

STEVE SISOLAK
Governor



RICHARD WHITLEY, MS
Director

DENA SCHMIDT
Administrator

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132
Carson City, NV 89706
Telephone (775)687-4210 • Fax (775)687-0574
<http://adsd.nv.gov>

Draft Meeting Minutes

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
(Nevada Revised Statue (NRS) 427.750)

Date and Time of Meeting: November 13, 2019
9:00 am

This meeting will be a Video Conference between the following:

Reno: Aging and Disability Service Division
9670 Gateway Drive, Suite 200
Reno NV, 89521

Las Vegas: Aging and Disability Service Division
1820 E. Sahara Ave, Suite 201
Las Vegas, NV 89104

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 are Available at:
[http://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired/](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

Cheyenne Pasquale, Commission Director

Members: Cheyenne Pasquale (Director), Eli Schwartz (Chair), Eric Wilcox (Vice Chair) Maureen Fradianni, Mike Eifert (phone), Jeff Beardsley, Susan Beckett, Diana Loeffler, Laura Fink

Staff: Sal Fiorentino, Adrienne Navarro, Shannon Sprout, Carole Hanley

Interpreters" (South) Debra Scott, Jeff Jaech (North) Christi Watson, Joanne Spence

Cart Provider: Becky Van Auken

Public: Rachel Tempest, Laura Thompson, Stephanie Gardner, Tim Smalley, Obioma Office, Penni Echols, Perry Smith, Ken Arcia (Phone), Jay Caferetta (Phone)

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

No Public Comment

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 20 & 21, 2019: **(for Possible Action)**

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

Corrections were addressed and will reflect on the Final Minutes, Eric Wilcox moved to approve Maureen Fradianni seconded the motion all approved, the Motion was Adopted.

4. Presentation from Cochlear on Cochlear Implants:

Rachel Tempesta, M.S. CCC-SLP Engagement Manager and Dr. Alasia Fate, AuD, Clinic Territory Manager

- Dr. Graeme Clark invented the world's first multichannel cochlear implant in 1978
- Cochlear implants are manufactured in Australia and the BAHA, bone-anchored hearing aids are manufactured in Sweden.
- 450,000 people worldwide have received one or another of the Cochlear implants.
- 1 on 3 people over the age of 65 have some form of hearing loss, that is about ten million people worldwide.

- Research is now available to backup claims like mental health, cognition and cognitive issues are made worse when hearing loss goes untreated.
- Information attached to the file included Hearing Loss Threatens Mind, Limb and Life, Don't Wait, and Benefits of Early Implantation.
- Hearing loss is rated No.3 by the World Health Organization and is a growing health concern.
- The first implants were manufactured and marketed in 1983. They were body-worn devices, meaning you had a cable that ran from your ear to a device on your belt. These devices no longer have the connections and large batteries of the past but are very small and have rechargeable batteries that sit behind the ear.
- As we age adults tend to lose what is called their high frequencies sound first. Hearing aids work well when you lose low frequency sounds. With implants your hearing improves the day the implant is turned on.
- The first step is not the implant itself but the surgery that must be done first. This 2-4-hour outpatient surgery is much quicker than it was 30 years ago. The external device will be activated about 2-4 weeks after the surgery.
- Cochlear Nucleus systems help individuals with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss who only receive limited benefit from amplification.
- Cochlear Nucleus Hybrid system delivers maximum long-term performance outcomes for patients with severe to profound high frequency hearing loss.
- Cochlear Baha system is an osseointegrated auditory implant system for individuals with unilateral profound hearing loss (single-sided deafness), mixed or conductive hearing loss.
- The quality of sound and battery life has much improved over the years. Along with other evolving technologies.
- Hearing Aids: amplify sound through air conduction, push sound through the damaged part of the ear, make sounds louder, and are not covered by insurance.
- Baha System: Transmits sound waves through the bones in our heads, bypasses the outer and middle ear and sends sounds directly to the inner ear, makes sounds louder and clearer, is covered by Medicare and many other insurance plans.
- Baha Softband system is for infants and toddlers.
- Baha SoundArc system are for toddlers and children who are not ready or eligible for implants.

