

Steve Sisolak  
*Governor*



Richard Whitley  
*Director*

# State of Nevada

## Department of Health and Human Services

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Nevada Commission for Persons who are  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Townhall

Aging and Disability Services Division



Reno, NV  
8/25/2022

*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



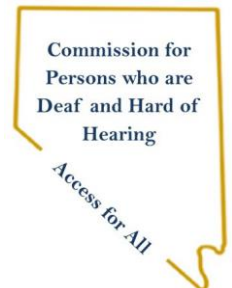
# WELCOME

Obioma  
Officer, MA,  
Executive  
Director





# Agenda



Commission for  
Persons who are  
Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing

Access for All

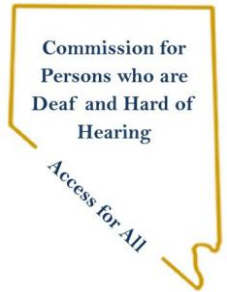
## TOPICS:

1. Introduction: The Why... Our Objectives.
2. Meet Your Commission
3. Communication Access Services (CAS) and Community Partner Services
4. Highlighted Non-Profits and Partners
5. Townhall Open Discussion with Legislature
6. Closing Remarks/Announcements
7. Special Thanks



# The Why... Our Objectives.

Your opinion matters, so let it be heard!



## **A Reset for Change: Meet your Commission, Highlighted Partners, and Local Grantee Service Providers**

### **Objectives:**

- A Reset for Change by...
  - Reintroducing our Commission Statewide
  - Highlight Local Community Service Providers
  - Introduce Highlighted Non-Profits and Partners for Resources
- Open Discussion with Legislature

Step forward and let us know your statewide experience as a Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and/or Speech Impaired community member in efforts to aid in all our objectives for change.

Change starts with you.







# MEET YOUR COMMISSION

Eric Wilcox,  
Commission  
Chair



# Meet Your Commission

## NRS 427A.750 Members...

### (a) **Sandra LaPalm, Commissioner – Rural**

One nonvoting member who is employed by the State and who participates in the administration of the programs of this State that provide services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired;

### (b) **Vacant**

One member who is a member of the Nevada Association of the Deaf, or, if it ceases to exist, one member who represents an organization which has a membership of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;

### (c) **Maureen Fradianni, Commissioner – North**

One member who has experience with and knowledge of services for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;



# Meet Your Commission

**NRS 427A.750 Members (continued)...**

**(d) Rusty Shaffer, Commissioner – North**

One nonvoting member who is the Executive Director of the Nevada Telecommunications Association or, in the event of its dissolution, who represents the telecommunications industry;

**(e) Eli Schwartz, Commissioner – South**

One member who is a user of telecommunications relay services or the services of persons engaged in the practice of sign language interpreting or the practice of realtime captioning;

**(f) Eric Wilcox, Chair – North**

One member who is a parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;



# Seats on the Commission

## NRS 427A.750 Members (continued)...

### (g) **Shawana Goldhammer, Commissioner – South**

One member who represents educators in this State and has knowledge concerning the provision of communication services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired in elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools and the laws concerning the provision of those services;

### (h) **Jaime Vitale, Commissioner – South**

One member who represents an advocacy organization whose membership consists of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;

### (i) **Susan Beckett, Vice Chair – South**

One member who is deaf or hard of hearing;







# Seats on the Commission

## **NRS 427A.750 Members (continued)...**

### **(j) Laura Fink, Commissioner – South**

One member who specializes in issues relating to the employment of persons with disabilities; and

### **(k) Ryan Feldman, Commissioner – South**

One member who is the parent or guardian of a child who is less than 6 years of age and is deaf or hard of hearing.



# Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Commission for  
Persons who are  
Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing

Access for All

## OUR MISSION

“All Nevada citizens will have equal and full access to resources, services and opportunities in all aspects of community life.”

“To advocate for and support the goal that all Nevada citizens have equal and full access to resources, services and opportunities in all aspects of community life.”

## CONTACTS

CDHH Board of Commissioners [NVDeafCommission@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:NVDeafCommission@adsd.nv.gov)

Eric Wilcox, **Board Chair**; Susan Beckett, **Board Vice Chair**

Obioma Officer, **Executive Director** [Obioma@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:Obioma@adsd.nv.gov)

[https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired/](https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada%20Commission%20for%20Persons%20Who%20Are%20Deaf%20Hard%20of%20Hearing%20or%20Speech%20Impaired/)





# COMMUNICATION ACCESS SERVICES & SERVICE PROVIDERS

Jenn Montoya,  
Interim CAS  
Manager





# Communication Access Services (CAS)

## VISION

That all D/deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired Nevadans have equal access to communication so they can participate in and contribute to all aspects of life and society.

