They had to have one and they brought three onboard to do the pilot and get the program up and running.

They also went outside of the required partners and wanted to have the Nevada System for Higher Education represented because, to get to truly seamless transition, they need to think about employment, they need to think about Independent Living and know that post-secondary education and training is a component.

They brought the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities through the University of Nevada, Reno and Nevada Parent Training and Information Center on board and asked Dawn if the Nevada SILC would be willing to join them in this effort.

Four partners are required, and they have nine in Nevada.

That helped their application stand out. Five different people reviewed their application.

The scores, came out to 94.4 percent and all of them scored it as 95 or 96 there was one outlier at 91 that brought them down a tiny bit.

They still got great accolades and the number one thing the reviewers said was that they could tell based on the partners that are willing to come to the table to write for the grants on this crazy short timeline there are states that ended up not applying because they couldn't get the required partners.

Not only did they bring the required partners, more than doubled bringing folks who aren't required but knew would be essential to getting them to a place of truly seamless transition.

The grant focuses on children and youth with disabilities.

The parameters for those children are considered ages ten through 13. They get to go down to upper elementary school grades and work with students, parents, families, and educators to talk about transitioning students from middle school successfully and create a system for doing that in Nevada. Youth are 14 through 24.

Entities like Vocational Rehabilitation don't typically go down to age 10.

Students in education reach the maximum age for their system upon their 22nd birthday.

They are going to serve students aged 10 to 24, and be doing some innovative things, requires that they have a website.

In addition to doing a website for seamless transition, they are also going to have an app.

They must create an advisory workgroup and meet at certain times of the year, there must be students with disabilities, children, and youth as well as families as part of that.

They found out they got it, and it is just under $10 million, over the course of five years.

And the first meeting with their federal RSA partners there's two meetings, the following week on October 10th and they will know more at that time.

Right now, they are working with their fiscal office so they can accept the money and then they can give it out to their sub-awardees, the other eight partners as smoothly as possible.

They will give updates as more information becomes available but right now they are in the celebratory phase knowing the work is about to get under way.

Mary Evilsizer: Somebody that is going to be at Disability Awareness Day that they all should meet down South as well as NNCIL, who is establishing connections with the school system.

SNCIL has the Clark County School District school-to-work transition specialist whose name is Tracy Greely.

They will work harder and make connections to be on the same page with the outreach functions as well.

Dawn Lyons: Perhaps the SILC can partner on some of the travel to get their people out together to the same rural areas if they need to.

Mary Evilsizer: The importance of this grant is to expand collaborations to leverage funds to be as cost effective as possible.

Linda Vejvoda: Are the parents going to be educated along with the kids, and if so, will it be combined or separate?

Jennifer Kane: A couple of the requirements around the grant are that they not only address the needs of the children and youth as outlined by ages ten through 24 with disabilities who are transitioning, but it also specifically speaks to all the service professionals, because all the folks working at Vocational Rehabilitation, the Centers for Independent Living, partners at Nevada PEP and school districts.

It speaks directly to children and youth with disabilities ages 10 to 24 and service professionals across all the partners that are here to do the work of getting Nevada to seamless transition.

It also speaks to families; it calls them support systems or support networks.

Because it's recognizing not only the students' immediate family but all the people who play such vital roles in their development and transition as a larger part of their larger support networks.

Even though they are not a required partner, Nevada's Parent Training Information Center wrote for the grant and will receive a subaward through the grant Nevada PEP.

One of the other requirements of the grant is that they build a website.

So instead of students and families and even educators and service professionals having to navigate different systems on different websites, it's going to create the acronym they went with.

The TRIP in all caps and that stands for transitions, plural, elementary to middle, middle to school, high school to the post-secondary world.

So Nevada Transitions Roadmap Through Innovative Partnerships (TRIP).

A requirement of the grant must create a website which is a one stop shop for students, educators, families, service professionals, networks, students, and children themselves.

They went above and beyond and are creating an interactive app because they want the students and kids and the youth themselves to revisit the Nevada TRIP.

It's going to be interactive; the app will be video game like, and they get to pick their terrain, will they choose desert, minutes, urban, rural, and in this they get to build a vehicle.

And talk about who they're going to put in the vehicle with them to go on the trip of a lifetime.

Parents, families, the support networks as well as all the service professionals who need to surround the families to ensure they get everything they need as students’ transition have been thought about, included and are at the table as they wrote for the grant and will continue to be as they do the work of the grant over the next five years.

There is also a requirement that they also create an advisory workgroup and there's a percentage of that advisory workgroup that the spots must be filled by parents and children and youth with disabilities and their parents.

The feds thought through that before the grant was put out which allowed them to think through mean fully as nine partners in Nevada to write.

They will put together a brief one-page synopsis of some of these things.

They are trying to get press releases out at the Department of Education and Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation.

Those should be out the following week and so that will provide additional information as well.

Peter Whittingham: Is there a way that you can circulate the full content and provisions of the grant for not only the Council members, but also for service providers that may have an interest in applying for any provisions in the grant?

Jennifer Kane: There isn't an ability to apply for anything.

The nine partners who wrote together in the beginning, each of those nine partners will receive a subaward to do the work that they agreed to do.

So the only ability for others to join would be through the advisory workgroup or at least the Nevada Department of Education and others that she read everyone's individual budgets that are submitted, a lot of them don't have the capacity within their existing staff to do the amount of work that's going to take to get Nevada the seamless transition in five years.

It was allowable through the grant for example, regarding the SILC, they brought the position that Dawn shared with the Council, for that Youth Action Council Outreach Specialist.

Other places like the CILs thought about if they get the grant, who they are going to need to bring to do the work.

One way people can engage is the Department of Education will be hiring two part-time contractors to help engage in the work.

So there will be opportunities for people to engage and opportunities for people to join but it's going to be through the nine partners that wrote for and received the grant.

Dawn Lyons: Another option here, it may not be for fiscal year 24 but in the future, she recently applied for the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities transition subaward.

They had up to $50,000 available and it was split between the SILC and another entity to receive that subaward towards this position.

