



# 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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## MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

<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, May 10, 2023 9:00AM
<i>Place of Meeting:</i>	Virtual: Zoom
	Meeting Materials can be found here: <a href="https://www.nv.gov">Home (nv.gov)</a>

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1. Roll Call & Opening Statement:  
Members: Maureen Fradianni, Eli Schwartz, Eric Wilcox, Susan Beckett, Laura Fink, Ryan Feldman, Jaime Vitale  
Staff: Obioma Officer, Executive Director; Nikki Haag, Community Engagement Manager; Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Administrative Assistant III  
Accommodations: Bronwyn Shew, Interpreter; Sonya Stark, Interpreter; Becky Van Auken, Captions  
Guests: Steven Cohen, Lori Lutu, Lora Turner, Patty Kuglitsch, Keeli Killian, Laura Thompson (LT), Beth Driesen, Autumn Blattman, Beth Jones, Jeff Jaech, Kim Johnson, Linda Anderson, Kelcy Meyer, Dawn Lyons, Dena Adlish, Misty Vaughn Allen, Kalen Beck, Andy Firth, Jennifer Montoya, Megan Johnson, Adrienne Navarro, Cheyenne Pasquale
  2. Public Comment
    - Lora Turner gave an update about Deaf Camp and transition day, for our students and we currently have 25 students registered ranging from 14-22 years old, still finalizing the details and we currently have a job posting open for camp staff.
  3. Approval of Minutes of the March 28, 2023, meeting: (For Possible Action)
    - Eli Schwartz motioned to approve the minutes, Laura Fink seconded, and motion carried.
  4. Presentation, Office of Suicide Prevention Within Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness, and Prevention - DBPH:
    - Misty Vaughan Allen gave a great presentation on suicide prevention which can be found in the meeting materials.
    - 988 is the new national suicide hotline and they have staff there that are Deaf and hard of hearing, ready to provide support within the communities so you can call 988 and have a video point to point conversation with someone who is Deaf or hard of hearing.
  5. Presentation, Global Technology Communications (GTC) – Nevada Quarterly Report Jan - March 2023, ASL Anywhere Grant:

- Patty Kuglitsch gave a presentation on their second quarterly report of the ASL Anywhere Grant and that included a survey they did and the partnerships they have formed. This can be found in the meeting materials. They will continue to update us quarterly and have increased the free minutes from 20 minutes to 60 minutes for people to access the ASL Anywhere App.
6. Updates, Review and Discussion of the Notice of Funding Opportunities applications received to date:
- Cheyenne Pasquale gave us an overview of the Notice of Funding Opportunity applications that were received. We had three competitive categories this time around, Language acquisition, ASL instruction and telecommunication equipment and assistive technology. We received a total of three applications. For the language acquisition there were no applications received. For ASL instruction, we received an application from communication services for the Deaf, which is our current subrecipient. We received two applications for telecommunications equipment and assistive technology. One is from our current subrecipient, which is UNR, Nevada cent for excellence in disabilities and the new application is from an organization called Lutheran social services.
  - At this point we are going through the review process and have recruited outside reviewers, including Laura Fink from the commission and others from the Deaf and hard of hearing community. Funding decisions are expected by the end of the month.
  - We also have received a continuation application from Nevada Hands & Voices to continue their services, and a continuation application from Nevada Care Connections resource centers.
7. Discussion related to Community Needs and Services that could fall under a potential Nevada Office of Deaf Services:
- Cheyenne and Adrienne wanted to open discussions on would a Nevada Office of Deaf Services be needed, and if so, what would it look like? This is the beginning of talks that will lead to building the budgets for the next legislative session.
  - It was felt that the need is there and that it is large as there has been an erosion of services to the deaf especially sine the Deaf Center closed.
  - There is a need for capacity building in the nonprofit sector and community building in the nonprofit sector and a collaborative model where the nonprofit sector and the State, or an office of the Deaf Serves work together.
  - There were many good questions, such as, what would the office/center look like, would it be a one stop shop, would the commission be over it, etc.
  - The questions that need to be answered are, is this necessary for the state of Nevada? Should we have an open discussion, should we start the planning process, should we feel what's going on in the community, see what they want, see who should be involved in this concept for the center.
  - This would not be a Deaf Center where people would come to get services but more an administrative office where people would work towards coordinating services that the community needs.
  - It was felt that we need this type of office because there are a lot of requests to the commission that we cannot fulfill due to the commission not being paid positions and having the time and resources to move initiatives that require real work from people to move them along.
  - Ongoing discussions should involve the community via town halls and surveys.
8. Review, Discuss and Approval of Recommendations from the Director & Chair Reports (For Possible Action):
- There was a quick review of the budget, and while we have \$3,926.56 currently, that money is committed to recurring costs through the end of the fiscal year.

- The CAS report is in your meeting materials and there were no questions on it, just one comment acknowledging Kalen Beck's retirement. Congratulations and thank you for your service.
  - Membership updates were given we are still waiting for the governor to appoint applicants to the vacant seats.
  - Bylaw updates need to be made to put us more in line with the NRS and term limits is the first issue we'd like to address there are two options being presented today, the first is to allow for up to two additional terms after the first term, the second option is to allow after an initial term for members to be reappointed to additional terms without a restriction on the number of terms. It also would allow a person to continue serving until the governor appoints someone else in their place once the term is up.
  - Laura Fink motioned to approve Option 2 of the proposed bylaw changes regarding membership, Jaime Vitale seconded, motion carried.
  - We had to table the rest of the discussion on bylaw changes.
  - Laura Fink made a motion for the commission to sign off on the letter from Steven Cohen about an accessibility audit of the Legislature, Eli Schwartz seconded the motion, motion carried.
  - Eli attended the Senate committee meeting on AB206 which adds a member to the Deaf Commission and spoke in support of the bill along with Catherine Nielsen of the Governors Council on Developmental Disabilities and one other person. It will need to be passed by the committee and then the Senate floor and then go on to the governor.
  - We want to thank everyone that attended and were a part of Deaf Day at the Legislature.
  - For Camp SignShine meets Camp Crave we need volunteers from the commission to man the booth at transition day on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
9. Report, Discussion and Approval of Recommendations from Education, Legislative, Accessibility, and Employment Subcommittees: (For Possible Action)
- This item was tabled to the next meeting.
10. Review, Discuss and Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for July 12, 2023, meeting:
- Please email Obioma with items for the next meeting.
11. Public Comment:
- Eli Schwartz took the opportunity to thank Maureen for her service to the commission.
  - Eric Wilcox added his thanks to Maureen as well.
  - Maureen Fradiani stated she was happy to have been able to serve for the last six years and we reminded her of the new bylaw changes she could stay on, but she is undecided at this time.
  - Ryan Feldman let us know that for anyone in Southern Nevada that chose to have one of the three devices, which is advanced bionics or anything outside of cochlear. The only audiologists that were in the area trained to work with advanced bionics outside of on-base have left the area. So, there's no longer an audiologist capable of working with a patient outside of if they have cochlear America. The other two devices there's nobody in Southern Nevada that is trained to work with these devices.

12. Adjournment: 12:07 PM

**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))