



Name of Organization: Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Legislative Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday June 30, 2020 | 11:00 am

Place of Meeting: ZOOM

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.

Minutes

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

Eli Schwartz, Committee Chair

Subcommittee members Present:

Eli Schwartz
Eric Wilcox
Maureen Fradianni
Obioma Officer
Tim Smalley

Guests:

Adrienne Navarro
Salvatore Fiorentino
Jennifer Montoya

Staff:

Carole Hanley
Deanna Gay

CART & Interpreters:

Becky- Caption
Jamie Jarmillo
Tory Jarmillo

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. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

Eli Schwartz, Committee Chair

- No public comments made

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE June 15, 2020 meeting**

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Eric Wilcox moved to approve the minutes, Obioma Officer
Second the motion, Minutes were approved by a majority vote

3. **Presentation/Updates and Determination of changes to the SB203 Hearing Program law to be presented to the Nevada Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. (For Possible Action)**

Obioma Officer, Executive Director, Deaf Centers of Nevada

- Question was raised as to what defines Affordable Insurance under this law? Per Adrienne Navarro/ADSD if the Applicant or Consumer can afford the premiums to access insurance.
- If Applicant or Consumer cannot afford premiums for individual insurance and after DCN initial review of application of finances (family must be under 400% of poverty level), if they want to continue with the process they must apply for Medicaid/SHIP or Nevada Health Exchange. Even if entire family does not qualify for SHIP, the child may qualify and therefore would have coverage of hearing aids. (Nevada Health Exchange may subsidize any costs insurance does not cover).
- For Applicant or Consumer to qualify for hearing aids, they must have a denial letter(s) from above and qualify under the 400% poverty level.
- The allowance per hearing aid is \$1500, per 3-year period.
- Discussion of where hearing aid program financial funding is derived from, and how it was designated to be used. According to 427A.797 and 427.610 legislation of which the SB203 was included, the \$50,000 was to come from the remaining funds of the CAS services. The question is if there are no remaining funds from CAS (there is none at this time), are the funds to be drawn from the TDD Surcharge? At this time, the \$50,000 covers cost to "run the Program", but there is also the need to cover costs of hearings aids, molds, batteries, staff time/advocacy and program supply costs.
- The Program use of designated audiologists takes away parental choice, also requires a second exam at times further delaying the process. However, parents may favor getting the assistance more quickly over AuD choice.

4. **Review, Discuss and Approval tentative agenda for next meeting (For Possible Action)**

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- The two main issues were determined that require addressing:
 1. Streamlining the insurance process so applicant(s) can receive hearing aids more quickly, instead of children having to wait for months without hearing aids.
 2. Language of the law should be amended so that it covers the cost of hearing aids, molds and batteries.

5. 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. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

- No public comment was made

6. ADJOURNMENT 12:07

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Carole Hanley in writing at 3320 W. Sahara Ave, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, email clhanley@adsd.nv.gov or call at (702) 468-9765 as soon as possible.

Notice of this meeting was posted in the following N/A. Notice of this meeting was faxed, e-mailed, or hand delivered for posting to the following Carson City and Las Vegas, Nevada, locations N/A Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division website at adsd.nv.gov, and Nevada Public Notices website at www.notice.nv.gov. Supporting public material provided to Commission members for this meeting may be requested from Carole Hanley, Commission Secretary, ADSD at (702) 486-9765 and is/will be available at the meeting locations and ADSD website at adsd.nv.gov.