**Minutes Draft**

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired

(Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 427.750)

Date and Time of Meeting: April 11, 2018

 9:33 am

This meeting will be a Video Conference between the following:

Reno: Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center

 1875 Plumas St., Suite 1

 Reno, NV 89509

Las Vegas: Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center

 2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 11

 Las Vegas, NV 89102

To join this meeting by phone, dial 1-888-363-4735 then enter Access Code 1228133 when prompted.

Sign language interpreters will be available at both locations, and CART will be accessible by following this link:

<https://captionsunlimited.1capapp.com/event/adsd>

According to NRS 241.020, Meeting Materials Available at:

<http://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada_Commission_for_Persons_Who_Are_Deaf_Hard_of_Hearing_or_Speech_Impaired/>

**Agenda**

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Members Present: Jason Adams, Jeff Beardsley, Mike Eifert, Sal Fiorentino, Maureen Fradianni, Betty Hammond, Eli Schwartz, Cheyenne Pasquale (sitting in for Rique Robb)

Members Not Present: Allison Berman, Rique Robb

Present In Las Vegas: Arleae Perrone, Tim Smalley, Laureen Smalley, Jeanne Cavello, Patricia Gorman, Amanda Grayson, Ellen Thompson, Arle Fauni, Stefan Garas, Dyana Thurgood, Emilee Montecino, Beth Jones, Victoria Chapman, Oleks Laskowrl, Laura Thompson, Ivan Thompson, Gloria Avshia, Meredith Foster, Tearra Donavan, Mario Randall, Rosalyn Randall, Carol Ann Beers, Kathy Gray, Penni Echols, Sharon Warren, Kevin Carter, Ana Maria Nellis, Elizabeth Irvin, Donna Klecot,

Present in Reno: Adam Hsu, Eric Wilcox, Gary Olsen, Matthew McKay, Gina Burnaugh, Connie Phelps, Abby Magloto, Jenn Montoya, Lupe Fernandez, Casey McCullough, Debbie Helms, Claudia Duarte, David Davidson,

Phone: Joann Pulley, Manner Mano, Lauryn Cox,

Staff: Wendy Thornley, Lorraine Belt, Tamika Scott, Perry Smith, Kristen Shelton (phone)

Interpreters: Kim Johnson, Dominique Cay, Kristie Watson and Autumn Adams

CART: Becky Van Auken

1. 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.)
* **Beth Jones**, Nevada Hands & Voices, stated the playgroups in the South for families are understaffed and they want to work with DCN and NEIS. There is a need for continued funding.
* **Penni Ehols**, parent, feels the State has turned its back on her child since early intervention does not provide ASL opportunities. She has received help through DCN and feels DCN needs more funding. She would like the state and commission to explore options of receiving IDEA funding to fill the gaps in the system.
* **Tim Smally**, DCN, would like more funding because of growth expectations, serving new clients and to avoid turning anyone away.
* **Meredith Foster**, DCN, speaking on behalf of three families that have sent letters expressing the appreciation from the early intervention tutoring program. Many families are not getting information about services available to them. Families are interested in the Ski Hi curriculum. For the Record the letters came from Robin Lessinger, Robyn and Lora Sharp.
* **Elizabeth Irvin**, community member, would like to see vocational rehab receive more funding to support deaf job seekers.
* **Anna Maria Nellis**, parent, DCN provided support to her for her son’s IEP meetings and advised her about their IDEA rights. Her son is heading to middle school now and DCN cannot help due to the backlog. She is trying to research on her own but is flustered and alone in the process. Nevada does not have deaf student data compared to other states. This data would help students like her son get interpreters, increase their signing skills and eliminate learning barriers. She still needs the support when talking to the schools about her son’s needs.
* **Matthew McKay** works with deaf people who benefit from DCN services since DHHRC’s closure. He is disappointed that DCN will not receive funding and must put families on a wait list. Would like to see more funding and resources available.
* **Eric Wilcox**, president of Nevada Hands & Voices, pleased the commission’s desire to learn more about the process of hearing screenings. Would like to have a representative from the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention program attend an upcoming meeting to answer questions regarding the process and to learn about best practices nationwide.
* **Claudia Duarte**, parent, originally moved to Reno to get help for her deaf son (now19yrs old) who currently reads & writes at a fourth-grade level due to lack of support and mis-labeled as mentally disabled. She wants other parents to be able to educate their child in-state with appropriate education and language acquisition. The State needs help in dealing with people hearing loss.
* **Caroline Bass (phone)**, College of Southern Nevada deaf studies teacher and child of deaf parents, receives phone calls from families and refers them to DCN. There is a wait list that is causing a crisis due to the inability to educate and provide language to deaf babies. Without early language development, these children will not be able to go to college, get jobs and become tax paying citizens instead of burdening the welfare system. The critical language learning period is birth to age 5. The 3yr backlog will cause many children to miss that learning period. Community resources (police, mental health counselors, CPS) do not have resources for deaf people when they are in crisis. Instead, they send deaf people to the DCN, and she urges us to not cut off funding but, instead, to double it.
* **Lauren**, mother of deaf child (phone), she is so disappointed because due to their location (outskirts of Vegas) they are on the bottom of the waitlist and will not receive services until after her son has aged out. The language delay will impact his opportunity to be a productive citizen and he will become a burden on the welfare system. Nevada shouldn’t ignore its youngest citizens when other states are doing so much more for the deaf and hard of hearing population.

We can take one more person from Vegas

* **Tearra Donavan**, DCN, reading letters from three different families, dealing with DCN’s mentoring program, they all like that the children are learning deaf culture, their future, and that they can go to college and get jobs, something they did not feel could happen before the mentoring program. Language impacts such a big part of the children’s lives and is so important. Want to see more funding for DCN.
1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 31, 2018 **(For Possible Action)**

 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Jeff moved to approve the minutes, Sal seconded. Motion carried.

1. Report from ADSD
* Interpreter Pool update –

Betty Hammond, Social Services Program Specialist III of the Planning, Advocacy and Community Services Unit (PAC)

Betty Hammond for the record, ADSD has advertised for four staff interpreters through many channels, there are two positions available in the North and two in the South. So far ADSD has interviewed three people in Reno via panel of a deaf commission member, our currant staff interpreter and myself. The interview was conducted in sign language with a performance part. ADSD has received more resumes in the north and will be setting up more interviews both in the North and in the South. We want to see those positions filled ASAP.

* Status Update regarding the (Request for Application) RFA process and state procedures.

Cheyenne Pasquale, Chief of Planning, Advocacy and Community Services Unit (PAC)

We are currently in a competitive grant cycle, with the current cycle ending June 20, 2018 and the new two-year cycle starting on July 1, 2018.

