



**BRIAN SANDOVAL**  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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**MICHAEL WILLDEN**  
Director

**JANE GRUNER**  
Administrator

## **MINUTES**

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

Date and Time of Meeting: June 6, 2013  
11:00 a.m.

This meeting will be a Video Conference between the following:

Reno: Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living  
999 Pyramid Way  
Sparks, NV 89431  
(775) 353-3599

Las Vegas: Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center  
6039 Eldora Ave.  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89416  
(702) 257-8150

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Bonie, Chairperson

Reminder to Council of the June 13, 2013 conference call.

Ms. Bonie called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Reggie Bennett, Lisa Bonie, Kacy Curry, Melaine Mason, Rade Zone.

Excused members: Lisa Ford.

Public present: Mary Evilsizer; Anita Frantz, Nevada Disability Advocacy Law Center; Ashley Greenwald, Positive Behavior Support of Nevada; Paul Gowens; Samantha King, Nevada PEP; Kate Ostey, Nevada Disability Advocacy Law Center.

Staff present: Tammy Brown, Julie Kotchevar, John Rosenlund.

- II. Approval of the Minutes from the May 8, 2013 Meeting **(For Possible Action)**  
Lisa Bonie, Chairperson

This item postponed to a future meeting.

- III. 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.)

Mr. Zone asked about assistive technology for disabled people and if there is a volunteer agency in Las Vegas that can provide computers, etc. He noted a lack of these services and asked why aren't there more. Mr. Zone continued, inquiring why there aren't more disabled people employed in government positions. If funding to hire them is an issue, he'd suggest taxing big money makers in Nevada, gambling for example, to fund it.

- IV. Additional Public Input and Comment Regarding the Draft 2014-2016 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) (Please review a copy of the draft plan before the meeting. The draft plan will be available by calling Aging and Disability Services Division at: 775-687-0533 or by e-mail at [rosenlund@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:rosenlund@adsd.nv.gov)).

Mr. Rosenlund read some comments (see attached) from Jack Mayes, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center, noting that the Olmstead Plan is now called the Nevada Strategic Plan. Mr. Rosenlund asked Ms. Frantz if these references had been changed. She said most of them have.

Mr. Gowens said if he were a member of this council he would not approve the Plan because he cannot tell what is going on, it's not clear who does what. He said the merging of Disability Services into Aging Services has been a plus in some areas and a negative in others. Mr. Gowens noted it's difficult to tell what support the SILC is getting from the State, and there is no mention of advocacy. It appears that the same issues are being addressed from 10-15 years ago. He noted it should read that interpreters will be provided, not try to be provided. The Plan is already outdated; the section on the merger is especially lacking; it's a hodge-podge of ideas.

Ms. Bonie said it was her understanding that the Plan has to be turned into the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) by July 1, 2013. Ms. Evilsizer said she thinks the SILC can request an extension, but if not turned in on time may impact funding. The best course of action would be to contact the RSA to request an extension and see what their response is. Ms. Mason said the Code of Federal Regulations for the State Plan requires, to receive funding, requests must come through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) even though ADSD is designated to run the program. VR needs to make the request along with the SILC and Jane Gruner, Administrator of ADSD.

Mr. Gowens said he doesn't want funding held up, but he can't tell if there's a plan other than supporting a couple of projects. He said it's not a working document.

Being new to the council, Mr. Zone said he was glad Mr. Gowens brought these issues up, as he was having trouble understanding the Plan. Mr. Rosenlund said there are four primary goals, and the objectives were written in from years back to support funding for IL services.

Mr. Zone noted that the Olmstead Act, which the plan is based on, is vague and doesn't put time limits on anything. Mr. Gowens added that the Olmstead Act was developed to look at how a State was doing, items that were not being met were highlighted to get funding.

Mr. Gowens noted he understands how difficult data collection is, saying it took him about one year to go through records and found that 20 percent of Nevadan's have a disability, which makes him think the numbers in the Plan don't reflect the needs of IL. He added that there are a number of things that appear incomplete, and noted that funding has always been a problem.

