

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Aging and Disability Services Division

Eric Wilcox, Chair; Shelly Freed, LVDS Secretary; & Obioma U. Officer, MA, Executive Director

April 30, 2024

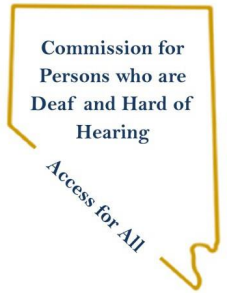


Department of Health and Human Services

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



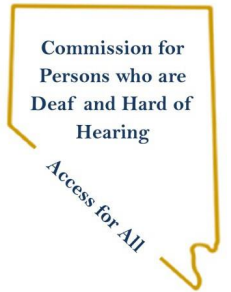
Agenda



1. Introductions
2. About Us
3. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community
4. Community Feedback: Statewide Qualitative Data Analysis Highlights
5. Proposed 2024 Prioritized Recommendations
6. Collaborations: NV D/HH Non-profits & Community Partners
7. Ways to Stay Informed



About Us



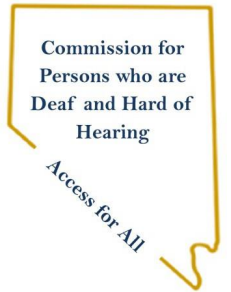
Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH) – established in 2017

- Created within the Office of the Governor, the Commission consists of 11 members appointed by the Governor.
- Recommendations made by the CDHH, in accordance with NRS 427A.750 ([NRS 427A \(nv.gov\)](#)), are considered by the Governor as it [pertains to our Strategic Priorities of \(State Plan 2021-2027 – CDHH State Plan FY2022 to 2027 \(nv.gov\)\)](#):
 - ✓ Access
 - ✓ Engagement
 - ✓ Advocacy

[Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired \(nv.gov\)](#)



Membership

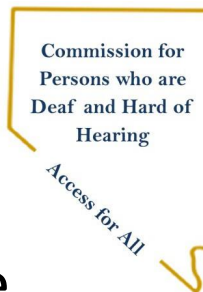


NRS 427A.750 Members (<https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Members/>)...

- (a) One nonvoting member who is employed by the State and who participates in the administration of the programs of this State that provide services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired;
- (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;
- (c) One member who has experience with and knowledge of services for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;
- (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;



Membership, continued

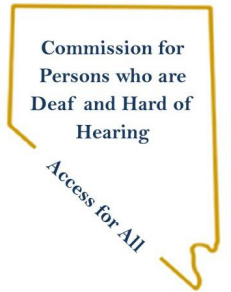


NRS 427A.750 Members

- (e) One member who is a user of telecommunications relay services or the services of persons engaged in the practice of sign language interpreting or the practice of real-time captioning;
- (f) One member who is a parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;
- (g) One member who represents educators in this State and has knowledge concerning the provision of communication services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired in elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools and the laws concerning the provision of those services;
- (h) One member who represents an advocacy organization whose membership consists of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired;



Membership, continued



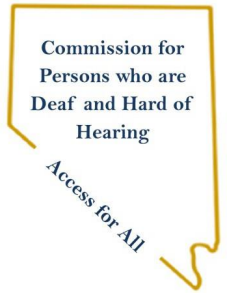
NRS 427A.750 Members

- (i) One member who is deaf or hard of hearing;
- (j) One member who specializes in issues relating to the employment of persons with disabilities; and
- (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.



Our Mission & Vision

Striving to increase access for all!



MISSION

- “All Nevada citizens will have equal and full access to resources, services and opportunities in all aspects of community life.”
- “To advocate for and support the goal that all Nevada citizens have equal and full access to resources, services and opportunities in all aspects of community life.”

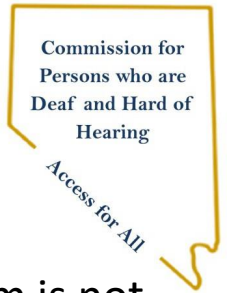
VISION

- “All Nevada residents who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Persons with speech disabilities along with their families and professionals who support them have timely access to information, effective communication, education, and services that promote choice and independence.”

[Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired \(nv.gov\)](http://nv.gov)



The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community



Medical Hearing Loss Defined: Hearing loss can happen when any part of the ear or auditory (hearing) system is not working in the usual way. This involves the outer, middle, and inner ear (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/types.html>).

