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

**MINUTES**

**Date and Time of Meeting:**

Wednesday & Thursday, July 9 & 10, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

**Location of Meeting:**

This meeting will be held via videoconference only:

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

**Zoom Meeting**

**MINUTES**

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

**Day #1:**

* McWhirter-Clark, Linda Vejvoda, Obioma Officer, Lori Lutu, Lisa Bonie, DeeDee Formaster
* Members Excused Absent: Sheena Childers, Peter Whittingham
* Guest & Staff: Dawn Lyons, Mary Evilsizer, Sutter Rollings, Haiyen Vang, Molly Rose Lewis, Theresa Campbell, Sandra Cosgrove, Stephanie Crowne, Cynthia Swanson, Catherine Williams
* CART: Becky Van Auken
* ASL Interpreters: Jamie Jaramillo, Henry Yandrasits

**Day #2**:

* Members Present: Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Margaret Marcucci, Sabra McWhirter-Clark, Linda Vejvoda, Obioma Officer, Lori Lutu, Lisa Bonie, DeeDee Formaster, Sheena Childers
* Members Excused Absent: Peter Whittingham
* Guest & Staff: Dawn Lyons, Steven Cohen, Mary Evilsizer, John Roselund, Ace Patrick, Calvin Le, Randall Owen, Stephanie Crowne, Sutter Rollings
* ASL Interpreters: Jamie Jaramillo, Henry Yandrasits
* CART: Becky Van Auken
1. **Beginning Public Comment:**

**Day #1:**

* Molly Rose Lewis from Senator Jacky Rosen’s office, works in Reno office covering the disability community in Northern Nevada and has counterpart in Las Vegas office as well. Please keep posting so that they may help. The federal cuts won’t take effect for a while but if anything is seen in the interim that is affecting your abilities to do your work she would like to be contacted as she is the grants funding person. Her office can help with federal agency assistance for individuals and organizations for such as Social Security and Medicare or other things, immigration, passports, things like that.
* Obioma Officer, Henry Yandrasits is speaking from Nevada Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission. July 9 and 10 meeting will be her final meeting, and she has gained a lot of knowledge as a member of the disability community. She says thank you and looks forward to partnering and collaborating in the future.

**Day #2:**

* Mary Evilsizer, Executive Director for the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL). Received referrals From Mr. Sutter.
* The Centers for Independent Living (CIL) are accredited by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and maintain the highest confidentiality for the individuals with disabilities that they work with.
* The CIL follows all regulations for confidentiality. CIL is a safe place where individuals with disabilities can go and be safe in a non-threatening environment.
* Gratitude was expressed to the SILC Staff and Mr. Sutter for working with SNCIL.
* Steven Cohen has his application in process and can provide a full background for those who he has not met yet.
* The Developmental Council (DD Council)’s state plan survey post town hall is open for two weeks for the public comment making sure to follow federal regulations.
* Obioma Officer with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission mentioned that talks have begun for the Deaf Engagement Conference that will be held in December. If the time changes the SILC will be notified.
* Preparations for a Deaf and Hard of Hearing medical summit has started.
1. **For Possible Vote on Approval on Day 1:** Approval of Minutes from April 9 & 10, 2025.
* Margaret Marcucci motion to approve minutes.
* Sabra McWhirter Clark second the motion
* All others approved
1. **For Information on Days 1 and 2**:

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

**Day #1**

* Randall Owen is applying to be a council member and will be an ex-officio. He comes from the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities, where he is the Director.

**Day #2**

* Steven Cohen has applied to be a member; he has been involved in the past five or six legislative sessions and has written two amendments to bills. He is passionate about the community and would like to expand his role outside the autism community.
1. **Presentation and Discussion Anticipated on Day 1:**
2. Updates from the Youth Action Council. Haiyen Vang, Youth Outreach Specialist, stated YAC continues to grow at a youth-led initiative for individuals with disabilities in Nevada.
* Meetings are held twice a month, the first and third Thursday.
* Transitioned from Zoom to Group Me for better real time.
* Using messaging and texting formats to communicate during non-meeting times.
* There are currently 4 active members from Las Vegas, Sparks, Reno and Elko.
* Changed age requirement to 14 plus instead of 14 to 30 years old.
* Open to youth with family members who also have disabilities.
* Changes were made by member-led and approved by the council.
* Outreach and events
* YAC encouraged us to join at any outreach events, such as Haiyen and Stacy went to a summer concert in Carson City to Support DD for fund raiser they made food kabobs to sell.
* Traveling and learning Opportunities, currently preparing to attend the 2025 APRIL youth conference in October, in Oregon. This is an opportunity to gain some knowledge to launch own annual youth conference in Nevada.
* Launched website this month.
1. Updates from the Centers for Independent Living:

(See agenda item #6)

**Southern Nevada Center for independent Living (SNCIL),** Mary Evilsizer presenting updates.

* There were 1,007 service requests of the 1,007 service requests 821 were informational and referral and a total of 87 new intakes.
* This is a 10.4 percent increase in information/referral calls
* There is a decrease in intakes of 26%, there were 118 intakes last quarter and 87 this quarter.
* The trend of information and referral calls are immigrants who are also individuals with disabilities. They are being given the option of developing a goal or independent living plan to go back to their home country or independent living if they stay here. Also offering other services.
	+ 18% of those services were for advocacy and Legal Services.
* Housing requests were 52%, the next highest was for benefit application assistance whether it is for Social Security or Veterans learning about Social Security who are receiving Veterans Administration benefits, then there is Medicaid and Medicare.

**Southern Nevada participated in 71 outreach events**.

* Transition school nights at Chaparral
	+ Silver State Fair Housing Outreach
	+ 2 homeless encampments (provided information about services and capacity to on-the-spot intakes.
	+ Hawaii Pacific University assistive technology fair
	+ Harmony House outreach
* Annual Disability Awareness Day for Southern Nevada will be October 25, 2025, creating flyers and posting online applications on the website.
* SNCIL has 2 Grants with ADSD SILC and both are for housing.
	+ 19259 BX24 approved to fund only housing transitions, started 10/1/2023 ends 07/31/2025. Total was $33,000 which $8,900 is left would like to request extension to 09/30/2025. The request was made due to trying to assist 4 individuals, of which 1 month is not enough time to complete those.
	+ 2nd Grant is for transitional housing, end date is 12/31/2025.
	+ Dawn Lyons requested Mary to send both grant information by email.

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

* Having a big push for outreach. Housing is a big issue and one of the funding streams ends in September.
* Hosted the Washoe County School District blind and low-vision students in NNCIL facility. Which included 9 service dogs which the kids could get hands-on to understand a little more about the service dogs. Also, they had adaptive bikes so kids could try different ways of riding bikes.
* MS peer support group started again first Tuesday of every month
* Blind cooking group tested our facilities new kitchen.
* Several Health Fairs were attended.
* Continued to work with Emergency Management with collaborating on drills and emergency preparedness plans.
* Working with Nevada Department of Transportation on ADA compliant sidewalk where office is, expanding the sidewalk to 5 feet.
* Hosted Blind Burners International, which taught act row yoga, and brought with them tactile maps of burning man.
* Hosted Mark Welman Day with 400 participants with an adaptive climbing wall, bikes and kayaks. Also, it had 42 vendors who provide services for people with disabilities.

