

Steve Sisolak  
Governor  
Richard Whitley, MS  
Director



DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Aging and Disability Services Division  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Dena Schmidt  
Administrator

## Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Date and Time of Meeting: April 9, 2020 1:00pm

### This meeting will be held via videoconference only:

In accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

CART will be accessible by following this link: <https://captionsunlimited.1capapp.com/event/adsd>  
The public may observe this meeting and provide public comment on Zoom.

To join the Zoom conference, go to: <https://zoom.us/j/9299041434> (you may have to download the Zoom application from your smartphone or computer at [zoom.us](https://zoom.us)).

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9299041434>

Meeting ID: 929 904 1434

According to NRS 241.020, Meeting Materials are Available at:

[http://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada\\_Commission\\_for\\_Persons\\_Who\\_Are\\_Deaf\\_Hardof\\_Hearing\\_or\\_Speech\\_Impaired/](http://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada_Commission_for_Persons_Who_Are_Deaf_Hardof_Hearing_or_Speech_Impaired/)

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions:

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Member: Catherine Nielsen, Cheyenne Pasquale, Daina Loeffler, Eli Schwartz, Eric Wilcox, Jeff Beardsley, Laura Fink, Maureen Fradianni, Mike Eifert, Susan Beckett

Staff: Adrienne Navarro, Jennifer Montoya, Tina Dortch,

Cart/Interpreters: Denise Hinxman, Stephanie Arciniega, Dawn Duran

Guest: Ken Arcia, Tim Smalley, Obioma Officer, Jay Cafferata, Jimmy Lau, Perry Smith, Kimbra Ellsworth, Laura Thompson, Summer, K Thomas, Allisongence,

### 2. 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 five minutes per person at the discretion of the chair.)

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

- Catherine Nielsen commented that COVID or the coronavirus information/ resources could be found on <http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/> website.

### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2019: (for Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

- Request to make minutes available earlier to member so that they have time to review them.

- Corrections requested on names in the document.
- Jeff Beardsley Motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections, Eric Wilcox second the motion, all approved the motion passed.

#### 4. **Discussion and Approval of Recommendations from the Director's Report: (for Possible Action)**

Cheyenne Pasquale, Commission Director

- The new Executive Director, Khianti Thomas was scheduled to start April 6, 2020 but was unable to relocate from Washington D.C. because of the social distancing measures.
- Workgroups are one commission member or two that do not meet but work on different topics within the subject. These groups do not need to follow Open Meeting Law.
- A Subcommittee is two or more members that meet and work together on the same topics. These groups must follow Open Meeting Laws.
- Employment, Education and Outreach cannot have more than one commission member, or they will be a Subcommittee and must follow Open Meeting Laws.
- A motion to approve the adjustments to the bylaw was made by Laura Fink, Susan Beckett second the motion, all approved the motion passed.
- The Commission currently has approximately \$15,000 remaining in the budget, but due to the unknown impact of COVID-19 we are faced with a potential budget cut. Current funds are being monitored by the Governor's Finance office.
- Report Templates have been included in the Director's report.
- Eric Wilcox motion to adopt the reporting templates, Laura Fink second, all approved, the motion passed.

#### 5. **Communication Access Services (CAS) Program Updates:**

Jennifer Montoya, Communication Access Service Manager

- The CAS program is busy providing State Emergency interpreting services that started on March 12<sup>th</sup> for State, County and City press conferences and informational broadcast
- Remote Interpreting for press conferences are being explored.
- The CAS Interpreters are continuing to develop a professional development (PD) trainings for interpreters so they will be ready to go when they can host in-person workshops again.
- The CAS Mentorship program is continuing to meet using GoReact an online software program designed for ASL and interpreting activities.
- The CAS Interpreters in the North presented workshops for Educational Interpreters with Washoe, Lyon Carson City, Douglas, Elko and White Pines school districts. The CAS Interpreters in the South presented a workshop in Las Vegas on interpreting from ASL to spoken English. All these workshops were a success.
- The NAC proposed changes for the interpreter qualifications have been sent to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) for review, once the LCB approves, the changes there will be a public hearing to announce the changes. Updates on the NAC can be found on the CAS Interpreting web page: [http://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/Physical/ComAccessSvc/Interpreter\\_Registry/Interpreter\\_Registry/](http://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/Physical/ComAccessSvc/Interpreter_Registry/Interpreter_Registry/)

#### 6. **Report and Discussion from Deaf Centers of Nevada (DCN):**

Obioma U. Officer, DCN Executive Director

- Congratulations to Obioma Officer who has been officially named the Executive Director of DCN.
- February community engagements had a slight increase over January.
- Due to COVID-19 the March numbers will be very different.
- Continued communication with the community using all means of resources such as Facebook, Zoom, phone calls, and facetime to name a few.
- As people get familiar with the different platforms the outreach meetings are increasing in numbers.
- DCN now has 40 partners and collaborative allies, some even evolving into new inventive endeavors due to the Pandemic.
- DCN has been awarded the SB203 hearing aid program.
- The Lack of Technology for clients and to provide services to the remote locations is difficult.
- Rural areas are looking for education and training assistance and the Southern area is concerned with entertainment training.
- DCN is still providing services Monday through Friday 8:00am-5:00pm with a one-hour lunch at 12:00pm.
- Nevada has a severe need for interpreters for jobs, medical field, legal and education.