Grant applications are due on April 20th. They will be reviewed and score by an independent team with the final decision made with awards going out in late June 2018. This request for applications covers equipment distribution, advocacy, and information and referral services. The legislatively approved amount is just over 1.5 million and was built into the budget by the 2017 legislature. Currently, we are in the budget build process for fiscal 2020 & 2021. I look forward to all the applications and working with whomever is awarded the grant. We appreciate all the support for the Deaf Centers of Nevada and understand that they provide many services that are desperately needed in our community. We look forward to building more money into the future budgets to provide those services.

1. Questions and Answers regarding Hamilton’s Annual Report

Beth Slough and/or Gary Lewien from Hamilton Relay

Connie Phelps is here for discussion. Mr. Fiorentino asked if Hamilton planned to add any additional states in the future. Ms. Phelps stated they are continually bidding on RFP’s as they come in from other states. We are currently bidding on states that we are not servicing yet.

1. Discussion and approval of proposing action to change NRS 427A.750 to change the name of the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired to the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. **(For Possible Action)**

Mike Eifert, Commission Member, stated the Commission and ADSD are working with the interim committees to start a dialogue as to what our needs will be in the 2019 legislature and the next four (4) agenda items will be items to take forward o get have changes made.

The first item is the Commission’s name. We want to align with other states’ commission names. Changing the name will not change our work with individuals who are speech impaired. Background: The Commission creates a bill draft which is reviewed by the legislation in 2019 to determine if the draft will go forward. We need state the reason and benefits of the change in a format that we can give to the legislators in support of the change. The proposed name is The Nevada Commission for Peron’s Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Jeff stated he understands we are here to work with not only the deaf and hard of hearing but needs help understanding how we serve the speech impaired population.

Betty stated that “speech impaired” comes from the SOCS subcommittee and they were originally advising ADSD of the relay services. Speech impaired individuals rely on the relay service as well.

Jeff followed up with clarification about speech impaired individuals use the relay and closed captioning services such as CapTel. For example, if you can’t hear but can speak then you can read the captions.

Betty stated that CapTel is specific equipment that is distributed. We cover many disabilities that we could include in the title, but a lot of states simply go by the Commission for Deaf. We would like to simplify the name, but it is up to the Commission to decide. The Commission can include other activities through its bylaws.

Mr. Beardsley clarified that to “simplify” the name, it should be called the Nevada Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Mr. Fiorentino and Ms. Fradianni agreed citing research of other states’ Commission names.

Mr. Schwartz stated by making this change we would be in line with the rest of the country. We are still responsible to provide services to everyone covered under the bylaws, this would just be a name change and would not interrupt or influence our current responsibilities. One of the objectives of the Commission is to learn more about other states and to find alignment. Mr. Schwartz called for a vote.

Mr. Beardsley made a motion, Mr. Adams seconded. Motion carried.

1. Discussion and approval of proposing to change NRS 427A.750 to change to the requirements for member positions on the Commission. **(For Possible Action)**

Mike Eifert, Member of the Commission

Mr. Eifert explained the Commission positions including both voting and non-voting positions. Some positions have clearly backgrounds defined, while others do not. As example, mine and Ms. Hammond’s positions are non-voting. The position that requires the member to be from the Nevada Association of the Deaf is held by Mr. Beardsley. Ms. Fradianni’s position requires experience and knowledge of those who are deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired. The position held by parent is filled by Mr. Adams. The final three positions are held by members who are relay service participants. Mr. Eifert observed that relay is an important factor for the community.

Mr. Eifert added that the Commission needs to consider redefining these new areas of focus as a starting point. He also asked everyone to think about the area of expertise, qualifications, and background of a new position as well as rational for the new position.

Mr. Schwartz added that at the January meeting, there was discussion about changing the membership based on the community demographics. We talked about the three relay users (to include both Deaf and hard of hearing) or we could have an appointed specialist as the extra person. Mr. Schwartz asked for feedback from the group. We already have a deaf educator who is Allison Berman and a parent of a deaf child and three relay users and Maureen who’s an advocate for the Deaf, who do we want to add to the mix?

Ms. Fradianni agreed that the three relay users should include both deaf, hard of hearing users as well as adding an employment specialist.

Mr. Fiorentino agreed and added that it would be nice to have a liaison between education and employment.

Mr. Eifert stated there was already a position representing the education sector; therefore, that wouldn’t be a consideration for one of the new positions.

Mr. Beardsly expressed his agreement that adding someone who is a hard of hearing consumer would bring that important perspective.

Mr. Adams inquired about adding someone who could help find funding or do fundraising so we could get more money for DCN and NEIS and programs. This would help the community.

Mr. Schwartz cautioned that the Commission needed to be careful they don’t violate the bylaws and the state laws because there are certain restrictions, we can talk about fundraising as the next agenda item if it doesn’t violate the laws.

Mr. Adams clarified that he is an NVAD representative, not a relay user.

Ms. Pasquale inquired about adding a person that is speech impaired?

Ms. Hammond added that we used to have a person with speech impairment of the SOCs but once his term was up it was very hard to find someone from the speech impaired community to take his place, so historically that is a hard position to fill.

Mike clarified that Sal’s position with the state is in voc rehab.

Mike – Okay, I wanted that clarification because one of the things that Jeff and Maureen stated was to have an employment specialist. I heard several comments from the public that dealt with the ability of the community to have good paying jobs and be a productive e citizen, which is a value to all of us. There are two reasons I would like to focus on this right now, one it’s a good idea and two, we already have an employment specialist, so we would not have to make membership changes, just a name change. So, take one of the relay positions and get it changed in the NRS to employment specialist.

Eli – Could we say a member of vocational rehabilitation?

Sal – I think that employment, so not specifically voc rehab, but more of an employment specialist that way there could be other agencies that could provide employment services, not a specific agency.

Jeff – I’m thinking we need to keep it general and community-based. There are so many different issues that need brought to the table.

Mike – I think I understand what you are saying Jeff that we do not want restrictive language in there, so can you help me with wording this and for the record as we go on to the legislature then we will have the help of LCB for wordsmithing.

Betty – we’ve heard from many parents wanting to be involved, maybe adding a second parent member. Maybe even a deaf parent of a hearing child, or a deaf parent of a deaf child who are dealing with the school districts.

Jeff – the deaf parent of either a hearing or deaf child is good, but I think we need one in the North and one in the South because they have different school districts.

Mike- I understand the diversity of the North and South but we only have nine positions and I’m not sure we have enough positions to do that. We need to look at we represent Nevada as a whole.

Jason – I’ve started thinking about the public comments and I agree that we don’t have anything from 0 to three-years-old. There’s no one on this board so I think we need to get an intervention specialist on here to help direct these parents.

Eli – previously we had Cindy Roller who dealt with early intervention, am I correct Nevada Hands & Voices dealt with early intervention?

Mike – Nevada Hands & Voices & Nevada Early Intervention which are not the same.

We’re talking Nevada Early Intervention here, so are we advocating, putting on the table that we should reach out, have a position for somebody who is associated with Nevada Early Intervention? I have no problem putting that out there, but I will say we need to contact them and get their input too, because they’re not here.

