



The Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities

The Honorable Governor Steve Sisolak
Office of the Governor
One Hundred One North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Honorable Governor Steve Sisolak,

I am writing on behalf of the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD), whose mission it is to, “facilitate and enhance the quality of life and services for children and adults with disabilities in Nevada.” CSPD evaluates the needs of individuals with disabilities; seeks ways to avoid duplication of effort in service delivery; establishes priorities for the Aging and Disabilities Services Division (ADSD) of the Department of Health and Human Services; promotes community-based services; gathers and disseminates pertinent information; makes recommendations regarding plans for services; conducts workgroups, meetings and hearings; evaluates legislation; and coordinates efforts to assist in serving individuals with disabilities. The CSPD is requesting guidance from you on the question of its continued involvement with Executive Order 2014-16. To provide some context, I offer the following brief history.

In 2014, Governor Sandoval issued Executive Order 2014-16 to create a Taskforce on Integrated Employment. The Taskforce was mandated to examine and evaluate current employment programs, resources, funding, available training and employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and report these findings to the Governor by July 1, 2015, including presenting a three, five and ten-year strategic plan for creating a more integrated workforce and expanding competitive, integrated employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

The Taskforce submitted its three, five and ten-year Strategic Plan on Integrated Employment to Governor Sandoval on July 1, 2015. After review, Governor Sandoval issued a letter to the Taskforce Chair on July 10, 2015 which requested that the CSPD take responsibility to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The CSPD formed a subcommittee whose work culminated in an employment summit on September 8, 2017 and a final report of implementation to the Governor’s office on May 4, 2017. No further facilitation has been provided by the CSPD since then.

The goals and strategies outlined within the Strategic Plan from 2015 align with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and with agencies’ goals and strategies for Aging and Disabilities Services Division (ADSD) of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Vocational Rehabilitation program of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. Both integral agencies continue to implement the Strategic Plan as part of their core missions, alongside other public and private organizations and agencies who have been strengthening collaborative efforts toward implementing the Plan, as well. (A detailed Progress Report from the Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities is included for more specific examples of these collaborations).



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CSPD is unclear what its role should be, if any, in ongoing implementation of the Strategic Plan submitted to Governor Sandoval in 2015. (For your reference, “Nevada’s Strategic Plan on Integrated Employment” is included with this letter). Some CSPD members believe their obligation to Governor Sandoval has been fulfilled, while others wonder if there is a further duty to the Strategic Plan and the new Administration.

As agencies continue to move forward with competitive, integrated employment, and the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, the CSPD is asking if you support the Strategic Plan as written. Is it your desire that the CSPD facilitate its implementation in any way? If so, it would be beneficial if you would define the CSPD’s role since it has no *official* authority over most of the agencies and partners it would be aiding with its facilitation. Furthermore, there were and are no additional resources dedicated to implementation of the Strategic Plan or its facilitation outside of agencies’ legislatively approved budgets.

Please feel free to contact me on behalf of the CSPD if you have any questions or concerns. The CSPD meets quarterly. The next scheduled meetings will be held on August 13, 2020, & November 12, 2020. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Thorkildson, CSPD Vice-Chair

Enc. Nevada Strategic Plan on Integrated Employment & Progress Report