## 08182023 NLRCC Spotlight on Ashlee Rowerdink,

Community Services Program Coordinator, ADSD PAC-OCL

- Pronunciation for Rowerdink (rouer-dink)



Ashlee Rowerdink has recently joined Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division (ADSD) as the new Community Services Program Coordinator. She is a licensed social worker who has been working for about 10 years in the Las Vegas area on the front lines with a diverse population of adolescents, seniors, veterans, and people of every age group who need resources. She has loved her direct interface with clients but felt she was not letting her true gift for administration come to

light. When a friend told her about the position on the ADSD Planning, Advocacy, and Community (PAC) – Office of Community Living (OCL), she decided to apply. We welcome her involvement in the Lifespan Respite grants!

She moved from a small town in Northern California where she was raised in a very religious household and was engaged in a variety of faith-based and community service projects from a very young age. Her parents would be the first to raise their hands to volunteer to be of service when it was needed. That background very naturally led her to continue in serviceoriented work as she pursued her studies.

Her first job was with homeless veterans and, with service so ingrained within her, she desired to learn more and do more to help and began her pursuit of her master's in social work.

She has also worked with Medicaid and knows how many families hoped to hire friends and family as their paid care providers. Unfortunately, too many of them did not have clean background checks and could not be hired by the agencies who employ care providers. She is also interested in the state of working family caregivers who have had huge impacts on their ability to remain employed while also caring for loved ones with special needs.

Some of her experiences with volunteerism has led to work with the Cupcake Girls, a nonprofit who provides confidential support to those involved in the sex industry, and the prevention and aftercare for survivors of sex-trafficking.

What you may not know about her is that she is a state tennis champion who also went to regionals. She loves tennis and still plays three times a week, playing for a mixed team and three different clubs this fall. Tennis has been a way for her to recuperate and "shed the day" of her service work.