Betty- I think we must be aware that state employees don’t typically get a vote. I like the idea of a collaboration with Nevada Hands & Voices to have a representative, just like we have one from NVAD.

Cheyenne – The other idea that I have is we have the Nevada Early Intervention interagency coordinating council, which is another public body that represents the 0 to three population. And I wonder if there’s a way that we could have them as a standing item, the chair can hear the issues and take them back to the inter-agency council, to have cross-communication between the two.

Eli – thank you Cheyenne, I agree that they may not be a commission member but are welcome to join and be a part of the subcommittee.

Jeff – Mike, are we limited to only nine members or could we add two members to make it say 11? If we can add that would we be able to have the two parents one from the North and one from the South?

Mike – there is nothing that forbids us from going forward and asking for more members, we could certainly entertain that. Now, that said, we will probably get either support or push back once we get to the interim committee initially and discuss that we’d like to add positions. These aren’t paid positions, so I don’t see why they would be necessarily averse to it, the only budget impact may be more travel and possibly per diem but that’s nominal. The only thing I will point out is it has to be an odd number so no tie votes.

Maureen- I feel strongly in support of a parent who is a member of Nevada Hands & Voices on the commission. Because we heard from a lot of parents today and I’m hearing from more and more parents, so I feel like Nevada Hands & Voices should be on the commission. For example, Jeff is a representative of NVAD, we can have a parent who’s a member of Nevada Hands & Voices.

Mike – I’m confused, first - we haven’t talked to Nevada Hands & Voices and we may reach out to you but not at this moment because we have several people in the room from there. Here’s my concern that we may want to run it by some legal mind before I put that out to a vote as we might be discriminating?

Betty – can I ask for clarification what you mean by discrimination?

Mike – I believe there are laws that say how you can act or react with a married or single person, and I believe you must do it the same way regardless of their status.

Betty- Are you saying that instead of saying “a deaf parent of a deaf and hard of hearing child” we just say, “parent of a child with communication disability who is also a member of Nevada Hands & Voices”?

Mike – That wasn’t what was said here. Any parent that works for Nevada Hands & Voices, they don’t have to be a deaf parent or have any other qualification they just must have a child.

Eli- Can we just say a member of Nevada Hands & Voices, Period? Of course, we must talk to the president.

Mike – I think that’s acceptable. I don’t know how they feel about it but that would be more acceptable than saying must be a parent. Again, I’m not an attorney.

Jason – I see what everybody is saying. I know there are parents who have no idea about their child and what it’s like to be deaf and hard of hearing. They have a lot of questions they don’t know how to find those answers. That’s why we see parents with school districts and they’re reaching out to DCN, I don’t understand any of this. I can see where Mike is coming from as far as if they’re on the commission and don’t know what we are talking about and I see all the things that Sal, Maureen and Jeff bring up. I’m not discriminating, I’m just saying that you do have to know what it’s like to relate.

Eli – That’s why we’re saying just a member of Nevada Hands & Voices does not have to be a parent.

15 MINUTE BREAK

Mike – I’d like to summarize because we have a lot of great ideas on the table. I think we have decided that we’d like to add an employment specialist and the other is someone from Nevada Hands & Voices. If we are going to keep the relay person, which was the intention, we have now taken care of those three positions. If we were to stop right now we would be fine with going to the legislature and asking for 427A, 740 section 1E to be changed to one relay user, one employment specialist and one Nevada Hands & Voices representative.

Maureen- I’ve been really thinking during the break and what about a member of the Deaf Center, I feel they should be on the commission as well.

Mike – I’m trying to keep us focused, so if we’re just talking about the three positions that we started in, we have that covered. Now if we also want to go forward with Jeff’s suggestion to increase the members to 11 instead of the nine we have now, then we have two more positions to consider. And one of those could be the Deaf Centers of Nevada or whomever the grantee is. So right now, we have consensus on the three members part of the original nine.

Eli – let’s vote

Mike – no voting, right now we only get one vote, we are going to now discuss the possible two new members to the committee

Jeff – So we have nine, two are non-voting members that takes us down to seven so if we add two more member that is nine again which is an odd number.

Betty –I know nothing happens quickly, but we have three users of relay & one person recently resigned, but we have Eli and Jeff what do they represent?

Mike – Jeff is not relay – he’s NVAD. Sal is our employment specialist, we’ve taken care of that one, who is the other?

Betty – What about Eli? Is he relay?

Mike – He’s a user of relay and we left one relay position in place, so we are good. And the third relay position which is vacant at the moment, with this proposal would be taken up by a Nevada Hands & Voices representative.

Eli – How are we going to implement this? Sal takes the employment slot. I’m a relay user and the vacant position goes to Nevada Hands & Voices? So, there is no real overlapping. Should we wait until the term expired and start filling positions or can we immediately implement these new changes?

Mike- There is not a need to wait. The Governor does not appoint us based on the position that we hold within the commission but appoints us to the commission itself. We’ve got those three and we’ve got people that we can fill it all with so now if we’re going to add two more, what would we advocate for? What I heard was the grantee, whoever the grantee is, that’s one. I’ve also heard a person who’s hard of hearing, that hasn’t been addressed yet or a deaf user who has ASL experience, that was another idea and we had the second parent also.

Eli – And the other was birth to five years of age.

Mike – So, there’s five suggestions for two spots

Eli – This is my thought, this is a commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, so I feel we need to have a Hard of Hearing representative on the board. And from what I’m hearing in the community is that birth to five is crucial years of development and it would be wonderful to have someone who has those experiences on the board to keep us on track of serving the community.

Jason – For the 0 to 5, I think we should find a professional who can help put the ideas out there, provide us with more insight to what the parents need in the State and how to point them in the right direction. As a parent to a one year old I still need direction even though I’m hard of hearing myself, I don’t know how often he needs to be seen or where to get intervention services. A professional would mitigate that.

Mike – Just for clarification who is Nevada Early Intervention (NEIS), is that the State?

Cheyenne – Yes, they are State.

Mike – The problem with using NEIS is that it has been the State’s procedure that state employees do not vote on commissions. And if we are looking for expertise on birth to age five, we are most like not going to get them from NEIS.

Jason – I would want an expert on here to tell us what we think and then we vote based on what they say.

Eli – We can still have that person as a member. Just keep the total to 10 people because that would be 3 non-voting members & 7 voting members - an odd number.

Mike - I really pushed back hard with the non-voting because I think as a member of a commission you should have the right to vote. However, ADSD felt they didn’t want a vote and in the effort to be supportive, I allowed that vote to be taken away from me. There’s not a meeting that goes by I don’t regret that. And I don’t think you just want to keep adding non-voting people because then we become superfluous. I don’t know if NEIS would feel the same way as ADSD and they may want a vote.

