

Director's/ Chair Report

November 10, 2020

General Updates

- **Strategic Plan**

Our current strategic plan expires June 2021 as a result, we will need to develop a new plan over the next few months. Some items in the current plan may still be relevant, but we also need to consider new community needs and advocacy needed.

- We are requesting Commission members to review our current strategic plan and provide any feedback you may have to Khianti via email no later than December 1st.

- **Hearing Loop letter**

The hearing loop letter was sent to all Commission Chairs and County Managers of each county. To date we have heard back from a few counties (Humboldt, Lyon, Washoe, Nye, Elko) in which they shared the following:

- Humboldt: "Humboldt County has purchased an ADA listening system for our Commissioners Meeting Room that would allow citizens to check-out one of these devices during a public meeting. While we do not have them for individual departments, we can easily lend one of these devices out for temporary use as a citizen conducts their business with the County. The County has also approved the purchase of an audio/visual system for our meeting room that will give us the ability to broadcast meetings once public governing boards are able to resume in person meetings that will allow a persons who are deaf and hard of hearing to tune and listen/participate at a suitable volume."
 - Elko: "Elko County utilizes a wireless radio system to assist the hearing impaired in the Commission Meeting Chambers as part of the public audio system. We do not have a hearing loop system."
 - Nye: Asked if it was a requirement for them to implement a hearing loop or are we inquiring if they would be interested in revamping their accommodations.
 - Lyon: "The Board of Commissioners meetings and Planning Commission Meeting chambers are equipped with headsets for the hard of hearing. In the past 10 years they have been utilized a handful of times. Lyon County also utilizes Zoom technology to broadcast our County Commission and Planning Commission meetings."
 - Washoe: Awaiting follow up response.
- The Commission was approved to use the State Seal on the COVID Communication chart-Khianti is working to make final arrangements to have the cards distributed to the community.

- Khianti and Eli have created the schedule for the 2021 Deaf Commission meetings. The schedule will be posted on the website soon.
- **SB203 Hearing Aid Program Recommendations - Update**
 - Letter with our recommendations was submitted to Senator Spearman. This resulted in a meeting with Cesar Melgarejo from the Legislative Council Bureau.
 - Khianti represented the Commission in this meeting, which also included Tina Dortch from the Office of Minority Health, Rique Robb, ASDS Deputy Administrator, Jeff Duncan, ASDS Unit Chief, and Cheyenne Pasquale, ASDS Planning Chief.
 - Khianti was asked to provide the specific language recommended for the NRS. Eli and Khianti are working on drafting this language.

There was also discussion at this meeting related to the Commission's advocacy efforts and ensuring that they are exploring larger systems change advocacy efforts that will more broadly benefit the deaf community. Examples are looking at diversifying funding for deaf services.
- **Voting Video Partnership**
 - As of Nov 3rd, the video had 300+ views and Assemblywomen Cohen shared it on her FB page.
 - Khianti has continued to partner with the NV Statewide Independent Living Council and the Nevada Governors Developmental Disability Council (DD Council) on an accessibility video. Please email Khianti any information you think should be included in the video related to accessibility issues.