



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



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## APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

<i>Name of Organization:</i>	Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: General Commission Meeting
<i>Date and Time of Meeting:</i>	Wednesday, February 8, 2023 9:00AM
<i>Place of Meeting:</i>	Virtual: Zoom

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**NOTE:** 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: Maureen Fradianni, Eli Schwartz, Eric Wilcox, Susan Beckett, Laura Fink, Jaime Vitale

Staff: Obioma Officer, Executive Director; Nikki Haag, Community Engagement Manager;  
Adrienne Navarro, Social Service Chief II, Carole Hanley, Administrative Assistant III

Accommodations: Jamie Jaramillo, Interpreter; Whitney Hobbs, Interpreter; Elizabeth Ulloa,  
Interpreter; Sonya Stark, Interpreter; Becky Van Auken, Captions

Guest: Catherine Nielsen, Patty Kuglitsch, Andrea Juillerat-Olvera, Jennifer Montoya, Beth Jones,  
Jessi Patterson, Angela Moein, Marisol Rivas, Michelle Albrecht, Araceli Pyper, Laura  
Thompson "LT", Steven Cohen, Ellen Marquez, Benjamin Soukup, Tim Smalley, Andy Firth,  
Megan Johnson, Kalen Beck, Jeff Jaech

2. Public Comment:

- Public comment from Shelly Freed addressing no televised ASL interpreters during the State of the State address was read, the public comment is included with the meeting materials.
- Susan Beckett and Beth Jones made a public comment at the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for Senate Bill (SB) 43. Requesting to extend the State Plan to a five-year plan.
- Online video was available to connect with cell phones, but the connections between the video and relay were off making following the meeting difficult.
- Public Comment from Eric Wilcox as a private individual not as a member of the commission or a representative of any agency addressing the restrictive Grant qualifications and the lack of resources. This public comment can be found with the meeting materials.

3. Approval of Minutes of the November 16, 2022, meeting: (For Possible Action)

- Eli Schwartz made the motion to approve the November 16, 2022, minutes, Maureen Fradianni second the motion, all approved.
4. Presentation, Global Technology Communications (GTC) – ASL Anywhere Grant:  
 Patty Kuglitsch, Account Manager - Nevada  
 Benjamin Soukup, Chief Executive Officer
- Will provide training for the ASL Anywhere app and its benefits.
  - Collaboration with the Commission, service providers and policy makers
  - Trial packages and monitoring to assess sign language needs are being offered to Nevada Care Connection (NCC) and the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) and Rehabilitation-Bureau of Vocational Services (BVR).
  - Data collected will help determine benefits and barriers.
  - Several outreaches over several platforms were don in the last quarter of 2022.
  - GTC is looking at ways they can provide training to consumers.
  - Early feedback is positive and request for increase in allowed time.
  - ASL Anywhere app can be added on devices under equipment distribution programs.
5. Report, Communication Access Services (CAS):  
 Jennifer Montoya, Communication Access Services Program Director
- Jennifer Montoya is now the Communication Access Services Program Director.
  - A candite has been offered the positions of the CAS Program Manager and if they accept will be on board soon. The positions primary focus will be on the interpreter registry rules, responsibilities, functioning and coordinating and maintain the data base.
  - Andy Firth is the new Relay Administrator of Nevada and will be providing the Commission with updates.
  - T-Mobile’s current contract ends June 30, 2023, and the new 5-year proposal is being assembled.
  - T-Mobile does not provide Captioned Telephone Services (CTP), but subcontracts with Hamilton.
  - A competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity will be released in February 2023. It will be for telecommunication equipment distribution, language acquisition and American Sign Language (ASL) instruction.
  - A Commission member will be selected to be on the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) panel.
  - The Mentoring Program is still providing one on one mentoring and hosting training workshops monthly.
6. Presentation, Northern ITP Program, and requests for Grant Letter of Support for ITP Program:  
 Andrea D Juillerat-Olvera, DRC Training Specialist/Staff Sign Language Interpreter/Instructor
- The ASL classes are now under the World Language department and are acceptive of the ITP program.
  - Offices have been set up and teachers that are hard of hearing have been hired.
  - The Northern area need this program to help with the lack of interpreters in the area, lack of ADA compliance, having adequate support to name a few.
  - A collaboration with the deaf community to help develop a training program that will bring teacher to the area.
  - The first step is to set up a minor in ASL Deaf Studies.
  - Currently have 60 ASL level 4 students with 8 more on a waiting list.
  - Level 5 is expected to start in the fall of 2023.
  - Expectation that 25-30 students will register for the ASL Minor Studies for phase 1.
  - See presentation for program breakdown of the expected \$36,823.50 first year cost.

