

## Communication Access Services – Program Report – 7/14/2022

Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### Relay Nevada

The CAS team is working on the Request for Proposal that will be released for Relay services early next year. T-Mobile's current contract ends June 30, 2023. T-Mobile is no longer providing Captioned Telephone Services (CTS) but they have subcontracted with Hamilton for those services to continue. Hamilton is the only vendor certified to provide analog CTS. Analog CTS is captioned phone services through a landline and not through the internet. Since Nevada still has users of analog CTS, ADSD will work directly with Hamilton to continue analog CTS services after T-Mobile's contract ends. T-Mobile will continue to provide Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) and Speech to Speech (STS) services through June 30, 2023, and ADSD is exploring the option of adding Relay Conference Captioning (RCC). This service allows deaf and hard of hearing individuals to participate in conference calls by typing their response to the captioner who voices their message. Settings for the captions can be adjusted to individual's own preferences including font type, size, color and speed.

### Communication Access Service Centers

Communication Access Service Centers (CASC) community partners held two resource fairs, one in Las Vegas on May 28<sup>th</sup> and the second in Elko on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. CASC community partners were represented either in person or virtually and provided information about their services. The CAS program and the Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing were also invited to provide presentations. Second year, non-competitive funding applications have been reviewed, and ADSD is in the process of working with our subrecipients on budget revisions. Once those are complete, Notice of Subawards will be issued for funding July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. This process is required each fiscal year for new budgeting of subawards.

### CASC Data as of May 2022

Service	Number of People Served
Telecommunication Equipment & AT	52
Access to Services, 0-21	94
Access to Services, 22+	34
Language Acquisition – Deaf Coaching	15
Language Acquisition – ASL Instruction	30

Contact information to all subrecipients listed below:

- **University of Reno (UNR)**- 833-427-1672 or [cas-telecom@unr.edu](mailto:cas-telecom@unr.edu)
- **Nevada Hands & Voices (NVHV)**- 775-351-1959 or [info@nvhandsandvoices.org](mailto:info@nvhandsandvoices.org)

- **Nevada Care Connection (NVCC)**- Dial 211/or text 898-211, contact information on NVCC's 4 resource centers can be found here <https://www.nevadacareconnection.org/contact-us/>
- **Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD)**- Those that are interested in learning ASL, please contact CSD at [learns@csd.org](mailto:learns@csd.org) or [Communication Service for the Deaf \(CSD\) - Contact Us](#) to be placed on the wait list for the next available course.

## Additional information

Salvatore Fiorentino will be out of the office until September 2022. Jennifer Montoya is the interim CAS Program Manager and will be the primary contact. Jennifer can be reached by email at [JMontoya@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:JMontoya@adsd.nv.gov) or by voice/videophone at (775) 434-0237.

If you would like to subscribe to CAS mailing list for latest information and updates, please see link: [Communication Access Services Program Mailing List](#)

## State Interpreters and Mentoring

The CAS interpreters/mentors continue to provide mentoring services to 2 community and 13 educational interpreters across the State. We accepted 1 new mentee in the last month and currently have no waiting list for new mentees.

In June, the CAS team was thrilled to host a series of workshops throughout the State with nationally known presenter, Crom Saunders, Director of the Deaf Studies program at Columbia College Chicago. He taught a total of seven workshops in three locations: Las Vegas, Elko, and Reno. Workshop topics included interpreting in theatrical settings, incorporating ASL narrative skills into interpretations, ASL grammar, classifiers, and interpreting scientific/medical terminology and concepts. The participants appreciated, not only having the opportunity to learn from Mr. Saunders, but also having a workshop taught in person. The Elko and Reno interpreters were particularly appreciative as, typically, they only have the option to join professional development offerings online. Evaluations from all of the workshops indicate that the workshops were quite well received.

In addition to hosting the workshops taught by Mr. Saunders, the CAS team organized socials for past and present CAS mentees and, most importantly, for the ASL communities in each location. The events in Las Vegas and Reno attracted a large number of people, especially individuals who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to gather in person. The Deaf and hard of hearing community places a high value on in person contact, something that has not been possible for the last two years. The CAS team was pleased to provide a way for everyone in the ASL communities to come together.

The CAS interpreters/mentors hosted their monthly Practical Interpreter Training Series (PITS) in May, the final installment of a four workshop series on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). This workshop also provided a roadmap to interpreters for them to design and prioritize their own deliberate practice plans. The workshop outlined the complex skills covered on the last portion of the EIPA and which discreet skills participants can work on to improve their overall performance. Evaluation feedback from this workshop was extremely positive (see attached evaluation summary). Many people noted in their evaluations that much of this workshop was new information or at least information they did not know how to use in application.

The CAS team continued to work with Washoe County School District (WCSD) and Douglas County School District (DCSD) during their interpreters’ Professional Learning Communities (PLC) time. We hope to continue to facilitate PLCs when interpreters return to work in the fall.

The National Interpreter Certification performance exam practice group continues to meet to assist participants to achieve national certification.