Cheyenne – NEIS is a part of ADSD

Mike – then they won’t want a vote, but that is not to say that we can’t find somebody else or define a position that brings expertise in birth to five.

Jason - One other thing I want to just clarify - these people we aren’t bringing them in just to vote, if we wanted people to come vote I could care less who you brought in. These people are coming in to give us expertise to make the right decisions in the Strategic Plan and that’s what we need, that kind of expertise. I agree with one thing that was said wholeheartedly and that was Eli’s allusion to we’re going to be suggesting the name of this new commission to be The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, so it makes sense that we bring in a hard of hearing representative.

Mike – So we are proposing that be the eighth voting member and we just need to discuss the ninth.

Eli – Right, I agree with Jason, we need professional or educator for lack of a better work that deals with birth to age five, maybe Cheyenne can help us as far as what the terminology we can find. I understand Mike’s point of view we don’t want a non-voting member. Anybody have any idea if there’s an organization or how we should word the specialist in birth to age five?

Jeff – The NEIS is under the state. Does that mean that Hands and Voices (being independent) that they could be a member of the commission?

Mike – Correct, that doesn’t raise an issue there. Okay so I personally think that we’re going down a good path with the birth to five years, because I’ve heard in many of our meetings that Nevada doesn’t get on board soon enough. As a matter of fact, one of our speakers today suggest DCN start handing out pamphlets at the hospital or have pamphlets available at the hospital so that when parents learn my child is deaf and they’re like what do I do, here’s a starting point. And the DCN would be a great place for them to start. So, birth to age five, what we could do is just keep that as the concept and work with LCB to come up with language. We can continue to work on this to avoid a bunch of lawyers making decisions, it’s us. We could just put that as our concept - a specialist in deaf advocacy from birth – age 5.

Jason – I also sit on the ICC & there’s a huge push regarding birth - age 5. We should be getting some new specialist in Las Vegas rather than going out of state.

Mike – We cannot go out of state for a specialist, commission members must be residents of Nevada.

Jason – Let me clarify, residents are going out of state to get the education they need and bringing it back with them to Nevada. It’s something we can investigate as far as a professional.

Mike – moving forward, we will retain one relay member, we will advocate for an employment specialist and a representative from Nevada Hands & Voices, and we will request two additional positions on the Commission, one a hard of hearing representative and the other a birth to age five representative.

Mr. Fiorentino proposed the motion. Ms. Fradianni seconded. Motion carries.

LUNCH

1. Discussion and approval of the responsibilities and overall function of the Commission; to include the role of the Director of the Commission. **(For Possible Action**

Mike Eifert, Member of the Commission

Mike- The handout, Role of Nevada Deaf Commission is the agenda item 8 & 9.

The director position was created in 2017 as a non-paying position. It wasn’t defined in law, as a matter of fact if you look at the NRS, it simply says director and that director reports to the chair of the Commission. The thought was to put some structure around what this director should be doing for us. Then whether it is just for expenses or a paid position and the fallout would be the funding for that.

In our last meeting the one primary thought was the director should focus on the 5-year Strategic Plan, which is a good starting spot, because that should be our focus as well, as a commission. But other things came up so I’m going to quickly run thru this list from previous discussions, and then we can throw things out like the previous discussion.

First – Assist the chairperson in facilitating the 5-year Strategic Plan.

Second – Work with the chairperson to establish work groups to develop action plans for individuals to achieve goals.

Third – Assist the chairperson with researching commission member questions.

Today a lot of research falls on Betty’s shoulders and Rique Robb is kind of our unofficial, official director, and she has many other duties. She really can only act as an advisor to us. She is not doing anything as far as the work that the commission is trying to accomplish. This director could take on some of the research responsibility that Betty is currently doing and Rique doesn’t have the time to do.

Along with the chairperson, the director formalizes the agenda and up coming meetings and prepares draft minutes from previous meetings. This goes along the same though, Betty and Wendy are doing that today, and they have so many duties that they don’t have the time to do this. So, it seemed reasonable that those roles would then fall to the director. We can gather information from other state deaf commissions to assist Nevada in developing Deaf advocacy programs. I think I would even expand that to work with other states, as has been pointed out in public comment, Nevada is behind the eight ball, we’re not the leading-edge for Deaf advocacy, hopefully we can learn from other people.

And then last one is - should this be a full-time or part-time position? In the 2017 legislature they saw fit to allocate $25,000 for 2018 and 2019 for expenditures in the director’s position. Unfortunately, the legislature decided that they would sunset that money, so it is only for 2018 and 2019 and at that point that money goes away.

So should we go forward to the legislature asking them to continue that funding for the director’s position? Let’s discuss what our director should look like and what he or she should be doing for the community.

Jason – I think the director should be full-time simply because they will be able to focus their time on the issues and how to deal with it. If they’re part time and have another job somewhere else, then it’s going to be hard for them to focus. What happens if they are pulled into five different directions. If one person could just be able to delegate and to understand what needs to be done, then I feel it should be a full-time position, the money is another thing.

Jeff- So if that position is unpaid and voluntary we must keep in mind most people will not want to do the job. I agree with Jason it should be a full-time position.

Betty – Just from my perspective and how much time is spent, we also have Tamika in the south who does a lot of work to get meetings set up. We have our staff interpreter doing some of the work. I’m thinking if we added it all together with Wendy, me, Tamika, everyone, it would justify a full-time position.

Mike – I see the sensibility in having a full-time director. If we’re going to the legislature advocating a full-time position, we need to have duties set. There is money now, but if the commission wants to raise the TDD level then I may have to recuse myself from the discussion as I would be in conflict. As it applies to the general fund, I’m certainly supportive of that, I think we need to research as many funding sources as we can for this community. We had a great deal of outreach from the public looking for more monies to do more for the community. I think it’s time the State steps up and does its part. I think Maureen’ presentation will show us there’s a great deal other states do that we don’t do. And part of that money is from the general fund, when we talk about $25,000 a year - that is a pittance. Let’s get to this and get some ideas, Betty will write down all our ideas on paper. So, let’s put funding at the top Strategic Plan.

As far as administrative duties, we need to break that down? What I’m seeing, and we can add more to this, but this will be 2A, B, C, D, etc. To include: draft commission minutes formalize commission agenda, and work with Commission workgroups on action plans.

Jeff – They could oversee service programs such as Nevada Hands & Voices. They can work with them, provide any support or assistance that they may need, same with DCN, to oversee their service operations (budget, the meeting, etc.).

Mike – I think we have two different things here, and one of them we can’t do. Nevada Hands & Voices is an independent organization and no director is going to have anything to say to them, I assure you. We won’t propose that. However, a good point Jeff, this person could oversee the grantee piece.

Cheyenne – ADSD does this as part of the communication access services program, so I see that staying that program director role, versus the commission director role.

The communication access service program is owned by Betty, Tamika and the interpreters. Those are all the positions funded for communication access services funded through that surcharge and all fall essentially under Betty’s purview.

