

Director and Chair Report

August 21st, 2024

General Update(s)

Eric Wilcox, Chair

- Budget Update (FY24 Starting funds of \$26,528.00)
 - Total Expenses (thru 7/19/2024): \$26,246.07 (Does not include the final Accessibility Meeting invoice cancellation fee of \$340.)
 - Balance (as of 7/19/2024): \$281.93 (-\$58.07)
 - *Insufficient funds to cover the final invoice due to cancellation outside of 48 business hours grace period. Please note the importance of notifying staff of needs to cancel. Cancellations MUST be made in a timely fashion due to grace periods ending 48 business hours prior to scheduled/confirmed meetings.*
 - ED Advised Bylaw adjustments to ensure agreements of attendance and cancelations of accommodations are transparent and adhered to.

Obioma Officer, ED

Jenn Montoya, CAS Program Director
& CAS Team Program Representatives

- Communication Access Services Report Updates: [CAS Report 8.21.24 \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/cas-report-8.21.24)
 - NOFO Announcement and NRS Clarification Presentation(s) in October 2024 during Commission Townhall Tour.
 - CAS Report Update(s): Future reports will include Number of Interpreter hours provided Statewide.

*REMINDER: All CAS reports will be submitted for Commissioners review for quarterly meetings in advance due to meeting time restraints. Reports will be reviewed in advance by Commissioners for questions to be addressed during quarterly General Meetings. Presentations will be offered upon request for imperative topics of interest or need as outlined by the Commission or CAS team.

- At this time, if there are any questions or clarifications needed, J. Montoya can address them.

Membership Updates

Eric Wilcox, Chair

Catherine Nielsen, Vice Chair

Recently Filled Positions

- No further updates or appointments to report.
- Please be sure to apply online if interested. For additional support in the process, please reach out to O. Officer, D/HH Commission Executive Director, to support your efforts and appointment initiative. Decisions are made by the Governor, at his pleasure and

discretion. O. Officer is only available for further directional assistance in navigating the online submission process and can support if further clarification is needed on the waiting period.

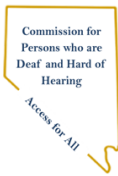
Open position(s):

- (b) One member who is a member of the Nevada Association of the Deaf, or, if it ceases to exist, one member who represents an organization which has a membership of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired – NVAD Board Member has applied (Under Review by the Governor)
- (d) One nonvoting member who is the Executive Director of the Nevada Telecommunications Association or, in the event of its dissolution, who represents the telecommunications industry
- (g) One member who represents educators in this State and has knowledge concerning the provision of communication services to persons hearing or speech impaired in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools and the laws concerning the provision of those services.
- (k) One member who is the parent or guardian of a child who is less than 6 years of age and is deaf or hard of hearing
- (l) One member who: (1) Is registered with the Division pursuant to NRS 656A.100 to engage in the practice of sign language interpreting; and (2) To the extent practicable, has experience with and knowledge of interpreting in a primary or secondary educational setting and a post-secondary educational setting and freelance interpreting.

Outreach Efforts/Events/Announcements:

Obioma U. Officer, ED

- Engagement Conference 2024 – December 13th-14th
 - **Event:** Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired Engagement Conference 2024: “Putting Unity in CommUNITY based Advocacy for Legislative Change.”
 - **Objective:** The Nevada Commission for Person who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired is seeking to unite, empower, and magnify the Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing message for legislative change. Becoming one voice by uniting our message of Access, Engagement, and Advocacy.
 - **Location:** Santa Fe Casino and Resort, Las Vegas, NV
 - **CEUs Offered (TENTATIVE):** RID/NIC Sign Language Interpreters, Marriage Family Therapist, and Social Workers.
- 2024 Townhalls Tour (Elko, Reno, Las Vegas)
 - Townhalls to be held Oct 2024 – Dates to be Announced through ListServ and Webpage.
- Reminder: D/HH Empowerment Weekend Projections (Dates subject to change pending venue availability and according to demands of Commission/Community engagement):



Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- Friday, December 13th, 2024 – Conference Day 1: 1pm – 6pm, and Community Evening Deaf Night Out (DNO) hosted by Sammy’s DEN
 - All Commissioners to be present and registered for conference. Travel assistance available.
 - Further DNO details and planning to be announced by Community Partner Sammy’s DEN.
- Saturday, December 14th, 2024 - Conference Day 2: 8am – 6pm
 - All Commissioners to be present and registered. Travel assistance available.
- Sunday, December 15th, 2024, Nonprofit/Community Winter Gala and Fundraiser hosted by Las Vegas Deaf Seniors (LVDS).
 - Further details and planning to be announced by Community Partner LVDS.
- Reminder of Remaining 2024 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conferences and/or Nevada Conferences with D/HH components:
 - Deaf Organization Executives Summit (Executives of D/HH Organizations/Services ONLY)
 - November 7-8, 2024, New Orleans, LA
 - [Deaf Organization Executives Summit | Innivee Strategies](#)

Community Contact(s) – For Possible Action

Eric Wilcox, Chair
Obioma Officer, ED

This section is being added for the Director/Chairperson to report major issues/concerns reported by the community to the Commission.

Executive Director:

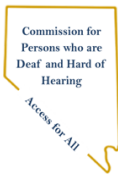
Obioma U. Officer, ED

- Calendar Changes for Townhalls to include response to Community’s request of clarification of ADSD D/HH Services NOFO.
- Emphasis to updates to the Bylaws to include the new Commission seat and ADSD Administrative Assistant advised guidelines **(see attached meeting materials for supporting document)**.

Chair and/or Vice Chair:

Eric Wilcox, Chair
Catherine Nielsen, Vice Chair

- Deaf School Needs and Research Tour w/ O. Officer, L. Ledet and C. Nielsen in response to D/HH Education request of the community. – Project research continues.
- Civil Legislative Engagement – August 2024 Council Meeting attendance to encourage voter engagement.
 - Community Legislature Advocacy Engagement – August 26th, 2024, D/HH & Disabilities Community Rally at the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs (SVAN) Meeting outside the LCB



Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Buildings in the North and South 9am-4pm **(See attached flyer Community Flyer for Rally Southern, NV - August 26, 2024).**

- Commission requested to speak at both locations and encouraged to make a public comment during session.
 - **FOR ACTION: Please see supporting materials** of drafted testimony by Eric Wilcox be shared in public comment on August 26th.
- Media Inquiry – Miss Samoa USA Pageant Comment Request – “... seeking comments from your experts in response to an incident that took place in Las Vegas, Nevada last weekend [August 1, 2024].” Pageant participant with hearing loss “... also had to fight for her accommodations” **(See attached email “FWD Media Inquiry.msg”)**. with video footage of engagement. Transcripts in footage description. Additional Details below:
 - Here is a link to the video clip captured during the interview:
<https://www.facebook.com/100000363100628/videos/768958055451325/>
 - TRANSCRIPT: Hi contestant number two. Question for you is with your disability would you prefer to be a human of respectful or a human of being smart person? In another way even with a disability that you have would you prefer to be treated as a respectful person or a smart person? Or both and give us a reason why? Thank you for the question. So with my disability would I prefer to be a human? Would I be we are to be treated be treated as a respectful person or a smart person? How about? As someone with a disability, I think that I would Can I ask a clarification? What do you mean by would I rather be treat be treated as a respectful person? Because your platform's talking about you're being you being disability person. So would you rather people treating you with respect or would you rather people treat you because you're a smart person or would you rather both? And why would you prefer? Either or or both? Thank you.”
 - Information about the Pageant can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553777827845>

Networking Efforts: Resources/Collaborations/Potential Partner/Partners
Network System

- If you are interested in one of our networking options, please email us at NVDeafCommission@adsd.nv.gov and we will get you started TODAY!
- For more information and to learn more about the Commission’s ongoing vision, please check us out 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).

Recent Resources/Collaborative relationships/efforts
All current 2024 efforts. Available upon request.



Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2024 Meeting Schedule Reminder

Obioma U. Officer, ED

- Recent meeting changes due to schedule conflicts with Legislative dates.
 - The community is encouraged to engage all Legislative focused discussions for the Disability community to remain an active participant in our community's needs.
- General Commission Meeting 2024: November 13, 2024, @9am
- **REMINDER!** Subcommittee Meetings have changed to 1 hour 15 minutes with new dates. Please adjust.
 - Accessibility Subcommittee: Friday, November 15th, 2024, @2:30pm – 3:45pm
 - Interpreter Subcommittee: Friday, November 15th, 2024, @4pm – 5:15pm
 - Legislative Subcommittee: Tuesday, September 17th, 2024, @2:30pm – 3:45pm
 - Education Subcommittee: Tuesday, September 17th, 2024, @4pm – 5:15pm