

Nevada Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC)

Dear NV RDAC Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in serving as a member of the **Nevada Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC)**. As a Master of Social Work (MSW) student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a concentration in Management and Community Practice, and as an Advocacy & Communications Support Specialist at Cure 4 The Kids Foundation, I bring a unique blend of trauma-informed care, nonprofit collaboration, and statewide advocacy to the roles I hold.

At Cure 4 The Kids Foundation, I engage directly with families to assess needs and identify systemic barriers through the RDAC Needs Assessment. I work alongside clinical and policy teams to elevate patient and family voices across Nevada.. I also support the Development Team's efforts with major fundraising events like Circus Couture and Golf 4 The Kids, ensuring that advocacy and storytelling remain central to our mission.

In my role as Chair of the Candlelighters Young Adult Advisory Committee, I lead the development of a peer mentorship program for young patients, survivors, and siblings, and I've represented the council during the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session, advocating for equitable systems of care for all parts of the cancer journey. My background also includes psychoeducation and direct counseling support for justice-involved youth, giving me a deep appreciation for the intersecting challenges families face across health and social service systems.

I am passionate about shaping responsive, family-centered policy for children with rare diseases. I believe my combination of micro-level engagement and macro-level strategy would be an asset to the Council's efforts, and I would be honored to contribute to its work.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mallory Carvalho, BA, QMHA