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DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
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Dena Schmidt
Administrator

NEVADA COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING – GENERAL MEETING

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, August 16, 2023
9:00 AM

Location of Meeting: ZOOM

1. **Roll Call and Opening Statement:**

Members: Eli Schwartz, Eric Wilcox, Jaime Vitale, Susan Beckett, Laura Fink, Ryan Feldman

Guests: Shelly Freed, Michelle Albrecht, Paul Maucere, Shannon Council, Adrienne Navarro, Andy Firth, Beth Jones, Caroline Bass, Kim Johnson, Linda Anderson, Laura Thompson (LT), Miles Terrasas, Patty Kuglitsch, Steven Cohen, Tracey Michol

Accommodations: Megan Johnson, Interpreter; Jeff Jaech, Interpreter; Becky Van Auken, Captioner

Staff: Obioma Officer, Executive Director; Nikki Haag, Community Engagement Manager; Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Administrative Assistant III.

2. **Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of the May 10, 2023, meeting.

- Laura Fink moved to approve the minutes, Eli Schwartz seconded, motion carried.

4. **Presentation and Discussion:** Global Technology Communications (GTC) – Nevada Quarterly Report April – June 2023, ASL Anywhere Grant:

Patty Kuglitsch gave a presentation on this and it can be found in the meeting materials here: [ASL ANYWHERE \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/asl-anywhere)

5. **Presentation and Discussion:** Discussion related to Community Needs and Services that could fall under a potential Nevada Office of Deaf Services:
- To be clear this would not be a deaf center where you would go to get services, this would be an administrative office within the State that would be responsible for the development of the infrastructure of services for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
 - As this would be a large ask of the State General Fund this could take up to ten years to develop.
 - It would be nice to have this office where people are paid to do the work and carry out the ideas which might start in the commission but with only one paid staff member it is hard to get the work done and this would be helpful to have.
 - There has been some research done on what other states are doing and this will be brought forward later.
6. **For Possible Action:** Elections of Chair and Vice Chair:
- We had two nominations for Chair and one for Vice Chair. The two nominations for Chair were Eric Wilcox and Susan Beckett, at this time Susan would like to withdraw her nomination for chair. For Vice Chair we had one nomination and that was Susan Beckett. Due to technical difficulties, if Commission members only would please message the administrative assistant Lorraine Belt-Dolan your votes for Chair and then for Vice Chair she will tally them and give us the results.
 - Eric Wilcox was voted in as chair and Susan Beckett as vice chair.
7. **For Possible Action:** Review, Discuss and Approval of Recommendations Director & Chair Reports: Budget updates, seat details, community requests, Community Access Services (CAS) Report, partner engagements and upcoming outreach.
- You can view the CAS report here: [CAS Report for 8-16-2023 \(nv.gov\)](#)
 - You can view the directors report here: [Director-Chair Report 08.16.2023 \(nv.gov\)](#)
 - Laura Fink moved to change the calendar to include the Commission conference on December 15th and 16th, Jaime Vitale seconded, motion carried.
 - Jaime Vitale made a motion to host the town halls in October and that the commissioners in the North take care of the Northern Town Hall and the commissioners in the South take care of the Southern Town Hall and the commissioners closest to the Rural take care of that, Laura Fink seconded, motion carried.
 - Laura Fink motioned to accept the calendar modifications as written for the next scheduled meetings. Jaime Vitale seconded the motion, motion carried.

- Laura Fink made a motion to task the Legislative subcommittee with helping plan the engagement conference in December, Eli Schwartz seconded, and the motion passed.
8. **For Possible Action:** Report, Discussion and Approval of Recommendations brought forth by each Subcommittee gathered in their respective meetings and listed in their reports found in the meeting materials.
- Susan Beckett, Chair of Accessibility Subcommittee asked about drafting a grievance form or process for which members of the community can complete and that was tasked back to the subcommittee to draft the form and bring the draft back to the commission.
 - Laura Fink, Chair of the Employment Subcommittee, stated that they have not met since last December and will be working on the Model State Plan at their next meeting.
 - Jamie Vitale, Chair of Interpreter Subcommittee, stated that they are making some recommendations for access to services for the Deaf and Hard of hearing when it comes to audio-visual things like TV. Jaime Vitale also made a motion to approve putting on letterhead the letter of support for the University of Reno, ASL Interpreter program. Laura Fink seconded the motion and motion carried.
 - Eli Schwartz, Chair of Legislative Subcommittee, stated that at the last meeting Deaf Day at the Legislature 2025 was discussed and BDR's that we would like to see in the next legislative session.
 - Eric Wilcox, Chair of Education Subcommittee, stated that they would be moving forward with outreach to the Department of Education that was already discussed and outreach to early hearing detection and intervention.
9. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting November 8, 2023.
- No topics were brought forth in the meeting, any topics that come up can be emailed to Eric Wilcox or Obioma Officer.
10. **Public Comment:**
- Beth Jones wanted to make a comment as a parent and director of Nevada Hands of Voices, that creating the office to discuss more on the issues of the Deaf Community would be great, having more people to discuss and work on issues and helping our kids to be able to become productive members of society. Also, as a nonprofit to be able to connect with the state and be able to share some of the concerns we're seeing as well and to clarify some of those. Also, Nevada Hands and Voices will be having job opening soon.
 - Laura Thompson (LT) is a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor for the State of Nevada and wanted to let us know there will be town halls specific to Vocational Rehabilitation happening on November 6th at 10:30 in the morning and November 15th at 10:30 as well. These will be held

in person and on zoom and they will be using the feedback to develop their state plan.

11. **Adjournment:** 11:35 AM

NOTE:

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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 and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>

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