



## 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 Accessibility

*Date and Time of Meeting:* Tuesday, March 7, 2023  
10:00AM

*Place of Meeting:* Virtual: Zoom

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

Interpreters for this meeting are Jamie Jaramillo and Tory Jaramillo

Meeting Materials available at: [Home \(nv.gov\)](#)

**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:  
Susan Beckett, Chair

- Members: Susan Becket, Laura Fink, Tim Smalley – There was a correction to the Agenda Sandra LaPalm is no longer a member of the Subcommittee and Tim Smalley has been added as a member.
- Guests: Allen Gilbert, Karen Cano, Ana Sandoval, Lance Ledet
- Staff: Obioma Officer; Executive Director, Lorraine Belt-Dolan; Administrative Assistant
- Accommodations: Jamie Jaramillo; Interpreter, Tory Jaramillo: 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 Administrative Assistant with written comments.)

- No Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes of the December 13, 2022, meeting: (For Possible Action)

Susan Beckett, Chair

- Tim Smalley moved to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022, Laura Fink seconded the motion, motion carried.

4. Discussion and Approval of any Recommendations related to Accessibility Subcommittee Goals and Needs based on the State Plan: (For Possible Action)

Susan Beckett, Chair

- We would like to narrow down our focus as there are other subcommittees that focus on other recommendations. Laura Fink made a motion to focus on recommendations #1, 2, 4 and 5, Tim Smalley seconded, motion carried.
- Recommendation #1- Inclusion of the Community
  - No discussion held on this recommendation today.
- Recommendation #2 –Government Accessibility
  - This is something we still need to strive for as there was an interpreter during AB165 and AB133, there was an interpreter provided in the room but was not accessible via camera for those who were not in the room.
- Recommendation #3 –Quality Interpreters
  - This recommendation will not be focused on during this subcommittee.
- Recommendation #4 –Emergency Response and Management
  - No discussion held on this recommendation today.
- Recommendation #5 – Healthcare Access
  - No discussion held on this recommendation today.
- Recommendation #6 – Language Development
  - This recommendation will not be focused on during this subcommittee.
- Recommendation #7 –Post-Secondary Education Transition
  - This recommendation will not be focused on during this subcommittee.
- Recommendation #8 – WIOA Partnerships
  - This recommendation will not be focused on during this subcommittee.

5. Discussion and Approval of Statewide Accessibility sustainability and TDD Surcharge alternative funding options: (For Possible Action)

Susan Beckett, Chair

- There is concern about the TDD funding and the need to look at other funding sources. This is due to the Deaf and hard of hearing population being grossly underserved in many areas.
- Looking at the possibility of getting grants or working with other nonprofit organizations that have funding available.
- Obioma stated that she is working with ADSD to set up an account so that the commission could receive funds.
- Laura Fink made a motion that we ask the full commission to give the support and search for funding beyond the TDD surcharge. Tim Smalley seconded the motion, motion carried.

6. Executive Director Directive(s)/Maintenance Need(s):

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

- We need to discuss the budget, and we are going to have to cut one meeting from each subcommittee for this fiscal year. So, our next meeting will be the one deleted from the calendar. That means this is the last meeting of this fiscal year.
- This also means that by the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting all subcommittee members will have termed out, so the suggestion is that we use the September meeting to transition and vote on new and returning members of the subcommittee. We will open it up to the public to make a submission for a seat on the subcommittee at that time.

7. Discussion and Approval of any Recommendations related to AB133 and AB161 which are being combined and they discuss putting a designation on the driver's license for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing and certain persons with autism: (For Possible Action)

Susan Beckett, Chair

- AB133 was originally formed from the idea that while the Deaf or hard of hearing designation can already be put on a drivers license, many in the community do not feel safe with that option and it was to give another option of putting D for Deaf, HH for hard of hearing and SI for speech impairment on the registration where it would be accessible to emergency personnel but not the general public.
- At some point this was changed to the designation on the drivers license and combined with AB161 which is a designation for persons with autism. This was not discussed with the Deaf and hard of hearing community prior to the change.
- Currently this is voluntary but with the changes how long before it becomes mandatory?
- Many in the community feel that having this on their drivers license makes them vulnerable, as we use our drivers license for many things and having this designation on there could lead to discrimination and safety concerns. They also felt very left out of the decisions to change and merge this bill.
- The best way to let individuals in the deaf community know to voice their concerns is to attend the hearings and make their wishes be know.

8. Review, Discuss and Approval of tentative Agenda items for September 5, 2023, meeting: (For Possible Action)

Susan Beckett, Chair

- Terms ending and transitions.
- Focus on the 4 recommendations that apply to our subcommittee and we voted on.
- Review results of the legislative session.
- If you think of anything else, please email Obioma Officer, Executive Director at least three weeks prior to the 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 Administrative Assistant with written comments.)

- No Public Comment

10. Adjournment:

Susan Beckett, Chair

- Tim Smalley made a motion to adjourn the meeting early, Laura Fink seconded, and motion carried. 10:43 adjourned

**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 email [lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov) at least 5 business days prior to 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 [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))