

Joe Lombardo
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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: Legislative Subcommittee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, July 30, 2024
2:30 PM**

Location of Meeting: **ZOOM**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call and Opening Statement:

Members: Eli Schwartz, Beth Jones, Susan Beckett, Catherine Nielsen, Betty Hammond.

Guests: Lance Ledet, Steven Cohen, Dolores Hauck, Linda Anderson, Sabrina Schnur, Autumn Blattman, Siddharth, Dawn Lyons, Belz and Case Government Affairs.

Accommodations: Naomi Rosen, Interpreter; Vincent Sandoval, Interpreter; Becky Van Auken, Captioner.

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

2. Public Comment:

- Betty Hammond – Whereas in 1990 President George W Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, into law a landmark piece of legislation that prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities in the public sphere. Whereas, in 2004 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was reauthorized ensuring all youth with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education. Whereas, in 2014 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act was signed into law helping individuals with disability gain access to employment, training and support. Whereas the Deaf and hard of hearing communities, their families and allies, witnessed the changing employment and political changes taking a toll on services. The community is acknowledging the state without expertise from the

community and its partners and families has been unable to continuously provide equal access to the following: And there's bullet points. Communication from the state during emergency responses. Access to one-on-one advocacy for issues regarding communication within a variety of state, local and federal entities that the wider community uses and does not have barriers in accessing. Access to state agencies via an interpreting pool designed specifically for that purpose as requested via a town hall by the community in 2019, I believe it was 2019, access to and equal and fair education by the system providing the top-level interpreters to children especially in their developmental phase as a language model. Whereas people running resources are not educated to appropriately provide needed access to the community propose a change in the funding stream. Office of disability service was able to run and grow the program apart from a large bureaucracy a small and talented commission and the community commitment could allow services to continue and grow. Nevada you can do better.

- Steven Cohen – The meeting calendar on the Legislature's Website is currently undergoing revisions. Long story short, I'd check in with the Assembly Chief Clerks office. Last time I did, they only had Fridays available for special days such as PWDHHSI Day.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of the January 17, 2024, meeting.

- Beth Jones motioned to approve, Betty Hammond seconded, motion carried.

4. **For Possible Action:** Commission Directive Topic(s): For Discussion and approval to bring to the Commission for final approval if needed.

a) Updates and reconfirming the subcommittee for Deaf Day at the Legislature 2025.

- We are partnering with Las Vegas Deaf Seniors (LVDS)
- We are approved by the Assembly for April 28th, and we are waiting for the senate to approve us and then we will call it Deaf Day at the Legislature.
- We have been awarded \$8,000 from the DD Council and the money from the previous fundraiser at the Winter Gala and Las Vegas Deaf Seniors is planning another fundraising Winter Gala this year.
- We plan to have two shuttle buses and a hotel overnight. We will have food and a town hall at the same time and invite the legislature members to listen to the community.
- The members of this group who will work with Las Vegas Deaf Seniors are Susan Beckett, Catherine Nielsen, and Beth Jones.

b) Discussion, creation and approval of position statements for the commission to use in the next legislative session.

- Catherine Nielsen wrote a position statement for the position on voting and Beth Jones motioned to bring it before the commission to vote on, Betty Hammond seconded, and the motion carried.
- For Position statement #2 – The Deaf School we have assigned Betty Hammond to work with Obioma Officer, Catherine Nielsen and Lance Ledet on that as they are currently working on the funding portion.
- For Position statement #3 Position on captioning for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Eli Schwartz will work with Lance Ledet and Hearing Loss Association of America Southern Nevada Chapter (HLAASNC).
- These will be brought to the next meeting and then we will work on the next set.

c) Top 3 Bill Draft Requests (BDR's) discussion.

- Deaf School and ASL as a second language getting credit for ASL in high school and colleges in Nevada.
- The whole group wants to be involved and we will start the process.

5. **For Possible Action:** Approval of tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, September 17, 2024.

- This item was tabled but if anyone has suggestions, they can email Obioma Officer or Eli Schwartz.

6. **Public Comment:**

- Obioma Officer- Our next meeting is September 17, 2024, please let us know at a minimum of 48 hours in advance if you will not be in attendance so we can cancel the interpreter if we won't meet quorum, so we do not waste taxpayer dollars.

7. **Adjournment: 3:45 PM**

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