**Rural Center for Independent Living (RCIL)** Dee Dee Formaster, Director in Carson City.

* Housing is still an issue. In Carson City for one bedroom, you must make $32,000 a year.
* We Referred a lot of people over to vocational rehab so that they can work part time and collect their disability at the same time so that they will be income-eligible for some kind of housing.
* Trying to get individual landlords who are willing to work with RCIL.
* Have received a lot of referrals from Nations Finest for Veterans that were in the National Guard who were deployed overseas, but are not considered Veterans, to get them into some type of housing.
* Doing Outreach Fund Raising with the Brewery Arts Center at their music festival which is every Saturday Night.
* Hoping to use funds towards getting a transportation van.
* Trying to expand outreach for support groups.
* Legislative Educator, Sutter Rollings, attended legislative training through the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada. First appearance was the developmental disabilities day at the Legislature. Sat in on the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. Worked with Sara (paid lobbyist) on how to meet with legislators and present to them about CIL. Met with Senate Minority Leader Titus, Senator Stone, Assembly Member Edgeworth, Senator Ellison and Senator Lori Rogich. Spoke with Senator Rogich for over 30 minutes about the difficulties in the disabled community in Nevada and what the CIL are doing to help.
* Senator Rogich spoke of the improvements she has seen as she has a personal connection with the disabled community and Sutter Rollings gave her the contact information for the SNCIL. He also gave her multiple copies of the one-page education document to pass on to her colleagues. Senator Rogich spoke to him about transportation for the disabled about a program they have in Utah, her daughter attends Utah State, how she would like to see that move into the Las Vegas.
* Dawn Lyons requested an update from Sutter Rollings or Mary Evilsizer on Senator Rogich’s daughter on her return to Las Vegas, as Senator Rogich had some concerns for her return.
1. Report and Discussion Regarding the State Assistive Technology for Independent Living Program (AT/IL Program)
* This 30-year program exists to help fill the gaps that Medicare insurance doesn’t cover like home adaptations and more.
* ARPA Funds run through December and have been obligated. The funds helped eliminate the wait list but not the wait time.
* Received $1.3 in state general funds to pay for services for the fiscal year 2026.
* 53 different projects are waiting to close this should happen in the next 33-45 days.
* Have been able to serve 20 additional people compared to fiscal year 2024.
* 100 active consumer open cases.
* 138 cases were carried over.
* 103 people have entered the program
* 22 people are still pending approval.
* The estimated closing is $500,000.
* 43 different goals are still pending quotes.
1. Updates and Discussion Regarding the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC), Dawn Lyons with updates.
* Nevada TRIP program updates they are starting to plan their report. (Subcommittee meeting was today July 9 and Dawn Lyons was unable to attend)
1. Updates and Discussion regarding Aging and Disability Services (ADSD) Lori Lutu with updates.
* With legislation session over we are looking at impacts to our programs and services. Also, evaluating our implementation measures.
* During the session the Consumer Health Assistance program were able to establish caseload ratios.
* Wait Lists for our programs are not funded.
* For the Early Intervention program, Part C office is going to be moving under ADS, and we were able to keep the provider rate increases that we had implemented for the COPE and PAS programs.
* We are continuing to work on our PCA personal care assistant’s workforce project, addressing the workforce shortage.
* The development of a consensus-based training curriculum making sure that PCA’s meet all regulatory training requirements.
* Creating a workforce pipeline and how that could filter into other professions or to use PCA as a steppingstone.
* Changes in staffing within ADSD
	+ Dena Schmidt has transitioned to a new role, Rique Robb has been promoted as the administrator.
	+ Rique Robb’s position as Deputy Administrator has now been filled with Samantha Jamie who was previously with the Autism Treatment Assistance Program.
	+ Jeff Duncan has left ADSD, and his replacement is Cheyenne Pasquale. Currently looking for a replacement for Cheyenne’s role of Planning Chief.
1. Updates and Discussion regarding Aging and Disability Services (ADSD)
* ADSD has gone through a rebrand process that rolled out internally and to the public. The goal with the rebrand was to unify the division and to clarify what ADSD has to offer and to increase awareness and trust across all programs and with the community.
1. Updates and Discussion Regarding Takeaways from Conferences Attended by Members and Information Regarding Upcoming Events and Conferences
* No conferences attended since the last meeting
* Dawn Lyons will attend NCIL in July.
* APRIL rural conference is coming up in October and registration is opening soon. It is in Portland, Oregon and would like to have YAC members be able to go utilizing reimbursement from their scholarship.
* Props to Haiyen for the hard work she’s doing as the YAC is growing and really making progress.
* If anyone is interested in going to APRIL, please give names to make sure you get put on the list to be registered for attendance.
1. Updates Regarding Details of the Department of Education’s Disability Innovation Fund (DIF), Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project
* Focus on building training for youth service professionals through the canvas learning management system and included updates on partner contacts and advisory workgroup recruitment and retention.
* Team discussed progress on independent living courses, recreational activities for students with disabilities and the roll out of the website in Spanish (end of summer 2025).
* The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is bringing on Wendy Yankowski manager of Responsible Advocacy and Consulting LLC. She is going to be the new Nevada TRIP project Coordinator. She will capture lessons learned from 3 pilot districts and create a menu of transition service for school districts through the statewide roll out of the grants (in years 3 to 5).
1. **For Presentation and Discussion Anticipated for Day 1:** Presentation on Social Security, Medicare, and Financial Planning Teresa Campbell, Public Affairs Specialist at Social Security California Inland Area
* Introduction of Teresa Campbell from Social Security. She will give a presentation to speak about Social Security Disability and SSI. She will also talk about retirement and how Social Security is calculated and how those benefits can be given to spouses and ex-spouses. She will also discuss Medicare.
* Theresa Campbell gave the website to access, website ssa.gov, Social Security.gov, for information, financial planning and calculators. Also notified that once a person collects Social Security it can be managed online. You can apply for Social Security in person or by phone; phone number 1-800-772-1213 (1800SSA1213).
* Concluded presentation and opened for questions. One of the questions asked about ABLE accounts, and legislative changes. Currently there has not been any notification of changes.
1. **For** **Possible Vote on Council Action Anticipated for Day 1:**

Annual officer nominations. Julie turned over to Dawn.

