



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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DRAFT Minutes

Name of Organization: Strategic Planning Work Group of the Subcommittee on **Communication Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Persons with Speech Disabilities** (also known as the Communication Access Council) of the Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD)

Date and Time of Meeting: September 16, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Location: Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)
2800 E. St. Louis Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89104

Members of the public, who would like to join the meeting by phone, dial 1-888-251-2909 and enter the access code 8985078 when prompted. Persons in Nevada requiring sign language service can call their VRS providers; give them the dial in information in order to access the meeting.

Members present: Gary Olsen, Julie Balderson, Cindy Roller, Angela Greer, Eli Schwartz,

Guests: David Daviton, Gary Shade, Arle Fauni, Sal, Joe Adamo, Thomas Janulewicz, Salvatore Fiorentino, Tory Jaramillo, Ellen Thompson, Kim Halloway, Antoinette Lewis, Rod Voris

Staff: Rique Robb

- I. Call to order and introductions
Gary Olsen, Chair Subcommittee on Communication Services

- II. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Please state and spell your name for the record. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chair.)

No comments were made.

- III. **Discussion and Recommendations on the Strategic Plan for the Subcommittee on Communication Services and the Scope of Work of a Facilitator Aiding in the Development Thereof (for possible action).**

Gary Olsen, Subcommittee on Communication Services

Mr. Olsen read through his PowerPoint presentation on Strategic Planning for the Subcommittee on Communication Services (attachment A).

Mr. Olsen spoke about the many choices and various strategies involved in creating a strategic plan, most importantly collaboration. The Subcommittee has put together a steering committee and has defined its responsibilities. He suggested that the committee have three regular members and two members who are stakeholders. The Strategic Planning Subcommittee is not the final decision making body. The role of the committee is to advise Aging and Disability Services (ADSD) in moving forward with a plan.

An ultimate goal of the Subcommittee on Communication Services and the Strategic Planning Workgroup is to establish a Nevada Commission for the deaf and hard of hearing. The concept of that Commission is that they will oversee policies in service areas and assist in making sure those services are delivered appropriately and correctly. It is important for the SOCS Workgroup to construct a mission statement and to show data that will lead to the support of legislation of the Commission concept.

Services and concerns that are in need of some assessment and improvement were brought up in discussion:

- Captioning amenities in government services
- Interpreters in the education system.
- Mental health
- The Deaf community in prisons
- Lack of CDI interpreters in the state

The need of a facilitator for strategic planning is very common in state government. There are a few potential contractors who have prepared strategic plans in other government areas.

Social Entrepreneurs worked on the Nevada Strategic Plan on Integrated Employment for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. A second company that has experience in facilitating strategic planning is Quantum Mark.

The Workgroup was given examples of both company's previous projects. Members will take time to read through both companies' materials and make a decision of which facilitator to work with at a future meeting. Once a facilitator is chosen, a timeline of creating a strategic plan can be developed. Key informants to be interviewed to aide in the developing the plan should include:

- Stakeholders
- Town hall meetings
- Completed feedback surveys
- Individuals with speech impairments
- Individuals who are deaf blind
- The American Speech and Hearing Association

The job of the facilitator is to help support the Committee in an unbiased way. The Committee will also need to go before the interim committee for support in funding a facilitator.

Mr. Olsen stated that the Steering Committee needs to meet frequently to discuss town hall meetings, what communities need to be involved, and what questions need to be asked.

Janny, a member of the public, suggested that business organizations such as, attorneys, doctors, dentists and etc. should provide interpreters automatically and then claim a tax deduction. Members of the public took turns sharing experiences with the lack of appropriate services, accommodations, and resources in hospitals and schools.

The committee spoke about the need for multiple options for deaf students and their families in regards to deaf centers and schools.

Mr. Olsen stated that the first step needed to create the strategic plan is to make a decision on a facilitator and prioritize. ADSD will be able to assist in the assembly of information from different Commissions.

Each person in the deaf and hard of hearing community has a preference of how they need to communicate. Some prefer a live interpreter to VRI and others prefer captioning, it will take the right facilitator to help with those issues.

The Committee asked ADSD to bring more information on the agency's recommendation on a facilitator for the strategic plan and to also find more information on the top five state commissions in the U.S for the next full SOCS meeting. Members of the committee will research both facilitators to be able to make a decision by the next meeting date. ADSD will work on budget costs and arranging the facilitator to attend the next meeting. ADSD already has a Master Service Agreement with both agencies; the priority is to determine what kind of product is desired.

Ms. Balderson stated the agreement and goal of the committee is to create a single statewide policy office that supports and improves services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, no matter how they gained deafness or what capabilities they have. The committee wants an accessible deaf friendly Nevada. The details can be hashed out with the help of a facilitator. Concerns expressed by the public that will need to be included in the vision of the plan is:

- Respect for ASL as a legitimate language
- Access to interpreter services in health care settings
- Interpreters and CART in schools

- IV. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Please state and spell your name for the record. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chair.)

Gary spoke about issues facing hearing parents of deaf children and the language barrier the often face.

- V. **Adjournment**
Gary Olsen, Subcommittee on Communication Services

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Current Subcommittee on Communication Services Members

Gary Olsen (Acting Chairperson), Julie Balderson, Angela Greer, Cynthia Roller, Michael Eifert, Eli Schwartz, and Greg Ivie

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based upon viewpoint.

NOTE: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. ASL Interpreters will be available at the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Desiree Bennett at (775) 687-0586 as soon as possible and at least **ten** days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at dabennett@adsd.nv.gov. Supporting materials for this meeting are available at 3416 Goni Road, D-132, Carson City, NV 89706, or by contacting Desiree Bennett at 775-687-0586, or by email dabennett@adsd.nv.gov.

Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

1. Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706
2. Aging and Disability Services Division, Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104
3. Aging and Disability Services Division, Reno Office, 445 Apple Street, Suite 104, Reno, NV 89502
4. Aging and Disability Services Division, Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104, Elko, NV 89801
5. Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 2950 S. Rainbow Blvd, Ste. 220 Las Vegas, NV 89146
6. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center, 3120 South Durango Drive, Suite 301, Las Vegas, NV 89117
7. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
8. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center, 1150 Corporate Blvd, Reno, NV 89502
9. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet at: <http://www.nvaging.net/> and <https://notice.nv.gov/>

