



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



## Draft Minutes

<i>Name of Organization:</i>	Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing:
<i>Date and Time of Meeting:</i>	Thursday, May 12, 2022 9:00AM
<i>Place of Meeting:</i>	Virtual: Zoom <a href="#">Zoom Meeting Link</a> Meeting ID: 895 4377 7808 Passcode: 843749  Audio Only Option 1-669-900-6833 (San Jose)  CART will be accessible by following this link: <a href="#">Caption Link</a>  <a href="#">Interpreters for this meeting: Bronwynn Shew and Jamie Jaramillo</a>  Meeting Materials can be found here: <a href="#">Home (nv.gov)</a>

**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: Jeffrey Beardsley, Maureen Fradianni, Eli Schwartz, Shawna Goldhammer, Eric Wilcox, Susan Beckett, Laura Fink, Ryan Feldman,
- Guests: Becky Van Auken, Captioner, Jamie Jaramillo, Interpreter Bronwynn Shew, Interpreter, Julie Bowers, Cat Rexing, Lora Turner, Gujan Caver, Jennifer Pierce, Araceli Pyper, LT, Jeff Jaech, Kalen Beck, Jenn Montoya, Tim Smalley, Jewel Eldridge, Beth Jones, Michelle Cordova, Raymond A, Jay Cafferata, Perry Smith, Adrienne Navarro
- Staff: Obioma Officer, Director, Lisa Torres, Cheyenne Pasquale, Interim Director, Lorraine Belt-Dolan

- We want to let everyone know that we have access to CART and sign language interpreters so if you need to multi pin so you can get the interpreters and have access, please put it in the chat and we will get you that access.
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 Public Comment
  3. **Approval of Minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting: (For Possible Action)**  
Eric Wilcox, Chair
    - Page 3 of page 9 – Laura Fink will make a motion should be made a motion.
    - Page 7 of page 9 -The legislature dos have a new website should be does.
    - Page 8 of page 9 – did the letter to the purchasing division get written?
    - Eli Schwartz makes the motion to approve the minutes with changes, Laura Fink seconded, and motion carried.
  4. **Presentation, Discussion on SB203 (development of language benchmarks and guide documents for parents and educators.), and Pipeline of school district staff i.e., teachers, interpreters, and speech pathologist needs:**  
Cathleen Rexing, Part B 619 Coordinator for the Nevada Department of Education  
Julie Bowers, Director for the Nevada Department of Education  
Eric Wilcox, Chair
    - The law was passed in the 2019 legislation session and obligated the Department of Education to establish benchmarks for language acquisition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children prekindergarten. This is based mainly on the LEAD-K movement, and the work has begun but not completed and we wanted an update on where we stand and to offer our support, resources and contacts to the Department of Education and see where we can help as a commission to implement this law.
    - There is a resource guide that the Department of Education put out that they would appreciate a review from this commission on, and when they open for workshop and regulation work there may be an opportunity for the commission to help in that aspect.
    - The superintendent established the advisory committee composed of 13 members who included parents of Deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired children, educators specializing in teaching such children and at least 7 members who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or blind visually impaired themselves.
    - They had eight meetings in 2020 and on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, they adapted their final report. All meeting materials including the final report are available on the Department of Education website under SEAC.
    - In progress, one of the things required by this report is a written resource for parents to evaluate the development of language and literacy skills by children who are less than six years of age and are Deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired and they are working with NEIS to review the parent resource document and make sure it meets all the pieces of this NRS. After they complete their final review and make it accessible it will be distributed to parents and the disability services division. This is one place as mentioned we would like the commissions help in reviewing the report and get input and feedback.
    - Another piece currently in process is section 12 which requires to prescribe by regulation criteria for use by school employees and providers and then distribute a summary of the criteria adopted by the board as well as provide training on its use.
    - The regulatory process to prescribe by regulation criteria for use by school employees must occur first, and then we will be able to provide a summary of criteria and training in the use. Currently the office of inclusive education is

preparing for the regulatory process, including regulation workshop. We do have to go to the state board to open a workshop to work on regulations. We are working on this, but the regulation process is very tedious.