So if anyone had some ideas because it paralleled the concept of what this grant is for, and they can combine those to draw more data and information for this and bring in more partners that way like the DD council, so that is one way to kind of creatively bring others into the mix and possibly they can look at what the DD Council has to offer next year or opportunities around the state too.

Peter Whittingham: There is so much that is available through different channels, system but the end user, the people who need the services, don’t know about it. He just happened upon the SILC, by accident.

If there is a grant that is intended to benefit a wide cross section of the community, especially disability community, and the parents and the members don't know, then the grant may not have as it is intended to reach as many people who need the services as possible.

He suspects that when the website is up, that all the grant’s provisions will be included. Can the grant be provided for the SILC members to look at?

Jennifer Kane: There will be a full marketing push when they have things available for people to access as well as all nine partners have committed through all their channels to sharing part of what they are going to get out of this is common messaging and common trainings for everyone involved.

They are working hard to ensure that Nevada TRIP becomes the one stop shop it's meant to be and a huge part of that will be all nine partners using all their connections to not only spread the word but also to bring in the people.

They are going to bring the regional centers in and build them in as part of the website and include those trainings and push information out through them.

They want the Nevada trip website and the app to be a main source of information.

So people don't have to go to their school district website separately from the state Department of Education's website to stumble upon the SILC maybe accidentally, they want that in one place and the roadmap is going to be about different ages for the student and where they are on their transition roadmap, who would be the folks they would want to connect to.

They will have access to all of it, including the roadmap tool to help guide them.

Not everyone has internet and can access apps and websites, so these materials are going to be put out into hard copy form and working with libraries across the state to get those materials out through their centers where they work directly with the population demographic for ages 10 through 24.

Besides the marketing team, a commitment has been made from all nine partners to utilize their existing networks and to continue to bring in other partners as they move the work forward to ensure that they truly get everything in one place for the people that they are trying to serve.

Mary Evilsizer: With this grant, the Department of Education, and the Department of Administration for Community Living, it was their goal that they wanted Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Education, and the Departments for Independent Living to partner in a project.

The grants are issued out with notices to all 50 states and all the American territories.

What the Department of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation needed was a memo of understanding from the Centers for Independent Living in that state to partner together.

Administration for Community Living (ACL), and Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA), wanted to see this partnership.

She recommended a subscription website called Grant Solutions. She often uses and shares information from it.

Dawn Lyons: The Department of Education was very gracious in extending their invitations to partner with the SILC, Nevada PEP, and all the other partners that Jennifer was talking about.

But they are on such a short timeline, and the SILC had to have all their documents in, including as much information as possible.

It was very difficult, and that's why Aging and Disability Services backed out because it was a very difficult timeline, but the mandated partners are there.

And the mandated partners are dictated by the federal government.

The RSA and ACL.

Jennifer Kane: Put this link in the chat, to the Rehabilitation Services Administration Grantees of the Disability Innovation Fund – Pathways to Partnerships.

<https://rsa.ed.gov/about/programs/disability-innovation-fund-pathways-to-partnerships/grantees> (scroll down 3/4 of the way to find Nevada)

Peter Whittingham: Now that the grant has been awarded, and it's a public grant for servicing of members in the disability community and others, he would like to see it provided to the members of the Council among others.

Havander Davis: Dawn will send that grant information out to the members.

**Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL)**

Lisa Bonie: Like SNCIL, NNCIL is seeing a continued demand for housing assistance in Northern Nevada including Washoe County and all the surrounding counties.

They did manage to get a small grant.

They are experiencing issues with gaps when somebody's rent unexpectedly goes up way more than they can afford, and they can't relocate right away what kind of assistance is available.

But the City of Sparks chose to take some of their ARPA federal funding and give to the Sparks Senior Citizens Advisory Council, and they put out a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), a competitive grant situation, to provide some funding to help with this issue only in the zip codes in the City of Sparks.

NNCIL did receive that funding. It allowed them to create gap assistance, emergency assistance and relocation assistance.

It's a very small amount of money and will be gone quickly, but they are hoping that it can demonstrate to the city the need and maybe to the wider populations outside of Washoe County, a way to help people deal with some of the things happening around housing. A couple of NNCIL staff will be attending the housing coalition meeting in Las Vegas the following week.

Congratulations to Jennifer, she and her team did an amazing job guiding this group of people through a rigorous and fast paced process.

NNCIL is distributing COVID test kits through a federal program throughout Northern Nevada.

**Rural Center for Independent Living (RCIL)**

Dee Dee Foremaster: She has been attending multiple meetings regarding housing, bus routes and new bus stops, encouraging RCIL’s support group to be mindful of their health, and the different vaccination clinics they have attended and facilitated.

Report and Discussion Regarding the State Assistive Technology for Independent Living Program (AT/IL Program)

John Rosenlund: He gave an overview of the AT/IL program. It is statewide program for individuals who live in the community. It has been in the state for roughly 30 years. It is a program that was identified years go through the Nevada SILC. It was built to identify and remove daily living barriers and provide the supports to keep people living in their communities through assistive technology. This technology is not provided through Medicaid and Medicare. It is like a Center for Independent Living. The consumer data is provided to SILC at the end of the year.

His report is broken down into five areas. Funding sources, the direct service of the money to pay for the modifications to equipment and the operational costs are the staff and people and locations. The aim is to help people develop independent living goals, help them with their identification of what they have as a priority, and finding what those solutions might be.

Those are operational costs.

The estimated cost of the current caseload is a section in this report.

As goals are developed and solutions are identified, they put them into their caseload system and that evolves over time.

If you've identified a solution, you can put an estimated cost and that helps them to identify how far they can go into the wait list continuously.

Looking at that information and how much money they must buy for that assistive technology service, they can expand into the wait list, the third part of this reporting document has the satisfaction and life impact surveys.

So that's after services have been completed.

There's also a section, back in 2018 they started surveying people who left the program to ask them a few simple questions to understand if the developing of independent living goals was a good method of approaching their barriers.

Was there any part of the process that was confusing?

Was there any part of process where it was hard to express their choice?

They want to make sure and speak with the actual consumer instead of someone calling on behalf of a consumer.

