



MEETING MINUTES

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

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday January 14, 2021 | 9:00 am

Place of Meeting: ZOOM

Pursuant to Governor Steve Sisolak's [Emergency Directive 006](#), there will be no physical location for this meeting.

The meeting can be listened to or viewed via ZOOM.

Note: Minutes of this meeting will be produced in summary format. Please provide the secretary with electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations if you wish to have complete versions included as exhibits with the minutes.

Roll Call:

Eli Schwartz, Chair

Commission Members:

Jeff Beardsley, Maureen Fradianni, Eli Schwartz, Summer Wright, Daina Loeffler, Eric Wilcox, Laura Fink, Khianti Thomas (Director)

Guest:

Perry Smith, Jennifer Richards, Beth Jones, Shawn Goldhammer, Candace Emerson, Lora Lee Turner, Patricia Unruh, Sandra La Palm, Laura Thompson, Robyn Herr, Jack, Betty Hammond

Interpreters/CART:

Dawn Duran, Jamie Jaramillo, Becky Van Auken

Staff:

Adrienne Navarro, Cheyenne Pasquale, Sal Fiorentino, Jennifer Montoya, Deanna Gay, Carole Hanley

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, Chair

- Candace Emerson shared an update on the progress of the SB203 subcommittee and has offered to continue to keep the Commission updated with any new information.
- Daina Loeffler mentioned that she has accepted a new position therefore she will no longer be serving on the commission and has submitted her formal resignation letter.

Caroline Bass submitted a written public comment to ask the Commission to consider drafting a letter to request that interpreters be considered in the Tier 1 priority group for the COVID 19 vaccine.

Maureen Fradianni shared her thoughts concerning the ADSD NOFO

2. **Approval of the November 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** (For Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Laura moved to approve the meeting minutes, Eric second the motion.

3. **Discussion and Approval of Recommendations from the Director and Chair reports:** (For Possible Action)

Khianti Thomas, Executive Director

- Shared brief updates regarding key pts of the Director/Chair report. Full report can be found in meeting materials.
- Members discussed and approved the recommendation to use logo idea #7 as a template for the new Deaf Commission logo and will continue to be edited. The commission will review and approve the final draft. Motion was made by Laura and seconded by Daina, all approved.

4. **Meet and Greet with Sandra LaPalm Applicant for Commission Member**

Sandra LaPalm, Developmental Specialist III.

- Sandra shared information about her background and expressed interest in joining the commission to fill the vacancy position of a state employee.

Perry also expressed interest in the same position and shared background information.

5. **Report, Discussion, and Recommendations from Communication Access Program** (For Possible Action)

Salvatore Fiorentino, CAS Program Manager

- Communication Access Services Program (CAS) reported that relay services are continuing to be provided in state with statistics outlining the data that has been collected.
- Deaf Centers of Nevada (DCN) has closed as of December 31st as a result, Aging and Disability Services (ADSD) has hired temporary staff to continue to provide services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals throughout the state until the notice of funding opportunity has been fulfilled by new partners.
- Jennifer Montoya provided an update on the interpreter registry and the mentorship program. Additionally, information was shared regarding workshops that were provided by the CAS program.
- CAS program is currently developing a handbook to provide guidance for interpreters in the school setting.
- Questions were raised regarding the availability of interpreters- as of right now because we are primarily virtual the # of interpreters have increased because of remote interpreting accessibility.

6. **Updates and Discussion Regarding the 81st Legislative Session**

Jennifer Richards Chief Elder and Disability Rights Attorney

- Jennifer provided a brief overview of the legislative process and how to navigate the Nevada electronic legislative information system (NELIS) website. Additionally, she mentioned a few BDR's that the Commission may be interested in following during the upcoming legislative session.
- Question was raised if the recommendations from the commission will be included in the SB203 bill? Khianti was unable to confirm if the recommendations will be included

however, the recommendations have been passed along to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) for review/consideration.

7. **Discussion and Approval of Legislative Activities of the Commission (For Possible Action)**

Khianti Thomas, Executive Director

- Suggestion of talking points for the legislative session were discussed-Commission members expressed needing a bit more time to review the document before making a final decision if we wish to approve the talking points.
- Question was raised regarding the concerns of the word "Hearing Impaired" and how we plan to address this in the NRS. Khianti will set up another meeting with disability partners to see if they would be interested in developing a plan of action or possibly composing a joint letter.
- Laura made a motion to have the Commission partner with other Disability networks and draft a letter to the State to revise wording choices on behalf of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. Jeff seconds the motion. All in favor and approved.

8. **Discussion and Approval of Recommendations of Strategic Plan (For Possible Action)**

Khianti Thomas, Executive Director

- Khianti briefly reviewed the strategic plan document and a few Commission related priorities that have been discussed in previous Commission meetings.
- Eric mentioned that we should have further discussion regarding education specifically providing more outreach to specific groups.
- The Commission will continue to explore and expound on what we currently have created in efforts to create a new strategic plan. The current strategic document will be a living document and will continue to be edited over time.
- Discussion of having another townhall event to gain feedback from community members to help the commission gauge what needs to be included in our strategic plan. Khianti will have a follow up meeting with Eli and Cheyenne to further discuss the planning of the next townhall event.
- Discussion of possibly doing a survey and to get input and feedback from the community and different business and organizations that serve the community. Jeff proposed that the survey be in the format of a vlog and in ASL. Jeff has agreed to produce the vlog with the help of Khianti.

9. **Review, Discuss and Approval Tentative Agenda Items for March 11th, 2021 meeting: (For Possible Action)**

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Strategic Plan
- Legislative activities.

10. **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, Chair

- Summer mentioned that she would like for commissioners to be more involved in Deaf and Hard of Hearing events in the community.
- Jeff shared his concerns regarding the CAS program recent NOFO meeting.

11. **Adjournment:**

Eli Schwartz, Chair

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 Khianti Thomas in writing at 3320 W. Sahara Ave, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, email KThomas@adsd.nv.gov or call at (702) 486-3368 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 Khianti Thomas, Director, ADSD at (702) 486-3368 and is/will be available at the meeting locations and ADSD website at adsd.nv.gov