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## **Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Legislative Subcommittee**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, February 4, 2025  
2:30 PM**

**Location of Meeting: ZOOM**

### **AGENDA**

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

Members: Eli Schwartz, Beth Jones, Susan Beckett, Catherine Nielsen, Julie Gwin

Guests: Shelly Freed, Lance Ledet, Laura Fussell, Dolores Hauck, Eric Wilcox.

Accommodation: Becky Van Auken, Captions; Kelly Bunting, Interpreter; John Roberts, Interpreter.

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

#### **2. Public Comment:**

- Shelly Freed with Senate Bill SB78 I saw the text that says ableism and audism for the deaf and hard of hearing community. I want to make sure that we are all on the same page because it is critical that we have the Nevada Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission and so to make sure that process that we've been doing for the last three years and that we're striving to do so I want to add that key word for the Deaf community and Deaf Community members so that we are all unified together. For a few bills that have been passed that have been recognized by legislators and the unity that we have but without that word I'm afraid that we are going backwards to square one. So, since we do not have a Deaf center to go to, we do not have accessibility either. So, I want to make sure that we are looking at Senate Bill 78 to clarify, make some changes in the wording within that text.
- Shelly Freed, I forgot an important key word in that text. It's saying the new disability commission only those who can speak English, that's what it says

in the text. So, it's saying the disability commission to only those who can in quotes, "speak". So, meaning to clarify that chair is not accessible for Deaf who are fluent in ASL.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2024, meeting.
  - Beth Jones made a motion to approve the minutes, Susan Beckett Seconded, motion carried.
4. **For Possible Action:** Nominations, Elections, and/or reappointment of subcommittee members.
  - Julie Gwin and Betty Hammond have expired their appointments, Julie Gwin stated that she would like to stay on the subcommittee. Betty Hammond did not make it to the meeting today.
  - Beth Jones made a point that the two people had not met meeting attendance requirements in the past and so decided to delay a vote for the next meeting.
5. **For Possible Action:** Commission Directive Topic(s): For Discussion and approval to bring to the Commission for final approval if needed.

a) Updates from the subcommittee for Deaf Day at the Legislature 2025 and creation of the agenda.

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Shelly Freed, Las Vegas Deaf Seniors Secretary

Stacy Shinn, Executive Director State Innovation Exchange (SiX)

- Shelly Freed let us know that we have a total of \$17,300 for the Deaf Day at the legislature, from the Winter Gala we raised \$8,598 and in total we have raised \$19,016.52 for deaf day and we have put down deposits on the hotel and bus. The plan is on Sunday the bus leaves Las Vegas and there is room for 55 on the bus plus some people will be driving themselves. The bus will make a brief stop in Tonopah and then go on to Carson City and people are on their own for dinner. There is breakfast available at the hotel and the bus will leave at 7:30 AM to go to the legislature where we will have a continental breakfast for everyone and then a townhall from 10 AM -12 PM and then lunch will be Jimmy Johns, and the bus will be waiting for us to leave at 5 PM and we will have Chick-Fil-A and then return to Vegas.
- The team needs to be there at 7 AM to help set up the food and greet people, community access to room 3100 from 8 am – 2 pm. We will have 2 hours for people to arrive and get settled and we will have the town hall at 10 am for two hours and then we will have lunch in that room from 12PM -2PM and we will continue the town hall if needed during that time. Then at 2 pm we will be able to meet with legislators or go to the floor and watch the session.

- Needs are for someone to make a registration form for vendors to have booths at the legislative building during our time in room 3100. Also, we need a registration form for people to attend so we have an idea how many people are coming.
- Beth Jones will make a save the date flyer for us.
- Shelly let us know that 42 seats on the bus have been reserved and 10 people so far for the lottery for the last seats. I wanted to save seats for those who attended the 2023 and 2024 Engagement Conference and Gala attendees and paid for tickets and for those who went to the Deaf Rally last August. Then others would be put on the lottery.

b) Discussion and approval of position statements for the commission to use in the current legislative session. Note additional feedback from subcommittees to be added.

- Beth Jones moved to add a scope of inclusive language to the position statement, Julie Gwin Seconded, motion carried.
- Catherine Nielsen made a motion that would allow us to collect the information and comments from the subcommittee and put them into words and present them at the full commission meeting. Beth Jones seconded the motion, Motion carried with a vote of 3 to 1, Susan Beckett voted against the motion.

c) Updates on Bill Draft Requests (BDR's) sponsors and activities.

- Tabled to the next meeting.

6. **For Information and Discussion:** Legislative information: The 83rd (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature will begin on February 3, 2025.

Here is the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS), link for the 2025, 83rd session of the Nevada Legislature:

[83rd \(2025\) Session \(state.nv.us\)](https://state.nv.us)

[Click here to view upcoming legislative meetings](#) –

a) Senate Bill (SB)78 – Revises provisions relating to boards, commissions, councils and similar bodies.

- Tabled to the next meeting.

7. **For Possible Action:** Approval of tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, May 6, 2025.

- Due to time constraints please email your topics to Obioma and Eli for the next meeting.

8. **Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment.

9. **Adjournment: 4:05 PM**

**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://adsd.nv.gov) and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>