The total budget for this program operates on the state fiscal year, the client consumer data is tracked on a federal fiscal year because that's applicable to what the SILC has in their annual report.

There's no way to break that funding up to make it look identical to the federal year.

This year in all, there is $1,455,000 that was budgeted for this program.

That consists of the part b federal SILC money, federal assistive technology funds that they utilize in there and $1.3 million in state general fund .

They are pending being able to add ARPA funding.

In America rescue plan act funding, there's a little over $1 million that they are going to be getting to eliminate their wait list.

He will be describing their caseload, and everything based on what they currently have money in the bank.

That's how much money they have available right now and then once they have the million dollars, he can do some speculation of where they will be.

The entire estimated cost for the program right now, consumers with solutions in place is almost $1.1 million to be solvent and have nobody on the wait list.

There are about 79 solutions they don't have estimated costs; those would be outliers until solutions are defined.

Currently, they have $982,000 that was allocated for direct services.

In addition to that, Care Chest secured another $270,000.

The amount of funding they have available is about equal to what the current caseload is.

Again, with those 79 solutions, those will evolve over time.

When they get the million dollars, they will have about $600,000 to anticipate for the rest of the year.

On a state fiscal year they are three months into it and have about $600,000 to make it through the rest of the year where they wouldn't have a wait list.

In 30 years, they have never been without a wait list so it's going to be interesting to see if they have more people engaging in the program or not.

Operational costs, that's staff identified as independent living specialists.

That's who's working with the consumer to help them lay out what their independent living goals are and systematically work through those.

Jumping to the satisfaction and life impact data, there's two pieces in here.

One is satisfaction, there's one piece of the satisfaction that's a built in federal assistive technology piece, but more importantly than satisfaction, that's a good matrix, but it's more important to ask specific questions, their program has been doing that for a long time.

About the life impacts.

Where the rubber meets the road with the individual.

They also want to point out that kind of the way the survey is put together is positive and negative.

There are multiple choices there, for instance, excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor.

If they get 98% of the people say they are doing excellent or very good or the staff are doing excellent or very good, that's what they are looking for.

Another question that they ask is if the consumer did have choice and control over the goals they set, and the types of services received.

They look at that in the same way.

Is it a lot of choice and control or quite a bit of choice and control or is its little control and not enough control?

98% of the individuals that replied said they had a lot or quite a bit of control.

The overall satisfaction is in there, but some of the important stuff as far as life impacts.

How does the service impact your life?

Overall quality of life.

How did it affect that?

95 percent of the people said it improved a lot or quite a bit.

That's a very positive bunch of information.

The overall independence related to the goals established.

That's from where you started to where you ended.

Again, 96% of the people said it improved a lot or it improved quite a bit.

73% improved a lot.

23%, quite a bit.

Chance of staying out of a nursing home, asking the individual how they feel about that after working with the program.

And 87% of the people said that it improved a lot or quite a bit.

Staying out of a nursing home.

The last one I would like to point out is how often the device or modification used, 93% use it daily and four % reported they use it weekly.

One person had put it down as not applicable.

Not a response that would make sense, but that's what they put down and they'll report it.

So daily and weekly.

93% of the people use these services daily.

The people leaving the program that they survey, they had four respondents this year, it's been interesting in serving people since 2018 and how few people really reply.

When they ask people if developing independent living goals is a good method of approaching the barriers in their life, they have a hundred percent of the people that responded this year that said yes, that is a good. Was the process confusing? One hundred percent said no.

Consumer Independent Living Consumer Data

Their goals and objectives for their community partner providing the service, is to get 50 % of the consumers to reply to the survey.

That's supposed to be a very good objective there because it is a volunteer survey.

They encourage consumers to respond and provide them with everything to send back free of charge.

Right now they are at statewide, about 40.7 percent response rate.

It's October 4th and the data he is reporting, was through September 30th.

They have got about 45 days to wait for more surveys to come in.

He will pull the actual information as far as how many people are surveyed and how many responded and send that over to Wendy and she can post it on the SILC for the full report.

108 consumers have met their goals,

If people withdraw, there's four people that responded.

Out of all the people that may have withdrawn from the service, if four responded, they did offer it to everybody.

Every single person gets a survey. And let's say have passed away.

There's one other piece there.

If they get a return to sender contact, there's no way they can reach them.

They sent them an email and called them.

Dawn Lyons: She is amazed at how successful this Independent Living program is, the surveying they are doing, to get the kind of results he is getting from that, it would be wonderful if the other Centers for Independent Living would also provide Independent Living plans would do the same kind of surveying and get because that data is probably the most meaningful coming out of their program that makes most sense to all of us.

What do the people think of the program, not what are the numbers.

And the numbers along with percentages are important too.

It's the narratives that come from that information that is so meaningful.

And to see it so successful, it's just very impressive.

John Rosenlund: This program was built before Nevada had an Olmstead Plan. This was the forefront of trying to address the barriers that many of the people that are faced with institutionalization.

The person that hired him when he went to work for the Center for Independent Living was faced with a choice when he had spinal cord injury as a quadriplegic, go to a nursing home or find a way to pay for attendant care.

Those are the guys that built this program.

These are the the people that inspired these programs are the people that had to push to build the Personal Assistant Services in Nevada.

The reason why those exist is because these guys are left with a choice.

There was no Olmstead that came to rescue them.

The ADA wasn't even around.

The data highlights how important these services are.

Back to the consumer case information.

One of the things they report in the SILC's federal reporting, is how many consumers came over from the previous year and how many are new during the year.

Consumers are people that have developed an Independent Living goal and can be called a case. They must sign their plan or waive the plan.

At the beginning of the year, 190 consumers carried over from the last year.

Some of those consumers may have plans that are two and three, or four years old.

It may be that they are still waiting for something to come up so that they can finish off their goals. So they don't just go away.

There's not a time limit to close the case.

Unless there's not a step that they are taking to go forward.

And then they have an option to make.

They had 126 new consumers throughout the year.

46 consumers are wait listed as of September 30th.

That's 46 people waiting for funding.