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

Ken Arcia, Customer Relations Manager II at Sprint

- Relaynv.com and a Facebook page are both up and running smoothly, they show all the different services available through Relay Nevada.
- Two outreach contractors have been hired one for the north in Reno and one in the south in Las Vegas. They both do presentations in person and via webinars.
- Continued outreach to Senior Retirement Communities, Assisted Living and Veteran Organizations Relay Nevada and what they have to offer.
- Request for a handout of the update was made.

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

Obioma U. Officer, DCN Interim Executive Director

- Tim Smalley has a new position at DCN it is the Assistive Technology & Telecommunication Services (ATTS) Manager/Community Engagement.
- Equipment distribution including contact engagements increased slightly to 116.
- Two new ATTS Advocate and Distributors were hired in Reno and started on October 7, 2019.
- 57 Equipment Demo/Trainings including contacts.
- American Sign Language (ASL) classes including contacts have tripled with 1,107 engagements threw email or in person in Las Vegas and Reno.
- Deaf Mentoring has had a slight decrease in September.
- A Subaward Collaboration with the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EDHI) program is being completed that will support trainings and advancement of employees.
- Parent and family's engagement had a large decrease with only 94 consultations, staff transitions may have contributed to this.
- A new advocate is now in place in the south that can support families and youth support.
- Service Access, including contacts has increased to 807 engagements with the community.
- The total outreach activities this past month was 43.
- A new Facebook page has been gaining traction with the new branding that was done. It has created 819 engagements.
- October's cumulative services provided were 3,065, which is a 1,030 increase from Septembers total.
- Language play groups continue with Nevada Hands and Voices with fluctuating numbers as many as 14 families and siblings participating. Trick or Treat engagement resulted in 81 play group participants.
- 150 community participants enjoyed trick or treating with games and other activities at the Community Center on Halloween.
- Working with Live to Give & Jordance Studios on a December fundraising opportunity.
- The Executive Director from the Department of Education, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) and three Vocational Rehab counselors visited DCN's southern office to discuss a collaboration. The Counselors have returned visiting both facilities and were provided training and direct services feedback on services this has prepared them better on how prepare shared clients for services and appointments.
- sComm CEO and representative provided training on the Ubi-Duo2 devise, this texted-based communication strategies could generate program revenue if clients qualify. Staff was trained on how to assist clients with filling out forms and submitting them.
- Job Placement Services and Workforce Vendor applications have been submitted to DETR as an area of support to adults and transitioning youth.
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EDHI) Subaward is in the final stages of completion. This Federal Budget period runs from April 1,2019 through March 31, 2020 with written intent of ongoing collaborations and funding for FY20/21.

- A new DCN chapter has been formed, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), This chapter is led by Lance Ledet under DCN.
- Currently working on 5 grants with Shanna McPheters out of Mesquite. Tim Smalley, DCN, Assistive Technology & Telecommunication Services (ATTS) Manager/Community Engagement.
- UBI provided training to staff and beneficial resources and tools for daily living along with how to fill out Medicare paperwork appropriately.
- Working on transportation grants with potential partners like Polaris and Lyft.
- Continued efforts to expand DCN's programs to include a strong partnership with Spring Mountain Mental Health for the community.
- Outreach's have been done in the rural areas like Schurz (a Native American reservation), Yerington, Gardnerville, Lake Tahoe (Zephyr Cove), Dayton, Silver Springs, Hawthorne, Mina and Fallon.
- Continued efforts for additional partnerships with different organizations.
- Meeting with Polaris to discuss transportation issues.

7. Report, Updates & Approval of Recommendations to Implement SB203(2019) Language Acquisition and Hearing Aid Components: **(for Possible Action)**
Daina Loeffler, Early Childhood Special Education Programs Professional, Office of Inclusive Education, Department of Education

- Will Jensen, the Director of the Office of Inclusive Education within the Department of Education and Superintendent Ebert met with Senator Spearman and the LCB staff regarding the bill requirements using existing Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to form a SEAC subcommittee.
- Solicitations have gone out and the department is confident that they will meet all expected timelines to meet the bills requirements.

