



NLRCC Executive Director's Report – July 2023

By Cheryl Dinnell

(This report summarizes the Executive Director's activities from May 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023.)

A) Board Membership

Cherrise Brown has joined our NLRCC board, representing an organization that provides services to children with disabilities, caregiver support services to family caregivers, and the state's No Wrong Door, Nevada Care Connection initiative. Our board membership now stands at 14 (maximum 15).

Cory Lutz and Kathy Doyle have both been reappointed for a second term starting 7/1/2023. These appointments are for another 2 years.

A list of terms expiring in the second half of 2023 is below:

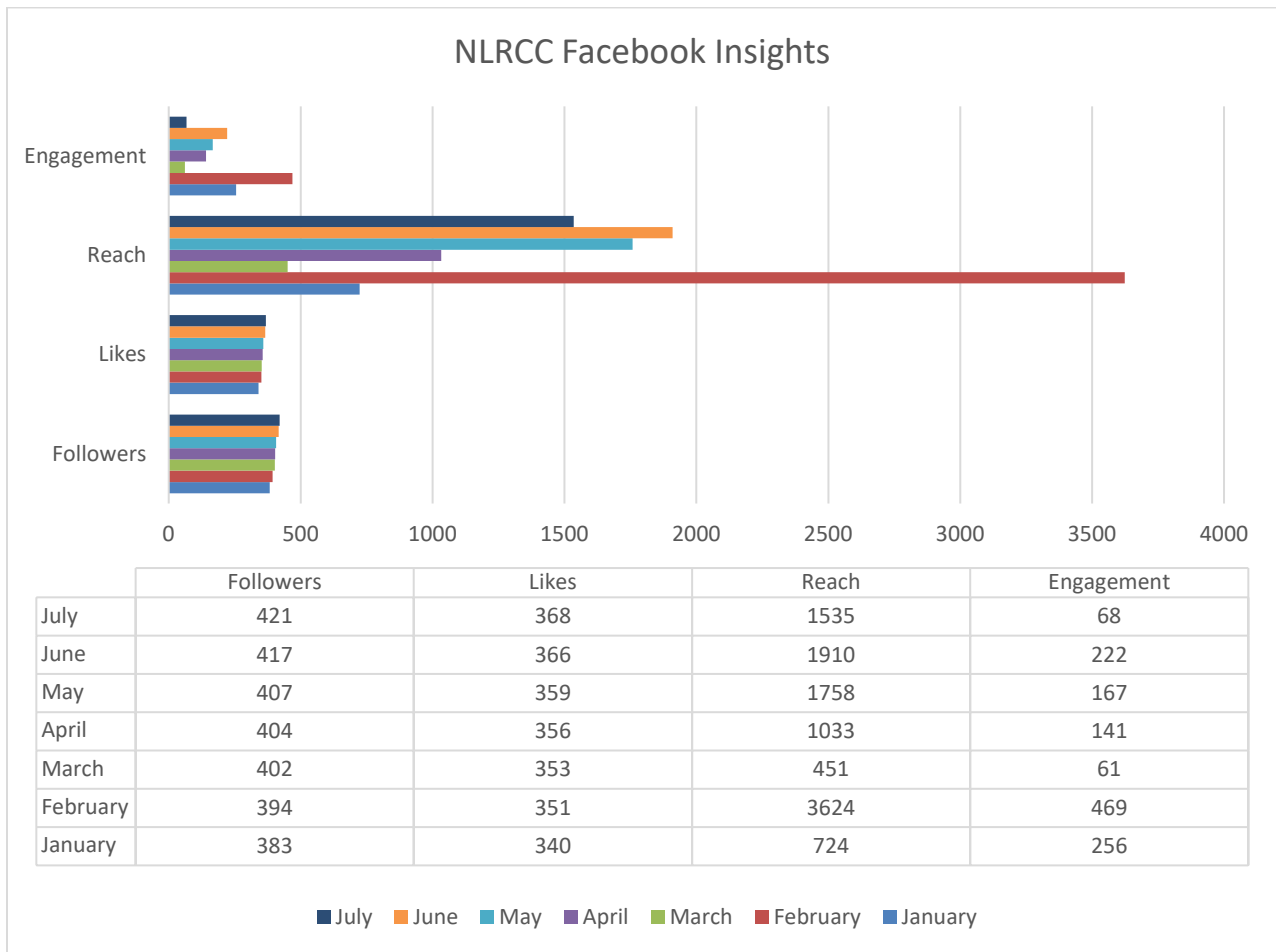
Name	Voting Status	Term Starts	Term Ends	# of Terms	Role
Rachel Jelenic	voting	10/1/2021	9/30/2023	1	An organization that provides services to veterans with long term care needs and/or their family caregivers
Sharifa Wahab	voting	10/1/2021	9/30/2023	1	An organization that provides caregiver support services to family caregivers who care for someone over the age of 18; representative of an organization that provides caregiver relief such as palliative care, personal care, or other in-home services
Molly Walt	voting	10/1/2021	9/30/2023	1	Direct service workers or volunteers, providing temporary respite services for family caregivers; represent an organization that provides caregiver support services to family caregivers who care for someone over the age of 18
Amy Dewitt-Smith	voting	10/1/2021	9/30/2023	1	An organization that provides caregiver support services to family caregivers who care for someone over the age of 18
Justin Lester Hansen	voting	10/1/2021	9/30/2023	1	A family caregiver of an adult over the age of 18 who either has a disability or chronic health care condition

B) Community for Respite Meetings



Membership requests have continued to come in. Community for Respite meetings have not been continued in 2023. An email inviting them to join the NLRCC board listserv has been sent. Until NLRCC determines to restart Community for Respite meetings, the link on NVCaregivingRelief.org will be changed to the ASD website for the Coalition.