The wait list consists of consumer cases where there are not the resources to purchase the Assistive Technology service currently.

A lot of this will change once they have those ARPA wait list dollars.

There are 19 cases that are pending consumer signature.

So those are consumers waiting in the wings.

They obviously have goals established and there's something waiting there.

They're waiting for them to sign Independent Living goals and confirm that that's their choices.

The goal areas as federally defined, are going to fall into healthcare, community-based living, which is a rather larger one and for them, that's usually like trying to be able to get in and throughout your home.

There's also mobility and transportation.

The feds lump that together but in the data that he provided; he broke those apart.

You can see what those percentages are, which ones are mobility now and which ones are transportation related. He found a way to do that in their system.

Communication is one of the goals related to speaking or hearing.

Information Access to Technology, and that may be barriers related to vision loss or controlling one's environment, thermostat, lighting, et cetera.

49 percent of the consumers accessing the program have a healthcare goal at least one self-care goal such as bathing, toileting, personal hygiene, feeding, cooking, transferring oneself or being transferred.

These aren't just Independent Living goals so that someone can do things themself, they can also be to receive care, to self-direct their own care.

Community Based Living is 17% of the entire list of goals set.

Secondary is transportation.

That is 17 percent of all goals set.

Mobility makes up six %.

Communication is 7 percent of the barriers to people having independent living goals and you can have a whole variety of these in there.

Then isn't usually just like a one and done.

The last average was four independent living goals per person to break those into ways of accomplishing them.

Prioritization.

The program is required to and does prioritize services, if somebody needs a service for transition, so that's transitioning out of the care facility and into the home or prevention to prevent them from going into a care facility from the home.

Those things are identified.

During this year, from October of 2022 until September 30th of 2023, they had zero goals that are related to relocation.

They typically would have one of those, but there are 107 related to prevention.

That's 107 goals and that relates to 63 consumers.

So 63 consumers had 107 prioritized goals.

Some of those consumers obviously had multiple goals that are priorities that had to be addressed to keep them from going to a care facility.

During this period of the year, goals that are open, not completed in a prior year, there were 840 open and active goals for these consumers during the year, 312 of those goals are met.

That's 37% of all those goals.

There's 441 of those in progress right now.

So those are open and in progress.

Withdrawn, they had 66 individuals that withdrew goals.

That was about 8 percent of the entire list of goals unable to contact, 27 goals closed because they couldn't contact the person, that's about 3 percent of the caseloads, goals where somebody passed away, 30 goals, closed because the person passed away.

About 4 percent of the goals are set.

And goals where they had no solution available.

These are the frustrating ones.

Four instances where a goal could not be met because they couldn't find a solution.

One of these was the ability to widen a door.

To widen a doorway so the person could fit through with a mobility device. There was no physical way to widen that doorway.

That would be an example of one of those solutions not available.

At the end of the these here the closure reasons, 145 cases closed during the year.

This is that federal reporting requirement.

You can only close the case in these ways, either goals met, withdrawn, died, moved, or other.

For a consumer to say their case was closed, goals met, that's their decision to make.

They must make that determination themselves.

They have 69% of the case caseload closed as goals met.

28 cases closed where the person had withdrawn.

And 19% of the cases consumers that passed away, 11 consumers passed away in the middle of their plans, about 8%.

Four people moved during the year, 3% of the caseload and closed for other reasons, there are two and that would be 1%.

That's the call information.

During the year they had 285 calls.

Breaks down to how many of those are consumers.

How many are consumer representatives.

Consumer representation means you must have the authority to help that person with an independent living goal.

You can't be somebody that doesn't have that authority.

So of the 285 calls, 246 of those are from people with authority.

That tells him they are getting the message out correctly.

They don't have somebody calling on behalf of somebody, they have actual consumers calling.

It breaks that information down.

But how many of them are program information packets where somebody it says I want to develop an independent living goal.

There are 200 of those provided.

So big question for them if 200 people said they want today to develop independent living goals at this stage why they didn’t get 200 consumers at the end.

They will look at and try to figure it out from a caseload perspective.

All in all, in the call data, they had 533 referrals to other resources.

That's a significant amount of information.

And 285 calls where they can get that many referrals out.

Potential goals.

They ask the Independent Living Specialist to listen to the consumer when and say how many of these goals the person describes, or potential goal areas did they think this person could have just based on this first conversation.

He has been trying to figure out how to make sense of people that engage in the program and then don't follow through or don't develop an Independent Living goal.

He has read a lot of the call data and tried to figure out why didn't a person call back.

Peter Whittingham: From the end-user point of view, is that the loan period for electronic devices of 30 days is not sufficient for them to meaningfully make headway or address some of the needs that they have within the 30-day period.

Is there anything in the budget or can they propose in the budget to extend the loan of the devices beyond the current 30-day period?

John Rosenlund: This isn't the program that loans devices.

They're talking about the AT Resource Centers and the required device loan and demonstration. The device loan and demonstrations are in those programs to be able for a person to make an informed decision.

If there are barriers for the person to obtain that device, then the SILC and/or the Assistive Technology Council comes in.

Why isn't the person able to access and obtain the device is really the barrier.

There's short-term accommodation, but case in point, if they loan a device out to somebody for a year they're not addressing barrier of why they can't obtained their own device.

If they have those barriers then bring them forward to the Council so they can understand them and perhaps it ends up in that state plan to address that area.

The challenge that they would have is they would run out of devices, specifically if they are loaning them out and they would probably run into a conflict there with the federal purpose as well.

Dawn Lyons: They are about to start writing our State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), for the next three years of our budgeting of our goals, of our intentions, what's needed in the disability community and how can they promote Independent Living further.

If you feel like this is one of the priorities that the assistive technology devices are too hard to obtain in Nevada, and that is a barrier for our population, then maybe that is something that they should discuss at our SPIL workgroup as far as putting it in our goals as to solutions.

John is saying that the Assistive Technology program that's federally funded, was intended to be a loaner program and just so that people could figure out if that was the right device.

It's not meant to provide that service.

It's meant to provide the service of figuring out if that's what you need.

