



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

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MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Name of Organization: Subcommittee on Communication Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (SOCS) and Persons with Speech Disabilities of the Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities

Date and Time of Meeting: April 29, 2015
9:00 a.m.

Videoconference Location: Nevada Housing Division
1535 Old Hot Springs Rd. #50
Carson City, NV 89706

Videoconference Location: Nevada Housing Division
7220 Bermuda Rd Suite B
Las Vegas NV 89119

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

Minutes

Members present: Gary Olsen, Cindy Roller, Angela Greer, Mike Eifert, Eli Schwartz

Guests: David Daviton, Tim Smalley, Tearra Donovan (Hamilton Relay), Karen Fabio, Mary Evilsizer, Kimberly Holloway, Antoinette Lewis, Lisa Furr (Hamilton Relay)

CART: Denise Phipps

Interpreters: Kimberly Dawson, Andrea Juillerat-Olvera

Staff: Julie Kotchevar, Laura Valentine, Desiree Bennett, Vicki Kemp, Marisa Shaber

I. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions
Gary Olsen, Chair

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.)

Julie Kotchevar, Deputy Administrator for ADSD updated the Committee on legislation that is specifically affecting the deaf and hard of hearing community. AB200 is one of the most significant changes for the communication access program. It addresses a couple of long-standing needs

A pool of interpreters is included in the services covered by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) surcharge. The service will consist of a trained pool of interpreters who are available to people who need to testify at the Legislature and when they're trying to seek services from state office. This has been a significant barrier to people; when calling an interpreter cold off the street, they don't have the understanding of the situation and its context. The bill also includes a section asking this subcommittee to advise ADSD and provide recommendations on how the program should be structured. One of the values that we have at ADSD is that the consumers who receive the services drive the service system; they really decide what services are important and how they're delivered. It is important for the Committee to develop a strategic plan providing services needed and delivery. AB200 passed unanimously in the Senate and is anticipated to pass in the Assembly. Ms. Kotchevar thanked the committee for the work being done during the session and commented that it is the first time in the session, in a long time, where issues related to persons who are deaf and hard of hearing have been at the forefront.

Mr. Schwartz asked what kind of service centers and how many will be developed. Ms. Kotchevar stated that she is relying on the committee and the deaf and hard of hearing community to make that decision.

III. Legislative Update

Mr. Olsen stated the committee's challenge is not to only focus on the deaf and hard of hearing community but to open minds to differing disability groups.

- AB 200

AB 200 is very important to the deaf community as well as the hard of hearing community in terms of being able to see real changes that need to happen within the community.

- AB 219

A lot of questions have been presented about people who are deaf in prison, interpreters available there and in the court system. The court system wants to have its own interpreting system and its own certifications.

- SB 419

Two years ago, the blind community was fighting to try and to separate from vocational rehabilitation, which did not go through. The purpose of this bill is to try and establish a program that will help those disabled people. Not necessarily communication only, but in other areas.

- SB 13

SB13's purpose is to empower parents to make decisions about communication modes and what communication modes their children will have in school.

Students have the right to decide on their communication and the school needs to accommodate the children and match what they need.

- SB132

SB132 is relating to training of paraprofessionals in schools.

- SB359

SB 359 is about child care, it is important that deaf children living in deprived homes or foster care get the services they need.

- AB72

AB72 regards professional licensing for different trades. There hasn't been anything done about interpreter licensure yet.

- AB162

AB72 is a proposed law that would require law enforcement to carry a recording device called an "event recorder" on their chest. The event recorder would also be beneficial for deaf people as well. The deaf person could sign into that camera and through the Wi-Fi capability; communicate through an interpreter.

Mr. Olsen spoke to Chairman Wheeler, and the amendments to the bill will not be considered this time but possibly next session.

- AB177 is the CARE Act regarding people who can apply to take over the caregiver's act.

IV. Discussion on Recommendations Made by the CSPD Nominating Subcommittee for Filling Vacant CSPD Subcommittee Membership Positions and Discussion and Possible Recommendations on Recruitment Efforts (For Possible Action)

Gary Olsen, Chairperson

Mr. Olsen would like the SOCS to have more input when filling membership vacancies.

Ms. Valentine stated that she has been working with ADSD Deputy Attorney General, Linda Anderson on how to change the CSPD and SOCS bylaws to allow for more input on membership vacancies. Nowhere in the statute or in any other boards and commissions' bylaws does it actually have a process for how nominations are accomplished. Ms. Valentine will have more information to present at the full Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD) meeting.