Mike – In that capacity, is there any other grantee information outside of the surcharge that we’re discussing? Or are we just talking about what the surcharge spends. Is there other commissions or other funds that this group that Betty and Tamika and so forth ride herd over, other than the TDD funding?

Cheyenne – No, they’re all funded through the TDD Funding.

Mike – So I guess I understand that you would want to keep. I’m wondering why? If the director is the person who is the head of the commission and everything is funded by the TDD, why not move that?

Betty – That’s tracked in with time tracking. But let me add something with that line of thinking. They could also manage the pool of interpreters & CART. So, I’m in agreement with Cheyenne on that part. I still think there’s more things that take up a lot of time such as the research.

Mike –I’m not adverse to taking oversight of the grantee off the list.

Cheyenne – We must remember we have to separate things that intersect. So, we have the communication access services program that has their requirements under the NRS then we have the commission which is in a different NRS.

Betty – they are the same NRS, but the commission is under the governor’s office, its appointed. There was an amendment that suggested keeping it under ADSD, but it went under the Governor’s office, so these programs are all under ADSD. But I still think there's enough work if they set up all the meetings and did everything that we're trying to do to help the commission even though we're not, it's not under our department anymore, we still staff and try to do minutes and everything and buildings and all that. If you took all that away, that would free us up to do the other stuff.
Jeff – I was researching Director’s duties, and I found something here. So, the state agency to provide services for the deaf and hard of hearing, advocacy for equal access to services and opportunities, providing continuous education service, assistance in establishing general interpreting referral, generalized interpreting service, review and coordinate certifications and evaluation process for interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Mike –What you just listed is what the commission does, not the director.

Jeff – These were listed as the duties for the director in New Mexico.

Mike – Okay so the director’s duties from another state.

Jeff – That’s why I was researching, you know it was a strategy, a cheat sheet to give you some ideas on what they should be doing.

Eli – Again, I handed out a spreadsheet, we did investigate what some of the directors do in other states. Please refer to the handout.

Mike – Lets get back to the board and start writing some stuff down that we want.

Eli –I think the director should be an advocate for working with the legislature to implement new policy.

Mike- do we want to put research and working with other state deaf commissions under Administrative duties or more specific?

Sal- For outreach, like contacting other states and working with them, to share ideas.

Eli – Could we have one like Betty indicated earlier, should the director oversee the interpreting and CART services.

Mike – it appears to me ADSD would prefer that some functions stay exactly where they are at. And there is some sensibility to that, they have the expertise, especially with the interpreters and the director is not going to have that background. You’ve got Betty and Tamika and a whole slew of people who understand the registry and have contacts. And as far as the grantee process, we can let ADSD keep that also. We’re just trying to put together enough so that as least it justifies to the legislature that there’s a need to pay the person.

Cheyenne – I think that’s a good point, and knowing we have $25,000 in state general funds now, being able to make the case to continue that is why this discussion is so important today.

Mike – I was thinking who could we get to sponsor us and Pat Spearman was very instrumental in the last session, so I would probably approach Teresa Benitas-Thompson and say we would like more than the $25,000, we’d like $200K, but you probably aren’t going to do that so if we could get $50K or $75K we’re willing to take that & here is what the person would be doing to justify a part/full time paid position.

Jason – I was thinking of another duty for the director. What if we had them work with the ICC or Department of Education in terms of having a certain credentials or training for prospective employee that need to work with intervention or in education. They could deal more with birth to five, like NEIS or even the school district. It’s like we’ve heard a lot of parents say it is crucial that they get language as soon as they can whether it’s signing or listening to spoken language. But if we have a director that works in education, aligning themselves with the ICC and developmental disabilities, I think they would have a better understanding of how things are being done. I don’t know if that would be too much work for the director but think some part of the duties should be with education in some way.

Mike – Not sure about the specifics but I think that is a specific goal that would be noteworthy. Rather we should expand on the five-year strategy facilitation because without expanding on it, they could look at it and say that doesn’t seem like a lot of work. Expand with things like working with higher education to facilitate more interpreters, working with education department for secondary, preschool. Our Strategic Plan is broken down into goals and objectives so each one could be a high-level bullet point that we use to expand on what that five-year plan is and under each of those bullets is even further expansion that we could use to sell our director’s need.

Betty – One of the things that needs to be done with the commission is that we look the strategic plan which is a big job and modify it and report to the Governor’s offices. That is something they can do.

Eli – Like an annual report?

Betty – Yes, there is an annual report, but my understanding is that the Strategic Plan is a living document, so they could update the governor on everything we are working on. I added expansion to the Strategic Plan facilitation and expansion report to the Governor as administrative duties.

Mike – Today in the NRS the director is mentioned only one time, because we didn’t have any definition or money for it, and it says that the director reports to the chair of the commission and that isn’t going to work. In my opinion the commission needs to report to the director, if it becomes a paid position.

Cheyenne – This seems similar to the Governor’s council on developmental disabilities, there’s an executive director that is employed by the state and reports to a state person, mainly for time sheets, the administrative pieces of being employed by the state. But they get their direction and all of that from the council itself. So, in a sense it is a blended position, the State supervisor approves the time sheet, the annual leave the HR duties, but the council directs the day to day of the director and help facilitate the annual evaluation.

Mike – I think if we could come up with wording that describes just what you said, that think that would work. The way it’s set up right now doesn’t work. If you think about our previous subcommittee, there’s some similarities to that in the CSPD didn’t report to the subcommittee but they took direction from the subcommittee and made decisions from that.

Cheyenne – I would be happy to work with Mike further.

Eli – Let’s continue our work board, any other duties? I think expanding the Strategic Plan is going to make that list large, but anything else?

Jason – I don’t know if the director could do this, but what about promote/demoting people on the commission not doing their job?

Mike – We could propose something, but only the Governor can do that.

Jason – if someone isn’t showing up or not doing what they’ve been asked?

Mike – There is a chain of command and the chair would take the concerns of the commission for an individual’s behavior to the Governor to make that decision.

Cheyenne – I haven’t reviewed the bylaws in a while, but I would imagine there is language about removing members and what that looks like.

Mike – Yes, there is the bylaws specifically speak to activity that a member could undertake that would put them in jeopardy of being removed from their position.

Eli – Does the Strategic Plan include working with the workgroups?

Betty – 2C coordinate commission workgroups and action plans. What about working with other commissions that are established such as the autism commission?

Jason- What if we had the director update and review the bylaws for the commission and highlight the important parts that we should know about the commission. I know when I first started I didn’t know what I can and cannot do, like make sure you state your name first before you talk, just little things that would help know what my role in the commission is. I wonder if the director could go over highlights, important aspects of what your duty is as a person on the commission?

Cheyenne – Perhaps it would be like commission onboarding and training?

