

Joe Lombardo  
Governor

Richard  
Whitley, MS  
Director



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



Dena Schmidt  
Administrator

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## **Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Subcommittee Accessibility**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2023  
10:00 AM**

**Location of Meeting: ZOOM**

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

Members: Susan Beckett, Laura Fink, Thom Duva, Tim Smalley  
Guests: Lance Ledet, Sabra McWhirter-Clark, Andrea Juillerat-Olvera  
Accommodations: Nicole Dunn; Interpreter, Sonya Stark; Interpreter, Becky VanAuken; Captioner.  
Staff: Obioma Officer; Executive Director, Lorraine Belt-Dolan; Administrative Assistant III

2. **Public Comment:**

- Laura Fink shared that Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation will be having a Town hall in November and we will be putting that information in chat. Upcoming town hall meetings for Vocational Rehabilitation are on November 6 at 10:30am and November 15th at 5:30pm. The townhall meetings will be in person and on Zoom. These meetings are designed to give the public and partners an opportunity to share their questions, comments, concerns, and suggestions with the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration. We will use this feedback to inform our annual strategic planning for 2024.
- In person:
  - 1325 Corporate Blvd. in Reno
  - 3016 W. Charleston Blvd., #200 in Las Vegas
- Zoom:
  - November 6 10:30am
  - Meeting ID: 828 3768 5697
  - Passcode: 023832
  - November 15 at 5:30pm

- Meeting ID: 845 3768 3590
- Passcode: 532362

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of draft Minutes of the March 7, 2023, meeting.
  - Laura Fink made a motion to approve the minutes, Susan Beckett seconded, motion carried.
4. **For Possible Action:** Nominations, Elections, and/or reappointment of subcommittee members.
  - Laura Fink plans to continue serving on this subcommittee.
  - Thom Duva would like to serve on the committee.
  - Tim Smalley would like to continue serving on the committee.
  - Laura Fink made a motion to approve the three named individuals to the committee, Susan Beckett seconded, and motion carried.
  - Thom Duva made a motion to become the chairperson for the subcommittee, Laura Fink seconded, and motion carried.
5. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and approval of any recommendations related to Accessibility Subcommittee Goals and Needs based on the State Plan:
  - Recommendation #1 – Inclusion of the Community
    - Airline issues for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, not being able to get the notifications at the same time as hearing people. Closed Captioning on the screens that are already available in the airport.
  - Recommendation # 2 – Government Accessibility
    - Were we updated with the latest weather issues?
      - People were updated via their phones, and we were working with Disaster Emergency Management (DEM) team for updates.
    - Are there any issues?
      - There were no issues reported to us.
  - Recommendation # 4 – Emergency Response and Management
    - Issues from the Hurricane?
      - There were no issues reported to us from the hurricane.
      - We are going to partner with ASL Anywhere for shelters and have interpreters available at them and that is through the DEM partnership.
  - Recommendation #5 – Healthcare Access
    - The community has let us know there is a struggle in getting interpreters scheduled and available for appointments in healthcare.

6. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and Approval of recommendations for creation of form for accessibility issues to take back to the full commission for final approval.
    - After much discussion, the new chair Thom Duva and the Executive Director, Obioma Officer will work on the form offline, and bring it to the next meeting for discussion and possible approval.
  7. **For Possible Action:** Approval of tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, December 5, 2023.
    - Possibly bringing together Employment and Accessibility subcommittees to collaborate on inclusion in the community.
    - Possibly have a presentation by DEM.
  8. **Public Comment:**
    - Andrea Juillerat-Olvera gave us a quick update the ASL minor program is up and running at UNR, the classes are full and there is a lot of interest and so far, no grants have given us any money and we have been able to hire one deaf TA for upper-level classes. [ajuillerat@unr.edu](mailto:ajuillerat@unr.edu)
    - Lance Ledet let us know the HLAASNC Support group is having two meetings this month, one on the 12th and the 14th at 6pm.
  9. **Adjournment (For Possible Action):** 11:14 AM
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## **Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

### **NOTE:**

- 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 \(nv.gov\)](https://www.adsd.nv.gov/Persons-Who-Are-Deaf-Hard-of-Hearing-or-Speech-Impaired)

## **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](http://www.adsd.nv.gov) and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>