



Director and Chair Report

May 8th, 2024

General Update(s)

Eric Wilcox, Chair

- Budget Update (FY24 Starting funds of \$26,528.00)
 - Total Expenses (thru 3/31/2024): \$19,808.15 (Pending & Projected add on \$127.92)
 - Balance (as of 1/31/2024): \$6,591.93
- Congratulations to our newly elected Chair and Vice Chair for FY24/25

Obioma Officer, ED

Jenn Montoya, CAS Program Director
& CAS Team Program Representatives

- Communication Access Services Report Updates (see full report here: [CAS Report 5.8.24 \(nv.gov\)](#)) 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

Susan Beckett, 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) – VACANT since June 30th, 2022
 - **CONFIRMED application(s) on file.**



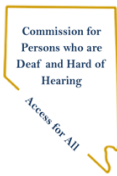
Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- (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 – Term ends June 30th, 2023
 - **No application(s) on file.**
- (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. – VACANT since October 31st, 2022
 - **CONFIRMED application(s) on file.**
- (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.
 - **CONFIRMED application(s) on file.**

Outreach Efforts/Events/Announcements:

Obioma U. Officer, ED

- Engagement Conference 2024
 - **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.”
 1. **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.
- Townhalls Overview/Outcomes (Pahrump, Reno, Las Vegas) – Reviewed as Item #6
 - Finalized Data Analysis and ED Annual Report 2023
 1. Review Townhall Data Analysis, Outcomes, Annual Report, and ED Recommendations for current concerns regionally and statewide (See Meeting Materials attachments: [Commission for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing General Meetings \(nv.gov\)](#)).
- **OPEN FOR DISCUSSION:** Statewide Townhall Tour 2024 – All Meetings to be in person:
 - **Tour 1 OUTCOMES – Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, in Ely, NV (Rural); Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, in Reno, NV (North); and Thursday, April 25th, 2024, in Las Vegas, NV (South)**
 - **HIGHLIGHTED TOPIC(S):** BDR Concepts and Community Check in.
 - **Locations:**
 - **Rural:** White Pine County Library, 950 Campton St, Ely, NV
 - **11** Commission/State Staff Participants
 - **0** Community Participants
 - **North:** ADSD Reno Office, 9670 Gateway Drive, Suite 100, Reno, NV
 - **3** Commission/State Staff Participants
 - **32** Community Participants



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- **South:** College of So. NV 6375 W Charleston Blvd., D-101, Las Vegas, NV
 - 7 Commissioners/State Staff Participants
 - 94 Community Participants
- **TENTATIVE Tour 2 Seeking Venue Availability – Tuesday, October 8th, 2024, in Elko, NV (Rural); Thursday, October 10th, 2024, in Reno, NV (North); and Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024, in Las Vegas, NV (South)**
 - **HIGHLIGHTED TOPIC(S):** BDR Concept Updates and Additional Community Needs – Will result in Annual Report 2024.
 - **Locations:**
 - **Rural:** TBD – Elko, NV (NEIS?)
 - **North:** TBD – Reno, NV (ADSD Reno Office)
 - **South:** TBD – Las Vegas, NV (Nevada State College?)
- **Reminder: D/HH Empowerment Weekend Projections (Dates subject to change pending venue availability and according to demands of Commission/Community engagement):**
 - Friday, December 13th, 2024 – Conference Day 1 & Community Evening DNO (TENATIVE)
 - All Commissioners to be present and registered. Travel assistance available.
 - Saturday, December 14th, 2024 - Conference Day 2 (TENATIVE)
 - All Commissioners to be present and registered. Travel assistance available.
 - Sunday, December 15th, 2024, Nonprofit/Community Winter Gala (TENATIVE)
 - Further details and planning to be announced by Community Partners.
- **Reminder of Remaining 2024 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conferences and/or Nevada Conferences with D/HH components:**
 - 2024 ADARA Conference
 - May 29 - June 1, 2024, Atlanta, GA
 - [2024 ADARA Conference - ADARA](#)
 - HLAA 2024 Convention
 - June 26–29, 2024, Phoenix, AZ
 - [HLAA 2024 Convention - Hearing Loss Association of America](#)
 - NAD 57th Biennial Conference
 - July 1-6, 2024, Chicago, IL
 - [Government Registration – 2024 Biennial Conference \(nad.org\)](#)
 - Silver State Self-Advocacy Conference 2024 – DHH Commission ED Presenting
 - August 6-7, 2024, Reno, NV
 - <https://forms.gle/i1vUBNEtgtW3ueaZ9>



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- 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:

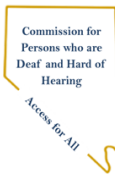
Obioma U. Officer, ED

- ED Annual Report.
- injustices in Nevada.
 - ED Recommendations:
 1. Equal Rights Commission – formal grievance
 2. State License Board – formal grievance
 3. Nevada Hospital Association – Education Letter
 4. US Federal Government Office of Civil Rights – formal grievance
 5. How to Videos on How to make a formal complaint to all above Councils
- Sat. May 4th, 2024, Announcement of a Community Center, “Sammy’s D.E.N. (Deaf Empowering Now) Community Center,” in Nevada – launching soon.
- Ongoing efforts to establish “Position Statements” for the Commission to ensure ongoing Legislative Advocacy across the state.