* Election of chair and vice chair, this is our annual election.
	+ - Nomination for Chair. Obioma would like to nominate someone. Obioma is not a voting member but is able to nominate. Nominated Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, which Julie accepted. Lisa Bonie second the nomination. All other members accepted Julie’s nomination.
* Nomination for Vice Chair. Sabra McWhirter-Clark nominated Linda Vejvoda. Linda accepted the nomination. All other members accepted Linda Vejvoda’s nomination for Vice Chair.
* Julie appointed officers for treasurer and secretary. Re-appointed Margaret Marcucci as Treasurer and Sabra McWhirter Clark as Secretary. They accepted the appointed positions.
* No additional discussion and all approved
1. **For Presentation and Discussion Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion Regarding the Effects of the Federal Budget on Disability Programs in Nevada and what Future Actions the SILC may need to Consider

* Kate Osti provided an update via email from the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC). She stated that on the federal budget that even though it was passed and signed into law the process for passing the bill or budget is called budget reconciliation.
* It is different than the appropriations process which funds all to the P&A and Client Assistant Program (CAP) Programs.
* Reconciliation deals with spending items like Medicaid, Snap, and Medicare excreta.
* The appropriations process deals with discretionary funding.
* None of the P&A or CAP funding for fiscal year 20/26 that starts October 1st was decided in the Presidents bill and won’t be until the appropriations process work has been completed.
* Randall Owen stated that the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) at the University of Nevada Reno (UNR), currently is written out of the budget. The Developmental Disability (DD) network and the NDALC have been restored to the budget.
* Talks continue with representatives educating them on the importance of the Centers for Excellence and the whole
* Mary Evilsizer mentioned are hoping for a reversal in the initial budget cuts as the Southern Nevada Center of Independent Living has worked with both the NCED & NDALC and other programs.
* Steven Cohen mentioned that he heard the CAP program was going to be moved under the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) which may be conflicting.
* Agenda item reopened to clarify if CAP, NDALC and NCED lose all their federal funding because of the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB)
1. **For Discussion Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion Regarding SPIL Amendment to Consider for the Next Fiscal Year

* The SPIL needs to be amended because funds for staffing were not approved during the legislative session.
* Request for volunteers to be on the SPIL workgroup to help right the state plan was made.
* Recommendation to revisit the employment coalition section of the state plan.
* A suggestion was made to review the Youth Action Council and the staffing sections as well.
1. **For Possible Vote on Planned Topics Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion, Evaluate, and Make Recommendations Regarding Progress of Action Items in the Federal Fiscal Year 25 – 27 State Plan

* Reviewing the timeline amending the SPIL is the thing to accomplish.
* Request to have updates from Aging and Disability on the Olmstead Act.
* All other objectives are on track.
1. **Discussion and Possible Vote on Next Actions Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion, Review and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding the FFY25 Budget, Council Staffing needs and Future Conference Plans

* The budget tracker was posted with the meeting materials on the [NVSILC website](https://www.nvsilc.com/meetings/?filter=past).
* Request to have SILC members attend the Deaf Commission conference in December was made.
* Conference funding is on track with enough to have one person attend the APRIL conference.
* It is unknown if the DD Council is having their annual Silver State Self-Advocacy Conference in August. SILC can cover for 1 person to attend if they have one.
1. **For Possible Vote on Next Actions Anticipated for Day 2:**

Discussion and Approval of Future Annual Meeting Agenda Items and Dates: October 8 & 9, 2025

* Olmstead Report
* Progress the Medical Education Subcommittee has made
1. **Ending Public Comment**

**Day #1**

* Obioma Officer Wanted to remind the community to share the information that on July 22nd and July 24th Las Vegas will have the Deaf Nation World Expo. This is a free event to attend at the Westgate Hotel shared with the CAS program. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, HOCHA and one more organization will be in attendance with 12,000 plus attendees coming internationally and finally the count was up to 14,000. It’s open to everyone with events and activities such as on the 22nd Starbucks night for the kickoff night, second day vendors and resources will be available and third night there will be basketball and Deaf Poker event. There will be state programs from all over including the State of Nevada.

**Day #2**

* Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh thanked Obioma Officer for her service on the commission.
* Dawn Lyons thanked CART provider Becky and the ASL interpreters for all the hard work they do at each of the meetings.
1. **Adjournment (For Possible Action):**

**Day #1**: 3:34pm

**Day #2**: 3:55pm

**Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

* Supporting public material provided to the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council members for this meeting may be requested from Dawn Lyons at dlyons@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 7150 Pollock Dr., Las Vegas, NV. 89119. 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)