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DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
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Dena Schmidt
Administrator

Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Accessibility Subcommittee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, March 14, 2025
2:30 PM**

Location of Meeting: ZOOM

AGENDA

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

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Members: Thom Duva, Lee Bullock, Paula Koerwitz, Laura Fussell, Lorraine Belt-Dolan

Guests: Samantha D'Ambrosio-Garcia, Chanel Cassanello

Accommodation: Becky Van Auken, Captioner; Carolyn Ball, Interpreter; Ava Smith, Interpreter.

Staff: Obioma Officer, Executive Director; Wendy Thornley, Administrative Assistant III.

2. **Public Comment:**

- Paula Koerwitz – At this time Lee and I and Caroline Bass are working with the Director at St. Rose Hospital to reach as resolution on the VR & VRS interpreting.
- Lee Bullock – Expand on what Paula was speaking the task force spoke with the operations director at St. Rose hospital and they tried will continue to meet until a resolution to improve services in the future can be met.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of draft Minutes of the August 16, 2024, meeting.

- Laura Fussell made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2024, meeting, Thom Duva seconded, motion carried.

4. **For Possible Action:** Nominations, Elections, and/or reappointment of subcommittee members to the Accessibility Subcommittee. Paula Koerwitz and Lorraine Belt-Dolan
 - Nominations for reappointment are Betty Hammond, Paula Koerwitz, Jamie. The new appointment is Lorraine Belt-Dolan.
 - Laura Fussell made a motion to reappoint Paula Koerwitz and to appoint Lorraine Belt-Dolan to the subcommittee, Lee Bullock seconded the motion, motion carried.
5. **For Information Only:** Review current feedback pertaining to Deaf and Hard of Hearing services, resources and advocacy from the Townhalls held in Elko, Reno and Las Vegas.
 - Tabled to a future meeting
6. **For Information Only:** Discussing collaboration for accessibility at polling places for voting with Clark County.
 - Discussions were held and an agreement was reached to have interpreters in 4 polling locations. A schedule would need to be predetermined.
 - Interpreters were provided in four polling locations for the November 5th, 2024, elections.
 - Discussions still need to be held about ASL videos at polling locations. This is a long-term process.
 - Currently the need for a CDI has not been identified but can be discussed in the future.
7. **For Information Only:** Inform the subcommittee about conversations regarding suggested accommodation for accessibility at Harry Reid International Airport.
 - Discussions are ongoing with the airport and a meeting has been set for July 22nd -23 as the Deaf National World Expo will be in Las Vegas.
8. **For Possible Action:** For Review, Discussion, and Possible Action: Examine and assess assignments related to enhancing accessibility in government and medical settings, as outlined in the State Plan requiring potential legislative attention and commission approval.
[https://adsd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnvgov/content/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/CDDH State Plan 2021-2027\(3\).pdf](https://adsd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnvgov/content/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/CDDH State Plan 2021-2027(3).pdf)

- Discussion about developing a position that would speak with healthcare system administrators and be able to collaborate with resources in the community.
 - A meeting with Saint Rose Hospitals Director and department members was planned for April with members of a seven-person task force.
 - A reminder was made to all members that if any time they represent the deaf Commission they must have prior approval from the full commission.
 - The taskforce may ask to partner with the Deaf Commission, and someone could be appointed to represent but it must follow the proper procedures.
 - Thom as to have a commission member join the taskforce to strengthen the efforts.
9. **For Possible Action:** Approval of tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, Friday, June 13, 2025, at 2:30 PM.
- Date Changed to June 20, 2025
 - Task force on Hospital accommodations.
 - Revisit item #5 on the agenda
 - Please email Obioma via email if you have anything else to add to the agenda at Obioma@adsd.nv.gov
10. **Public Comment:** (
- Chanel Cassanello – Wanted to join the call and let us know that Assembly bill (AB) 367 will likely be heard in the assembly committee of legislative operations and elections committee.
 - AB367 is legislation on language accessibility and protects election resources for voters who do not primarily speak English., It also includes a measure to allow voters who are deaf and hard of hearing to use their own interpretation services when voting.
 - Lorraine Dolan-BELT thanked the members for voting her in as a member of the subcommittee and informed everyone that the deaf Commission was hosting the Deaf Day at the Legislature in Carson City.
11. **Adjournment (For Possible Action):** 3:33 PM
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Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:

NOTE:

- To request document translation or interpreter please contact lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov. Si quiere este documento traducido, por favor escriba a lorrainebelt@adsd.nv.gov.
- Supporting documents referenced above in the “for possible action” items 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>