If getting that piece of equipment is a service, is what's needed and that is the barrier at this point, that's a different program but maybe it can piggyback off of the Independent Living program through the State if they work on how they can promote through the SILC’s funding, and its partners, they can discuss how they can provide solutions to that problem and promote that in the SIILC’s SPIL.

She encouraged Peter and others to come to the SPIL workgroup meetings to help them plan for that.

John Rosenlund: The AT for Independent Living (AT/IL) Program, could be a resource also for an individual looking for that. It's essentially daily living barriers.

If it falls into that area, then a consumer could certainly access this program.

The State's autism program started off in this AT/IL program.

Originally, consumers were accessing this for at least a couple of years. It was a big surprise when that went through the Legislature at that time, and so they adjusted policy, and they started developing independent living goals towards Autism.

The basis of what they do now in that program, is just defined by the dollars, it’s not defined by any lack of imagination of what and how the consumer’s needs could be.

It's still just Independent Living whether you walked into a Center for Independent Living or went into this program, the only variation is this program that a consumer has been given the information and data and is only there to address essential daily living.

It's not there for advocacy, self-advocacy, independent living skills, training and all those core functions in a center but it does have the ability to, if there's a paid for service that's needed in there, it just needed resources to do it.

Updates and Discussion Regarding the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC)

Raquel O’Neil: The Rehabilitation Council worked with DETR on creating some goals for this upcoming year.

Those who worked on the subcommittee for creating the goal, felt overall positive about the goal setting activity and ensuring that they addressed specific questions and need for data to be clear.

They are all on the same page wanting the data to be very understandable and clear and new data specifically aimed at gathering information on perhaps what they might call marginalized disabilities. So specific subgroups rather than looking at, let's say, physical disabilities overall, but breaking those down into hard of hearing and blindness or low vision specifically.

They worked on including some indicators, which are a new development from before, to start forming ideas for future goals.

While it was a very positive exercise, and they look forward to kind of seeing those benchmarks being met in the coming year by Vocational Rehabilitation.

If you want to know more about the plan and about what Voc Rehab sets out to do in the coming year, on the new website, and then the new website is also something that has been a work in progress.

And one part notably is feedback from the community and public on the blind and low vision piece of the website and then ensuring accessibility.

Vocational Rehabilitation has been very accepting of that feedback and wanting to update and make those changes and subsequently have added right on top when you click on applying for Blind Services, has added a specific tech who can assist in the application right over the phone.

Kind of cutting out some challenges and accessibility barriers or technology barriers for a newly blind individual who really needs the services.

And so with that change, what I hear from counsel expenditures is that there's been an uptick in applications and intakes, all good news, good to know the services are being heard about and being utilized.

It could possibly be across the board to the application online is making it more accessible for people to find and apply for Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Rehabilitation Council set new calendar dates for 2024 meetings.

They are looking for additional members to join the council for a few open positions, and if anyone is interested or knows of anybody who may be interested in representing certain seats, please contact her.

It has become a supportive environment, and they are really trying to get people aware of the services and the staff have increased, so they're filling vacancies and making a huge difference for providing services.

The next meeting The Rehabilitation Council for the will be on November 7th.

Updates and Discussion regarding Aging and Disability Services (ADSD)

Cheyenne Pasquale: She will provide a written update that will be posted in the next couple days.

Havander would like an update on No Wrong Door.

Dawn would like an update on the transition and planning for the FOCIS program and Money Follows the Person coming to Aging and Disability Services from Medicaid.

Updates and Discussion Regarding Employment First

Dawn Lyons: The Employment First committee met a few weeks prior to this meeting and will be meeting again sometime in the next couple of weeks. In the last meeting, they talked about the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Anthem looking for them to provide input towards the employment for people with disabilities month of October.

Employment First presented to Anthem so that Anthem understands where they're coming from better.

This will go a long way for planning out how they're going to promote Employment First to legislators and organizations that don't understand it or want to know more about what Employment First’s frame of reference is for that and what they're looking to accomplish.

Employment First gave them potential survey questions to use within their organization to see what they already might know.

Employment First is hoping to get that information back by their next meeting so they can customize that training.

Cindi Swanson: It’s important to have a coordinated, collaborative effort, Colorado has everybody at the table talking about Employment First.

When Jennifer was talking about the fabulous grant that the state got, it occurred to Cindi that it can only work if everybody is on board.

Also, there is a large organization that is doing a webinar that Catherine Nielson with the Nevada governor's council and Cindi have applied to be part of, and it's talking about eliminating 14c which personally that's what they're doing in Nevada.

But a lot of people don't understand it.

Understanding how to transition a state from using 14C subminimum wage to going forward is all part of it.

After listening to Jennifer's talk about money, she realized that the $10 million over five years is great.

How they use it and how they intersect that into employment is great.

Jennifer Kane: A third part of the project is aimed specifically at employment. Part of the reason she is so excited about the elementary school connection and going down to serve students and families from age ten, is changing those ideas.

Removing some of the barrier of fear ties into the subminimum wage and that change that's coming.

The earlier they start to talk with students and families and prepare them for each of these various transitions from elementary to middle, middle to high, and then out into the world and the other systems that they connect with beyond, our education system, is where our wins come in: They help students and families have more information earlier and guide them through that information and surround them with the information instead of continuing to sit in silos and expecting them to navigate different systems.

They will be happy to share their growing group.

She has been at the department for 16 years and when she started they had in Nevada law, an Interagency Transition Advisory Board or ITAB, and it was staffed by the Nevada governor's council on developmental disabilities and after a few years it just sun-setted.

Whoever the governor was at the time just probably didn't realize that it was going to sunset.

So it just quietly went away.

They haven't had a place to have all the partners talk transition together in a regular interval, making sure they have meaningful participation from those required people.

Part of the reason they asked for the SILC to back part of the effort was so those conversations could be part of that effort and they have cross sections of people represented.

They asked Vocational Rehabilitation because part of this is work based learning not having those opportunities especially in rural and remote rural areas.

They asked Vocational Rehabilitation what they needed to create more work-based learning opportunities at earlier ages so students across the state use which children in youth with disabilities have more opportunities.

