

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

---

## NEVADA COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING – GENERAL MEETING

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024  
9:00 AM

**Location of Meeting:** ZOOM  
**REVISED AGENDA**

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

Members: Eli Schwartz, Eric Wilcox, Susan Beckett, Laura Fussell, Ryan Feldman, Catherine Nielsen, Lance Ledet

Guests: Lora Turner, Meg Cassinelli, Dolores Hauck, Blez & Case Government Affairs, Sabrina Schnur, Molly Rose Lewis, Carolyn Carr, Alexis Griffith, Kimberly Schaub, Andrea Juillerat-Olvera, Courtney Collins, Michelle Montelongo, Michelle "Mickey" Albrecht, Karina Acosta, Allie Crichton, Kristy Fritzler, Kim Johnson, Beth Jones, Jeff Jaech, Adrienne Navarro, Kim Le, Perry Smith, Josie, Scott Youngs, Jennifer Montoya, Ellianna Vega, Megan Johnson, Maria Palma.

Accommodations: Tory Jaramillo, Interpreter; Jamie Jaramillo, Interpreter; Becky Van Auken, Captioner.

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

2. **Public Comment:**

- Molly Rose Lewis is a regional representative in the North for Senator Jacky Rosen's office and Carolyn Carr from the southern office is here as well and they would like to be on a future agenda to let us know what they do at the office.
- Lora Turner, transition rehab supervisor our Deaf and Hard of Hearing team has grown and introduce you to the new team member Meg Cassinelli and we are bringing back the Deaf Camp – Beyond the Deaf home is returning this summer and it is set for June 9- June 15<sup>th</sup> with transition day on June 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be opening registration soon for the camp. Please feel free to

share and in July we will be doing a summer internship program July 8<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Catherine Nielsen the registration for the Silver State Self Advocacy conference is still open, it is August 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Reno and the speaker/presenter application is open for another 4 days. If anybody is interested, please have them apply or register, the event is free for attendees, and we have travel funds in case that is necessary for someone to attend as well.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of the November 8, 2023, meeting.

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

4. **For Possible Action:** Discuss opportunities to support and advocate for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program statewide.

- Perry Smith the program coordinator for the Nevada Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI) gave a presentation on how many families they are screening and how many of those families whose newborns fail the screening end up in Early Intervention and the numbers are low.
- Next, he showed us some brochures that are given to the new parents whose babies fail the screening, those can be found in the meeting documents.
- There was robust discussion on how the EHDI, and the commission could work together to get more information out to the community and the parents as it was acknowledged that handing parents a piece of paper right after birth in the hospital might not be the most effective approach.

5. **For Possible Action:** Review, Discuss and Approval of Dates for Calendar Changes.

- Catherine Nielsen made a motion to approve the calendar with pending changes to the December employment and accessibility subcommittee meetings, taking out the word fundraiser on page 3 and updating the holiday closures. Eli Schwartz seconded the motion, motion carried.

6. **Discussion:** Review Engagement Conference, that was held December 16, 2023:

- In December of 2023 we held the engagement conference. We expected 150 that registered but due to the tragedy at UNLV we had to change locations at the last minute, and we had 113 people show up. We had 20 vendor booths set up during the conference and 8 presentations throughout the conference, with 2 panel conversations, 1 was nonprofit and 1 was community organizations who talked about the services they provide for Deaf and hard of hearing and the advocacy concerns they face. We had a student panel that spoke to the attendees about their experience as advocates within legislative changes.

7. **For Possible Action:** Confirming Dates and Locations of Townhalls

- There will be 3 Townhalls in April, the first in Ely on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the second in Reno on April 16<sup>th</sup> and the third in Las Vegas on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- In October there will also be 3 Townhalls in Elko, Reno, and Las Vegas.

8. **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, and townhall data analysis and Executive Director recommendations.

- The directors-chair report is available in the meeting materials online: [Director-Chair Report 3.27.2024 \(nv.gov\)](#)
- The CAS report is available in the meeting materials online: [CAS Report 2.14.24 \(nv.gov\)](#)

9. **For Possible Action:** Report, Discussion and Approval of Recommendations brought forth by each Subcommittee gathered in their respective meetings and listed in their reports found in the meeting materials.

Obioma Officer, Interim Chair of Accessibility Subcommittee

- There were no requests for the commission from this subcommittee.

Laura Fussell, Chair of Employment Subcommittee

- Laura Fussell made a motion to use the commission letterhead to send a letter to DETR (that is in draft in the meeting materials) and to ask BVR for a copy of their state plan. Catherine Nielsen seconded the motion, motion carried.

Jaime Vitale, Chair of Interpreter Subcommittee

- There were no requests for the commission from this subcommittee.

Eli Schwartz, Chair of Legislative Subcommittee

- There were no requests for the commission from this subcommittee.

Eric Wilcox, Chair of Education Subcommittee

- Eric Wilcox made a motion to use the commission letterhead to send a letter to the Department of Education to start discussion with them on their data and what we've heard from the community. Catherine Nielsen seconded the motion, motion carried.

10. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting May 8, 2024.

- Executive Director Yearly report.
- Elections of Chair and Vice Chair.
- Presentation from Senator Jackey Rosen's office.
- Position statements for the Commission (to be used for testimony in 2025 Legislative sessions).
- 

11. **Public Comment:** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under the public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To

provide public comment telephonically, dial 646.931.3860. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 824 3032 7521 Passcode 302608. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person. People making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

- No Public comment.

## 12. **Adjournment: 11:43 AM**

---

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

### **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>