

Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

From Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Re: Nevada Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Governor appointed members, has developed a Strategic Plan to work on improving access to services for Persons Who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing. The Strategic Plan has several goals and identified community partners to assist in achieving the goals.

The commission recognized that one of the initial steps in strategic plan development was to understand the needs of Nevada who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing across the lifespan.

There are following five critical issues and needs emerged from this work:

1. Need for enhanced service service spectrum.

- Adequate detection and accurate identification of consumers throughout the lifespan.
- Provision of evidence-based levels of care.
- Home-based services in rural and frontier areas of the state.
- Assistive technology.
- Sufficient America Sign Language (ASL) classes.

2. Need for additional school-based support.

- Connection to care prior to the age of 3.
- A school system that coordinates its service with other service providers.
- Transition activities between school systems and trajectory plans for beyond high school.

3. Need for a high quality and adequately numbered workforce to service those who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, & Hard of Hearing.

- High quality interpreters, teachers, and others that provide direct services.
- College level programs for Interpreters and teachers that serve consumers.
- Interpreter certification standards.

4. Need for increased awareness about the target population, their rights and their services available.

- Information about their rights, available services and how to access care.
- Information about the target population, their needs, and experiences.

5. Need services to support the entire family.

- The appropriate knowledge and skills to assist family members.
- A peer mentor who can provide the emotional and education support in navigating the service system.
- Information about how to advocate on behalf of their family members' rights and access to care.

The Strategic Plan along with the goals, objectives, and timelines was originally developed through the subcommittee on Communication Services (SOCS) and can be found in <http://adisd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnvgov/content/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/SOCS%20Strategic%20Plan20FINAL%2011-30-16.pdf>. Your agency has been

Identified as one of the potential partners in Action/Responsible Parties which could be a partner for collaborative efforts.

Can we count on your support in the effort for improving access to services for persons who are Deaf & Hard of Hearing? If so, please let me now ASAP. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at [nvdeafcommission@gmail.com](mailto:nvdeafcommission@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Eli Schwartz  
Chairperson  
The Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf & Hard of Hearing