



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



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## Minutes

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

*Date and Time of Meeting:* Tuesday, November 30, 2021  
9:30AM

*Place of Meeting:* Virtual: Zoom  
[Zoom Meeting Link](#)  
Meeting ID: 889 3009 3612  
Passcode: 807198

Audio Only Option  
1-669-900-6833 (San Jose)

CART will be accessible by following this link: [Caption Link](#)

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**NOTE:** Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed. Two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration. An item may be removed from this agenda or discussion relating to an item on this agenda may be delayed at any time.

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

### 1. Roll Call & Opening Statement: Eric Wilcox, Chair

- Members: Cheyenne Pasquale, Sandra LaPalm, Jeffrey Beardsley, Maureen Fradianni, Summer Wright, Shawna Goldhammer, Eric Wilcox, Susan Beckett, Laura Fink.
- Guests: Carlos Ramirez, Jenn Montoya, Kimberly Dawson, Vanessa Blodgett-Penaluna, Gina Burnaugh, Salvatore Fiorentino, Adrienne Navarro, Wendy Thornley, LT, Becky (CART), Jamie Jaramillo (Interpreter), Stefanie Arciniega (Interpreter), Lorraine Belt-Dolan (staff).
- Welcome Shawna Goldhammer, as the representative from the educational system. Goodbye to Summer Wright who resigned due to a move out of state and thank you for the service to the commission.

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. 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.)

- Laura Fink is presenting at the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association conference; [https://www.adara.org/2022\\_conference.html](https://www.adara.org/2022_conference.html), held March 13-17,2022.

3. Approval of Minutes of the September 16, 2021, meeting: (For Possible Action)

Eric Wilcox, Chair

- Laura Fink made a motion to approve, and Susan Beckett seconded, the motion carried.

4. Discussion and Update regarding Aging and Disability Service Division (ADSD) Olmstead Planning Survey:

Nikki Haag, Public Information Officer ADSD,  
Cheyenne Pasquale, Chief I, Planning, ADSD

- Nevada Aging and Disability service division is in process of developing a new Olmstead plan and is sending out a survey to all board and commission members in the beginning of December.
- In 1999 the Supreme Court decision held people with disabilities have a right to receive state funded supports and services in their communities and established the Olmstead act and each state must have an Olmstead plan.
- It is time for a new plan and we're in the pre-planning phase, part of the survey will ask if members are willing to serve on the committee to develop the plan.
- The Olmstead plan will set priorities and recommendations related to services and supports throughout the state and is intended to improve the system for all stages of life.
- The question was asked about language accessibility, and we will take that into consideration for future efforts.

5. Director & Chair Reports:

Eric Wilcox, Chair  
Cheyenne Pasquale, Interim Executive Director

- Update on the Executive director position, we have received 8 resumes and will be calling this week for interviews to be set in the month of December.
- Welcome Shawna Goldhammer who is filling the education seat and saying goodbye to Summer Wright, wishing her and her family all the best and thank you to her for her service on the commission.
- Shawna is the coordinator of Deaf and hard of hearing services with Clark County School District and the sibling of a deaf adult and is happy to be serving on the commission.
- Summer has enjoyed working on the commission and wishes us all the best.
- We have a full commission for the first time in history, but with Summer leaving we will have an opening for a parent of a child who is Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired and would encourage anyone who knows of an interested party to serve on the commission to have them apply online through the governor's office.
- Update on the special education advisory committee under the department of Education. There was a report on SB203 recommendation that the commission or Education subcommittee should be reviewing those recommendations.
- Eric did make public comment in writing at the education advisory committee meeting it is now a public record. He was reminding them that the work they have done is just the first step and the law obligates them to develop a tool for parents

and educators with language acquisition benchmarks that can be used by both parents and educators to assess language acquisition for Deaf and hard of hearing kids and urging them to move forward.

- Shawna asked who is on the SB203 subcommittee and the response was that it is a long list of individuals including some on our commission, and they may not be still in meetings as they felt their task was done. The director of special education may give them new tasks and next steps.
- The annual budget for meeting expenses is \$25,000 and we have just over \$21,000 remaining mainly because we're not traveling due to social distancing.
- TDD surcharge research on what other states are doing: Nevada's surcharge covers ASD staff and administrative expenses for the Communication Access Services program and includes the salary for the director of this commission, it also pays for relay services, telecommunications equipment training and distribution, the interpreter registry, the interpreter mentoring, language acquisition services, and access to services.
- We looked at 23 other states and budgets are not always accessible for persons not in that state, in 14 states use the TDD surcharge to fund relay and equipment distribution program only. 2 states use their TDD surcharge to fund relay services only and 7 states are like Nevada in that they use the TDD surcharge to fund relay equipment distribution program and other services. Those services range from funding Deaf Commission, library reading services, older adult hearing aids, closed captioning for new broadcasts, deaf centers, and interpreter training services. Based on this research the other services were only partially funded from the TDD surcharge, the rest of the funding appears to be funded through state general funds, other federal funding sources, and/or other grants.
- The average surcharge across 17 states was \$0.11 and ranges from \$0.02 to \$0.33. Nevada current surcharge is \$0.07 with a legislative cap of \$0.08.
- The question of where the burden to get other funding like state general funds was not asked but we've seen programs and services get funded through state general funds is community advocacy efforts which can include councils and commissions as well as a broader engagement of stakeholders to advocate for those needs.
- Thank you to the CAS program for helping with this research.

