



# 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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## MEETING NOTICE AND MINUTES

<i>Name of Organization:</i>	Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Strategic Plan Subcommittee
<i>Date and Time of Meeting:</i>	Thursday, September 16, 2021 9:00AM
<i>Place of Meeting:</i>	Virtual: Zoom <a href="#">Zoom meeting link</a>

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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: Sandra LaPalm, Jeffrey Beardsley, Maureen Fradianni, Summer Wright, Eric Wilcox, Susan Beckett, Laura Fink, Ryan Feldman, Cheyenne Pasquale

Guests: Ace Patrick, Sal Fiorentino, Adrienne Navarro, Jenn Montoya

Cart: Becky Van Auken

Interpreters: Emily Beech, Lili

Staff: Carole Hanley

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.)

- No directors report for this meeting.
- The Executive Director position is posted and will be distributed across many different organizations and groups, it will remain open until needs are met.
- No update for application submitted to for the open seat of representative from the education department. Currently, it is still pending.

3. Approval of Minutes of the May 13, 2021, meeting: (For Possible Action)

Eric Wilcox, Chair

- One edit suggested to the minutes - separate Early intervention and the department of Education as to make it clear that they are two separate organizations.
- Laura Fink Moved to approve, Maureen Fraidanni seconded, all in favor. The minutes have been approved.

4. 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

- NRS427A.797 details how TDD surcharge funds can be used and what specific information CAS can provide.
- Discussion about what role the TDD surcharge and CAS have with language acquisition, does it live in the TDD surcharge or potentially live someplace else?
- Working with Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) and the Department of Education is being done to identify how best to provide language acquisition for children.
- Not many if any school districts in Nevada provide language acquisition. The larger school districts do have a total communication program but have a shortage of qualified instructors.
- DCN was providing deaf mentoring to families that were interested in American Sign Language (ASL), thoughts were expressed that perhaps NEIS could offer the service to children up to age 5.
- The original purpose for the TDD surcharge was to provide deaf and hard of hearing individuals with telecommunication devices and assistive technology services. Over the years things have been added to the surcharge funds like language acquisition and the Deaf Commission Director position and with the passing of SB203 hearing aids for children was added if funding is available.
- A request to have the Director of the Commission research and report back to the Commission on how other states successfully provide services and fund deaf and hard of hearing services. What specific resources does the TDD surcharge cover?
- Nevada needs to look at ways to diversify funding to cover the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Laura Fink moved that the Director of the Deaf Commission research and bring forward the information to the Deaf Commission, Jeff Beardsley second the motion, all approved, the motion passed.
- A four-year extension was signed with T-Mobile for relay services.
- T-Mobile call centers had to close three time due to inclement weather, but services did continue.
- ADSD's Communication Access Services Center (CASC) has continued to staff and provide services to the deaf and hard of hearing community in the interim transition from DCN to new community partners.
- New community partners have been receiving training and are in place to start October 1, 2021, with ASL instructors' services will not be available until February of 2022. CAS is evaluating the feasibility of covering the gap until the partners are prepared.
- CAS registry and mentorship programs has provided 25 individuals mentoring and have 5 on the waiting list.
- The third of a three-part series of workshops have been offered. Other states have requested the workshops be brought to their areas.
- Nevada still has a shortage of qualified interpreters.

- The Director will also add to her research what other state's structure address the school system interpreter requirements.

5. Discuss, Review and Approve State Plan for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Speech Impaired Population (For Possible Action)

Eric Wilcox, Chair

Cheyenne Pasquale, Interim Executive Director

- There are four categories and eight recommendations in the state plan
- Communication accessibility under which the recommendations are government accessibility, quality interpreters, emergency response and management and healthcare access.
- Recommendation #1 Government Accessibility – no changes noted.
- Recommendation #2 Quality Interpreters - Nevada Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf (NVRID) was added as a potential partner under quality interpreters.
- Recommendation #3 Emergency Response and Management - No changes were made.
- Recommendation #4 Health and Behavioral Health Services - request to track number of healthcare brochures disseminated.
- Recommendation #5 Language Development- correction needed in paragraph 2 and add Commission of Professional Standards in Education (COPS)to the partners list.
- Recommendation #6 Postsecondary Education Transition – Support for transitioning students to start at age 14.
- Recommendation #7 Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA) – Additional language was added to the recommendation.
- Recommendation #8 Inclusion of the Community - Portions of the text was added to introduction.
- It was decided that community awareness should be the first category as it needs to make a strong statement of inclusion
- Diversity on the commission is needed, at this time we have no one from the BIPOC community.
- Benchmarks for each section are mapped out in the plan and the commission will work with community partners to gather information and see that we are hitting those benchmarks.
- Susan Beckett made the motion, Laura Fink seconded, motion passed.

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

Eric Wilcox, Chair

Cheyenne Pasquale, Interim Executive Director

- IN the coming months, state agencies will start building budgets for next legislative session.
- This item was tabled until next meeting

7. 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.)

- The NV SILC invited members to the integrative workforce development subcommittee meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- There is enforcement of the registry of K-12 interpreters but nothing that forces the school districts to only use interpreters from the registry.

8. Adjournment: 11:45  
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 Carole Hanley via email at [clhanley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:clhanley@adsd.nv.gov) or by phone at (702) 468-9765 as soon as possible.

Supporting public materials for this meeting are available on the ADSD meeting webpage. They may also be request from Carole Hanley, via email at [clhanley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:clhanley@adsd.nv.gov) or by phone at (702)-486-9765.

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