

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: Education Subcommittee

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

*Date and Time of Meeting:* Wednesday, January 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: Betty Hammond, Jennifer Cunningham, Yadira Erives, Kristy Fritzler, Joey Lamberti, Catherine Nielsen

Accommodations: Elizabeth Anthony, Interpreter; Kelly Bunting, Interpreter; Becky Van Auken, Captioner.

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

2. **Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of the September 19, 2023, meeting.

- Felicia Rutledge made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Kimberly Bauer-Schaub seconded, and motion carried.

4. **For Possible Action:** For discussion and approval, a suggested task force and action plan for Deaf education in Nevada to bring to the Commission for final approval if needed, with an Update on November 9, 2023, meeting with the Office of Inclusive Education.

- One of the suggestions that came out of this meeting was that we approach the Special Education Advisory Committee (SCAC) and reconvene the special committee or taskforce to address these concerns. It appears that

following the passage of SB203 in 2019 that subcommittee did exist. It's basically to advise the Department of Education on matter of educating the Deaf and hard of hearing.

- Another item discussed was that there are some concerns that parents do not understand their rights under the law and what accommodations they should be asking for. They offered to participate with us in outreach to families about education g families on their rights.
- One of the ways to light a fire under them to get moving on this is the Coswell Macy Act that's moving forward through the House of Representatives in Congress that specifically is discussing the identification, location, and evaluation of deaf children to increase their outcomes. The whole bill is expanding to really dig into our youth who are Deaf and hard of hearing and move forward the outcomes because what the data has shown is that the outcomes have not been beneficial.
- Eric will follow up with leadership of the office of Inclusive Education and see if we can move this along and reach out to the leadership of the SCAC as part of that communication as well.

5. **For Possible Action:** For discussion and approval, draft letter to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C office and Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) to bring to the Commission for final approval if needed,

- Dr. Felicia Rutledge made a motion to approve the letter to be approved by the commission provided that the correct NRS numbers are put in there as well as correcting the year, Dr. Kimbely Bauer-Schaub seconded, motion carried.

6. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, March 26, 2024.

- Please email the commission email or Obioma or Lorraine any ideas you have for agenda topics for the next meeting, and they will get Eric to consider.

7. **Public Comment:**

- Betty Hammond, I know there was a lot of work that went into trying to get a magnet school set up and I do really think looking into that might solve some of the problems that we've talked about. As just a member of the Deaf community I've noticed that the school districts use uncertified and unqualified interpreters and refuse to recognize them as professionals, therefore causing very bad issues for the children. We need the most skilled interpreters with children that are trying to develop their language, right? We don't want ESL for teaching somebody the basics. The school district in SCAC know about this as taxpayer and person that impairs the Deaf community, it's unforgiveable they hear all this stuff and say we're aware of it. When are they going to be accountable for these results? Maybe never. And we just keep asking and asking and shaking while people are

suffering and suffering and suffering and I think some demands should be made of those entities that are responsible for that. They're not firing the right level of interpreters; they're not hiring teachers of the Deaf that are Deaf. I would say 20 years ago or something, I went to a Deaf school where the teacher of the Deaf asked me to interpret to a Deaf person I took with me to an open house. You want to teach a language? I mean, I'm not a doctor, I have a master's in social work, and my thesis was on language development and how our minds develop and how that's missing for Deaf people, you have from birth to a certain amount you learn certain things, and you can become a concrete thinker and all these things. There are all these gaps. They're known by the professionals and Nevada doesn't care and I'm very concerned about that. I'd like to see solutions that could bring in better interpreters, have better training, expert teachers, BiBi models, if the state isn't going to or cannot or will not do it, the children shouldn't suffer, and we should demand something else takes that place in an entity that can do that.

- Eric Wilcox, if anybody knows anything, I've heard this rumor about a magnet school repeatedly. I heard something about some schools in Las Vegas that ran for a little while and then went defunct. So, if anybody attending this meeting knows anything about that, especially if it exists in the law somewhere, I went looking for it and couldn't find it, please let us know.

8. **Adjournment: 4:55 PM**

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## **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](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 \(nv.gov\)](#)

## **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 [www.adsd.nv.gov](http://www.adsd.nv.gov) and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>