



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

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Minutes

Name of Organization: Wireless Devices to be Included on the Equipment Distribution Program 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) (Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 427.750)

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday September 3, 2014
1:00pm to 2:00pm

Location: Public Utilities Commission (NPUC)
1150 E. William Street, Hearing Room B
Carson City, NV 89701-3109

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.

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I. Call to order and introductions

Julie Balderson, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)

Members present: Julie Balderson, Mike Eifert

Staff: Desiree Bennett (ADSD)

Interpreter: Kimberly Dawson

Guests: Tina Gerber-Winn (ADSD), Vicki Kemp (ADSD), Farrell Cafferata-Jenkins (DHHARC), Yasuji Otsuk (NPUC), Christina Zuniga (NPUC), Manny Lopez (PUCN), Peter Young (PUCN), Nichole M. Matzek (PUCN), Rex Bosier (PUCN), Jeanette Daviton, David Daviton (Nevada Association of the Deaf), Jim Whitsell (Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living), Lisa Furr (Hamilton), Jack Mayes (Nevada Assisted Living Center), Tearra Donovan (Hamilton), Linda Anderson (Attorney General's Office), John Rosenlund (Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative), Jermain Grubbs (PUCN), Ernie Hall(Easter Seals Nevada), Jesse Palmer (Carson City School District).

Meeting started at 1:00 p.m.

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.)

Mr. Daviton made a comment on the TDD Wireless Discussion Paper (attachment a) to clarify "video relay services" and that finding the correct resources for the deaf community can be challenging. He also asked the committee to consider how the equipment distribution program handles consumers who move out of state.

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III. Open Discussion and Draft Recommendations to Subcommittee on
Communication Services of the Nevada Commission on Services for Persons
with Disabilities Regarding the Inclusion of Wireless Equipment in the
Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (For Possible Action)
Julie Balderson, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)

Mr. Eifert stated that the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities appointed a subcommittee to look at what it would entail to exercise a wireless equipment option in the NRS. Mr. Eifert discussed the TDD Wireless Discussion Paper and how other states are participating in wireless equipment options. Most successful equipment programs are distributing programs instead of loaning equipment. There are cell phone companies that have plans tailored to the deaf and hard of hearing community. Some questions that need to be answered through this committee are how the equipment will be distributed and who is responsible for repairs.

Mr. Hall discussed that the goals of the Assistive Technology program in the state is to provide resources for device demonstration for the identification of appropriate devices for consumers and assist in identifying available funding sources. The program encompasses devices including; cell phones, augmentative communication devices and access software for computers. There are cell phone providers with phones and plan options that will likely meet the needs of people in the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Mr. Rosenlund added that Assistive Technology Act funding is be utilized to support a person to make a consumer driven informed choice when purchasing AT equipment. The program can also be used as a resource to aid in deciphering the difference in cell phone plans and providers.

Mr. Mayes expressed concern about people receiving adequate training on equipment through AT services.

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Ms. Gerber-Winn stated that it is important to get clarification of the statute of the State of Nevada’s responsibility to provide wireless equipment and also how to establish service.

There was discussion on the way a wireless service plan is obtained by an individual. It is common for cellular companies to base service contracts and billing on an individual’s credit score. This might need to be considered by the state when deciding on using a reimbursement method for an appropriate device or to use a purchase and distribution method. There needs to be more analysis of the statute to decide what can be provided in terms of wireless devices versus service and if it will be conducted through a voucher program or an inventory tracking program. Community involvement is important when making these decisions.

Mr. Daviton stated that NRS 427A.797 includes in the language wireless phone service. SB 164 and SB 384 passed by the Legislature explained that the deaf centers include advocacy. Decisions have been made to disregard it. There are other states that offer many different options of devices for people who are deaf, hearing, hard of hearing, or with a disability. Nevada has three choices that are set up with a landline. There is a diverse need for wireless options in the state.

Ms. Balderson stated that the working group needs to take recommendations back to the Subcommittee on Communication Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Persons with Speech Disabilities and the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities.

- Recommendations include; more community involvement, define and understand what is already provided for in the statute, and determine what the most feasible option is for moving forward.

119 The committee discussed that the NRS states telecommunication devices only
120 and what the procedure might be to engage the PUC operations staff in further
121 discussions.

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

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128 Ms. Jenkins stated that there is already an established need for deaf people to
129 have wireless equipment and services. The deaf community in Nevada is not a
130 huge one, the cost of these types of programs are not going to be out of control.
131 The topic needs to be discussed on what it would cost to have a statewide data
132 plan for people that qualify for wireless telecommunication devices that would fall
133 under the statute as it stands and provide the service that is needed. There are
134 also issues with making services easier for consumers to navigate between the
135 Center for Independent Living (CILs) and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
136 Advocacy Resource Center (DHHARC).

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138 Mr. Palmer stated that Carson City School District currently has students who are
139 under the deaf and hard of hearing umbrella that use other devices for
140 communication. It is important to find what equipment works best for the
141 individual. Limiting users to only cell phones or smart phones are not necessarily
142 items that are accessible to everyone.

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144 Mr. Daviton stated that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) that
145 oversees TTY has given the responsibility to each state to provide services as
146 appropriate, but now it is in a wireless capacity instead of hardline.

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148 V. Adjournment

149 Julie Balderson, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)

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151 Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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Current Subcommittee on Communication Services Members

Gary Olsen (Acting Chairperson), Julie Balderson, Angela Greer, Cynthia Roller, Michael Eifert, 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/>