## SERVICES INCLUDE:

Interpreter/CART registry

Interpreter/Mentoring program

Relay Nevada

Communication Access Service Centers (CASC)

**Jennifer Montoya**

CAS Program Manager

[JMontoya@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:JMontoya@adsd.nv.gov)

VP/Voice: (775) 434-0237

Text: (775) 431-0135

<https://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/Physical/ComAccessSvc/CAS/>



# CSD LEARNS

**Inspired through innovation and collaboration, CSD Learns transforms narratives to create educational equity for deaf and hard of hearing K-12 students and educators, the adult learning community, and the professional collective. We generate top quality virtual works and products in American Sign Language to empower individuals to succeed.**

**CSD Learns' values are reflected in our services:**

- **we incorporate diversity and inclusion practices**
- **we are committed to excellence**
- **we advocate for access for deaf and hard of hearing people**
- **we lead by example: for deaf, by deaf.**



**Dr. Christina Hopewell-Albert**  
Director, CSD Learns  
[chopewellalbert@csd.org](mailto:chopewellalbert@csd.org)  
[www.CSDLearns.com](http://www.CSDLearns.com)



# Nevada Care Connection Resource Center

*Access to Healthcare Network*

Access to Healthcare Network is a Nevada Care Connection Resource Center that works with individuals to explore a variety of services, resources, and programs available to them. Our goal is to help people make informed decisions and connect to services as easily as possible.

**Phone:** (877) 861-1893

**Email:** [NVCC@accesstohealthcare.org](mailto:NVCC@accesstohealthcare.org)

**Website:** [www.NevadaCareConnection.org/care-options/request-help](http://www.NevadaCareConnection.org/care-options/request-help)

*Service Area: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, and White Pine Counties*

**Presenter Information: Erika Minaberry**  
[Eminaberry@accesstohealthcare.org](mailto:Eminaberry@accesstohealthcare.org)

**Elko NVCC Director: Sonia Ruiz**  
[sruiz@accesstohealthcare.org](mailto:sruiz@accesstohealthcare.org)







# Nevada Care Connection Resource Center

*Lyon County Human Services*

Lyon County Human Services is a Nevada Care Connection Resource Center that works with individuals to explore a variety of services, resources, and programs available to them. Our goal is to help people make informed decisions and connect to services as easily as possible.

**Phone:** (775) 577-5009

*(ext. 3318- Fernley & Yerington area, ext. 4307- Dayton & Silver Springs area)*

**Email:** [LCHS@lyon-county.org](mailto:LCHS@lyon-county.org)

**Website:** [www.NevadaCareConnection.org/care-options/request-help](http://www.NevadaCareConnection.org/care-options/request-help)

*Service Area: Lyon County*

**NVCC Manager: Stephanie Wolf**

[swolf@lyon-county.org](mailto:swolf@lyon-county.org)





NEVADA  
HANDS &  
VOICES™



Statewide Phone: 775-351-1959



info@nvhandsandvoices.org



www.nvhandsandvoices.org



**Beth Jones, Executive Director**



GUIDE BY  
YOUR SIDE™



ADVOCACY  
SUPPORT &  
TRAINING

**Nevada Hands & Voices (NVHV) is a parent-driven, non-profit organization that exists to support, encourage, and educate families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children, so that they can be empowered to make choices that will enable their children to achieve their full potential.**

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**We are a parent/professional collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods.**

**Our Programs support children birth-22 years old who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and their families who communicate orally, with sign, cue, and/or combined methods.**



# HIGHLIGHTED NON-PROFITS & PARTNERS

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Executive  
Director



# The Arc of Nevada

- Website: [ARCNV.ORG](http://ARCNV.ORG)
- Email: [Director@arcnv.org](mailto:Director@arcnv.org)
- Phone: 702.610.7205
- The Arc of Nevada advocates with, promotes, and protects the human rights of people with disabilities and actively supports full inclusion and participation in the community
- We seek to unite people with disabilities across the state of Nevada to collectively advocate on behalf of our members





**Department of Employment,  
Training & Rehabilitation  
(DETR) Bureau of Vocational  
Rehabilitation (BVR)**



**Nevada**  
Vocational Rehabilitation

**Purpose:** The Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation's (DETR) Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation is a state and federally funded program designed to help people with disabilities become employed and to help those already employed perform more successfully through training, counseling and other support methods.

- **Email:** [NVRehab@detr.nv.gov](mailto:NVRehab@detr.nv.gov)
- **Phone Numbers (VR):**
  - 702-486-5230 (Southern Nevada)
  - 775-687-6860 (Northern Nevada)
- **Website URL:**
  - <https://detr.nv.gov/> (DETR)
  - <https://vrnevada.org/> (VR)

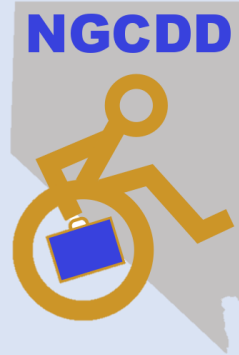
**Mission:** To bring Nevadans together to promote barrier-free communities in which individuals with disabilities have equal access to opportunities for quality work and self-sufficiency.