- Request for a letter of support be given by the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
  - For more information you can contact Andrea Juillerat-Olvera [ajuillerat@unr.edu](mailto:ajuillerat@unr.edu)
7. Updates, Review and Dissuasion of the Olmstead Steering Committee:  
Eli Schwartz, Commissioner
- Nothing new to share currently.
8. Review, Discuss and Approval of Recommendations from the Director & Chair Reports (For Possible Action):  
Eric Wilcox, Chair  
Susan Beckett, Vice Chair  
Obioma Officer, Executive Director
- Less than \$14,690 left in the budget.
  - Board vacancies can be found on the ADSD website [Members \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/members).
  - Obioma drafted and sent a letter to the Governor's office addressing the vacancies.
  - Request to write a letter to the Governor on behalf of the Commission on the importance of having an ASL interpreter or live captioning whenever during speeches and during the Legislature session.
  - Catherine Nielsen with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities will work with CAS to correct the situation appropriately.
  - Comments can be made directly to the Governor's office at <https://gov.nv.gov/Forms/Share/> .
  - Eli Schwartz motion to have the Commission draft a letter informing the Governor of the resources we have in Nevada.
  - Laura Fink second the motion
  - All approved.
  - Commission members are encouraged to get involved with community events and network to help find resources to share with the Commission.
  - Community members that would like to partner or be an ally with the commission can reach out to [nvdeafcommission@ADSD.nv.gov](mailto:nvdeafcommission@ADSD.nv.gov) .
  - The Commission is partnering with Las Vegas Deaf Senior Citizens and DETR to host the Deaf Camp.
  - Two Townhalls are planned one in April the other in October covering the whole state.
  - There is a change to the Winter Gratitude Gala. The workshop and conference will be separate from the Gala that the community attends.
  - Laura Fink Motioned to rephrase the title to the Winter Gratitude Ally Workshop and Community Gala on December 16, 2023
  - Jamie Vitale second the motion.
  - All approved.
  - A correction was noted on the date of the Directors report on page 5.
9. Report, Discussion and Approval of Recommendations from Education, Legislative, Accessibility, and Employment Subcommittees: (For Possible Action)
- Susan Beckett, Chair of Accessibility Subcommittee
- Request the Commission discuss and create a grievance form or process which the community can complete when in need of assistance.
  - This request will be added to the May 10,2023 agenda to discuss.
  - Request to add brainstorming funding options for ASL Anywhere to May's agenda.
  - Correction noted on the Subcommittee notes the next meeting is March 7,2023.
- Laura Fink, Chair of Employment Subcommittee
- Nothing to ask the Commission for currently. The next meeting is March 10,2023.
- Jamie Vitale, Chair of Interpreter Subcommittee
- No updates, next meeting is February 17,2023.
- Eli Schwartz, Chair of Legislative Subcommittee

- Deaf Day at the Legislative building in Carson City is Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Policy makers will be presented too from 9:00am-12:00pm.
- A bus from Las Vegas accommodating fifty people will be that will leave at 11:00pm at night and will return to Las Vegas right after the proceedings.
- Tips will be shared on how the community can request interpreters at the legislation themselves, how to testify and how to find their own legislator.
- Nevada Hands & Voices are hosting this event along with the Deaf Commission and will have a donation tab on the Nevada Hands & Voices webpage that will help pay for this event. [Deaf Day \(nvhandsandvoices.org\)](http://nvhandsandvoices.org)
- Eric Wilcox moved to approve the letter and any corrections needed so it can be distributed as advised to those interacting with the legislature.
- Laura Fink second the motion
- All approved.

Eric Wilcox, Chair of Education Subcommittee

- The Education Subcommittee would like approval to assemble a letter to be presented to the Department of Education summarizing shortcomings regarding the education for the deaf and hard of hearing children.
- Eli Schwartz motioned to approve the letter.
- Jamie Vitale second the motion
- All approved

10. Review, Discuss and Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for May 10, 2023, meeting:

- NOFO update
- Add collaboration between the Interpreting Subcommittee and CAS.
- Request for someone from the unemployment department speak on new systems and its accessibility works.
- Olmstead update
- Update on Governors accessibility process regarding CART and interpreters.
- Commission discuss and create a grievance form or process which the community can complete when in need of assistance.
- Brainstorming funding options for ASL Anywhere to May's agenda.

11. Public Comment:

- None

12. Adjournment:

- 11:58

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

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 [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))