Ms. Evilsizer said the problem is there is no money to back up the goals; by not knowing where funding would come from for a lot of what the SILC would like to do is where partnering with other agencies in the community came into play. She added, that as a SILC, we started out doing advocacy, but were informed that that was not the SILC's role, another reason for partnering. The role of the SILC is to monitor the Olmstead Act and provide the best integration possible for individuals in the community.

Mr. Gowens brought up a budget of \$280,000 to fund two agencies to provide IL services. Mr. Rosenlund said that money goes to IL programs but it's not enough to fund everything so it's supplemented by other programs such as Assistive Technology (AT). Mr. Gowens suggested some VR programs are open-ended as to funding and that may be a resource. Ms. Mason said that's not true, for example, the Older Blind Program has limited funding and is stretched to the limit. VR is basically the conduit to the Older Blind Program which consists mainly of mobility training.

Ms. Kotchevar wanted to be sure the SILC knew that \$1.2 million was requested in the budget for IL to serve the people on the wait list. Mr. Rosenlund noted the wait list is prioritized by need.

Mr. Gowens said he's concerned with staffing, saying there isn't enough staff to put together good information, gather data, etc.

Ms. King said the Plan is very nebulous in nature, benchmarks are unclear; it needs more how, what, why. She suggested contracting with Nevada PEP and

the Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) since what they do is transition planning.

Mr. Rosenlund said State IL dollars are designated to provide AT money to provide services to ease transition into the community. The wait list is generated by the number of people who need, but can't afford, home, vehicle or other modifications.

Mr. Zone commented that it seems to him that each disability type has to fight for their own needs, and the people making the decisions aren't disabled. Ms. Bonie said that's not true, most agencies working with the disabled are required to have 51 percent of representation by people with disabilities.

Ms. Curry said the council needs to move forward on the Plan - ratify or rework it.

Ms. Bonie said if funding will be lost if it's not turned in on time the council should submit it and revise it afterwards. Mr. Bennett suggested reviewing it again before submitting it. Ms. Bonie said that could be done on the telephone meeting next week. Mr. Gowens suggested finding out if an extension could be given before approving the plan, noting it's harder to change after it's been adopted.

Ms. Bonie said the RSA should be contacted to see about an extension and any ramifications of an extension. Mr. Gowens mentioned that VR has to contact the RSA.

Mr. Bennett made a motion to ask VR to contact the RSA regarding an extension for submitting the State Plan. He said an answer would be needed by June 11, 2013. Ms. Curry seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Curry asked if council members could look at plans from other states to see what they've done. Ms. Bonie said they are on the RSA website. Mr. Rosenlund said he would send an email to council members with the link to access the site. He noted that there are wide variety of plans. Ms. Evilsizer said Nevada is unique since major funding goes to AT. Also, there are differences in the way each state provides oversight of funding. She suggested members look at state that are similar to Nevada, such as Arizona. Mr. Rosenlund said if anyone needs one or two printed out and mailed to them, let him know. Ms. Curry asked if Mr. Rosenlund could suggest which states would be similar. He said he hasn't review all of them, but will let the members know, of the ones he has looked at, which are comparable to Nevada.

Ms. Bonie said it was previously mentioned to put together a schedule to review a section of the plan monthly in order to make it right. Mr. Rosenlund said it could be put on the agenda for each meeting. Mr. Gowens asked who will do it. Mr. Bennett said they should wait until they hear back from the RSA regarding an

extension. Mr. Rosenlund said ADSD writes the plan up the way they are directed to.

- V. Review and Discussion of Public Comments Regarding the Draft State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)  
Lisa Bonie, Chairperson

See item IV.

- VI. Discussion and Possible Recommendations on the Draft State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). **(For Possible Action)**  
Council

See item IV.

- VII. 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.)

There were no comments from the public.

- VII. Adjournment

Ms. Bonie reminded everyone of the telephone meeting on June 13, 2013. Ms. Brown will be sending out the agenda.

Mr. Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Curry seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order. 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 upon viewpoint

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