C) NLRCC Website & Social Media Presence



Facebook Goal: Grow the “brand” of NLRCC and increase audience for respite messaging.

From May 1- June 30, 2023, Facebook Likes (unique users) has grown to 346 (22 new); NLRCC social media has reached 5203, with three posts. Post Engagement totaled 457 hits. Facebook Followers currently stands at 421 (up 4.2%).

Website Goal: Drive audience to NLRCC page for content and resources and grow the “brand” of NLRCC and increase audience for respite messaging.



Google Analytics show 298 Users in May & June; 287 are New Users. Page views totaled 555; total Event Count was 1605.

There are several updates needed for the NVCaregivingRelief.org website. Several of the links are inactive or need to be changed, and some documents need to be replaced or updated.

YouTube-Specific Goals: Provide content for training, education, and awareness to improve quality of care and reduce caregiver burnout.

Recently, ARCH National Respite Network highlighted work done in Nevada, posted on the NLRCC YouTube channel for public awareness and to introduce the benefits of respite in one of its working documents to identify state lifespan respite grant activities that align with the National Strategy Goals & Outcomes. See [National-Strategy-Alignment-with-Grantee-Activities_rev-3-20-2023.pdf](https://www.archrespice.org/National-Strategy-Alignment-with-Grantee-Activities_rev-3-20-2023.pdf) (archrespice.org)

The YouTube channel has had 534 views and hosts twenty-eight videos that introduce visitors to the Coalition, the concept of respite, and self-care tips for caregivers.

The third video in our YouTube series on the benefits of respite is nearing completion and will be posted and disseminated as soon as available.

D) Advocacy & Legislative Awareness

Per the direction of the board, letters of support were submitted for legislative bills AB167 and SB298, and a neutral letter about important considerations was submitted for SB315. Letters on legislative bills are available for review. AB167 on a dementia care specialist program did not pass; SB 298 and SB315 were signed into law.

The NLRCC recommendation for legislative action on caregiver engagement, including the use of evidence-support and culturally sensitive family caregiver assessments, **AB 100**, has signed into law by Governor Lombardo on May 31st, 2023.

E) Executive Director Position

The Executive Director position (20 hours/week or more) will continue to be funded by Lifespan Respite grants. Cheryl Dinnell has given notice that she will not be renewing her contract with ADSD at the end of August 2023. A new Executive Director will be recruited for the NLRCC to begin as soon as possible. This position is intended to continue to 1) build the NLRCC presence on Facebook and YouTube and the NVCaregivingRelief.org website, and 2) facilitate legislative advocacy on behalf of the NLRCC board.

Most ADSD-supported boards and commissions do not have Executive Directors. Support of the Coalition meetings will be the responsibility of the Coalition Chair/Co-Chair; Board members will be



expected to build partnerships and collaborate with others on finding common ground around respite and caregiver support. The NLRCC Board is also responsible for tracking progress and reviewing/updating recommendations in the State Plan for the Support of Family Caregivers.

F) NASHP Report

National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) has released a report on respite care, part of a collaborative with ARCH National Respite Network and Administration for Community Living (ACL) to promote best practices and build state capacity for respite care. [Emerging Respite Care Strategies in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waivers for Older Adults, Adults with Physical Disabilities, and their Family Caregivers - NASHP](#). NLRCC has summarized Nevada-specific data in a document for board review.

A NASHP Respite Summit will be held in Washington DC in November 2023. Details are still pending. NLRCC might be interested in having a representative attend.

Since respite is a primary interest for family caregivers, Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) and Long Term Supports & Services (LTSS) provided some feedback on where Nevada could take steps to improve supports and services for caregivers.

DHCFP feels that respite services under the Frail Elderly (FE) and Physically Disabled (PD) Waiver have similar strategies compared to other states highlighted in the report. The bigger issue is the rate of pay for respite, although there are different respite rates for FE and PD as PD requires more assistance. Currently, DHCFP has contracted with a vendor to conduct a rate study for all Home and Community Based Services which include respite. Also, Nevada was recently approved by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) to allow legally responsible individuals (LRIs) to be paid caregiver (with certain stipulations) for both FE, PD, and hopefully the Intellectual Disability Waiver (ID) which is currently in the review process, but also includes respite care.

Since there are several changes that have been made to the Medicaid HCBS/ID Waiver renewal that would allow legal guardians to receive payment for residential supports, and other changes to supportive living arrangements (SLA), Jobe & Day Training (JDT), Non-Medical Transportation and other services that impact family caregivers, NLRCC will arrange to have a representative from Nevada Medicaid come present on the new CMS waiver proposals and how these changes will impact family caregivers.

As for the rates, the legislature just approved a rate increase to Medicaid State Plan Personal Care Services and Waiver "PCS like services" (which includes respite) to \$25/hr. - with the stipulation that provider agencies must pass through at least \$16/hr. to their caregivers/employees providing direct service, effective 1/1/24. DHCFP is preparing to submit to CMS the FE and PD Waiver amendments to ensure approval on or before 1/1/24. They will also conduct public workshops about the rate increase sometime in July and post a link for public comments. NLRCC may want to provide comments to these proposed actions.