V. Program Update

Julie Balderson

- Relay Nevada
- Equipment distribution program

- Interpreter Registry
- FY16 budget at PUC
- FY16-17 budget at legislature
- Annual agenda items for subcommittee quarterly meetings

Ms. Balderson stated that at the last SOCS meeting, Hamilton Relay gave a power point presentation on the TRS call traffic report and an update on outreach efforts.

There has been some discussion among other state relay administrators regarding the potential transition of the reimbursement responsibility for IP relay. Instead of it being from the universal service funds that the FCC administers, it would be paid for by states. The National Association of State Relay Administrators is going to have a conference in September. Ms. Balderson will be attending to seek input on developing comments regarding the issue. If it looks like IP relay is going to become the state responsibility to pay, it's going to be measured more in terms of the call center you're using and the service you're using, not necessarily the technology.

Mr. Eifert explained to the Committee that in the state of Nevada, IP providers register with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, they don't pay the TDD surcharge. The boundary between the old wire line and wireless is very gray and there is legislation in Washington right now to rewrite what is called the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which might bring some clarity to it.

It is fairly doubtful that IP would become the responsibility of the state because IP is broadband, and states don't regulate broadband. The FCC regulates broadband only. Chairman Wheeler of the FCC has openly said that broadband is where we want to direct telecommunications in the future. The telecommunications industry, is working with the FCC and the states to see if we can get broadband put into that universal service category

Mr. Olsen suggested Mr. Eifert take the lead in creating a separate work group to discuss the changes with the telecommunication industry and to update the rest of the Committee.

Ms. Balderson updated the committee that ADSD will be hiring more staff that will help in improving quality assurance with the interpreter registry.

Ms. Roller expressed concern that there has been little follow up with consequences for interpreters who do not follow state statute and register with the state.

Ms. Balderson updated the committee that the hearing at the PUC took place on April 28th. The hearing officer gave us between May 11th and 18th that they're anticipating issuing an order.

There is another biennial procedure with the Legislature for the agency budget. It's going to get heard again by the senate finance and assembly Ways and Means committees on Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Ms. Balderson would like to get input on what the Committee should have as regular agenda items for the committee's quarterly meetings. She would like to make sure every meeting has a quarterly report on the equipment distribution program and relay services.

Mr. Olsen made a suggestion that the committee needs to discuss realistic numbers; how many deaf people are in Nevada, the census says 33,000.

Two years ago CAC proposed AB 210 that mandated the state the Nevada Department of Education to report numbers. It's not hard because they have to report it to the Federal government anyway. Mr. Olsen is also interested in employment issues affecting people who are deaf or hard of hearing:

- How many are unemployed?
- How can we help them?
- What category of work are they in?
- Who are their employers?
- Can we establish better communication with employees?

Ms. Roller is interested in having a standing agenda item that invites different Divisions to each meeting, including: the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) or the Department of Education (DOE). She would also like to keep a legislative update as a standing item in order to keep track of what bills need adjustments or changes for the upcoming session.

VI. Update, Report and Possible Recommendations Relating to Working Groups and Previously Established Objectives (For Possible Action)

Gary Olsen, Chairperson

- Interpreter issues

Ms. Greer updated the Committee that there will be an interpreter issues workgroup meeting in Reno on May 23rd. The meeting is a copy of the meeting that took place in Las Vegas on October 18, 2014. The meeting was very successful and hosted about 69 people. The focus of the meeting was on NRS 656A. There was also a lot of discussion on how the SOCS can help with future legislation for interpreters and the Deaf and hard of hearing community. Issues consisted of education, Americans with Disabilities Act and health services.

- Education

Ms. Roller is involved with a group that is a five-year federal grant for Pep Net. The group met with the Department of Education about improving transition services for high school students attending college. Marva Cleven, from the Department of Education, asked if the group would be interested in presenting a whole day at Mountain Madness with assistance from Hands and Voices. Mountain Madness is two days in August; the state Department of Education brings all special education directors from all over Nevada to Lake Tahoe for training. One day is for special education directors to learn about all their data, testing, graduation rates and anything with special education. The the second day is usually open for topics and training to teach special education directors about various issues. The Department of Education is offering to give August 6th the entire day to training special education directors about deaf and hard of hearing issues. Ms. Roller and the rest of the group will be reaching out to the community and setting up an agenda to really get information out to these directors to understand the issues of deaf and hard of hearing in the state when it comes to the educational system. It was affirmed that early hearing detection and intervention is trying to move forward from the birth to three age range, into the preschool area so early hearing detection intervention wants to start working with the Department of Education in bridging some of the services that families are getting in early intervention into the school system.