Jason – Sort of, instead of getting a big stack of papers, read this in your spare time. I was like I don’t have that kind of time to read hundreds of pages. It would have been good to get the do’s and don’ts and highlights before the first meeting rather than being talked to afterwards.

Mike – The commission is responsible for the bylaws and updating them but if the Commission and the Director are going to work in a relationship this it would fit that they would have dialogue and at least review the bylaws.

Maureen – Is the director position paid & is it appointed by the Governor or by the State?

Mike – That’s a good question, I would think it’s like another job vacancy at the State, there’s an interview process, submit a resume & determination is made by someone.

Cheyenne – I can do a little bit of research with the Governor’s council on developmental disabilities to see how that works & bring that back to the commission.

Mike, Betty and Eli – discussion on what other commissions around the country do, compared to what ADSD and the grantee do in our state and leaving those things where they are with ADSD.

Jason – We talked about employment opportunities for the deaf and hard of hearing, do we want the director to be deaf or hard of hearing? Or do we just want them to be whomever? Somebody who’s qualified, I’m not discriminating or anything, but I feel we talk about employment opportunities and that’s one thing that parents talked about this is something that a younger kid as they grow up can say hey, I want to be a director of this commission, something to go to college for.

Mike – I think you just drifted outside of the context of this agenda item, this agenda item is to decide on duties for the director, not their qualifications. I fully understand the merit in a director who themselves is deaf or part of the community. I can certainly understand that. But that is qualifications, and I think that’s a discussion to have with the governor’s office as a commission once we get to that point.

Jeff – This is really for Betty Hammond, so CART, the registry, the interpreters, all that is ADSD. But the commission is not responsible for that, can you clarify the separation in that?

Betty – It’s a structural change because we have State employees doing that job. These are the duties for now, and that doesn’t mean they have to be forcer or can’t change later, but the legislature would have to approve taking a chunk out of the state and moving it to the commission.

Jeff – I was wondering because Betty can’t do this forever, what if she leaves or retires, then who are they going to put in that position, maybe they won’t know the culture, things the commission would know? Right now, Betty does know and that is great but if she ever leaves it could be disastrous.

Mike – I think clarification is that the commission gives direction, we still give input to ADSD. They are simply the organization that administers it. If we took it away, then we would have to move physical bodies to the Governor’s office and I don’t think we have the legislative appetite for that. I think just trying to get a paid directors position is a good start. Right now, if we focus on the baby steps we can get more done in the future, but if we bite off to big of a chunk then we will be dead in the legislature. Baby steps are the key. I’ll word a motion & someone will have to pick it up as I can’t vote.

Mike – The motion should be that the Commission will go forward to the interim committees with the director’s duties & responsibilities as outlined there on the white board and to advocate for at least additional funds in support of the director’s position.

Jason proposed the motion and Sal seconded. Motion carries.

1. Discussion and approval to change NRS 427A.750 to include further funding for the commission and extension of the life of the Commission. **(For Possible Action**

 Mike Eifert, Member of the Commission

Covered in item number 8.

1. Discussion and approval of outreach for action partners with the Commission. **(For Possible Action)**

 Maureen Fradianni, Member of the Commission

Ms. Fradianni distributed handouts which list each state that has an established Commission for the Deaf – approximately 15. I asked each state how their programs run, and I only got a few answers. It was stated that in those answers, the resource services weren’t under the Commission. Pages 6 - 11 lists states with Commissions that replied to all four of the survey questions. Some of the information is outdated since it was from June 2014. Due to that fact, I suggest we continue our outreach to other states. Mr. Eifert thanked Ms. Fradianni and stated that this information is helpful in substantiating our position with the legislature that most Commissions have funds from multiple sources.

1. Discussion and decision regarding setting up a work group for the Commission to review and update the Interpreter/CART regulations **(For Possible Action)**

 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Eli – It seems time for the regulation of the CART and interpreters to be changed, it is kind of outdated, so I would like to form a workgroup of people who look at the current regulations and make suggestions how to update it. Any discussion or volunteers before I make any appointments?

Mike – What you’re looking for here? Just to take the existing regulations that we have today and go over them and see if there’s any appropriate changes?

Eli – Correct, with I would like to ask Jeff & Maureen to head up this workgroup, see if they agree, if they can recommend changes if necessary and bring it back to the next commission meeting in June.

Betty- Right now we have Tamika working on doing some of the update or suggested changes and our staff interpreter is also looking at those. So, to prepare it, it won’t be just how it is, they are making some suggested changes. If you would work on a workgroup with them, work together on more suggested changes from the deaf perspective, that’s what is needed. Then we can go from there holding workshops and hearings to pass new regulations, because they haven’t been changed since 2010.

Tamika – Yes, that’s correct, we’ve been doing a PowerPoint with the current regulations, the suggested changes and the justification for it. I sent it to Kim this morning and we were planning to go through it. So, if you want to take if or get together and we can figure it out form there. From there

Eli – Maureen and Jeff, are you okay to work with Tamika, Betty and Kim?

Maureen – How would we be working since we live so far from each other?

Eli – I think the mail point of contact would be Tamika and you would decide how you wanted to communicate.

Betty – I’m hoping that we have staff interpreters to help so maybe we can use video phones or video conferencing to meet and have discussions, suggestions, then we would take it to the larger community because that’s what in the law, that it has to go through procedure, you have to have workshops and hearing to change any regulations I don’t know when we would have to get the draft over to LCB, what time of year for them to have time, do you know Mike?

Mike – the sooner the better with LCB, you’re talking about making changes to 656A correct?

Betty – Right and the corresponding regulations which are NACS.

Mike - but you cannot change the regulations unless you change 656A.Typically the only time you change a regulation is because the underlying law was changed.

Betty – There was a law passed 656A with no details or information for different kinds of interpreting and levels of interpreting. And so, me understand at the time that we did it in 2008 & 2009 was that he regulations could give us that opportunity to define those things that were missing in the law, and then we did a change in 2010, it was not a change in the law but a change in the regulations.

Mike - Back to my original question, you’re not thinking of making changes to 656A?

Betty – I don’t think so

Mike – Because if you were making changes to 656A I should be involved because we’re going to have to talk to the legislature. But if you’re not cool. Then to answer your question, it doesn’t matter what the interim committees are doing, you can put together the updates you believe are necessary and then you can request a docket be opened at the public utilities commission and work with the commission to get the regulations updated.

Sal – I have a question regarding the CDI certified deaf interpreter as well or is that a different type of interpreter?

Betty – that might be going outside the scope of the agenda item. We need to set up a workgroup and that’s a good question for them to ask about the CDI’s. I thin we need more definition and coverage.

1. Discussion and approval of creating a workgroup to Update the Strategic Plan **(For Possible Action)**

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Eli – We established five items a couple of meetings ago that we are working on, a strategic workgroup, emergency response, the Nevada hearing connection, education and employment. We’re hopefully going to wrap those five items up at the commission meeting in June and we need to update our Strategic Plan going forward. Like Betty mentioned earlier it is a living document so we must continue to update and decide what are the priorities going forward. It’s been almost two years since we worked on the Strategic Plan, so we need someone to review and update it.

