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DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
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Jessica
Adams
Interim
Administrator

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

MEETING NOTICE

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, December 17, 2025
9:00 AM

Location of Meeting: Virtual: TEAMS Online

Minutes

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

Eric Wilcox, Chair

2. **Members:** Angee Pompa; Eli Schwartz; Eric Wilcox, Ph.D., Chair; Catherine Nielsen, Vice Chair; Kimberly Bauer-Schaub, Ph.D.; and Jaime Vitale – Newly appointed 11/6/2025

Guest: Bett Hammond, Maureen Fradianni, Steven Cohen

Staff: Jamie Jaramillo, Wendy Thornley, Autumn Blattman, Obioma Officer, Adrienne Navarro,

3. **Public Comment:**

Betty Hammond: Requested that CART transcripts be available upon request for meetings. Stated this was more of a technical concern rather than an agenda item.

No other public comments were made at the start of the meeting.

4. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Minutes of Aug. 13, 2025, meeting.

Eric Wilcox, Chair

Presenter: Eric Wilcox, Chair

Motion: Angie Pompa moved to approve the August 13, 2025, minutes.

Second: Eli Schwartz

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Action: August 13, 2025, minutes approved as official record.

5. **For Information Only:** Presentation from the Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center (NATRC).
Scott Youngs, Project Director NATRC

6. **For Information Only:** Report on activities of the ADSD Communication Access Services (CAS) Program, discussion of relay administrator, and review of plans for community engagement.
Jennifer Montoya, Social Services Program Specialist III

7. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Review and Possible Vote to Approve proposed 2026 Calendar for meetings and events of the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Motion: Eric Wilcox moved to approve the 2026 calendar with amendment to move Engagement Conference from December to a month determined by community survey.
Second: Jamie Vitali
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
Action: Calendar approved; survey to determine new Engagement Conference month.

8. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Discuss Outcomes of the NV Deaf Commission Townhall sessions in Reno, NV, Laughlin, NV and Las Vegas, NV and Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve of Commissioner Recommended follow-up actions following the NV Deaf Commission Townhall outcomes.
Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Presenter: Obioma Officer
Summary: Reviewed Reno, Laughlin, and Las Vegas town hall feedback; discussed follow-up actions.
Action: No formal vote recorded; feedback was given to appropriate agencies.

9. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Discussion letters to community from Catherine Nielsen and Eric Wilcox in response to concerns raised during the NV Deaf Commission's 2025 Townhall sessions in Reno, NV, Laughlin, NV, and Las Vegas, NV and community response.
Eric Wilcox, Chair
Catherine Nielsen, Vice-chair

Discussion only. Eric and Catherine confirmed letters were sent and would be included in the public record. No motion or vote occurred.

- 10. For Possible Action:** Review, Discuss and Possible Vote to Approve Director & Chair Report Recommendations: Budget updates, seat details, community requests, Communication Access Services Report, partner engagements and upcoming outreach.

Eric Wilcox, Chair
Catherine Nielsen, Vice-chair
Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Presenters: Eric Wilcox, Catherine Nielsen, Obioma Officer

Summary: Budget update, membership vacancies, outreach efforts, engagement conference recap.

Action: No separate motion recorded; report accepted.

- 11. For Possible Action:** Review, Discuss and Possible Vote to Approve Bylaw revisions to update Subcommittee Role, Subcommittee Recruitment, Removal of Commissioner and/or Subcommittee processes, and grammatical errors.

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Motion: Eric Wilcox moved to approve proposed bylaw changes clarifying subcommittee onboarding and recruitment/removal processes.

Second: Eli Schwartz

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Bylaw changes adopted.

- 12. For Possible Action:** Review, discussion and possible vote to approve recommendations presented by each subcommittee as detailed in their respective reports, all reports are accessible in the meeting materials.

Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Chair of Accessibility Subcommittee
Jaime Vitale, Chair of Interpreter Subcommittee
Eli Schwartz, Chair of Legislative Subcommittee
Eric Wilcox, Chair of Education Subcommittee
Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Accessibility: Recommendation to revisit interpreter registry deferred to next meeting.

Interpreter: No report (meeting canceled).

Legislative: Bill reactivation discussed; recommendation deferred to next meeting.

Education:

Motion: Eric Wilcox moved to approve sending letter to Nevada Department of Education requesting update on Lead-K implementation.

Second: Dr. Kimberly Bauer-Schaub

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Letter to be sent.

- 13. For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Tentative Agenda Items for the Next meeting, tentatively planned for February 11, 2026.
Eric Wilcox, Chair

Discussion only. Angie suggested adding an agenda item about partnering with Nevada State University for ASL interpreting students. Eric agreed, but no motion or vote was taken, just noted for the next meeting.

14. Public Comment:

Maureen Pratiani shared her experience attending a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) session.

The meeting was originally planned to be in-person in Reno but was changed to virtual on Zoom just one day before.

Maureen expressed that the virtual format was ineffective for deaf participants because:

Presenters did not show their faces.

It was hard for deaf people to see each other clearly.

There was no interpreter provided for the NOFO meeting, which made participation difficult.

Maureen suggested:

Having an interpreter pool so interpreters can be available for in-person meetings.

Ensuring interpreters are in-person and live for public meetings (not virtual), as virtual interpreting is less clear and harder for deaf participants.

In short: The public comment was about improving accessibility by providing in-person interpreters for public meetings and avoiding virtual-only formats for events important to the deaf community.

15. Adjournment: 2:44pm

Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:

NOTE:

- The following complete link for the meeting is included below:
- Supporting public material provided to Commission members for this meeting may be requested from Wendy Thornley, Commission Administrative Support, ADSD at wthornley@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 \(nv.gov\)](https://www.adsd.nv.gov/who-are-deaf-hard-of-hearing-or-speech-impaired)

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 1550 E College Parkway, 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://www.adsd.nv.gov) and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>