Shannon Sprout, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Health Program Manager III

- The implementation of SB203 is estimated to take 5 years. A contractual relationship with hearing aid manufacturers needs to be established, the proper way to implement regulatory challenges are being examined.
- The development of a fund account so grants and gifts can support the hearing aid program needs to be developed.
- Looking at National model's like the one University of Nebraska has been using and is like the structure Nevada is looking to implement.
- The University acts as a clearinghouse and does the authorizations and then it is the manufacture's distributors of the hearing aids that get them to the community audiologists.
- Nebraska uses their Graduate program to do the authorizations. ADSD has reached out to University of Las Vegas (UNLV) and was not successful, the discussion with the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) sent the information to their Oversight Board for approval. Other options will have to be explored if UNR does not want to collaborate with ADSD.
- SB203 only covers hearing aids not the molds, batteries or the fittings. There will still be an out of pocket expense to the family and it has not been determined what that will look like yet.
- Provide Statewide access to hearing aids for children under 13 and under 400% poverty level.

- Medicaid covers up to 205% for children under 14 and then the Silver State Health Exchange covers up to 400%. ASD should only have to cover a small percentage of children who do not have access to insurance. This may mitigate the financial component that would affect the distribution.
- From the data collected it is estimated that approximately 30 children will need hearing aids in the first year. If the cost of the hearing aids can be negotiated, then we ASD would be able to produce the 30 hearing aids as well as the administrative cost for the clinical reviews and distribution.
- The estimate cost for the first year is \$45,000-\$50,000 if the cost can be negotiated to Medicaid pricing.
- SB203 is very restrictive and will not cover BAHA's or Cochlear implants only behind the ear hearing aids.
- A policy needs to be written and eligibility requirements set. Income verification and Nevada residency will apply. Once eligibility was confirmed the contract entity would review that the medical necessity component was met. The hearing aid would be ordered and shipped to the Audiologist on record.
- ASD portion is shipment and delivery the rest would fall on the Audiologist.
- If a partnership with UNR cannot be reached pursuing grants may be necessary in doing so ASD may farm out both eligibility and distribution components to the grantee.
- Through research the estimated cost for hearing aids is around \$2,200 and it was found that if a state contracted directly with the Audiologists cost were higher and few children were able to be helped. If Medicaid pricing can be achieved, then the estimated cost per hearing aid would be around \$800.
- It will take an estimated 18 months of gathering data to be able to ask the Legislature for more money.
- Because the budget was set for the next two years when the Legislature approved the Deaf Commission Executive Director position and the expense of SB203 ASD must go before the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) and ask for approval to use money that is in the reserves. ASD requested the Commission vote on the proposed \$50,000 estimated startup cost for SB203 will be taken from reserves.
- Eric Wilcox moved to approve Jeff Beardsley seconded the motion all approved, the Motion was Adopted.

8. Funding Discussion and Approval of Recommendations – Communication Access Service Centers: **(for Possible Action)**

Salvatore Fiorentino, Communication Access Service Manager

- Summary of NRS 4237 A707 requires facilitation and distribution of equipment, telecommunication and assistive technology, persons who are deaf and hard of hearing or severely profound speech impaired. DCN currently has this grant and is providing services required for it.
- Request that the Deaf Commission help in uncovering gaps in services before the new grant cycle in July of 2020 so that the requirements may be added to the grant to help cover the community's needs.
- Gaps that were readily acknowledged; are addressing needs in an appropriate time frame (60days), more trained mentors, legislative workshops, a bullying workshop and deaf counselors.

- Cheyenne Pasquale will relay information to ADSD from previous minutes discussions and commission member feedback that could be considered in ADSD's service specs for the next grant.