Maureen – I would like to add that I went to a community event put on by Nevada Hands & Voices and I noticed other agencies don’t seem to be aware of the Strategic Plan. So, I would recommend that we have our Nevada commission send out a business letter notifying these agencies of the Strategic Plan, so they’re aware of it.

Maureen – I’m aware Betty and the staff are already overwhelmed with their own work, so I would be happy to help with the letter to be submitted and getting the address for the different organizations.

Eli – Thank you Maureen, I will be reaching out to you in the future. With that in mind would anyone like to work on the strategic workgroup? I think it should be everybody since we all worked on the strategic Plan as part of the SOCs committee.

Cheyenne – I would have to double check, but could we get into trouble having a workgroup that is all commission members.

Mike – Alternatively we could do what we did with this meeting, we had the opportunity to have a workgroup discuss the legislative items again or put it before the Commission on the next agenda, it was decided to put it on the agenda.

So, could we not table this till next meeting and put it on the agenda with the understanding that it will take most of the meeting time? So, you would not want to schedule many other items.

Mike – I will take the opportunity between now and then to look over this, give up some suggestions, but that would save a couple dollars extra meetings.

Eli – With that in mind, you all have homework now. You all need to review the Strategic Plan, make recommendations and we’ll make it a part of the next agenda.

Betty – After you do your review of the Strategic Plan you can send me your ideas and priorities as a clearinghouse to get it arranged for the next meeting. I think also since we had a great opportunity to have the deaf community here and express some areas of concern, please keep that in mind.

Mike – I wasn’t on the workgroup that developed the Strategic Plan when we were SOCS, but is there a spreadsheet that has this?

Betty – Yes, the SEI who did the Strategic Plan and all its activities sent me the Word document of the whole plan. I will send it to everyone, the blue section that we have in front of us.

Jeff – I was looking at 2019 and that relates to a lot of the issues the we heard in public comment so if we can take all that and follow it put it in the Strategic Plan to be able to meet those needs.

Eli – Agreed, any other discussion, moving on to the next item, it looks like a duplication and we’ve covered it, lets move on then to item 14.

1. Make recommendations on any Commission activities related to the Commission’s Strategic Plan **(For Possible Action)**

 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Going back to item 13 after 14, the intent was to give the people on the commission an opportunity to say what they have experienced in the community that needs to be brought to our attention. And we got a very good representation from the community but have the other members experienced other items out there that we should be informed.

Maureen – I already mentioned I went and met a person from the Nevada Pep agency and she didn’t know anything about our Strategic Plan. So how are we supposed to do this if nobody knows about it? That is where my idea came from to send out a letter regarding our Strategic Plan.

1. Discussion and Determination of Agenda Items to be Considered at the Next Meeting **(For Possible Action)**

 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Eli – We will be discussing the Strategic Plan, anything else?

Betty – Mr. Perry Smith would like to be on the next agenda, and Nevada Hands & Voices to clear up what their program is and what they do.

Eli – What about No Wrong Door?

Cheyenne – Sure

Sal – should we continue the director position that we discussed previously?

Mike – I think it would be appropriate that I come back with a report on it. My intention is to write this as best I can while working with the Chair and ADSD before the next meeting and I hope to also get an audience with Teresa Benitas Thompson and get feedback.

Eli – I know we need to discuss the elections.

Jeff – What about having Sheri Farinha from Lead-K come to give a presentation?

Betty – The issue is we would have to move the commission meeting to a Friday and have her come down for us then the next day on Saturday she would go to Lead-K. Do we want to have just some members come on a Friday or have a full commission meeting on a Friday, so we could accommodate Sheri? Should it be a workgroup or the full commission as that’s a big ask for a Friday. That could be part of a workgroup, not a commission. Anybody who would like to go, go to the meeting we need to learn about it, so if you’re able to go then go. Betty will relay the information on when and where.

Betty – I was thinking that maybe the few members that are interested would just go to the Lead-K meeting instead of having two different meetings. We could just go and observe.

Eli – In Reno?

Betty – They can video with the South so it would be the whole state and she would come to Reno and we could video from there. Sheri said that she can meet on a Saturday and you the workgroup can meet with us on that Saturday instead of having separate meetings, but it’s up to you.

Eli – Okay, Betty will get us the information, going back to item 13.

1. Confirm Dates for Future Commission Meetings and Workgroups **(For Possible Action)**

 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

 June 2018

Members discussed their availability for either June 13th or 20th.

Eli asked if the Commission can be accommodated on the 13th?

Betty – I will have to go back to the office and look at the calendar because the people that support this commission have other commissions.

Eli – or the 20th, but what I’m seeing is people prefer the 13th.

Jeff – So I’m a little confused, the commission meeting is on the Strategic Plan? Is Lead-K going to come and talk to us, like is that a different separate date?

Betty – It seems the consensus was that people who are interested in the group will attend the Lead-K meeting in Las Vegas or Reno and can update the Commission. I’m sure there is a lot of interest. But it will be separate from the commission meeting.

Eli – So that concludes our commission meeting, we go to item No. 16 -Public Comment. I would like to hear from people who have something not related to the Deaf Center of Nevada first please.