6. Report, Discussion and Approval of Communication Access Services (CAS) Program updates: (For Possible Action)

Salvatore Fiorentino, CAS Program Director, Aging and Disability Services Division

Adrienne Navarro, Social Services Chief I, Aging and Disability Services Division

Jennifer Montoya, CAS Interpreter Program Supervisor, Aging and Disability Services Division

- T-Mobile currently has the outreach program and have not only been providing webinars on Relay Nevada several times a month they have been going to various senior centers and presenting on Relay Nevada in-person.
- T-Mobile and the CAS program are campaigning for post-card sized advertisements for the UNR telecommunication equipment distribution program and Relay NV, in the VALPAC mailers and are considering Cap Tel television commercials, these advertisements have proven successful in the past and other advertising methods are still in discussion.
- T-Mobile is still in the hiring process for a second outreach specialist for Las Vegas but have had challenges due to COVID-19.
- The new partners started October 1, 2021, with direct instruction starting in February 2022 with ASL.

- UNR's telecommunication equipment and assistive technology program had a meet and greet on October 26, 2021, via Zoom and plan to have more to get community input.
- We have contact information for all the partners available with a website coming soon. Those partners are UNR, Nevada Hands & Voices, Nevada Care Connection and Communication service for the Deaf.
- The CAS program has received more calls since October 1, 2021, about services and has been documenting those calls.
- We currently have 21 people in the mentoring program with 5 on the wait list, out of those 21, 5 are in rural areas, and 16 are in urban areas. We have had 33 interpreters join the mentorship program since it started in August of 2019 and that represents 25% of the in-state interpreters on the registry.
- The CAS mentoring program is also working with the school district for improving the interpreters and is doing presentation and interpreting programs at the colleges. The college program has been talking about different roles of interpreter professionalism traveling for conferences as well as performing arts in interpreting.
- The CAS mentorship program is doing workshops, currently they are doing a series on practical interpreting, and recently did one on horizontal violence and bullying. The feedback from interpreters has been good, and they are taking the information and applying it to their work.
- There were 21 presentations in October with 189 participants registered. The CAS team was also invited to give presentations for educational sign language interpreters in the state of Idaho. The organization street leverage has asked them to give a presentation on educational sign language as well.
- The CAS team is continuing to meet with mentees to get them prepared for the National certification called the NIC.
- Laura Fink mentioned she has not seen the job listing for T-Mobile in her day-to-day job of helping people find employment and would like the job listing link sent to her.
- The question was raised if regarding presentations if CAS was planning to present at any national conferences as the state-to-state collaboration is great.
- Regarding the new community partners several people mentioned they have long wait lists and do not seem able to serve the community on the same level that the community was seeing from the Deaf Centers of Nevada. It was also mentioned that the websites were either nonexistent or very hard to navigate to find the information.
- UNR is still developing their website and we can investigate the three partners being able to have information on each other's websites and possibly have a collaboration page all together. As far as NV Care Connection we are working with the staff to make their website more friendly and looking at having a link set up for ASL videos so the community can access the site easier.
- The question was raised if as part of the grant process NV Care Connection was required to hire someone with experience in the Deaf and Hard of hearing community and how the grants were awarded.
- In the competitive grant application process, there are several criteria used for selecting grants and subrecipients. In terms of access to services Nevada Care Connection is an existing access point for people that need assistance in identifying long-term services and supports and assistance in accessing services. We have been working with them to increase Deaf awareness and efforts to provide services to the

Deaf Community and the hard of hearing and speech impaired as well. We can encourage them to bring on additional staff who have experience serving these populations, but we do not dictate the hiring process.