Chair and/or Vice Chair:

Eric Wilcox, Chair

- April Townhall Tour Outcomes/take aways:
 - Civil Suit Request at the Southern Townhall – Commission employed to address Civil.
 - Deaf Advocacy Center.
 - Deaf School of Nevada.
 - ADA Compliance and Communication Accessibility in Medical facilities.
 - Letter response from ADSD to Eric Wilcox, Chair in response to community concerns (see Meeting Materials).
- Legislature Advocacy Engagement – April 30th, 2024, Presentation for the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs (SVAN)
Outcomes:
 - <https://www.yahoo.com/news/presentation-disability-council-gets-legislators-121044260.html>
 - Community Email to Legislatures from concerned citizen with Commission CC’d (see meeting materials).



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- Civil proposed future engagement – August 2024 Council Meeting attendance to encourage voter engagement.

Networking Efforts: Resources/Collaborations/Potential Partner/Partners

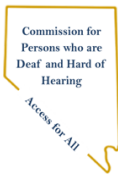
Network System

- 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 efforts current 2024 efforts.

- Assemblywoman Brown May – Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs
 - **Current Efforts/Request:**
 - Assemblywoman Brown May who is the Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs requested a presentation from the Nevada Commission for Persons who Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Presentation was provided:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/un935ubUjbE?si=OhG2ROXpw2xHT-v6>
The meeting was held on Tuesday, April 30th.
 - Presenters:
 - Executive Director, Obioma Officer
 - Commission Chair, Eric Wilcox
 - Las Vegas Deaf Seniors, Shelly Freed
 - Followed up about communication needs during session and barriers presented during engagement.
 - **Last Email:** March 5, 2024
 - College of Southern Nevada (CSN) – Danny Martin Vasques, Senior Interpreter Coordinator
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Potential Community Partnership for resources and commission engagement to further gain knowledge and support for advocacy as it pertains to student interpreters and the post-secondary platform they serve at CSN.
 - **Last Meeting:** May 5, 2024
 - DETER Deaf Camp “Beyond the Deaf Home”
 - **Current Efforts:**



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- Networking, resourcing, and providing a workshop/presentation on the Commission. This includes being a strong presence and guidance of Transition Day on June 15th.
- **Last Meeting:** May 1, 2024
- DHHS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - ED is Advisory Group Member and represents the D/HH community. Aids in addressing current Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion needs of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.
 - **Last meeting:** March 28, 2024
- Innivee Strategies – Collaborative/Resourcing
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Nevada’s current need for Deaf and Hard of Hearing strategics support to revise services.
 - Attending the Conference to meeting community and observe for ongoing support and state approach revisions.
 - Referrals for Mental Health Grant Support
 - **Last Meeting:** January 29, 2024
- Las Vegas Deaf Seniors (LVDS)
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - ADSD Conference 2024 Presentation Proposal for April 16th – 18th 2024
 - Legislative Presentation for – Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs (SVAN) on April 30th 2024
 - Sammy’s DEN Cookout and ongoing Networking efforts for Deaf Services in the State of Nevada
 - **Last Meeting:** May 4, 2024
- Nevada ASL Accessible Therapist Network
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Collaborate or develop a co-op network for ASL Accessible Therapist in the state of Nevada. Hopes are to include workshops, resourcing, presentation opportunities, and outreach.
 - **Last meeting:** April 28, 2024
- Nevada Association for the Deaf (NVAD)
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Closing collaborative efforts from Engagement Conference 2023.
 - **Last Meeting:** May 4, 2024
- Nevada EHDI and Partner Alliance – Perry Smith, EHDI Coordinator
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - This group of EDHI annual meeting attendees will continue to meet to discuss pertinent topics related to Nevada EHDI and items learned at the



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annual meeting. D/HH Commission ED will continue to resource and ally to provide D/HH expertise resources and community partner options for insight.

- **Last Meeting:** May 2, 2024
- Unite Way – Language Access Cross-Sector Working Group
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - To reconvene the Language Access working group comprised of public, private, and nonprofit organizations who are committed to removing barriers to access in Nevada.
 - **Last Meeting:** March 28, 2024
- United Way – Language Access Plans Grant with nonprofits
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Ongoing efforts to aid in effectively utilizing recent grant award for Language Access Plans Grant with nonprofits. Special emphasis on Deaf and Hard of Hearing access through American Sign Language. Providing ongoing advice as the content experts.
 - **Last Meeting:** April 24, 2024

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: August 21st, 2024, @9am
- **REMINDER!** Subcommittee Meetings have changed to 1 hour 15 minutes with new dates. Please adjust.
 - Interpreter Subcommittee: Friday, May 10th, 2024, @4pm – 5:15pm
 - Accessibility Subcommittee: Tuesday, June 25th, 2024, @10am – 11:15am
 - Employment Subcommittee: Tuesday, June 25th, 2024, @11:30am – 12:45pm
 - Legislative Subcommittee: Tuesday, July 16th, 2024, @2:30pm – 3:45pm
 - Education Subcommittee: Tuesday, July 16th, 2024, @4pm – 5:15pm
 - Interpreter Subcommittee: Friday, August 16th, 2024, @4pm – 5:15pm