Araceli Pyper  
Rehabilitation Tech II  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Laura "Wednesday" Fink (she/her)  
Rehabilitation Counselor II  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Laura "LT" Thompson (she/her)  
Rehabilitation Counselor III  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

# Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities



The Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) is a federally funded, self-governing organization within the State of Nevada. Our Federal charge in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) is identifying the most pressing needs of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Nevada and developing innovative and cost-effective ways to advance advocacy through policy, capacity building and systems change activities to promote equal opportunity, self-determination, and community inclusion.

Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director  
[Cmnielsen@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:Cmnielsen@dhhs.nv.gov) or 775-684-8620

Website - [Nevadaddcouncil.org](http://Nevadaddcouncil.org)

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/NVGCDD>





# Nevada Association of the Deaf (NVAD)

## VISION

The vision of the Nevada Association of the Deaf is to promote the respect and diversity of the culture, language and heritage of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in the State of Nevada.

## MISSION

The mission of the Nevada Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is to enrich the lives of people by obtaining services, education and advocacy that promote independence, opportunity, accessibility and diversity.

**Tim Smalley**

President

Las Vegas, NV

**Laura “LT” Thompson**

Vice President

Las Vegas, NV

**Jenn Montoya**

Secretary

Reno, NV

**Ellen Thompson**

Treasurer

Las Vegas, NV



# Nevada Black Deaf Advocates

Nationally Recognized as 39<sup>th</sup> NBDA Chapter

## VISION

Empowering and maximizing individual's potential through education, advocacy, and community collaborations providing statewide outreach services while being fiscally responsible and transparent with consumers and stakeholders.

## OUR MISSION

Black Deaf Advocates is to promote the leadership, development, economic and educational opportunities, social equity and to safeguard the general health and welfare of Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

Follow & Like us on:



@nevadabda



@NevadaBDA

**Jewel Eldridge**

President

**Obioma Officer**

Vice President

**Felicia Rutledge**

Treasurer

**Tam'ra Sims**

Secretary

**Email:** [Nevadabda@gmail.com](mailto:Nevadabda@gmail.com)

# Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS)

Provides comprehensive, individualized services to families with eligible children with a diagnosed disability or developmental delay at no-cost to the family in the child's natural environment (such as child's home and/or community setting).

NEIS provides the following services:

- Service coordination
- Special Instruction
- Audiology
- Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy

NEIS collaborates and contracts with community agencies to provide comprehensive services statewide. Target population are children under the age of 3 years old.

Anyone may refer a child to NEIS through the following:

- **Southern Nevada Hotline:** (702) 486-9200
- **Northern Nevada Hotline:** (775) 688-1341





NEVADA  
HANDS &  
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Statewide Phone: 775-351-1959



info@nvhandsandvoices.org



www.nvhandsandvoices.org



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ADVOCACY  
SUPPORT &  
TRAINING

**Nevada Hands & Voices (NVHV) is a parent-driven, non-profit organization that exists to support, encourage, and educate families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children, so that they can be empowered to make choices that will enable their children to achieve their full potential.**

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**We are a parent/professional collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods.**

**Our Programs support children birth-22 years old who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and their families who communicate orally, with sign, cue, and/or combined methods.**



# NEVADA REGISTRY OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF

**Kim Johnson - President**

**[president@nvridd.org](mailto:president@nvridd.org)**

**[www.nvridd.org](http://www.nvridd.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/nvridd](https://www.facebook.com/nvridd)**

It is the mission of the Nevada Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NVRID) to advocate for best practices in interpreting, professional development for practitioners, and for the highest standards in the provision of interpreting services for diverse users of languages that are signed or spoken.

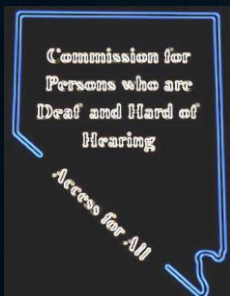




# OPEN DISCUSSION WITH LEGISLATURE



Ashlee Cooper,  
Manager of  
Advocacy &  
Government Affairs  
Obioma Officer, MA,  
Executive Director







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Access for All

# Questions & Concerns Welcome



# **CLOSING REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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# Closing Remarks & Announcements

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## Next steps... NETWORK!

Please feel free to meet our State Representatives, Commissioners, Legislatures, Non-Profits, our Partners, and Services Providers at your leisure.

Please note any upcoming events throughout Nevada and get involved.

We are in this together!







# SPECIAL THANKS

Obioma  
Officer, MA,  
Executive  
Director



# Special Thanks

Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing would like to thank you all for joining us this evening.

Special thanks to all our guest, families, allies, Partners, Non-Profits, and Legislatures for their time and allyship in highlighting efforts in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, speech impaired, and disabled communities.

Thank you, Accommodations Team and Volunteers, for your ongoing support.

We'd like to take a moment to personally thank The Arc of Nevada for providing tonight's refreshments and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities for hosting this event.

Thank you all again for joining us tonight and please stay safe!

Commission for  
Persons who are  
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Access for All