- CAS is offering continued technical assistance and training to Nevada Care Connection, and it is part of the state's broader effort to increase access to services throughout our system and making sure the system is more Deaf-aware rather than just having the Deaf awareness siloed in one location.
- Shawna commented that many young families may not identify as their child is part of the Deaf Community and may have a hard time finding support. It was pointed out that NV Hands and Voices is the grantee for adolescents and NV Care Connection is more for adults. She did mention that while NV Hands and Voices may help as a child what happens when the Deaf -plus members come of age and switch over their needs may not be met by Vocational Rehabilitation only.
- The commission may want to look at in the future other access points for individuals in the community such as NEIS or Nevada Early Intervention Services and ASD's regional centers that offer services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

7. Report, Discuss, and Approve Outreach Subcommittee ideas for outreach: (For Possible Action)  
Susan Beckett, Outreach Subcommittee Chair

- The outreach subcommittee met and concluded that they needed to come back to the commission for suggestions and input, we did look at the outreach committee in terms of the Strategic Plan.
- Recommendation 1, inclusion of the community: some of the outreach benchmarks could be town hall events, surveys, and diversity, starting prior to getting a new director and then moving forward getting the new director involved.
- Recommendation 2, government accessibility. As far as outreach benchmarks there are none, this needs to be the legislative committee and director.
- Recommendation 3, quality interpreters. Again, there really are no outreach benchmarks, this comes again under the legislative committee and the director.
- Recommendation 4, emergency response and management. Some of the outreach benchmarks could be partnerships with emergency response groups, trainings ideas and updates of policies and procedures to include target populations.
- Recommendation 5, healthcare access. There really are no outreach benchmarks on this one either, maybe a subcommittee on healthcare.
- Recommendation 6, language development, deferred to the education committee.
- Recommendation 7, secondary education, would again be the education committee.
- Recommendation 8, WIOA partnerships, the director could work with the education committee or create another workforce committee.
- Questions were asked about surveys to the community and the one already going out and it was explained that the survey discussed earlier is specifically for Aging and Disability services division as part of the Olmstead planning efforts but it's possible we could include specific language and questions related to the populations that we represent.
- Eric mentioned the possibility of townhalls being held and while it is not the commissions responsibility to get the word out about the new services that is the responsibility of the service provider, that the commission could do the townhalls as a catalyst.

- Several members had the concern that we keep doing surveys and townhalls and asking the community to give input, but it seems that no action is ever taken and would like the commission to focus more on acting rather than continuing to gather information. It was also felt we might not be reaching many of the community with the surveys.
- One of the recommendations was to sunset the outreach subcommittee and then under agenda item 8, move to create an accessibility subcommittee that can be focused on promoting communication accessibility in different arenas and sectors, by writing letters, advocacy efforts, et cetera.
- Having a subcommittee that can work specifically to advocate for communication accessibility in different sectors, healthcare, the government or some other sector, the subcommittee could work to write letters, develop pamphlets, conduct trainings with different entities, whatever the subcommittee wanted to do to help promote accessibility for the population we serve.
- Susan Beckett moved to disband the outreach subcommittee and Laura Fink Seconded, and the motion carried.

8. Discuss, Review, and Approve Subcommittee Needs for the Next Year: (For Possible Action)  
Eric Wilcox, Chair

- There is support for forming a communication accessibility subcommittee that would be focusing on advocating for new policies in the state to better support communication accessibility for the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired communities.
- Writing letters is important and should be used by this subcommittee but we also need to look at what other actions do we need to take. The issue of first responders and public safety officers is another issue as well as healthcare, that could dovetail with the legislative subcommittee where we can see if there are laws in other states that better address this need than what we have in Nevada and taking that up with the legislature.
- Another suggestion is communication cards for healthcare and first responder situations where the individual has help communicating.
- Other subcommittees to keep active are the education, employment and legislative subcommittees and we would like to see them have meetings soon. We would like to see the accessibility committee to have a strong connection with employment as well.
- Laura Fink made a motion to establish an accessibility subcommittee to promote and advocate for improved accessibility throughout the state. Susan Beckett seconded the motion, vote passed, motion carried.
- Susan Beckett volunteered to chair the new accessibility subcommittee.

9. Discuss, Review and Approve Interim Session Priorities based on the approved State Plan: (For Possible Action)

Eric Wilcox, Chair  
Cheyenne Pasquale, Interim Executive Director

- The question was posed: Is there a timeline for interim sessions? The answer: interim committees are going to begin meeting in January and will meet through next year to come up with their priorities and BDR's for the next session, which will begin in February of 2023.
- The last time we discussed this the discussion was what's the strategy for dealing with or getting these priorities in front of those subcommittees. One of the primary

suggestions was to show up at public comment at the meetings of the relevant subcommittees and try to introduce public comment that raises some of these issues before those relevant committees and that was at least one of the effective ways of getting the attention of the committee members relevant to that.

