



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



## APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

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

*Date and Time of Meeting:* Friday, September 23, 2022  
2:00PM

*Place of Meeting:* In Person:  
3320 W. Sahara Ave, Suite 300  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
Virtual: Zoom

Meeting Materials available at: [Home \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov)

**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:  
Jaime Vitale, Chair

- Members: Jaime Vitale, Sara Sain-Jurgens, Dolores Parrish, Alina Duncan
- Guests: Brittania Vitale, Drew Tillotson, Dr. David Kelsey
- Accommodations: Nicole Dunn; interpreter, Camile Gabriele; interpreter, Becky Van Auken; Captioner
- Staff: Obioma Officer; Executive Director, Lorraine Belt-Dolan; Administrative Assistant III,

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.)

- Dr. David Kelsey commented on the new law for interrupters regarding the EIPA, the educational interpreter's performance assessment. He feels that is only supposed to focus on K-12 education and have that established group of interpreters. He feels that having interpreters that have completed the EIPA interpreting in the community

for things like doctors' appointments and court hearings is doing an injustice to the community as they are not qualified, they do not have the medical terminology or legal terminology that they need for those setting they are only prepared for the school setting. He feels that we cannot mix the two and EIPA certified interpreter with a community interpreter.

- Jamie Jaramillo submitted the following comment via email: I would like to ask that there be an alternative pathway considered for the Interpreter/Cart Registry for the state of Nevada. I am a native user and hold 2 national Certifications and have worked for 25 years as an interpreter, I do not have a BA. In an interpreter like me was looking to move, once the changes to the registry are made, they would not be qualified to work in the state of Nevada. The national organization that provides certification for interpreters provides an alternative pathway towards certification. I don't see why the registry in Nevada can't do the same and offer an alternative way to register an interpreter who qualifies.

3. Discussion and Approval of Recommendations related to Community Concerns: (For Possible Action)  
Jaime Vitale, Chair

- Lack of Interpreters in the North
  - Pipeline Issues: Access to accredited Interpreter Programs and Interpreter Based Education in the North.
  - Could we speak to colleges that offer programs in the South and see if they could set up a remote service for those in the North to get education and not have to travel to the south and then never go back to the North.
  - One question that was presented was could we use state resources that are already established such as the CAS program within ASD.
  - There are established online programs for interpreters and while online programs and are not the best for ASL they might be a source for getting more interpreters in the North that we could partner with.
  - The issue with online programs is oftentimes lack of access to stable internet. It was then suggested that maybe we could use a public space such as a library for those who are interested in the program.
  - Another idea was to set up an internship program, where new interpreters could get practice.
  - Dr. David Kelsey let us know that they partner with TMCC at Nevada State College, and he could maybe contact them and ask if they would partner with us, his contact details are [David.Kelsey@nsc.edu](mailto:David.Kelsey@nsc.edu).
  - At Nevada State College they do have dorms if people from the North want to come down to finish their education.

4. Discussion of Reported Concern: Community Comment – Registry restrictions and Fear of consequences for not meeting higher education requirements – Approve Suggested Recommendations for how to provide input/resources for resolution. (For Possible Action)

Jaime Vitale, Chair

- One suggestion was to implement a system where interpreters could test out and add to their certifications as they work on higher education and that could help alleviate fears of retaliation.
- One argument is that education is not everything and you must look at quality of interpreting and experience, a person with a BA might not be able to sign as well as someone that has that degree, and they shouldn't be punished for not having gone for a degree if they have the certificate and experience.

- Another argument is that when working with someone who has more experience in sign may not have the vocabulary for working with someone in higher education and a degree is helpful because you get more than just sign experience, you get education in multiple studies that can help you interpret later.
  - A suggestion was brought up to talk to the CAS program about helping fill the gap and if the state is requiring the education, then they can provide it.
5. Approval of Roster, and contact information updates: (For Possible Action)  
Jaime Vitale, Chair
- Sara Sain-Jurgens, Dolores Parrish, Alina Duncan and Jamie Vitale are the members of the subcommittee.
  - Dolores Parrish made a motion to accept these for members for the subcommittee, Sara Sain-Jurgens seconded, and the motion passed.
  - Now that everyone has been approved, we need you to send an email with your name, email address and best form of contact phone number, as well as today's date as your start date to Obioma and cc Lorraine Belt-Dolan.
6. Review and Discuss Bylaws applicable to Subcommittees and Subcommittee Recruitment:  
Obioma Officer, Executive Director
- We want to ensure that we follow all open meeting laws and regulations, and so when replying to emails please make sure you do not hit reply all, you can reply directly to Obioma or Jaime and cc the other that is okay.
  - Please review the materials you were given about the bylaws and the state plan, we're focusing on the governance and the quality interpreter, and we want to make sure you understand your responsibilities to the committee.
7. Discussion and Approval of any Recommendations related to Interpreter subcommittee Goals and Needs based on the Strategic Plan: (For Possible Action)  
Jaime Vitale, Chair  
Obioma Officer, Executive Director
- Recommendation #2 –Government Accessibility
    - No current recommendations to the Commission.
  - Recommendation #3 –Quality Interpreters
    - No current recommendations to the Commission.
  - Additional Seat Option Discussion – BIPOC Interpreter Representative
    - We would like to open a new seat on the subcommittee for a BIPOC interpreter representative. Alina Duncan makes a motion to add a seat for a BIPOC interpreter representative, Sara Sain-Jurgens seconded the motion and motion carried.
    - We have someone who would like to switch to that seat that is already on the subcommittee and once that happens that will make their current seat available to a new member, and we will open it up to the community once we know which seat we need.
8. Review, Discuss and Approval of tentative Agenda items for November 18, 2022, meeting:  
Jaime Vitale, Chair
- Due to time constraints, please email Jamie and cc Obioma or email Obioma and cc Jamie with topics for the next meeting.
9. 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

10. Adjournment: 4:00 PM  
Jaime Vitale, Chair

### **Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

#### **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 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) 5 business days prior to the meeting.

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, 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 [lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov) 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://Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired (nv.gov)).