

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 – GENERAL MEETING

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
9:00 AM

**Location of Meeting:** ZOOM

### AGENDA

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

Members: Eli Schwartz, Eric Wilcox, Jaime Vitale, Susan Beckett, Catherine Nielsen, Lance Ledet, Laura Fussell.

Guests: Kristin Sullivan, Sabrina Schnur, Notetaker Sabrina, Beth Jones, Fatima Taylor, Hannah Halcomb, Kasey O'Hara, Catherine Bloomfield, Linda Anderson.

Accommodations: Jamie Jaramillo, Interpreter; Lindsey Morton, 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 August 21, 2024, meeting.

- Eli Schwartz made a motion to approve the minutes, Laura Fussell seconded the motion, motion carried.

4. **Presentation and Discussion:** Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) presentation on efforts, support needs, and response to the Commission letter of advocacy.

- Hannah Halcomb and Kristen Sullivan gave a presentation which can be found here: [SKI HI Presentation for Commission 11.2024](#)

5. **For Possible Action:** Presentation, Discussion and vote on request for letter of support for accessibility at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park.

- Catherine Bloomfield gave a presentation which can be found here: [Spring Mtn Ranch Presentation 2024](#)
  - Eli Schwartz made a motion to provide a letter of support for this project to Catherine Bloomfield, Susan Beckett seconded the motion, motion carried.
6. **Presentation and Discussion:** Discuss Commission Members roles and responsibilities during the 2024 Engagement Conference, December 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and networking event on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The community needs to see all the commissioners present at the Engagement Conference to prepare for the April Deaf Day at the Legislator event.
  - We need people to greet everyone as they go into the breakout sessions and proctors for those breakout sessions. We also need people to introduce the presenters and keep an eye on the time. We need leaders or guides to help people know where the restroom is in the facility and where the breakout rooms are.
  - We're going to have meal tickets and need someone to collect those so only persons with meal tickets eat.
7. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and approval of 2025 Commission meetings and Engagements Calendar:
- Susan Beckett made a motion to approve the Calendar with an amendment of the day of the week change for the February meetings to Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, Laura Fussell seconded, motion carried.
8. **For Possible Action:** Discuss and approve Bylaw updates. See supporting materials.
- The ask is to amend the subcommittee appointment time to be up to three, one-year terms.
  - Eli made a motion to approve the amendments of the bylaws, Jaime Vitale seconded, motion carried.
9. **For Possible Action:** Review, Discuss and Approval of Recommendations Director & Chair Reports: Budget updates, seat details, community requests, Communication Access Services Report, partner engagements and upcoming outreach.
- The Directors and Chair Report is included in the meeting materials here: [Director-Chair Report 11.13.2024](#)
  - The CAS report is included in the meeting materials here: [CAS Report 11.13.24](#)
10. **For Possible Action:** To review, discuss, and approve recommendations presented by each subcommittee as detailed in their respective reports, and update on outcomes from Agenda Item #6 concerning the Employment Subcommittee. All reports are accessible in the meeting materials.
- Obioma Officer, Interim Chair of Accessibility Subcommittee

- All members were present at our last meeting, we had a presentation by Heather Lafferty in regard to the division of emergency management. They have two trainings set up for emergency intervention.
- We are in discussions with the Las Vegas Airport and partnering with the ADA division to help make the airport more accessible.
- Lance is working on a Bill Draft Request that will be sent to legislation and Paula is working on hospital accessibility models for hospitals in Nevada.
- Jaime Vitale, Chair of Interpreter Subcommittee
  - We are discussing a survey for our interpreters in the state to get a pulse of their work, how they feel, what are the interpreters' frustrations and lack of interpreting services. We have no asks of the commission at this time.
- Eli Schwartz, Chair of Legislative Subcommittee
  - Tracy Brown-May is giving us one of her BDR's to further the closed caption project.
  - There was an indication that there is money set aside for studies to help us with a Deaf school.
  - We're asking the Education Subcommittee to follow up on the getting ASL Language as a credit for college or high school as there is a provision in the NRS 389.221.
  - The subcommittee members have been assigned different Position Statements to work on to be finalized at the February meeting.
- Eric Wilcox, Chair of Education Subcommittee
  - The Deaf school was discussed.
  - A survey that the subcommittee wanted to put forward for vote about surveying staff, students, and parents who are supporting or are Deaf or hard of hearing kids in the schools as a way of collecting data and providing a more focused argument around what the problems and needs are, and we have a draft survey to submit for voting at our next meeting.
  - There was a discussion on the lack of expertise among admin people in the school districts Department of Education specifically it was brought up that in the Clark County School District, a lack of expertise at the administrative level in terms of the administrators that are overseeing deaf education in the Clark County schools. They advertised and didn't get anyone with Deaf expertise to apply so the person they hired has no deaf expertise. This is an ongoing discussion.

**11. For Possible Action:** Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting February 12, 2025.

- Update on what ADSD is doing for our accommodations for the Commission meetings.
- Education Subcommittee Survey.

- If you have additional items, please email Obioma Officer at [Obioma@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:Obioma@adsd.nv.gov) at least 3 weeks prior to the meeting.

**12. Public Comment:**

- Eric Wilcox – I want to acknowledge all the hard work that Obioma and her team have done preparing the Engagement Conference for December. This will be our last general meeting I think before we have that and I just want to acknowledge there's been an absolutely tremendous amount of work that's gone into that and the agenda looks amazing and all the people coming just looks amazing, and I'm so grateful that this is a new element of what this Commission is doing for the state because I think it's really powerful. So, thank you Obioma, and everyone who is involved in that.

**13. Adjournment: 11:57 AM**

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**Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

**NOTE:**

- Supporting documents referenced above in the "for possible action" items 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://NevadaCommissionforPersonsWhoAreDeafHardofHearingorSpeechImpaired.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 \(nv.gov\)](http://ADSD.nv.gov) and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>