- One thing to ask the employment subcommittee to think about is what are the needs that we can ask the legislature to act on about improving employment outcomes for the community. Laura will research and get back to the commission on which interim committees would deal with employment.
- We have discussed more diversity among commission members and that is a challenge considering how we recruit for the commission and changing the composition of the commission would require going to the legislature. However, we can have a diverse population on our subcommittees as they are not required to be fully populated by the commission members. We can have two commission members and 3 members of the public on the subcommittees. We can also make a point of inviting members of targeted minority populations to attend meetings and be a part of subcommittees.
- There was discussion of moving the commission to the governor's office, it was decided this had been previously discussed and there were no concrete benefits the commission could find to make this a priority.
- Most of the list that we are discussing could be taken up by the different subcommittees that we've discussed.
- One thing the legislative subcommittee could discuss is the bill SB203 and determine what's resulted from that bill and determine if there's any opportunities for advocacy or changes to the various laws that were changed because of that bill.
- Now that we have a chair for the accessibility subcommittee, we need to populate that committee, Laura volunteers and Susan would like to reach out to the Nevada Black Deaf advocates and other community members.
- Laura put the contact information for the National Black Deaf Advocates Nevada chapter in the comments along with NVVDA as well as the hearing loss association Nevada chapter. They are listed below.
- <https://www.nvspeechhearing.org/about/Minutes.asp>
- 12/3 3pm Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) – Nevada chapter – [lanceledet@unr.edu](mailto:lanceledet@unr.edu)
- 12/2 6pm National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) – Nevada chapter – [nevadabda@gmail.com](mailto:nevadabda@gmail.com)

10. Review, Discuss and Approval of Tentative Dates for 2022 Commission meeting: (For Possible Action)  
Eric Wilcox, Chair

- Thursday January 13
- Thursday March 10
- Thursday May 12
- Thursday July 14
- Thursday September 8
- Thursday November 10

These meetings are on the second Thursday of every other month

- Laura Fink made the motion with the change of Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> not the 11<sup>th</sup> the dates are approved and seconded by Susan Beckett, and the motion carried.

- It was discussed the possibility of having an in-person meeting in May, but it was decided that finalization of that plan would happen at the January meeting.

11. Review, Discuss and Approval Tentative Agenda Items for January 13, 2022, meeting: (For Possible Action)

Eric Wilcox, Chair

- Tabled

12. 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.)

- After the meeting we received this public comment via email from Gina Burnaugh
- First of all, thank you commission members for your continuing contribution, and Khianti for working on the 5-year strategic plans. It's very essential for the deaf community. Hopefully the 5-year strategic plans will occur sooner than later because the deaf/Hoh community has suffered for decades.
- I liked Sal's idea to set up visual ASL video for the NVCC website. Some people are right, it is definitely not a deaf friendly website. I personally had a hard time searching for agencies contact info on the website for my old clients from DCN and CAS/ADSD. Their website needs to make some adjustments to make sure Deaf/HOH people can find agencies contact info easily.
- For Health care, Communication Access, and Employment subcommittees, please work on the ASAP because the deaf/Hoh community is still experiencing communication barriers with health care and job searches. Are there current subcommittees for Mental Health and Law Enforcement? Do you have a website with a list of subcommittees and which category they are involved with?
- For the Education subcommittees, I am emphasizing how important it is that they stay in touch with LEADK co-founders, Sheri Farniha and Julie Rems Smario. I have been on the LEADK National Liaison team along with other state representatives since Gary Olsen and I founded NV LEADK 6 years ago. The State representatives are responsible for reporting any updates and sharing their draft bill for LEADK co-founders' approval or revision suggestions until the information is accurate. I just got ahold of Sheri this year and she said no one for the NV subcommittees has been in touch with them or shared their SB203 yet. Please make sure subcommittees get in touch with Sheri ASAP and then I will follow up with her next month.

13. Adjournment: 12:05 pm  
Eric Wilcox, Chair

**Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public under the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Lorraine Belt-Dolan via email at [lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov) or by phone at (702) 486-4307 as soon as possible.

Supporting public materials for this meeting are available on the ADSD meeting webpage. They may also be requested from Lorraine Belt-Dolan, via email at [lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov) or by phone at (702)-486-4307.

**Notice of this meeting was faxed, e-mailed, or hand delivered for posting to the following Carson City, Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada, 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, 3320 W Sahara Avenue, Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89102
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. Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 2950 South Rainbow Blvd. #220, North Las Vegas, NV 89146
6. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89706
7. Desert Regional Center, 1391 South Jones Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89146
8. Sierra Regional Center, 605 South 21st Street, Reno, NV 89431
9. Rural Regional Center, 1665 Old Hot Springs Road, Carson City, NV 89706
10. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
11. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 400 W King Street, Suite #300, Carson City, NV 89703
12. Early Intervention Services, 2667 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512

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