1. 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 you name for the record. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chair.)
* **Joanne** (phone) This morning we were talking about the name changes and DCN. I’m thinking that Nevada hearing loss instead of hearing impaired instead of DCN. I think that hearing loss would be more inclusive.
* **David Daviton** – Your system, public comment at the first part of the meeting and at the end of the meeting, it doesn’t work. We have good issues and we can’t wait until the very end. There’s no action because your meeting is over and it’s closing. You’re not allowing the people to give feedback. I feel that we’re being prevented from saying anything. I understand the procedures and the way that it works, but, you know, maybe if you intermittently let the public have comments throughout the meeting, it would be more beneficial, rather than blocking everyone out until the very end. Honestly, it’s a turn off to me and you know I would like to work with you more, but we’re not having the opportunity of providing any feedback. It might be critical for the issues that maybe you could vote on them right now rather than waiting three months to vote on it.
* **Dr. Elizabeth Schnobrich** - I’m a practicing child psychologist in Nevada. I’m going to talk about DCN because I believe it’s a very important program, as the parent of a hard of hearing child, and knowing as a child psychologist and the early development is very, very important. I immediately enrolled my child in NEIS and they were not able to meet the needs of my child because they did not understand how to work with hard of hearing children. It wasn’t until Meredith, who’s part of DCN, came to my house for the first time that somebody understood what we were going and what my child needed. We’ve been on the wait list for a deaf mentor, but because of lack of funding we haven’t been able to have that. Now my child is two and in that critical period of language development and we’re missing out on a crucial program and crucial development. DCN provides sign language classes, so we’re taking as much information from them as we can. But as somebody who understands child development and somebody who understands the importance of early intervention, DCN provides a program for the deaf and hard of hearing community that nobody else in this state provides. And that’s something that really need to be taken into consideration for the children and families of this state. Thank you.
* Eli – so I think that we’re hearing basically the same stories repeatedly and if you agree please state your name and that you agree. Thank you.
* **Kevin** – I’m going to take exception to that, Eli, I have a big problem with the deaf commission saying okay we’re not going to hear your voice, it may be the same thing over and over but you as a commission might need to hear the same thing over and over to understand what’s going on out there. To say we’re not going to talk about DCN and not giving the deaf community who you represent the ability to share how they’re felling, it is in my mind disgraceful. You talked about DCN having a seat on the commission and DCN has a policy that no employee can sit on the commission. We felt we had to do that after a misunderstanding between an employee and a commissioner, where the employee felt the commissioner said that the reason there is only 1.5 million available is that I didn’t ask for more money. I’ve been asking for more money, 1.5 million is not going to touch the growth we need. I had to have a staff meeting and do damage control and believe that open meeting was violated by this conversation and that it was inappropriate. For the commission to say we aren’t going to talk about DCN, we’ve heard enough, we don’t want to talk about DCN anymore, even though DCN is the only resource they have. You need to listen to your stakeholders, you need to listen to the concerns of the people.
* **Tim Smally** again, my understanding is the commission should be neutral to the people and be willing to listen to our feedback and make recommendations. I’m getting the impression that you’re not in support of DCN. You keep saying no more DCN comments, but we are all here for DCN. This community is very passionate about supporting and you as a commission should be supporting that. I’m starting to feel like we are not welcome in the meetings anymore. We need to stand in solidarity and the commission needs to help with this.
* **Gary Olsen** -I feel what’s important is that we have a commission and they are involved in the proceedings and making positive changes, I see positive change. What I don’t see is enough input from the deaf community, I see a lot of hearing people making decisions for the deaf community without our input. I feel that you need the deaf feedback. I feel you are going in the right direction but without the deaf community input when you go to the legislature they are going to listen to both sides and you could have opposition. I feel it is better to work together, we need to change that and all work together. Respect each other and all work together to create great things.
* **Arle Fauni** – I was in a car accident and put in the ambulance to go to the hospital and was given no interpreter and the police came to take the report and no interpreter and I was very upset, the hospital said they would not get an interpreter they gave me an iPad instead and said to use that. It was very upsetting, I said that I didn’t want the iPad I wanted an interpreter and they said no, so I called my sister to interpret over the phone and it was very upsetting how I was treated and that they would not give me a live interpreter but just an iPad.
* **Jeff** - So Gary Olsen made an important point. As community members, we need to listen to the community's voices, not just shut them down. So that makes them more upset and makes them angrier. And that will lead to a lot of turmoil. And we have to make sure that we can both work together as the commission with the community we want to hear from them and to hear what they have to say so that we are aware and we'll be able to know what to do and what actions to take as the commission and it will help guide us in our future discussions. So, we can't stim their voices. If we can just keep these meetings open, I would appreciate it. Thank you.
* **Dyana Thurgood** - I'm going to be reading a letter on behalf of National Association of the Deaf. It is written by Howard A Rosenblum, NAD chief executive officer, and his letter says:
	+ To whom it may concern, founded in 1880 the National Association of the Deaf is the oldest national civil rights organization in the United States and is dedicated to its mission of preserving, protecting and promoting the civil and rights of all deaf and hard of hearing people in the country. The NAD has become aware of Deaf Centers of Nevada needs adequate funding to continue its essential advocacy and resource services for deaf and hard of hearing residents in the state of Nevada. The services of DCN ensure the cradle to grave service including advocacy for full and equal access to education and employment including meeting the communication needs of deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, deaf blind and speech impaired individuals across the country. There's a high demand for these advocacy and resource services for this population, and DCN is the only organization that is providing such services within Nevada. DCN is a nonprofit, dependent on the level of funding that it receives to date to maintain its existing services for the number of clients reached each year. Any reduction in funding would be devastating to its services and the deaf and hard of hearing community of Nevada would not have any other recourse. Support for DCN must be maintained and at its existing level and even increased to ensure deaf and hard of hearing people in Nevada are able to receive an appropriate education, obtain gainful employment, and access professional services. Deaf and hard of hearing people seek to lead independent and productive lives and DCN's services are necessary to make this possible for many of them. The NAD requests that full funding be restored for DCN to ensure all its services remain uninterrupted for all deaf and hard of hearing residents of Nevada. If you have any questions about our support for DCN, please contact me directly. Howard A Rosenblum. Thank you.
* **David Daviton** – I understand that you are currently in an RFA, I wasn’t aware of that, and you are required to go to the orientation meeting that was on March 21st to qualify for the RFA and apply. I was left out of that and I’m president of NVAD and I was not informed of this. It seems NVAD was ignored and left out of this process. That’s 1.5 million dollars that NVAD could have been involved in applying for and we did not receive the information,
1. Adjournment

 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Meeting Adjourned at 2:09 PM

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.

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**Current Commission Members**

Eli Schwartz (Chairperson), Sal Fiorentino (Vice Chairperson), Jason Adams, Jeff Beardsley, Allison Berman, Mike Eifert, Maureen Fradianni, Betty Hammond, Jennifer Montoya.

**Director**

Rique Robb

NOTE: To provide a safe environment for Aging and Disability Services Division meetings, please refrain from wearing perfume, scented hairspray, cologne, scented deodorant, essential oils, aftershave or any other scented products when you attend.

Scented products contain chemicals which can cause migraines, nausea and even breathing problems for people with asthma, allergies, and environmental illness.

**No Scents is Good Sense!** If you are unsure if a product is safe to wear, a good rule of thumb to just not wear it.

***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, 9670 Gateway Drive, Suite 200 Reno, NV 89521
4. Aging and Disability Services Division, Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104, Elko, NV 89801
5. Nevada Community Enrichment Program, 6375 West Charleston Boulevard, Ste. L200 Las Vegas, NV 89146
6. Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 6039 El Dora Street H-8, Las Vegas, NV 89101
7. Disability Resource Center, So. E. Greg St., Suite 102 Sparks, NV 89431
8. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89706
9. Desert Regional Center, 1391 South Jones Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89146
10. Sierra Regional Center, 605 South 21st Street, Reno, NV 89431
11. Rural Regional Center, 1665 Old Hot Springs Road, Carson City, NV 89706
12. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
13. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
14. Early Intervention Services, 2667 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512
15. Deaf Centers of Nevada, 6490 S. McCarran Blvd. Bldg. F Suite 46&47 Reno, NV 89509
16. Deaf Centers of Nevada, 3120 S. Durango Drive, Ste. 301 Las Vegas, NV 89117

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