



Meeting Minutes

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

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday September 1, 2020 | 12:30pm

Place of Meeting: Join Zoom Meeting
[Meeting Link](#)

CART will be accessible by following the link: [CART Link](#)

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 TEAMS.

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

Subcommittee Members Present:

Eric Wilcox, Maureen Fradianni, Eli Schwartz

Staff:

Khianti Thomas, Carole Hanley, Cheyenne Pasquale, Dawn Lyons

Guest:

Jay Cafferata, Laura Fink, Mike Eifert, Jeff Beardsley

CART & Interpreters:

Jamie Jaramillo- Interpreter

Dawn Duran-Interpreter

Becky Van Auken- Captioner

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.)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Cheyenne shared an update from the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans, and Adults with Special Needs where the CAS (Communication Access Services program), presented their proposed NRS changes to increase the EIPA score for educational interpreters to a 4.0. Also, to add a time limit for provisional registration for interpreters to increase their score. The proposal was approved to go on their work session document.
- Possibility of a Bill Draft Request for the legislative session to make changes to the NRS
- Senator Spearman encouraged ADSD to look at more civic engagement and increasing civic engagement efforts for people that are DHH (Deaf and Hard of Hearing). Additionally, she advised that we be more inclusive of other marginalized populations (LGBTQIA, BIPOC, etc;)

3. Approval of the June 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes: (For Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Eric Wilcox moved to approve the minutes, Maureen Fradianni second the motion. Minutes were approved by majority vote.

4. Discussion and Approval of recommendations of changes to NRS 427A.610 Hearing Aid Programs for the submission to the Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to support and possible action: (for Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Discussed the financial support made possible by the SB203 should be extended to include hearing aid molds and batteries.
- Changing the language of the affordability insurance- should be defined as family having no access to insurance, or unable to pay premium and co-pays associated with insurance.
- The financial report support made possible by SB203 should pay for hearing aids and related costs and/or assist with paying premiums and/or co-pays for said purpose
- Eli Schwartz moved to approve the recommended changes be presented to the commission for final approval, Maureen seconded.

5. Discussion and Approval of strategy for educating lawmakers to advocate for Nevada laws to use "deaf and hard of hearing" terminology instead of "hearing impaired". Recommendations to be presented to the Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing for support and possible action: (for Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Replacing the term "hearing impaired" with "Deaf and Hard of Hearing" for all NRS law. Educating law makers why the term is inappropriate and culturally insensitive, in addition to media and local news outlets
- Question raised: Does this require a lot of laws that are using the older terminology that would have to be revised and then would that mean a specific proposal for each or a revision to each law?
- Recommendation to bring this to the full commission and LCB to propose a joint advocacy effort. Additionally, identify stakeholders to address the same need (i.e. the State independent living council, Governor's council on developmental disabilities, Commission of services for people with disabilities)
- Senator Spearman has been informed and a formal proposal of consideration is needed.

6. Review, Discuss and Approve actions needed to make 911 to text Statewide to be presented the Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to support and possible action: (for Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Henderson, Reno, and Las Vegas currently have 911 to text. However, rural areas such as Elko, Fallon, may not have it. As a result, this is something that needs to be explored regarding how we get those areas to be a part of the 9-1-1 text effort.
- Question raised: What was the impetus to cause it to happen in those locations (major metropolitan areas) and will it spread to other regions on its own Additionally, if not what are the obstacles and are there significant costs or technological obstacles to overcome or is it just an advocacy thing?
- Henderson was the first to start the 911 to text because of a lawsuit against the police department and the 9-1-1 text is the result of that. No concrete answer why Las Vegas and Reno have one.
- More of an advocacy effort on our part making them aware that the technology is available, specifically the police department in Elko Winnemucca and other rural areas. Informing them this technology would be greatly beneficial to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.
- Recommendation to the Commission to advocate and research what needs to be done so we can communicate with all those that oversee setting up the 9-1-1 to text.

7. Review, Discuss and Approve possible actions from the Alliance report and present recommendations to the Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.(for Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Subcommittee Chair

- Discussion of the need to define ASL as a protected language so insurance providers will be obligated to cover the costs associated with providing interpreters in medical or professional situations. Spanish is considered a protected language and we would like for ASL to be viewed the same.
- Questions raised: Healthcare providers are obligated to provide interpreters, correct? - Medical providers are obligated to provide interpreters however, they do not always comply. By making ASL a protected language it is really making insurance pay for interpreters, especially in situations that the medical provider does not provide one. It is a question of who is paying for what?
- There is need to work collaboratively with all insurances to emphasize communication access
- Recommended to bring this up to the full Commission in the legislative subcommittee report
- At the alliance meeting an idea of a Deaf school was discussed and presented by Senator Spearman. Requesting funds from the state was suggested to get the school started however, due to the current economic climate that request may not be feasible. Also, there were two or three schools in Las Vegas that previously failed. This will be brought to the full Commission for further discussion

8. Review, Discuss and Approve Tentative Agenda Items next meeting: (For Possible Action)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- No meeting scheduled

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.)

Eli Schwartz, Chair

- Earlier this summer a letter was sent to Will Jensen asking to reactivate the subcommittee for education (Lead-K/ SB203) that Candace Emerson was in charge of, the approval for the subcommittee has been granted and will be meeting soon.
- Referencing agenda item #6, 9-1-1 texting ability regarding rural area-they may be a need to install something for the entire state so they can have internet access. This may be the reason why Reno and Vegas have it because they already have access to it.

Therefore, may want to research if it is an infrastructure issue when it comes to internet accessibility in rural areas

- Question raised regarding agenda item #5. If the aforementioned alliances and partnerships are not ready/willing to collaborate would this group (legislative subcommittee) be willing to consider going forth with having the language changed to Deaf and Hard of Hearing without the support/collaborations of other organizations?
- Other disability groups will be asked if they would be willing to come together and we will discuss our portion regarding Deaf and Hard of Hearing- we will open the discussion for them to voice their concerns about the language related to other disabilities. Hopefully, a collaborative effort will stem from this so all areas can be addressed not just the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.

10. Adjournment:

- 1:15 p.m.

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 Khianti Thomas in writing at 3320 W. Sahara Ave, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, email kthomas@adsd.nv.gov or call at (702) 468-3368 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, Commission Director, ADSD at (702) 486-3368 and is/will be available at the meeting locations and ADSD website at [Link](#).