9. Discussion and Approval regarding Budget, Executive Director Position and Membership: **(for Possible Action)**

Cheyenne Pasquale, Commission Director

- The first Interim Committee for healthcare met on November 20, 2019, the Deaf Commission may want to follow the Interim Committee on education, senior citizens, and veterans/adults with special needs. Information on these meetings can be located on the Legislative website <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Interim2019>
- Jeff Beardsley was reappointed, Susan Beckett, Diana Loeffler, Laura Fink have all officially appointed and we are still waiting for Catherine Nielson's approval from the Governor's office leaving two open positions, a parent of a deaf child and a parent of a deaf child under 6.
- A first draft of the Deaf Commission Director recruitment has been drawn up. The positions will be available statewide and will be an unclassified position. The candidates may be required to have grant writing experience, state budgeting experience. Once the recruitment has been finalized it will go to ADSD's Human Resource (HR) Department they are responsible for postings (estimated time is early December). Three people will be on the interview panel.
- As of October 31, 2019, the Deaf Commission has only used \$4,000 of the \$25,000 allocated for meeting and administrative expenses. With a projected cost of \$7,400 for January, March and May meetings the estimated unbudgeted funds are about \$13,000. These funds can be used for interpreters, CART, and workgroup meetings.

10. Review, Discussion, and Approval of Updated Strategic Plan Goals and Workgroups: **(for Possible Action)**

Cheyenne Pasquale, Commission Director

Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair

- Outreach workgroup – Jeff Beardsley, Maureen Fradianni and Susan Beckett
- Education workgroup - Maureen Fradianni, Eric Wilcox and Diana Loeffler
- Healthcare - Jeff Beardsley, and (Catherine Neilson, potentially)
- Employment work group – Laura Fink, Eli Schwartz
- Resources – Eli Schwartz and Cheyenne Pasquale

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

- Education – Maureen Fradianni and Eric Wilcox attended a public workshop for SB203, the committee has 13 members, 7 members are hard of hearing, blind and/or visually impaired who communicate verbally using ASL and Spoken English.
- A letter with the Deaf Commissions approval of the Communication Plan will be sent to Will Jensen providing him with backup documentation as he is reaching out to other states for their support in this plan.

- Outreach – Things the Outreach team needs to be successful like mailing addresses for appropriate partners and the target plan will be address with the Director Cheyenne Pasquale.
 - Locations for a Pahrump Town Hall are still being sought out for a possible Town Hall meeting in January or February. When planning for the next Town Hall in Elko a new location may be necessary so that a later time can be established to accommodate the residents that work during the day.
12. Review and Approval of Updated By-Laws for the Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: **(for Possible Action)**
 Cheyenne Pasquale, Commission Director
 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair
- Review of the changes in the by-laws were discussed Laura Fink moved to approve and Jeff Beardsley seconded the motion all approved, the motion was Adopted.
13. Confirmation of Dates for 2020 Commission Meetings
 Cheyenne Pasquale, Commission Director
- Meeting dates established and handout of dates and location were provided.
14. Discussion and Approval of Agenda Items to be Considered at the Next Meeting (January 16, 2020): **(for Possible Action)**
 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair
- Communication Access Services (CAS) program updates
 - Strategic Plan Workgroups updates/ recommendations
 - Director's Report
 - Jeff Beardsley moved to approve, and Laura Fink seconded the motion all approved, the motion was Adopted.
15. 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.)
- Penny Echols, a parent of a deaf-blind child is frustrated with the lack of delivery of services from DCN. Because of DCN's troubles the child has now aged out of the program and never received the services that were promised.
 - Wanted to also bring to the Commissions attention about the lack Certified Special Education teachers for deaf children and recommends that programs that are not staffed buy qualified people be cancelled and/or fix the problem.
16. Adjournment
 Eli Schwartz, Commission Chair
- Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm

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 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. 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

Current Commission Members

Eli Schwartz (Chairperson), Eric Wilcox (Vice Chairperson), Mike Eifert, Maureen Fradianni, Jeff Beardsley, Susan Beckett, Diana Loeffler

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 is 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>