**MEETING MINUTES**

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: January 9, 2019

9:30 am

This meeting will be a Video Conference between the following:

Las Vegas:  Aging and Disability Service Division

1860 E. Sahara, Suite 201

Las Vegas, NV 89104

Carson City: Aging and Disability Service Division

3416 Goni Road, Building H

Carson City, NV 89706

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>

If the video equipment is not working for technical reasons the meeting will continue by use of the call-in number.

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/>

**Draft Minutes**

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Cheyenne Pasquale, Chief I of Planning, Advocacy and Community

Services Unit (PAC)

Members: Eli Schwartz, Jeff Beardsley, Maureen Fradianni, Eric Wilcox

Member Not Present: Mike Eifert

Guests: Krista Cervantes, Abby Magtoto, Tim Smalley, Catherine Nielson, Beth Slough, Perry Smith, Debbi Helms

Staff: Cheyenne Pasquale, Sal Fiorentino, Carole Hanley, Tiffani Curtis, Jennifer Montoya, Shannon Sprout

Interpreters: Stephanie Gardner (South), Debra Scott (South), Kim Johnson (North), Kalen Beck (North)

CART Provider: Denise Hinxman

Phone: Jack Mays

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.)

Perry Smith the Coordinator from Nevada Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) invited a Commission Member to attend the National Annual EHDI conference in March. A member who may have not attended before, can attend all expenses will be payed, flights, hotel, and registration.

Mike Johnson voiced his disappointment with the Deaf Centers of Nevada (DCN) and Acting Executive Director Tim Smalley. Concerns regarding DCN not following open meeting laws, answering letters or letting the community know that Kevin has resigned. DCN is planning on moving to a new location. The location and when the move will be happening, has not been announced to the public and it is not posted on any social media sights.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 22, 2018 and October 24th, 2018

Jeff motioned to approve August minutes and Maureen second, all approved

Jeff motioned to approve Octobers Minutes and Maureen second, all approved

1. Discussion of 9-1-1- Registry Report

Catherine Nielson, Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Registry has just expanded into Douglas County from Washoe County, adjustments are still being made for Douglas County. The Grant program has expanded to include anyone that has a physical restraint including the deaf and hard of hearing.

Information is gathered by the Justin Hope Foundation then is shared with the 911 Dispatch Register in Washoe. This detailed information will populate when a call has been activated so that a plan can be put into action before responders arrive at the scene. Currently this service is only available In Washoe & Douglas Counties, Assemblyman Sprinkle has BDR 40-157 going to the Legislature that would allow all first responders to be trained, and the 911 Dispatch Registry will be available to all who would like to participate. Currently 68 families have registered in Washoe County, but talks are in the works to provide this service in Clark County.

Discussion about 911 connecting with other agencies like Hamilton Relay and how they could be effective with other types of communications like Video Relay Systems (VRS).

1. Presentation of Hamilton Relay Traffic and Outreach Report with Additional Information About the Real Time Text (RTT) Phone

Christa Cervantes, Hamilton Relay

Abby Magtoto, Hamilton Relay

Beth Slough, Guest Speaker

Discussion about what Real Time Text (RTT) is and how it is used. Wireless carriers are required to provide RTT because Teletypewriter (TTY) technology is being phasing out. Each carrier offers different types of services that are available to those who want it even if they don’t have a disability. Hamilton Relay is working with the different Wireless Carriers to come up with a Universal transmission so that the RTT can be read on all system.

Hamilton would like to implement a trial in Nevada with new technology. A demonstration of the on how the new system would work and the goal of the trial was done.

Discussion regarding outreach and training being performed in libraries and their partners about services that Hamilton provides.

1. Presentation and Updates of Early Intervention Services for Deaf Children by Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS)

Fatima Taylor Program Manager (CPM) NEIS and/or Jennifer Tseu CPM NEIS

Discussion about the program and the way families are assessed by the program. This program assists families with children from birth to three years of age that have developmental delays. Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) provides services in the following Counties: Clark, Lincoln, Esmeralda, Southern Nye, Elko, Winnemucca, Ely, Reno and Carson City.

It required a variety of degrees and licensed professionals to accommodate these families. Additional training with Sky High Institute is also used for an all-around mentoring and coaching professional knowledge.

Turnovers regarding Development Specialists in the South was discussed, and the departments plan to partner with other agencies like the Part C office or EHDI to train staff and help retain those with a passion to work with this population.

Discussion about the differences in Lead K and Sky High and their knowledge with working with the deaf culture.

1. Presentation on the Nevada Hands and Voices Program

Eric Wilcox, Member of the Commission

The program has 140 registered families with deaf or hard of hearing children, this represents a continued increase in families that are reached. Play groups that have been formed in the North with a combined effort from Nevada Hands and Voices, DCN & NEIS is a huge success, The South has had three successful play groups at this time. The play groups allow kids from birth to three and their parents to get together with language support professionals and have story time along with other activities.

Efforts in assisting NEIS to locate families that were screened in the hospital, but the state does not have record of them seeing an Audiologist. Efforts in collecting accurate data and reaching out to families so that they can get the needed training and assistance.

Mom’s night events have been held in both the North and the South. This helps provide moms socialize and network along with gaining a solid support network. Middle and high school students in Las Vegas have done activities, like going to see Mandy Harvey perform and UNLV basketball games.

A new low-cost online college curriculum class called Sign It is being offered by Rachel Coleman to help participating families learn American Sign Language (ALS). This will be offered in both Northern and Southern Nevada. Plans to form meet up groups so that signers and families can interact. Groups will have no more than 30 people with the cost being $22.00 each. This class is recommended as an additional tool to use alongside other programs like EHDI and Sky High.