- Another piece that is in process is section 13 which requires the department in collaboration with eh disability services division to compile and post data comparing the development of language and literacy by children who do not have a disability. They have been collaborating with Nevada Early Intervention systems (NEIS), regarding data as well as the parent resource book. They have identified barriers such as there is not a specific evaluation tool that's administered to children with disabilities across the zero to six age range. There also no standardized assessment process for children across the zero to six age range to make the requisite comparison. Therefore, they will be posting data from NEIS for the zero to three group. It will be posted on the website the issues they have run into about not being able to collect data.
- Ryan Feldman talked about making the resources more individualized towards each type of service as it can be overwhelming to parents who are given large resource guides for all types of disabilities, and they are already overwhelmed by the diagnosis.
- Julie stated that the intent is to make a large resource that has everything together but then to section it out into individual resources that address those each disability and give a brief description of what each of those resources would do.
- Eric suggested that they reach out to people working in California and active in LEAD-K as resources. He mentioned Julie Smario who was in a similar position to the position Cat is in.
- Shawna Goldhammer stated that Julie is with the school of the Deaf now but would be happy to provide her contact information.
- Shawna also mentioned that she worked on SB 210 in the state of California and would be happy to share her resources.
- Eric asked the question if we can develop benchmarks and an assessment tool and provide training towards that. In Nevada we seem to have a concern about lack of expertise in the state and if that is a problem in implementing this law?
- The answer was these go to the deeper issue of personnel shortages across our educational system especially in teachers of the deaf and the blind as well as special education teachers.
- There was a discussion on the lack of speech language pathologist and credentialing and the changes in laws that are happening around that.
- Ryan asked that they add an acronym list in the parent manual.

5. Review, Discuss and Approval of Recommendations from the Director & Chair Reports (For Possible Action):

Eric Wilcox, Chair

Cheyenne Pasquale, Interim Executive Director

Obioma Officer, Incoming Executive Director

- There was community concern over the communications not being clear during the commission meetings and there was a meeting with ASL communications to clear that up and we will be implementing new procedures to help improve in this area.
- The meetings will continue to be held virtually throughout 2022.
- Budget update the commissions account stands at \$16,247 unspent, mostly due to lack of travel.
- Membership updates: Jeff Beardsley has decided not to renew his membership, and this is his last meeting, thank you Jeff for your being a strong and passionate advocate for the community and for your service to the commission. Tim Smalley is the new president of the Nevada association of the Deaf and has submitted his application to fill the position Jeff is vacating.
- We are putting off the voting on the new chair and vice-chair till the July meeting, Obioma will email all active members of the commission and they will be able to

return the email with your nomination and she will contact the nominee and if they accept, they will be added to the ballot. Susan Beckett brought up that the bylaws state that the election will be at the meeting prior to July 1, and if we are putting it off till July, we need to make a motion to make that change.

- Laura Fink made a motion to accept the nominations and elections process that is suggested in the Director and Chair report, Eli Schwartz seconded, motion carried.
- We will do the election on July 14<sup>th</sup> and the new chair and vice-chair will start after that meeting to learn the process.
- Obioma is working on developing our networking list, of community partners and resources.
- Update on state purchasing and contracts for CART and ASL Interpreting, they are in the process of granting those contracts they have several contracts in place 3 for CART and 5 for ASL, currently.
- In the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, there was a motion to send a letter to state purchasing expressing our concerns as a commission and potentially requesting that there be a clause or better communication to state agencies to ensure that this lapse in contracting doesn't happen in the future and that was not sent on May 5<sup>th</sup> but will be sent this week.
- Unemployment issues there was an approved letter at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting that was sent to the Department of Employment, and Rehabilitation yesterday. Today they responded that the letter was received and there will be follow-up.
- The next general meeting will be July 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 12 pm. Then September 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 12 pm.
- The subcommittee meetings will be online as well all 4 subcommittees have seats filled. Education Subcommittee meeting is October 4, 2022, scheduled at 9:00 am in the morning and we'd like to ask the commission for a time change to 4:00 pm so that the educators and parents can attend. We will be moving the meeting to 4:00 pm as we do not need a vote.
- Legislative subcommittee October 6, 2022, at 10:00 am, Accessibility will June 7, 2022, at 10:00 am and Education will be June 9, 2022, at 10:00 am as well.

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

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

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

- Relay Nevada T-Mobile sent their annual report, and it is published on the website under today's meeting materials.
- There will be a community resource fair on May 28<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 2 pm in Las Vegas and another in Elko on June 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 1 pm. These events are hosted by the UNR program and will include other partners as well to share community resources.
- The ASL instruction program has been extended from 6 weeks to 8 weeks based on consumer feedback.
- NVCC is working to improve their work with the community by getting training from Deaf individuals and asking questions.
- The interpreters provided the practical interpreter training series workshop, during which the interpreters learned 16 of the 36 skills from the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment.
- The CAS team also presented the horizontal violence and bullying workshop to the Washoe county school district and continues to work with them and the Douglas County school district.
- The mentee program for interpreters interested in taking the National Interpreting certification NIC, is going well and had six that took the knowledge exam.
- It is the responsibility of interpreters to get in touch with the State Interpreter registry and get registered, if they find interpreters working outside the registry, they might contact them and ask that they register.

