

Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired- CDHHSI

Eli Schwartz's Vision Board
Partners in Policy Making 2023

Commission Background

- Created in the 79th Legislative Session (SB481)
 - 7 voting members
 - 2 non-voting members
- Two year appropriation of \$25,000 annually from TDD Surcharge Fund
 - For Travel expenses & Administrative Expenses
- Two new seats created in the 80th Legislative Session (NRS 427A.750)

Who is Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Speech Impaired

The Commission authority includes making recommendations to any state agency, including, without limitation, the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services, concerning the establishment and operation of programs for persons who are Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired to ensure equal access to state programs and activities. The Commission has the responsibility to recommend to the Governor any proposed legislation concerning persons who are Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

NV Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Members

- One non voting member who is employed by the State and who participates in the administration of the programs that provide services to person who are deaf and hard of hearing
- One member who is a member of Nevada Association of the Deaf
- One member who has experience with and knowledge of service for person who are deaf and hard of hearing
- One non voting member who is Executive Director of the Nevada Telecommunication Association
- One member who is a user of telecommunication relay service

NV Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Members-cont.

- One member who is a parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired
- One member who represent educators in Nevada and has knowledge concerning communication services
- One member who represent an advocacy organization
- One member who is deaf or hard of hearing
- One member who specialized in issues relating to employment of person with disabilities
- One member is a parent or guardian of a child who is less 6 years old

Recent Accomplishments

- Recommended policies to the Governor
- Advocate systematic changes, change policies and support bills at Legislative Sessions.
- Networking, working with community partners
- Deaf Day, Deaf Camp
- Townhalls
- Work with Nevada DETR-Clear Masks at DMV
- Work with Nevada Education Dept-IEP for deaf students
- Communication Access

Legislative Requests

Increase seat quantity to 13 seats. The Commission is in need of more diversity and expertise in order to facilitate the Strategic Plan.

1. Modify: Parent of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child to expand the age range to 0-18, consolidating both seats. See Recommendation 4
2. Add: Person who is an active Sign Language interpreter with proficient experience and knowledge of K- 12, Post-Secondary, and Adult Interpreting Services (AB 206 submitted by Assemblywoman Tracy Brown May)
3. Modify: Deaf and Hard of hearing seat reclassified to Oral Deaf/Hard of Hearing Community Member
4. Add: In replacement of additional parent seat – Deaf/Hard of Hearing Community Member
5. Add: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Professional whose an expertise is in the field of Deaf Culture and or American Sign Language Linguistics

Additional Legislative Requests

- Change the language in NRS to reflect the CDHHSI submitting member recommendations to the Governor INSTEAD of CSPD
 - The Commission are the ones the decision impacts
- State General Fund
 - The expenses for the Commission should come out of the general fund, not from TTD surcharge
 - Currently the TTD surcharge is maxed out at 8 cents per month with no future funding sources
 - Executive Director should also come out of the General Fund
- Permanent Appropriation for Commission
 - Starting SFY 2030
 - \$75,000 annually from General Fund
 - To support efforts such as outreach, training and educational opportunities.

Thank you