



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



MEETING NOTICE AGENDA

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

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday March 11, 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.

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.

1. Roll Call:

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Members Attended: Sandra LaPalm, Maureen Fradianni, Rusty Shaffer, Eli Schwartz, Summer Wright, Eric Wilcox, Susan Beckett, Laura Fink
- Absent: Khianti Thomas, Jeff Beardsley
- Staff: Cheyenne Pasquale, Dawn Lyons, Jennifer Montoya, Sal Fiorentino, Carole Hanley
- CART/Interpreters: Becky Van Auken, Tory Jaramillo, Jamie Jaramillo
- Guest: Shawn Hammer, Beth Jones,
- Perry Smith, Lora Turner, V. Cooper

2. Public Comment:

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Lora Turner shared that the VR department for transition is hosting a Deaf camp this summer. It will be free to VR students that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing across the state.
- Beth Jones from Nevada Hands & Voices (NVHV) announced that they are partnering with another nonprofit grassroots goals and UNLV to put on an advocacy empowerment virtual webinar for girls, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, ten

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through 17 years of age. April 20th at 3:30pm PST

3. Approval of the January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes: (For Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Eric made 1st motion to approve the meeting minutes, Summer second the motion. All approved.
- Motion was made to approve January 29th special meeting minutes, Maureen second the motion. All approved.

4. Report, Discussion from the Director and Chair reports:

Khianti Thomas, Executive Director, Eli Schwartz Chair

- Khianti hosted the COVID-19 and mental health townhall- 43 registered for the event 32 people attended. Some areas of concern mentioned during the townhall: Emergency Services, ADA Accommodations, Vaccine information and effective communication.
- Khianti also hosted the Black History Month event- 25 attendees, 5 panelist feedback has been great thus far.
- Potential upcoming partnerships:
 - Office of Minority Health and Equity (Vaccine information).
 - Communication Access Services program/Nevada Assistive Technology Resources Center (Communication Access workshop)
 - Statewide Independent Living (Integrated workforce development subcommittee)
- Chair and Vice chair are up for elections next meeting.
- Eli updated the Commission on his participation in the current legislative session. Specifically, providing an update on the bills and public testimonies that he has submitted.
- Update regarding Deaf Day at the legislature. The event will be April 26th, 2021 via zoom

5. Meet and Greet with Newly Appointed Commission Members

Rusty Schaffer, NTA Executive Director, Sandra LaPalm, Commission Member

- Rusty introduced himself as the new Executive Director for the National Telecommunications association and shared some background information about himself and his new role.
- Sandra introduced herself and shared a bit of background

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

Salvatore Fiorentino, CAS Program Manager

- Sal shared a report from Relay Nevada regarding outreach from July 2020-February 2020, as well as their annual report.
 - 40 out of 72 required outreach presentations have been completed thus far via webinars.
 - 45k of the budget has been spent on outreach opportunities. The rest of the budget will be allotted to CapTel marketing including the rural areas.
 - Challenges: one contractor in S. Nevada ended their contract, as a result they are currently looking for a replacement.

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- Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) continues to provide temporary services until a new service provider takes over. Temporary staff are currently performing admin duties. Last month a total of 69 clients received services. Slots are also available for ASL classes.
- Laura questioned if there was any update regarding the NOFO replacement, Sal mentioned there are currently no updates at this time they are currently still reviewing applications. Cheyenne shared they anticipate announcing a decision sometime next week.

7. Report, Discussion, and Recommendations from Interpreting Mentorship Program (For Possible Action)

Jennifer Montoya, CAS Program Supervisor

- The interpreter registry will be transitioning to a new database that will be more intuitive and much more efficient. The database will also have a digital wallet where all documents can be uploaded to one place which will help decrease the manual labor. The database will go live March 23rd. The CAS program will provide more in-depth information during the April 21st workshop

8. Updates and Discussion Regarding Testimony for the 81st Legislative Session (For Possible Action)

a. DETR Budget Planning Meeting

b. BDR 54-386: Revises provisions relating to sign language interpreters.

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Seeking to have the Commissions approval to have Eli provide public comment at the upcoming DETR budget hearing to advocate for the needs of accommodations, specifically for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. Laura made the first motion; Summer seconded the motion. All approved.
- Laura mentioned that the DETR budget planning may also include the employment security division and may be an opportunity for the Commission to provide input.
- Cheyenne noted that we already developed talking points in our previous meeting to address both subjects and we can pull from them to provide public comment for the budget hearing.
- BDR 54-386 has now become SB 179 which outlines provisions concerning the quality of interpreters specifically increasing the score for educational interpreters. Eric will provide public comment during the hearing scheduled for March 29th.

9. Discussion and Approval of Final Deaf Commission Logo (For Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Some discussion regarding the logo and preference of the wording/ colors. Ultimately it was decided to pick the option in the top right. Eric made the 1st motion; Summer seconded the motion.

10. Report, Discussion and Approval of Recommendations of Outreach Subcommittee Report (For Possible Action)

Susan Beckett, Outreach Subcommittee chair

- Susan shared her report (see meeting materials) some dates will need to be amended to help us with our strategic planning. Commission members are urged to volunteer to support the outreach sub committee with their

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planned upcoming workshops. Laura made the motion to approve the workshops suggested by the outreach subcommittee, Eric seconded the motion. All approved.

- Summer motioned to approve the survey with the edits that will be shared by Eric. Maureen seconded the motion. All approved.
- Laura made the first motion to approve the diversity initiatives outlined by the Outreach committee record, Sandra seconded the motion. All approved.

11. Review, Discuss and Approval Tentative Agenda Items for May 13th, 2021 meeting: (For Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- **Elections for Chair and Vice Chair**
- **Legislative Activity Update**
- **Review Draft Strategic Plan**
- **CAS Repot**
- **SB 203 Sub Committee Update**
- **Resource Guide**

12. Public Comment: No Public Comment made

Eli Schwartz, Chair

13. Adjournment: 10:45am

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

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