Ms. Roller stated that kids, whether they are signers or spoken, should have access and support to learn about their hearing loss, to have the intervention seamlessly from early intervention continuing on into elementary school and up into high school. It is about educating, not just the children but also the family members. Not every child is identified at birth with hearing loss; sometimes it's late on set. Three in a thousand babies are

born with hearing loss; it doubles between the ages of three and six. It goes to about five and six in a thousand, then it doubles again between the ages of six and nine and it's about nine and ten in a thousand with hearing loss. Hands and Voices, the national organization, is reaching out to a national recognized audiologist to explain why educational audiologists are so important. Ms. Roller will check to see if the meeting will be public.

- Strategic plan/ Town Hall Meetings

Ms. Balderson updated the committee on the draft strategic plan for SOCS. She and the committee chairperson is planning to present the strategic plan at the July meeting to receive input from the rest of the committee and set goals for the next legislative session. She also suggested reviewing other states that can provide some model legislation.

Mr. Olsen commented that the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) has an existing checklist for services provided for the deaf and hard of hearing. Mr. Olsen will share that checklist with the rest of the committee when developing the strategic plan.

- Assistive Tech.

Mr. Schwartz read over his report on "Assistive Technology Classifications as Defined for Reporting under the AT Act" (Attachment A). He stated that the ACT gives information about what the assistive technology is all about and the classifications. Mr. Schwartz met with Kathy Cordova, coordinator with the hard of hearing and deaf program for the Clark County school district. She was able to explain certain accommodations in the classroom. He was impressed with what the school system is providing for students. The classrooms are audio enhanced, teachers wear a microphone and all the students have an FM boot. It is a headphone attached to the hearing aid that would be a direct input that reduces noise. Mr. Schwartz has been working with Ms. Greer to meet with Patricia Spearman for support once the Legislative Session is over.

- Open Captioning

Mr. Olsen suggested a working group on CART services. It would be beneficial to set up a quicker system and provide better video. Mr. Olsen is planning to discuss with Julie, how to begin establishing a long-term commission for deaf and hard of hearing in the state, 31 other states have a commission.

- Mental Health
- Employment

VII. Update, Report and Possible Recommendations Relating to Appointed Liaisons to Other State Advisory Groups **(For Possible Action)**

Gary Olsen, Chairperson

- Assistive Technology Council
Eli Schwartz, Subcommittee Member
- State Independent Living Council
Mike Eifert, Subcommittee Member
- Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
David Daviton
- Rehab Council
Greg Ivie, Subcommittee Member

- Department of Education Board Meetings
Cynthia Roller, Subcommittee Member

Mr. Daviton attended an Assistive Technology Council meeting where a lot of discussion took place about the many Assembly and Senate bills that need to be passed.

Mr. Eifert attended the Statewide Independent Living Council meeting. The Council discussed the State Grant for Assistive Technology Program Annual Report.

Ms. Roller met with the Department of Education, but has not yet attended any of their board meetings. One of her board members is part of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the Department of Education and is always recording and bringing up any concerns or issues with deaf and hard of hearing. Ms. Roller is also a part of the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee, which looks at the blood spot test. When a baby is born, their heel is pricked with a blood spot but it encompasses other things like newborn hearing screening and early detection and intervention.

Dena Durish is the contact for the Department of Education for licensure for teachers and endorsements.

VIII. Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting on July 8, 2015 **(For Possible Action)**

Gary Olsen, Chairperson

Ms. Roller would like to continue discussing Legislative issue updates at the next meeting.

Mr. Olsen and Ms. Balderson will be presenting a draft of the strategic plan.

The committee would like to invite Julie Kotchevar or Jill Berntson to discuss the Agency's priorities in terms of AB200 passing.

IX. Schedule Next Meeting **(For Possible Action)**

Gary Olsen, Chairperson

The next SOCS meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2015.

- X. 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.)

The senate health and human services committee meeting will be at 3:30 at the Legislature.

Ms. Roller commented that it would be beneficial to invite a representative from the Department of Education to attend the next meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Gary Olsen, Chairperson

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Current Subcommittee on Communication Services Members

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

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, 6039 El Dora Street, Suite H-8, Las Vegas, NV 89101
6. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center, 2575 Westwind Rd., Suite C, Las Vegas, NV 89146
7. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
8. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
9. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89706

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