NEVADA
ADSD
Aging & Disability Services Division

riquerobb@adsd.nv.gov
O: 775-687-4210

July 6, 2026

Re: Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (NV SILC) State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Workgroup Meeting

Dear SPIL Workgroup,

This letter is in response to the virtual SPIL Workgroup Meeting that was held on May 11, 2026, where several concerns were identified by ADSD. Specifically related to agenda Item #3 "Review and Approval of Recommendations Regarding the Designated State Entity (DSE) and Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)…Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, Chair." I am writing with the hopes of seeking a collaborative relationship between ADSD as the DSE working and the SILC. Below is a summary of the concerns that were identified during the May 11. 2026, meeting.

Conflict between Workgroup Expectation and Agenda Item

The appointed DSE Representative attended this meeting as a guest. Although the agenda was posted to the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council website prior to the meeting, there was never a formal invitation to the DSE to be present to answer detailed questions regarding their role. Specifically, the agenda item was worded in a way that identified the specific actions of the workgroup (review and approve recommendations), led by the Chair. Due to this wording and the lack of communication regarding this agenda item, the DSE was not aware of what their role would be.

Open Meeting Law Concern

The agenda identifies a 'Review and Approval of Recommendations Regarding the DSE', however the discussion that ensued was focused on an Evaluation of the DSE through a series of questions that were included as part of the meeting materials (Questions to Evaluate the DSE relationship with the IL Network). The discussion that occurred conflicted with the stated intent of the agenda item. This presents concerns related to transparency and adherence to open meeting law.

Collaboration and Transparency

In reviewing technical assistance materials, the approach should follow a collaborative evaluation framework, however the approach to this meeting was not collaborative in nature. First, by not extending an invitation to the DSE or clarifying expectations of attendance, but more importantly the conversation centered primarily on perceived deficiencies and repeated attempts by the discussion facilitator to focus on deficiencies. While we recognize that the intent was to support open dialogue regarding the SPIL Goal to evaluate the existing DSE relationship, ADSD did not have appropriate engagement to participate in a collaborative framework.

In Summary

ADSD has maintained a commitment to honoring the intention and goals of the Independent Living movement, specifically supporting and promoting the SILC's autonomy to ensure they meet their obligations as outlined in 45 CFR 1329. ADSD is committed to maintaining a mutually respectful, collaborative relationship with the SILC, while supporting the goals of the Independent Living Network. To support effective collaboration, we kindly ask that advance notice be provided when the DSE is expected to present to ensure proper preparation and representation. We are happy to participate in future evaluation conversations as requested.

Thank you,

Rique Robb
ADSD Administrator