They don't have people in the network out there in those rural areas.

Teachers and administrators have connections to families in every community in Nevada because there's a school everywhere.

A huge part of this effort is they put $10,000 stipends in because they know a lot of the work of building those networks is going to be teachers having to work outside of their school hours having designated educators in each area helping Vocational Rehabilitation build networks for work-based learning across the state.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Has anybody thought about how to approach home-schooling programs? Her daughter was home schooled, and several of the people with disabilities in the community, their parents have chosen to take them out of especially the junior high level where they are bullied.

Dawn Lyons: I know that within the SILC’s Outreach Specialist position description, they are hoping that they will be able to reach out to those rural communities and those communities that are less reachable through regular means or electronic means. One person can't do it all, but they can start the process.

Dee Dee Foremaster: She has a lot of contacts in the rural communities.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Discussion and Approval of SILC Position Statement Regarding Ableism

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

Dawn Lyons: She got input from people including some SILC members. The meaning of Ableism is, “Discrimination or prejudice against individuals with disabilities.” retrieved 4/26/2023 from Merriam Webster. This occurs either intentionally or unintentionally due to internal biases based on stereotypes or misguided beliefs about people with disabilities. People with disabilities encounter ableism daily. The NV SILC condemns ableism in every form. They are tired of people treating adults with disabilities like children, making economic assumptions, ignoring requests, disregarding their opinions, and dismissing them as unable or less able than them. Whenever someone makes decisions for them without consulting them, they assume they know better. This is, of course, false. She knows what is best for her. She does not assume to know what is best for someone else. It is not unreasonable to expect to be treated with respect by others, regardless of how well she can speak, walk, hear, see, or otherwise appear to function. Disability rights are human rights. People are unaware they have ableist attitudes or that they unintentionally discriminate. In the same way microaggressions can be harmful to other minority groups, ableism harms the disability community by reinforcing stereotypes that promote discrimination and the mistreatment of individuals with disabilities on a systemic level. Therefore, it is important to educate those who are ableist when they witness it. The disability community is the largest minority group in Nevada; and yet, there is the least amount of awareness surrounding ableism. The SILC strives to educate and inform those who interact with the disability community about ableism so they can eliminate it altogether and be seen and treated with the same dignity

and respect as others. She included some shared personal experiences as examples. Person 1: The belief that “Since the SILC is made up of a majority of individuals with disabilities, they are not as qualified to advocate for the disability community as another group that is made up of health and human service professionals” is ableism and is offensive.

Person 2: I am an adult woman with CP. I have an electric wheelchair and struggle to speak clearly. I also graduated from a prestigious university and own my own business. Just the other day, a leader of a community organization spoke loudly and in a patronizing tone, as if I were a child, when he introduced himself. He also seemed to dismiss me when I attempted to share my background and experience, as if it couldn't possibly be true. Person 3: I am an adult woman with autism. I struggle with my job as I work with the public and am exhausted at the end of the day due to all the anxiety and stress that it causes for me. I went to a doctor to explain my difficulty, and she told me “You don't have autism. You'll be just fine.” She didn't even ask to see my previous records or suggest any assessments before she decided that about me, subsequently invalidating me and my feelings, and making me feel hopeless about my situation. Those are the three examples. Anybody have any thoughts on the position statement?

Havander Davis: Asked if it might not be written from a first-person point of view.

Dawn can update it.

Dee Dee Foremaster: Felt that it was well written.

Linda Vejvoda motioned to approve the current Position Statement on Ableism with suggested changes included. Sabra McWhirter seconded. The members voted. The motion carried.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Evaluation and Make Possible Council Recommendations Regarding the Current FFY21-24 SPIL Objectives and Budget

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

Dawn Lyons included the information in the meeting materials, the budget for Fiscal Year 23 as they're coming to the Fiscal Year 23 close.

There's a delay in that information getting from when they spend it or when they authorize it until it shows up in the books. That's why it looks like there's still a balance.

But they're extremely close even though this looks like there's a lot left because of all the conferences and travel that they've approved last year to be spent from fiscal year 23 funding.

Including into federal fiscal year 24.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Discussion and Recommendations from Council Members Regarding the Evaluation of the Current State Plan for independent Living (SPIL)

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh

There was one other thing that they had in the objectives that they hadn't completed yet, that by the end of this fiscal year, they would have a formalized quality assurance plan.

And they haven't done that.

They want to make sure they start working on that and possibly they can get a couple people to work with her on the side as a project on that and they can email individually accordingly, and then bring it back to the group next time, or they can possibly roll it into the SPIL workgroup and have that in the SILC’s next SPIL as a plan moving forward and that would satisfy their objective at that point.

Havander Davis: Suggested rolling it into the next SPIL workgroup.

Dawn Lyons: That makes sense. This has been a standing agenda item. She is looking for suggestions or ideas that if anyone thinks that they missed any of the goals or if they think they did a good job at accomplishing them and evaluating them as they went.

It's been the opportunity for SILC members according to their responsibilities as the SILC Council, they're supposed to evaluate their State Plan for Independent Living to make sure they're on track. It comes up every three months when they meet and not a whole lot has been said about it.

Linda Vejvoda: How many times does the SILC have someone looking at the plan and how often?

Dawn Lyons: People may not feel connected to the State Plan and the SILC’s goals and objectives. It is one of the main jobs of the Council and the responsibility of all Council members. She thinks they need to educate the public. This is probably something that should go into the SPIL workgroup and then next planning process as to how to do make sure or ensure that SILC members understand what their roles and responsibilities are.

It's in their mandatory trainings. ILRU does a good job describing the SILC member roles and responsibilities as well.

Wendy is going to present a method of how they're onboarding and mentoring SILC’s new members and their ongoing membership. Hopefully that process being improved will help with that and can address some of those issues as they're mentoring others.

Mentoring and teaching another member help both learn. So I think it's important that they're all involved in that process and not just a couple of people being mentors.

It's just an internal training issue.

The last State Plan for Independent Living before this one when they are planning this one, when they had town halls, they had feedback from public organizations arguing with them that they had too much internal training and goals. That it was all about them and it wasn't about the disability community as much.

