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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: Education Subcommittee

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 2024
4:00 PM

Place of Meeting: Virtual: Zoom

AGENDA

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

Members: Eric Wilcox, Dr. David Kelsey, Dr. Kimberly Bauer-Schaub, Dr. Felicia Rutledge

Guests: Yadira Erives, Alexis Griffith, Dolores Hauck, Annie Allis, Autumn Blattman.

Accommodations: Kelly Bunting, Interpreter; Rebecca Major, Interpreter; Becky Van Auken, Captioner.

Staff: Obioma Officer, Executive Director; Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Administrative Assistant III.

2. **Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of the July 30, 2024, meeting.

- Dr. Felicia Rutledge made a motion to approve the minutes, Dr. David Kelsey seconded, motion carried.

4. **For Possible Action:** Nominations, Elections, and/or reappointment of subcommittee members.

- Eric Wilcox, Dr. Felicia Rutledge and Dr. David Kelsey have all expired their term. However currently Eric Wilcox and Dr. Felicia Rutledge were in their second term and according to the current bylaws they are only allowed to serve two terms. We are willing to express these concerns to the Commission and have them vote on whether or not we can add a third term.

- It was decided that we would continue this meeting and take without taking any action in this meeting and a report would be made to the commission including the need to act on the bylaws.

5. **For Possible Action:** Discussion of current concerns with Senate Bill (SB)203 and the needs for a Deaf School. Recommendations for reopening SB203 per community needs and feedback.

SB203 from the 2019 Session: AN ACT relating to persons with disabilities; authorizing the establishment of a program to negotiate discounts and rebates for hearing devices and related costs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing; requiring the establishment of a program to provide hearing aids at no charge to certain children who reside in low-income households; providing for the establishment of criteria for evaluating the development of language and literacy skills by certain young children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired or both deaf and blind; requiring the Department of Education to develop a resource for parents or guardians to measure the development of such skills by such children; requiring a team developing certain plans and programs for such children to use the established criteria to measure the development of such skills by such children; requiring the Department to publish an annual report concerning the development of such skills by such children; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

- During the discussion it was noted that prior to the bill being voted on the portion with the Deaf school was struck from the bill.
- The recommendation to the commission is to not reopen SB203 but to submit a new BDR for a Deaf School for the State of Nevada.

6. **For Possible Action:** Develop a draft of a survey on education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the State of Nevada, and possible barriers to education. To bring forward to the Commission for approval.

- Dr. Rutledge worked on a document, and it was circulated via email from Obioma to the rest of the subcommittee and everyone agreed that it looked good to send to the commission.
- Once it is approved by the commission we would like to partner with a college or someone to get it translated into ASL, as sending it out in English would not be very effective.

7. **For Possible Action:** Review the Clark County School District (CCSD) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coordinator position, discuss support and collaborative efforts with the current Coordinator.

- The current Coordinator does not have a background of working with the Deaf and hard of hearing nor does she use ASL.

- One of the reasons for her appointment to that position without those things is that the school district stated no one applied for the position when they required those things.
 - In the future we would like to see the school district collaborate with the commission and the subcommittee to get the word out to the community.
 - We would like to open the dialogue with the school districts and let them know what our concerns are and ask how we can support them.
 - We need to go to the legislature and let them know we used to have a Deaf studies program, but it got shut down, how can we get that back and how do we advocate for the school districts or the Department of Education to become more aware of what is needed for the deaf students, when each district has local control.
8. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, Tentatively February 4, 2025, dates to be voted on at next General Commission meeting in November.
- Continue discussions from today's agenda.
 - Return to the recruitment and retention conversation.
 - If you think of anything else send an email to Eric or Obioma
9. **Public Comment:**
- No Public Comment
10. **Adjournment:** 5:19 PM

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 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 \(nv.gov\)](#)

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 [ADSD \(nv.gov\)](#) and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>