

May 10, 2021

Richard Whitley, Director
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Dena Schmidt, Administrator
Aging and Disability Services Division

Dear Director Whitley,

Over the course of the last several months, the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD) has been reviewing our mission, vision, and current activities. As part of this review process, we requested a presentation from ADSD staff about the status of the Division's Olmstead-related work. On February 11, 2021, Cheyenne Pasquale provided the CSPD with a thorough overview of the Division's Olmstead efforts to date. During the presentation, Ms. Pasquale indicated that ADSD does not have a current Olmstead strategic plan, nor does that Division have an internal taskforce and/or working group dedicated to ensuring Olmstead compliance. The members of the CSPD found this revelation concerning. As a result, at the February 11, 2021 meeting, that CSPD voted unanimously to submit a letter requesting that ADSD re-establish an Olmstead taskforce, as well as develop and implement a current Olmstead strategic plan. As the Chair of the CSPD, I would be happy to collaborate with ADSD on this process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Thorkildson
Chair, Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities