FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NCEDSV Forms Statewide Advisory Committee Preventing Sexual Abuse of People with Developmental Disabilities**

***Seeking parents/guardians, self-advocates, direct service providers***

**RENO, Nev. – June 21, 2019** The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence is bringing people together to create educational materials to raise awareness and discuss strategies to prevent the sexual assault of individuals ages 12-24 with developmental disabilities.

NCEDSV will host two statewide virtual meetings on Thursday, June 27, from 9 – 10:30 a.m. and 6 – 7:30 p.m., via the GoToMeeting web platform or via teleconference, to introduce the issues facing individuals with developmental disabilities who may be struggling in unhealthy relationships and may be vulnerable to sexual assault.

“Our goal is to create an advisory committee that will be meeting monthly until September 2019 to help guide the project development focusing on prevention, supporting survivors, improving access to services, and identifying and enhancing available resources,” Judy Henderson, NCEDSV training coordinator, said. “The primary audience for these educational materials will be parents or guardians, so their involvement is key to the project's success. Self-advocates and service providers are also welcome to participate.”

Henderson said agenda topics will include a brief project overview covering the issue of sexual violence as it impacts individuals (12-24) with developmental disabilities; what makes individuals with developmental disabilities more vulnerable to sexual violence; how sexual violence can be prevented; and identifying current resources on what constitutes a healthy, consensual relationship and how to recognize unhealthy, abusive relationships; followed by a 60 minute open forum.

Future meetings will be scheduled during the June 27 call for participants who commit to seeing the project through its completion in September.

To register for the virtual meeting or teleconference, or for more information, visit <https://www.ncedsv.org/advisory-committee-individuals-with-developmental-disabilities/>.

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**About NCEDSV**

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (previously The **Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence),** provides statewide advocacy, education and support to the front-line organizations that help those impacted by domestic and sexual violence. Visit ncedsv.org for more information.