They tried to externalize the SILC’s goals more in that plan based on feedback.

She thinks it backfired on them in a way, that they didn't do enough internalizing to make sure that they could externalize it properly and get their plans across.

Havander Davis: Before the next meeting, all the members should read the SPIL and have one thing that they like, dislike or thing there is a need for improvement.

Linda Vejvoda motioned for members to look over SILC goals and plan on what to do next. Dee Dee Foremaster seconded. The members voted and the motion passed.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Summer of Civics Disability Related Initiatives and the Nothing About Us Without Us Kick-Off

Dr. Sondra Cosgrove, Executive Director, Vote Nevada

This agenda item was tabled.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Discussion and Approval of Council Onboarding, Training, and Mentoring Process

Wendy Thornley, Council Staff

Wendy Thornley: They already talked about the members catching up on items for the SPIL that members can look at and be ready for the next meeting to make suggestions and observations.

She included a page of trainings in the meeting materials that members can read.

Per the current onboarding system, the SILC would like people who are interested in becoming members to attend a meeting and let the SILC know. At that time, the SILC would start moving forward with the potential member being mentored.

They would then apply after the SILC has discussed sponsoring them for membership.

Once a potential member is with a mentor, that mentor will be helping them with reading materials, asking questions.

Then they would move forward with the actual application that is online with the governor's office, it's not something that they would fill out and send to Wendy or Dawn.

The SILC would like to know as soon as someone submits their application so the SILC can work with the governor's office when they appoint someone as a new member.

The mentoring will continue after the new member is on the Council.

She is working on a list of who pairing mentors and mentees regarding all members.

She asked the members to read the materials that are on the paper that she sent out and reminded them that all the materials are on the website on the resources drop down menu and in the upper right-hand corner of the SILC home page, it says trainings.

One of the things that they would like the mentors to be doing as well as checking in with their mentees on a regular basis and taking notes, is letting her know how those are going.

Those trainings are separate from what is called an Individual Training Plan (ITP)

Each member of the SILC will have an ITP, and there are different ways that they can complete their training for each fiscal year. Wendy will be the point person for the ITPs as well as the mentoring.

Attending conferences count as trainings as well as other trainings mentioned on the website.

Dawn Lyons: Wendy streamlined the written training guide to include the name of the mentee, the mentor and when trainings are completed.

Wendy Thornley: She would like people to be responsible for tracking their mentoring whether they are mentoring someone or if they're being mentored. She also encouraged current members to go back and review the trainings so they can be effective SILC members and mentors. They would then fill out the training guide with the date that they reviewed the training materials.

Dawn Lyons: The SILC has been planning on creating training videos for a long time now, and they are looking into other options to get that as an alternative to other reading materials. It’s important to understand SILC member roles, responsibilities, what Independent Living is all about.

Linda Vejvoda motioned to approve the new onboard training. Sabra McWhirter seconded. The members voted. The motion carried.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Discussion and Appointment for New Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

Steven Cohen sent in a written public statement to appoint Dr. Sondra Cosgrove as the new Subcommittee Chair.

Sabra McWhirter motioned to approve her as the new legislative chair providing that she accepts that appointment. Mary Evilsizer seconded. The members voted and the motion passed.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Discussion and Make Recommendations for Havander Davis to Inquire About on Behalf of SILC While Attending the National Industries for the Blind Conference Next Week.

Havander Davis, Vice-Chair

Havander Davis: He is going the National Industries for the Blind Conference and would like permission to speak on behalf of the SILC, about the SILC and its mission.

Dee Dee Foremaster motioned to approve Havander to speak on behalf of SILC regarding the mission and activities of the SILC. Raquel O’Neil seconded. There was discussion. The members voted and the motion was carried.

Dawn Lyons: The members are allowed to promote SILC; however they are not allowed to speak on behalf of the SILC without the SILC’s permission. When it comes to any kind of business decisions or speaking on behalf of the SILC on major issues that because they have had some conflict of interest in the past that has occurred because of it. He’s asking permission to speak on behalf of the council because he may run into some very important people while at this conference.

And he wants to be able to speak freely on SILC’s behalf, including recruitment.

SILC members can recruit all the time and tell people how great SILC is. To say, “On behalf of the SILC, this is how they feel”, etc., unless it's in the SILC’s position statements, they really need permission from the SILC.

Renee Portnell: Asked if she goes to a conference and says that the SILC has a certain position, it would be considered her opinion and not an official position of the SILC.

Havander Davis: So on my behalf I don't presume to speak about things that I have no knowledge of, if I think that's going to be something that I don't have direct knowledge of, then I'm definitely going to not speak on that and refer them to someone who can but I want to be able to say that, you know, even if I run into somebody who may be able to help us or to be able to, I just want to be able to speak to them about the SILC.

Dawn Lyons: She trusts Havander wholeheartedly, he is the Vice Chair and has a lot of leadership in this Council.

He has been with the SILC for a while and knows what's going on, so she appreciates all his hard work.

1. **For Possible Action:**

Discussion and Approval of Future Meeting Agenda Items and Meeting Date: January 10 & 11, 2024

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

* Dr. Cosgrove’s tabled agenda item 9; Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Summer of Civics Disability Related Initiatives and the Nothing About Us Without Us Kick-Off
* How they can expand ages for transition and whether that's only federal guidelines that they can follow or if they can expand that as a state
* Aging and Disability Services updates from Cheyenne Pasquale.
* An update on those workshops and that process from the Department of Education at our next meeting as well as discussing expanding ages both younger and older

Jennifer Kane: For about four years now, at the Nevada Department of Education within the Office of Inclusive Education, they have regulations to look at changing the transition age.

Right now in Nevada law under the Nevada Administrative Code they have pieces of transition that they, as a state have elected to do before the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA requires them.

IDEA is written so that certain elements of transition must be in place by the student's 16th birthday which means they are written into the IEP usually when the student is 15 because they typically don't hold IEP meetings on kid's birthdays.

They call it 15 Plus because for them to wake up in the morning and turn 16 it must have already been included in their IEP.

