

Recommendations to the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities on issues related to interpreters for individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing, and persons with speech disabilities from the Subcommittee on Communication Services. (based on June 12 meeting) *Please note: this is not the full list of recommendations. This list reflects the recommendations that are related to interpreters.

1. The Subcommittee recommends improving ADSD's ability to appropriately carry out the duties of the Division as stated in NRS 656A by creating sufficient staff positions.
2. The Subcommittee recommends establishing a pool of seven highly qualified interpreters statewide to (a) increase access to the legislature and state agencies by providing interpreter services at government agencies and the legislature when other interpreting services cannot be secured through contract with external referral agencies; and (b) provide mentoring to under-skilled interpreters registered and working in the state, especially in rural areas and school districts. This includes one position to schedule and manage invoicing for the interpreter pool, which may be exempt from engaging in the practice of interpreting. The interpreter pool should be funded via budget administrative allocation.
3. The Subcommittee recommends setting a limitation in NRS 656A that specifies how long an interpreter may be registered in the categories of "apprentice" or "intermediate". With possible exceptions for extenuating circumstances, and allow for interpreters to remain in a skill category beyond the statutory limit as long as the interpreter pays a fine.
4. The Subcommittee recommends writing a letter encouraging the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education to establish Bachelor degree programs in interpreter preparation that reach the entire state.