7. Follow-Up, Discussion and approval of the Work of the Commission, and Community Engagement plan: (For Possible Action)

Cheyenne Pasquale, Interim Executive Director  
Obioma Officer, Incoming Executive Director

- For the community engagement plan we will be expanding on what is outlined in our bylaws.
- Many people are asking what their role is and how to get engaged and we will be discussing this and getting a good foundation going so we can utilize the full potential of the positions on the commission.
- Town Halls are going to happen the first is August 2, 2022, for the Southern part of the state and that is the same week of Deaf Nation the Deaf expo being held in Las Vegas. This will be a hybrid option of virtual and in person.
- The second will be held in Reno for the Northern part of the state, and the third in Elko for the rural areas. These will be held August 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>.
- It has been the experience of the commission that having these in the evening hours leads to better attendance.
- It was mentioned that the week of August 2<sup>nd</sup> there is a Government Council conference focusing on the public and people with developmental delays and intellectual disabilities. In the past the commission has worked with SILC and the Governor's council for IDE, and we may need to alter the date for the Southern Town Hall. <https://www.nevadadddcouncil.org/2022-self-advocacy-conference/>

8. Report, Discussion and Approval of Recommendations from Education, Legislative, Accessibility, and Employment Subcommittees: (For Possible Action)

Eric Wilcox, Chair of Education Subcommittee  
Eli Schwartz, Chair of Legislative Subcommittee  
Susan Beckett, Chair of Accessibility Subcommittee  
Laura Fink, Chair of Employment Subcommittee

- The Education Subcommittee set their members and focused their meeting on SB203 the issue of staffing in the schools, a broad discussion was had during the meeting, and we came away with 4 specific recommendations.
- #1 Direct advocacy to the legislature on the severe impacts of language deprivation that result from insufficient support for language development
- #2 Advocating for the acquisition of some expertise in Deaf education at the state level. This is in response to the point there's nobody in the Nevada Department of Education who has any knowledge of Deafness or deaf education.
- #3 Advocating for developments of a pathway for educating teachers of the Deaf in-state as well as strengthening in-state programs for training and mentoring interpreters.
- #4 Advocating for reclassification of educational interpreters as professionals in the classrooms in response to a point that in many of our schools, the educational interpreters are classified as classroom aides.
- The Legislative Subcommittee met on April 7<sup>th</sup> and had quite a few subjects that were covered.
- One public comment that was brought up that we would like to bring to the commission was reaching out to the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide an option on automobile registrations for identifying the person as Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired to help so that during a traffic stop the officer is aware prior to approaching the vehicle. We would like to recommend submitting a letter to the DMV asking for that option.
- There was robust discussion on the issue, and it was asked that we table the discussion to be on a future agenda before we make any decision.
- Deaf Day at the Legislature was proposed for Spring of 2023 and Rusty Schaffer said that the Nevada telecommunication association, might cover the expense and we need to come up with a number to give them. It was also suggested that in the

interest of time we table this discussion till the July meeting and that Eli come up with a number to start the conversation with.

9. Review, Discussion and Approval of Proposed Bylaw Changes: (For Possible Action)

Cheyenne Pasquale, Interim Executive Director  
Obioma Officer, Incoming Executive Director

- Tabled to the July meeting.

10. Review, Discuss and Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for July 14, 2022, meeting:

Eric Wilcox, Chair

- Discussion about putting Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Speech Impaired on the registration of vehicles with DMV
- Deaf day at the legislature
- Elections
- All other suggestions please send to Obioma for consideration.

11. 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.)

- Please submit this public comment on my behalf: At this time, contracts for ASL services have expired for Rehab Division and Admin is working on it. In January, a temporary contract was established to provide interpreting services for staff and clients, but it expired recently without a permanent resolution. This is of great concern to me as an employee of a state agency that provides services to people with disabilities because the D/HH staff don't have access to communication and service delivery to clients are delayed
- Jewel Eldridge was involved in deaf day and would like to volunteer for future deaf days at legislature.
- Lora Turner – this issue of accommodations with the Vocational Rehabilitation department is impacting our transition student. As 30 students are set to be a part of 4 camps in June statewide and if we don't resolve the issue the students will be discriminated against and not have accommodations to participate.
- Tim Smalley would like to be on the subcommittee for the DMV.

12. Adjournment: 12:04 PM

Eric Wilcox, Chair

**Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

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 Lorraine Belt-Dolan in writing at 3320 W. Sahara, Suite 100, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, email [lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov) or call at (702) 486-4307 5 days prior to the meeting.

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division website at [www.adsd.nv.gov](http://www.adsd.nv.gov) and Nevada Public Notices website at [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov)

Supporting public material provided to Commission members for this meeting may be requested from Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Commission Administrative Support, ADSD at (702)486-4307 and is/will be available at the meeting locations and ADSD website at [Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired \(nv.gov\)](http://www.nv.gov)