On a related note, out of the seven participants in the National Interpreter Certification knowledge exam study group that met from August 2021 – March 2022, six have taken the exam, one is scheduled to take it soon, and five have passed. Three of the five live in the Reno/Carson City area. If they successfully pass the performance exam, they will be fully certified. That would mean a 37.5% increase in the number of nationally certified interpreters in northern Nevada.

In May 2022, total enrollments among all types of professional development offerings equaled 74. In June, total enrollments equaled 86.

The CAS interpreters/mentors continue to work with interpreters throughout the State. Currently, there is no waiting list.

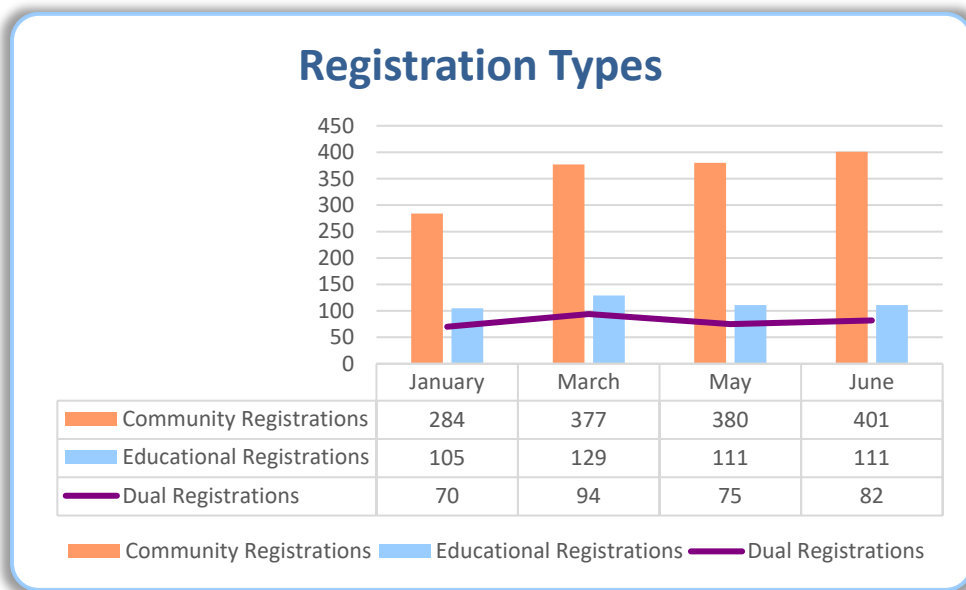
The CAS team has been invited to collaborate with the Nevada Care Connection Resource Center on their training for new Health and Human service employees who will work with the various populations needing Service Navigation throughout the state. CAS will be modifying and presenting an already existing workshop on Horizontal Violence. The training topic for the NVCC training will be “Professional Self-Care, Respect, and Collaboration”. The CAS team will be working with the NVCC team in the coming months to present and record this training.

## Registry

Community Registrations – 401

Educational Registrations – 111

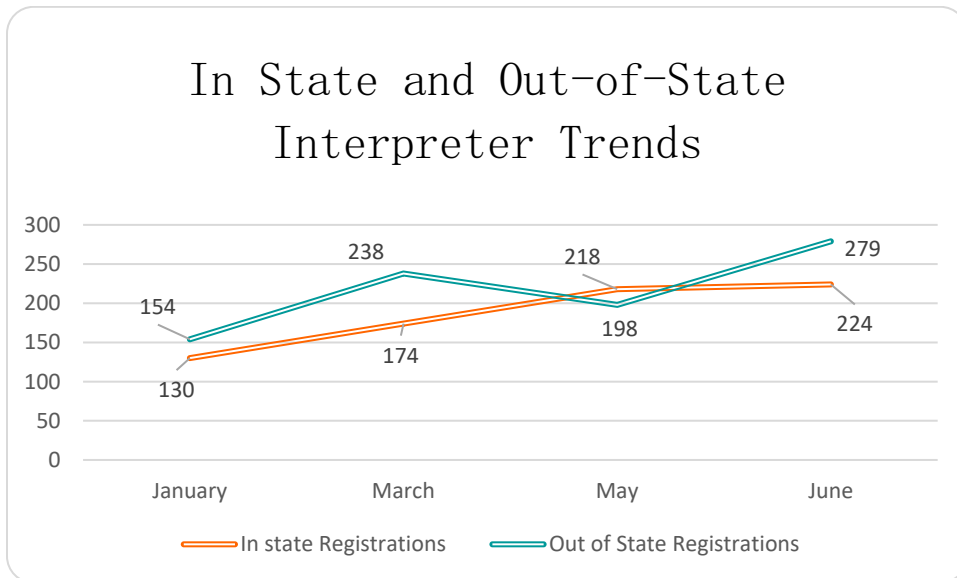
Dual Registrations – 82



Total Number of Individual Interpreters in the Database – 503

In state Registrations –224

Out of State Registrations – 279



### Additional Information

The regulations to NAC 656A have been finalized. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for August 2022 to inform the community of the new changes. Announcement will be sent out via email. If you have not yet subscribed to CAS mailing list, please see link: [Communication Access Services Program Mailing List](#).