Currently Nevada law takes pieces of those requirements from federal law and requires them to begin with our state during the IEP in which the student is 14.

They have a system where some things they get at 14 and sometimes 15 plus in place for the 16th birthday.

Nevada didn't decide that they wanted to be in that situation. Federal law changed the age at which requirements happened. It went from 16 to 14 to 15 plus the model that IDEA has today, and so they kept pieces at 14 that they thought are critical to keep it that age when IDEA 2004 moved to the 15 plus in place by 16 model.

By the next time the SILC meets, she will have information to share. They need to rewrite some regulations and it will be going to public workshop, she will make sure Dawn gets the information when they have a public workshop scheduled. It probably won’t happen before December.

They are still on track to be the 11th state in the nation to have all those requirements begin at age 14.

That doesn't prevent a school district from creating policy and procedure just like the state law can do more than the federal law but nevertheless, school district policies and procedures can in fact do more than Nevada law and more than federal law, but of course never less.

Some school districts have been working on this regulation and have already begun to require all pieces of transition to begin at 14.

Everyone will have the opportunity to attend a public workshop, review the language, and provide feedback.

There has been some change in staff, and they have a new assistant director that was just officially announced within the last week. Her name is Christi Coats, she has been a special education district administrator in Douglas and worked at the department before.

She has a wealth of information and knowledge, and Jennifer is excited to have her as an Assistant Director at the Office of Inclusive Education. Christi will be moving forward with those regulations related to transition age and Jennifer will be accompanying her on that journey. There will be public workshops as well.

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. To provide public comment telephonically, dial **+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter **929 904 1434** and passcode **707401**. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comments 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.)

**10/4/23 Public Comment:**

John Rosenlund: During the mentoring conversation, training in the discussion regarding education training, mentoring, he would like to make sure the Council is aware, through the Nevada AT Collaborative even though that's an Assistive Technology project, providing it's called training in education, they're one and the same, education and training.

He would like to be part of anything they can do in setting up trainings and educational groups to do things like mentoring and how other people evaluate programs, services, what's important to them, he thinks that is a really good conversation.

He wants people to understand programs and their purpose, function, and funding.

Dawn Lyons: Will be reaching out to John regarding a partnership on Independent Living training.

**10/5/23 Public Comment:**

Peter Whittingham: Last year they had a wonderful Buddy Walk, they had more than a thousand people gather to collaborate, share, and promote interest of the disability community in general and persons with Down's Syndrome in particular.

They're going to have that event this year, it's the upcoming Sunday in the town square.

The walk promotes the interests of persons with Down's Syndrome but asks parents to include others in the community with intellectual developmental disabilities.

They're reaching out to all organizations. The theme for this Buddy Walk is to come march behind your own banner while walking with all of us for the disability community. He would like to invite anyone who has time to come for a walk with them on Sunday.

In November, they have another other fund-raising event for the Down's Syndrome organization, the Festival of Trees and Lights, an event that brings a lot of people together, have the most exquisite decorations of Christmas trees, and more importantly, it's about bringing people together to raise awareness and raise some funds for the disability community in general.

They are going to use this event as an occasion to show their appreciation for the Governor for his signing of those two bills, 116 and 259, which speak to the needs of the community in general as it relates to subminimum wage and certainly Down's Syndrome in 116.

The governor has accepted their invitation to appear, and they'll be providing him with a plaque to honor him for his service to the disability community.

The acceptance of the invitation was facilitated by Catherine Nielson, who is the Executive Director for the Governor's Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Dawn Lyons: The SILC does have a vendor table as well at the Buddy Walk. She and Wendy Thornley will be manning that table but if any other SILC members here or visitors to SILC today would like to join them at the SILC’s vendor table they are welcome to sit at the vendor table or explore the buddy walk as well.

Richard Blanchette: He would like to become a member of SILC and become a part of this community and requested information. Dawn will send him information.

Peter Whittingham: The walk is this Sunday, and it will be in Las Vegas at the town squares, one of the big shopping centers here in town. Which is located at Las Vegas boulevard and Sunset.

Havander Davis: This will be the first Disability Awareness Day that he had missed in many years.

1. **Adjournment (For Possible Action):**

Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair

10/4/2023 meeting was adjourned at: 3:32 pm

10/5/2023 meeting was adjourned at: 2:26 pm

**Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

**NOTE**:

* The following complete link for the meeting is included below:

[https://us02theyb.zoom.us/j/9299041434?pwd=NmM5Tk1Od3ltRzg1enhRYTU3WDdUZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9299041434?pwd=NmM5Tk1Od3ltRzg1enhRYTU3WDdUZz09)

* Items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson’s discretion. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based on viewpoint.
* They are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Wendy Thornley in writing at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706, email [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) or call at (775) 220-7941 as soon as possible.
* If at any time during the meeting an individual who has been named on the agenda or has an item specifically regarding them included on the agenda is unable to participate because of technical or other difficulties, please email Wendy Thornley at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) and note at what time the difficulty started so that matters pertaining specifically to their participation may be continued to a future agenda if needed or otherwise addressed.
* Please be cautious and do not click on links in the chat area of the meeting unless you have verified, they are safe. If you ever have questions about a link in a document purporting to be from ADSD, please do not hesitate to contact [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) for verification.
* This meeting may be recorded to facilitate note-taking or other uses. By participating you consent to recording of your participation in this meeting.
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* Supporting public material provided to the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council members for this meeting may be requested from Wendy Thornley at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) and is/will be available at any meeting locations and the SILC website <https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/>

**AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Statewide Independent Living Council website at <https://www.nvsilc.com/> and Nevada Public Notices website at [https://notice.nv.gov](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=e92e5499cb272963JmltdHM9MTY4NjYxNDQwMCZpZ3VpZD0xNGI5ODlmZS05NDliLTZhNGQtMDE3Yi05YjkyOTUxZjZiNTgmaW5zaWQ9NTE4Ng&ptn=3&hsh=3&fclid=14b989fe-949b-6a4d-017b-9b92951f6b58&psq=nevada+public+posting&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9ub3RpY2UubnYuZ292Lw&ntb=1)