4 Types of Hearing Loss

- Conductive Hearing Loss
- Sensorineural Hearing Loss
- Mixed Hearing Loss
- Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder

Degrees of Hearing Loss

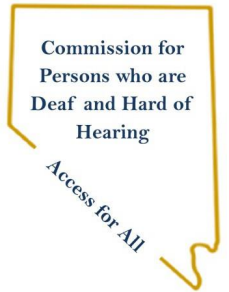
- Mild Hearing Loss
- Moderate hearing Loss
- Sever Hearing Loss
- Profound Hearing Loss

Hearing Loss Descriptions

- Unilateral or Bilateral
- Pre-lingual or Post-lingual
- Symmetrical or Asymmetrical
- Progressive or Sudden
- Fluctuating or Stable
- Congenital or Acquired/Delayed Onset



The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, continued



Deaf Culture 101

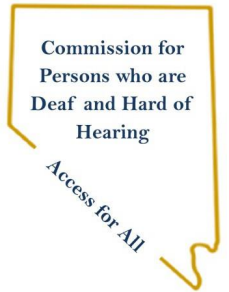
- **What is Deaf Culture?** According to the World Federation of the Deaf, it includes “beliefs, attitudes, history, norms, values, literary traditions and art shared by those who are Deaf”. ... the main aspect of deaf culture is the use of [Sign Language](https://www.handtalk.me/en/blog/deaf-culture/) as the main form of communication (<https://www.handtalk.me/en/blog/deaf-culture/>).

5 Aspects of Deaf Culture:

- **Language:** the use of **Sign Language**. It is important to know that Sign Languages have their own structural and grammatical composition and rules. They are not just a signed translated version of the country’s oral language.
- **Values:** it is essential to preserve Sign Language literature, heritage and other forms of arts and legacies. Alongside that, **clear communication** is very much valued as well.
- **Traditions:** stories from other deaf generations, shared experiences and participating in important events for the community.
- **Norms: communication etiquette** is a must. You have to know about the importance of eye contact, how to communicate and get people’s attention properly. For example, when trying to call for someone, instead of shouting their name, try tapping on their shoulder or delicately turning the lights on and off.
- **Identity:** accepting and recognizing oneself as part of this community, participating and being proud of its culture and heritage.



The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, continued

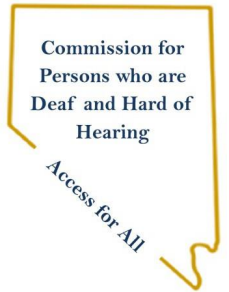


Cultural Identities in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

- **Deaf identity** or immersion: the person identifies with Deaf culture and may also have a negative view of hearing culture
- **Hearing identity** or culturally hearing: the person identifies with hearing culture and sees their deafness as a disability
- **Marginal identity** or culturally marginal: the person identifies with neither hearing nor Deaf culture
- **Bicultural identity**: the person identifies with both Deaf and hearing cultures



The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, continued

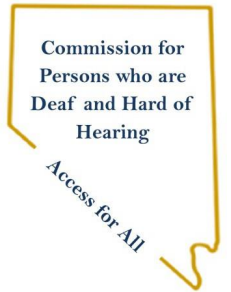


Additional Terms and/or Identities:

- D/deaf and Hard of Hearing (big “D” vs. little “d”)
- Deafblind
- D/HH+ (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Plus/Dual Diagnosis)
- Hearing Impaired (less commonly used)
- ~~Deaf Mute~~ (Considered HIGHLY Offensive)



Community Feedback



October 2023 Statewide Qualitative Data Analysis Highlights

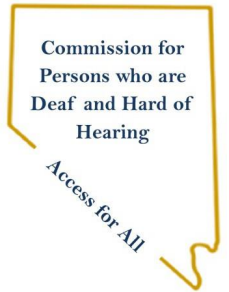
The following is a highlighted summary of the overall accumulative findings of the North, South, and Rural regions.

2023 Statewide Highlighted Cumulative Findings

- **Inclusion of the Community** (Recommendation #1) needs – 41% relevance statewide in ADA Compliance (Theme 2), D/HH Education, Services, and Advocacy (Theme 3), D/HH Equipment and VRI Reliability (Theme 4), and D/HH Cultural Competency and Sensitivity Training (Theme 5).
- **Language Development** (Recommendation #6) needs – 18% relevance statewide in the areas of ASL Access (Theme 1), ADA Compliance (Theme 2), D/HH Education, Services, and Advocacy (Theme 3), D/HH Equipment and VRI Reliability (Theme 4), and D/HH Cultural Competency and Sensitivity Training (Them 5).
- **Healthcare Access** (Recommendation #5) needs – 17% relevance statewide in the areas of ASL Access (Theme 1), ADA Compliance (Theme 2), D/HH Education, Services, and Advocacy (Theme 3), D/HH Equipment and VRI Reliability (Theme 4), and D/HH Cultural Competency and Sensitivity Training (Theme 5).