A New program that is being implemented by Hands and Voices National throughout the country is called ASTRA. This is a formal program that supports families with school age children. A training even is in the works for Nevada but the cost is around $8,000.

1. Presentation on the activities of the Deaf Centers of Nevada (DCN)

Kevin Carter, Executive Director of DCN

New Acting Executive Director Tim Smalley spoke on the transitions affecting the agency with the staff turnover and how it will affect the community. Topics of positions that are needed to build a strong team in both the North and the South and the status of a new building location were also covered.

Shannon Sprout informed that Aging and Disability Service Division has offered up technical assistance to DCN. This assistance will last until the end of the fiscal year at the end of June 30, 2019. DCN’s Board of Director has accepted this assistance.

1. Presentation of updates on the Communication Access Services (CAS) program

Salvatore Fiorentino, CAS Program Manager

The department has hired a Social Service Program Specialist II, Jennifer Montoya. Jennifer will supervise the four interpreters, coordinate the mentorship program and maintain the interpreter CART registry.

The Mentorship program has completed 30 hours in the North and 103 hours in the South since September.. The combined hours for September and October are approximately 334 of interpreting services saving Nevada approximately $25,000 in a four-month period.

CAS interpreters were at the Governor’s Inauguration providing interpreting services, they will also be interpreting at the Governor’s State of the State address in January.

Some changes are going to be made for the next half of the pilot program to improve the quality of learning for mentees based on research learned from the CIT conference in October.

Anyone providing sign language interpreting services in this state needs to be registered.  There is no grace period for unregistered interpreters.  The state is issuing a temporary waiver, until December 31, 2019, for one of the requirements for Educational Interpreters so they can register now and have time to complete the requirement**.**

CAS is working with Hamilton Relay for different types of advertising. For example, television commercials, bus stop ads or billboards.

1. Update and Discussion on Commission membership

Cheyenne Pasquale, Director

Allison has resigned leaving 3 voting positions open, we will need to fill an educator in the state and two users of relay services.

We have a pending application from Will Jensen from the Department of Education, the application is at the Governor’s office for processing.

A second application was sent to the Governor’s office for a Melanie Seaman, but we do not have an update on that application yet.

Cheyenne will put out an announcement to recruit for an educator position.

1. Reports and Discussion from the Commission’s Strategic Plan Workgroups. **(For Possible Action)**
   * Healthcare: No updates at this time.

* Education:

Maureen discussed how NEIS performs assessments on children 0-3 and the documentation that is not shared with the public, along with four different assessments used to test for the child’s needs and understanding.

Other agencies that are available are Nevada Dual Sensory Impairment Project in Reno, Nevada Department of Education, Nevada PEP, and the Helen Keller Center.

Plans to meet with Washoe County School District so data can be compiled on the numbers of deaf or hard of hearing children that are in the county. Along with formulating a possible change in the Communications Plan when the Special Education Department performs the child’s IEP.

National Lead K Organization has been collaborating with Sky High in multiple states, so they will be able to provide Nevada with quality services. The cost to become a Sky-High Mentor is seven to eight thousand dollars. Training is available to anyone in the deaf community who would like to pursue it. Currently three mentors are in Nevada two in the South and one in the North. The two that are trained in the South will be leaving so DCN will only have one in the North until others can be trained.

Discussion about collecting data to fulfill object 4.1.

Object 3.3 on the strategic plan will be covered once Eric and Maureen meet with the school district’s Special Education Department. The September’s meeting with Will Jensen did not provide percentages in its data for people who are not receiving services.

* Employment:

Sal discussed work done at Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) that allowed them to gain 4 staff members that are fluent in sign language and are knowledgeable of deaf culture. DETR has 3 Counselors 1 in the North and 2 in the South and an assistant in the South.

* Resource:

Cheyenne discussed website development and plans requesting input from commission members.

* Outreach:

Partner letters went out, we are waiting on feedback, follow up on feedback will be discussed at the next meeting.

* Emergency: No updates at this time.

1. Updates and Discussion regarding Budget and Legislative Session

Eli Schwartz and Mike Eifert

BDR 38-44 is the number for the proposed changes for the Commission. Cheyenne and her ADSD team will watch closely and inform the Commission members as things progress. Because of the financial aspect requesting extra funds from the state this BDR will be under extra scrutiny.

Senator Spearman is introducing another BDR-77, which is the school for children who are blind, deaf or hard of hearing.

The Governor’s Office will release his recommended budget January 16th the final budget is approved by the Legislature.

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

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Discussions for next Commission meeting:

Budget and Legislative updates

Workgroup updates and strategic planning status

CAS program updates

Nevada Hands and Voices

DCN updates

Bylaws review

Membership overview

Potentially Part C informational presentation

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

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

March 13,2019 but schedule change may be needed to accommodate meeting venues.

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.)

Debbie Helms thanked supporters for their understanding while DNC goes through their transition.

Eric stated that because the DCN Executive Director is working for the Board of Directors, he suggested that they may want to add the Directors and Board Members along with contact information to the web site so that the public would know how to escalate matters above the Executive Director when the issues arise.

Mike Johnson commented about Sharon Warren not being from the deaf community and her lack of understanding the culture, he would like to see her replaced.

A request that CART number the transcript pages was also made.

1. Adjournment

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 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.

**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 Wendy Thornley at (702) 486-9765 as soon as possible and at least **ten business** days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at [clhanley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:clhanley@adsd.nv.gov). Supporting materials for this meeting are available at 1860 E. Sahara Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89104, or by contacting Carole Hanley at 702-486-9765, or by email [clhanley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:clhanley@adsd.nv.gov).

**Current Commission Members**

Eli Schwartz (Chairperson), Jeff Beardsley, Mike Eifert, Maureen Fradianni, Eric Wilcox

**Director**

Cheyenne Pasquale

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>