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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: Accessibility Subcommittee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, August 16, 2024
2:30 PM**

Location of Meeting: ZOOM

AGENDA

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

Members: Thom Duva, Lee Bullock, Betty Hammond, Paula Koerwitz, Laura Fussell.

Guests: Heather Lafferety, Lance Ledet, Angie Duran Garcia, Carolyn Carr.

Accommodations: Becky Van Auken, Captioner; Stephaine Gardner, Interpreter; Elizabeth, Interpreter.

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

2. **Public Comment:**

- Obioma Officer, we have been informed by the community that they will have a legislative rally August 26th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. It's going to be at the new legislative building on Warm Springs and Amigo. They are asking that all participants of the Deaf and hard of hearing community and the disability community do show up that day. They also ask that they wear their blue printed T-shirts with the hashtag nothing without us.
- Laura Fussell Vocational Rehab will be hosting 2 Town Hall Meetings October 9th at 6 pm and October 16th at 10 AM.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of draft Minutes of the March 29, 2024, meeting.

- Betty Hammond made a motion to accept the minutes, Thom Duva seconded the motion, motion carried.

4. **For Information Only:** Current practices regarding training for Public Service Officers on interacting with the Deaf and Hard of Hard of Hearing Community.

- Heather Lafferty informed us that the Nevada division of emergency management is working on two different types of training, the first one they have already deployed, and it is called integrating access and functional needs into emergency management or G197.
- This course was designed with help from the Governors council on Developmental Disabilities and the disability partners come and instruct the curriculum and train the emergency managers, fire fighters and first responders. The course is two days long and covers a variety of topics.
- The second program they would like to find grant funding for would be to develop a curriculum for one-day 12-hour course where we bring disaster interpreters who have experience in the large-scale disasters, and we train our state interpreters and provide them continuing education credits so that they get a certificate of certification that they have gone through public information training.
- This is something they are hoping to start in 2025 and partner with CAS and the registry.

5. **For Information Only:** Inform the subcommittee about conversations regarding suggested accommodation for accessibility at Harry Reid International Airport.

- As we are all aware there is currently no closed captioning available on the screens at the airport, and you must wait for a text or go ask people what is going on. Obama is working with a community partner to be included in talks with the airport to change this, but they have not been able to find a time to meet yet.
- Lance Ledet, who is a commissioner, is working on a bill that talks about the need and how to be ADA compliant with accessibility regarding closed captioning in public spaces.

6. **For Possible Action:** For Review, Discussion, and Possible Action: Examine and assess assignments related to enhancing accessibility in government and medical settings, as outlined in the State Plan requiring potential legislative attention and commission approval. Including Executive Director engagement with University Medical Center (UMC).

- Paula Koerwitz let us know that she has been trying to get in touch with a hospital in Pennsylvania that has fantastic service providing VRI and interpreters ready and she wants to ask them if they could tell us how they do that and if they can come and teach our hospitals.

7. **For Information Only:** Executive Director updates, including Calendar, Meeting Date changes and membership.

- We have had to move the townhall meetings to the first week of October and will be hosting one in Elko, NV, on October 1st. Then we will be hosting

in Reno, NV on October 3rd and lastly in Las Vegas, NV on the 22nd of October.

- At those meetings the first hour we will be partnering with the CAS team and ADSD who will be talking about the NOFO (Notice of Funding) and then we will open the floor to the public from 7 PM – 9PM. Each meeting will be 3 hours.
- Laura Fussell, Thom Duva and Lee Bullock we need to know if you are interested in continuing to serve on this subcommittee. All three are yes, Paula Koerwitz made a motion to have them continue to serve on this subcommittee, Lee Bullock seconded, motion carried.

8. **For Possible Action:** Approval of tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, Friday, November 15, 2024, at 2:30 PM.

- Process what is discussed at Town Halls.

9. **Public Comment:**

- Laura Fussell commented that next Wednesday at 9 am is our full commission meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.
- Obioma Officer shared that the Nevada Governor’s council on developmental disabilities is hosting multiple Townhall meetings that will be fully accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. These will be held in Reno, Fallon, Carson City, Pahrump, Mesquite, Las Vegas and Elko and these are in person meetings and then there will be three separate meetings on Zoom. They are working on a new state plan and would like all the community’s input.

10. **Adjournment (For Possible Action):** 3:40 PM

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 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.nv.gov/Commission-for-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 [ADSD \(nv.gov\)](https://www.adsd.nv.gov) and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>