**7. Update and Presentation-Relay Nevada, on Sprints Transition:**

Ken Arcia, Sprint Accessibility-Customer Relationship Manager II, Sprint

- Relay Nevada attended the technology fair that DCN held and was able to gain some connections by networking.
- As of March 10, 2020, 60 presentations had been performed both in person and via webinar. 10 webinars have been done since then.
- Dates and times for webinars are posted on Facebook and on the website.
- The Outreach Specialist position in the South is open.
- Due to COVID-19 TTY, CapTel and VRS calls have increased so callers can expect a longer wait time than normal.
- Sprint donated \$500 to support the literacy reading week events that Hands and Voices held in February.

**8. Discussion, Recommendations and Approval of Activities related to COVID-19 Emergency: (for Possible Action)**

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

- Thank you to the CAS program for their continued efforts in providing interpreting services during the Governors announcements and press conferences, positive feedback has been received from the community.
- DCN and the deaf community would like the Governor's office to know that their quick action in providing interpreters is very much appreciated.
- ABC news channel had the captioning hiding the interpreters a recommendation was made to have the captioning show separate from the interpreters.
- Recommendation that CART be used as a universal service across the screen.
- Vocational Rehabilitation Bureau (Voc-Rehab) are working closely remotely with the Unemployment Division to get access for everybody to do remote business.

**9. Discussion, Recommendations and Approval of Legislative Priorities for the 81<sup>st</sup> session:(for Possible Action)**

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

- Recommendation for changes and adjustment and additions to the language acquisition portion in SB203 relating to LEAD K.
- Recommendation to form a Subcommittee for Legislative issues so the commission can take provide public comments or even get on an agenda item during the Interim Committees Meetings.
- Susan Beckett Motioned to approve setting up a Subcommittee, Jeff Beardsley Second the motion, so moved the motion passed.

**10. Update, Discussion, Recommendations and Approval regarding Membership & Elections:(for Possible Action)**

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

- Two open positions still need filling, a request to advertise was made.
- A recommendation that Eli Schwartz and Eric Wilcox retain the Chair and Vice Chair spots for the 2020-2021 year because they have the leadership and connections needed during this important transition with Covid-19, the new Director starting soon and an upcoming Legislative year this would give the commission a solid structure.
- Susan Beckett nominated Eli Schwartz as Chair and Eric Wilcox as Vice Chair; Eli Schwartz and Eric Wilcox accepted the nominations.
- Susan Beckett motioned that if no other recommendations for Chair or Vice Chair are made by the May Meeting then Eli Schwartz and Eric Wilcox retain the positions, Jeff Beardsley second the motion, all approved, the motion passed.

**11. Discussion and Approval of Recommendations from the Commission's Strategic Plan Workgroups: (For Possible Action)**

• **Education**

- Nevada Hands and voices is working on arranging an Advocacy Training event and would like to establish an Educational Advocate in Nevada.
- The Director of Special Education Will Jensen tasked the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) with establishing language acquisition benchmarks for deaf and hard of hearing kids from birth to 5 years

- of age. A SEAC subcommittee was formed, and they had their first meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with an estimated 6-8 meeting planned.
- Maureen Fradianni contacted Amy Gomme from the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and is working on getting information for the education and resources available for Nevada's deaf children.
- **Outreach**
  - Recommendation for Virtual Town Halls to be done due to Covid-19.
  - Plans for the Virtual Town Halls were put on hold due to note all residents have the technology to attend.
- **Employment**
  - The Employment Subcommittee held a meeting in January and had several community agencies attend. No specific recommendations have been currently identified but they plan on more meetings to discuss different needs with possible recommendations for the commission to address.

**12. Discussion and Approval of Agenda Items to be Considered at the Next Meeting (May 13, 2020): (for Possible Action)**

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

- T-Coil Loop systems in City & Public Places.
- Email specific topics for the May's meeting to Carole by April 17, 2020

**13. 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 five minutes per person at the discretion of the chair.)

- Vo-Rehab's main offices have been approved to install a loop T-Coils in their conference rooms in both the Las Vegas and Reno offices.

**14. Adjournment**

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

- 3:58pm

**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 Via ZOOM. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Carole Hanley 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, 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), Eric Wilcox (Vice Chairperson), Catherine Nielsen, Daina Loeffler, Jeff Beardsley, Laura Fink, Maureen Fradianni, Mike Eifert, Susan Beckett,

**Director**

Cheyenne Pasquale

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

3416 Goni Road, Building D-132 • Carson City, Nevada 89706  
775-687-4210 • Fax 775-687-0574 • [adsd.nv.gov](http://adsd.nv.gov)