Proposed 2024 Recommendations



ED Proposed Data Driven 2024 Recommendation Priorities

- Recommendation #1 Inclusion of the Community

Continue community engagement through town halls, roundtable discussions, and statewide Deaf Awareness events. Increase focus on the Legislative Advocacy needs to readdress D/HH Services with a direct service model that includes cultural competencies found in Deaf Schools and Deaf centered facilities/centers, and Offices of Deaf Services nationwide.

- Recommendation #5 Healthcare Access

Increase ADA compliance mandates and accountability statewide to ensure an increase in healthcare hospitality services of communication access, D/HH mental health services, and healthcare network expansions.

- Recommendation #6 Language Development

Immediate intervention in D/HH Education, Post-Secondary Student Services, and Early Intervention Advocacy in Language Development in all school districts. Seek more robust Language Access Plan (LAP) enforcement and qualified audits/check-ins for resource supported programs, I.E.P. compliance, and education needs of instructors and staff.



Collaborations

Nevada Deaf and Hard of Hearing Non-profits & Community Partners

- Communication Access Services (CAS)
- CSD Learns
- Global Technical Communications (GTC)
- Hearing Loss Association of America Southern Nevada Chapter
- Las Vegas Deaf Senior (LVDS)
- Nevada Association for the Deaf (NVAD)
- Nevada Black Deaf Advocates (NVBDA)
- Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (DETR-BVR)
- Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS)
- Nevada Governors Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD)
- Nevada Hands and Voices (NVHV)
- Nevada Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

Commission for
Persons who are
Deaf and Hard of
Hearing

Access for All



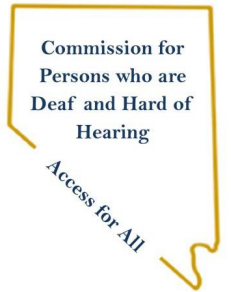
NEVADA
HANDS &
VOICES™





Ways to Stay Informed

Get the latest updates from online!



ONLINE – Check out our webpage!

- ✓ Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

[Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/CDHH)

- ✓ Meeting Dates and materials all posted!

[Home \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/CDHH)

- ✓ NRS 427A.750

[NRS 427A \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/CDHH)

- ✓ State Plan 2021-2027

[CDHH State Plan FY2022 to 2027 \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/CDHH)

- ✓ Annual Report 2023

[State Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/CDHH)

- ✓ ListServ

[ListservList \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/CDHH)



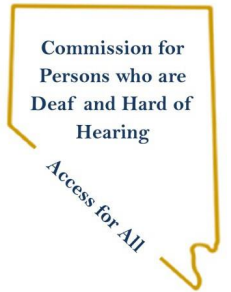
Questions?

**Commission for
Persons who are
Deaf and Hard of
Hearing**

Access for All



Contact Information



Eric Wilcox, Chair
NV Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
NVDeafCommission@adsd.nv.gov

Obioma Officer, MA, Executive Director
Obioma@adsd.nv.gov
725-235-3206 Office/VP

Shelly Freed, Las Vegas Deaf Senior (LVDS) Secretary
LasVegasDS@outlook.com

[https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired/](https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada%20Commission%20for%20Persons%20Who%20Are%20Deaf%20Hard%20of%20Hearing%20or%20Speech%20Impaired/)



Acronyms

- ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act
- ASL – American Sign Language
- ADSD – Aging and Disability Services Division
- CAS - Communication Access Services
- CDHH – Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- DETR – BVR -Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
- D/HH – Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- GTC - Global Technical Communications
- LAP – Language Access Plan
- LVDS - Las Vegas Deaf Senior
- MA – Master of Arts
- NVAD - Nevada Association for the Deaf
- NVBDA - Nevada Black Deaf Advocates
- NEIS - Nevada Early Intervention Services
- NGCDD - Nevada Governors Council on Developmental Disabilities
- NVHV - Nevada Hands and Voices
- VRI – Video Remote Interpreting