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

### **MEETING NOTICE**

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025  
2:30 PM

**Location of Meeting:** Virtual: [Join the meeting now](#)  
Or Call in (Audio Only Option)  
Call in Number +1 775-321-6111  
Phone conference ID: 699 527 801#

Interpreters will be provided for this meeting.  
CART will be accessible by following this link:  
[Caption Link](#)

(This is a virtual meeting and there is no physical location. The public is invited to attend.)

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

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

Eli Schwartz, Chair

Members: Eli Schwartz, Chair; Beth Jones; Catherine Nielsen; Shelly Freed; Lee Bullock

Excused Absent: Susan Beckett

Guests: Catherine Nielsen, CJ Johnson, Dolores Hauck, Lorraine Belt-Dolan,

CART Provider: Becky Van Auken

Interpreters: Jamie Jaramillo & Sonya Stark

Staff: Obioma Officer, Executive Director; Autumn Blattman,

Wendy Thornley, Administrative Assistant III

2. **Public Comment:** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide

public comment telephonically, dial + 775-321-6111. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 699 527 801#. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

No public comment.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2025, meeting.

Eli Schwartz, Chair

Shelly Freed motioned to approve the draft minutes. Lee Bullock seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

4. **For Information, Discussion, and Possible Action:** Discuss 2025 Engagement Conference Objective and Initiative and the CommUNITY impact over the last 2 years. Action to include a formal request for Planning Team Members to support the Executive Director in aiding planning and hosting this conference.

**[ROUGH DRAFT] Conference Objective:** This conference is a Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Systems Navigation and Resource Development conference for stakeholders and Community Partners. This conference provides a safe space for gaining awareness of statewide resources, peer to peer resourcing, and legislative gains in the Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing CommUNITY. Expanding statewide awareness of Deaf and Hard of Hearing resources and systems navigation as a CommUNITY increases access, engagement, and advocacy statewide within our service provisions and legislative initiatives. These efforts highlight and bring recognition of recent legislative gains and the positive outcomes of CommUNITY focused advocacy through the Commission's ongoing efforts to fulfill the state plan of Access, Engagement, and Advocacy.

**[ROUGH DRAFT] Initiative:** The Nevada Commission for Person who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired is seeking to educate and empower individuals who are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing on the state of Nevada's current resources and system navigation as it pertains to D/HH autonomy in the state of Nevada. This initiative is to promote D/HH communication access and support for the current gaps in knowledge and awareness of State, Non-Profit, and for-profit services and resources achieved through legislative gains. This initiative is to impact the legislative process for the 84<sup>th</sup> session in 2027 and aid in maintaining the momentum of CommUNITY engagement. As a CommUNITY, we must know what we have, to get where we want to be. ***Maximizing legislative gains through D/HH CommUNITY resourcing.***

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Obioma expressed appreciation to the Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) for their support over the past two years.

The DD Council has significantly helped the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission by:

Providing access to communication and legislative knowledge.

Empowering the community to engage with legislators confidently.

Offering educational programs that have had a ripple effect in the community.

Conference Purpose and Objective

The upcoming event is a Deaf and Hard of Hearing System Navigation and Resource Development Conference.

Primary goals:

Create a safe space for awareness and access to statewide and peer-to-peer resources.

Promote legislative engagement and advocacy.

Expand awareness of system navigation and community relationships.

Align with the state plan for access, inclusion, and advocacy.

Initiative Behind the Conference

The initiative is driven by the Nevada Commission for Individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Impaired.

It aims to:

- Educate and empower individuals who are navigating Nevada's systems.
- Promote communication, access, and advocacy.
- Address gaps in knowledge and services.
- Prepare for the 84th Legislative Session in 2027.
- Strengthen community engagement and legislative readiness.

A planning team or subcommittee is needed to organize the conference.

Obioma Officer suggested a collaborative team (e.g., 3–4 members from their team and 2–3 from ADSD).

Emphasis is placed on shared responsibility and ensuring the subcommittee leads the planning process.

The engagement conference will feature four distinct tracks; each tailored to specific community needs:

## **Education, Students, Youth, and Families**

Focused on supporting young individuals and their families in navigating education and related resources.

**Track A:**

Addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by older adults in the deaf and hard of hearing community and the DeafBlind Community

A dedicated track for individuals who are both deaf and blind, ensuring inclusive access and support. There will be a focus on deaf and blind resources and advocacy. There will be contact with the Helen Keller Institute as well as the Nevada Dual Sensory Impairment Project.

**Track B:**

Concentrated on advocacy, legislative processes, building rapport with legislators, and policy development relevant to the community. Allyship will be focused on.

**Track C:**

This will focus on senior citizen resources, advocacy, accessibility, care, Adult Protective Services, age abuse, prevention, insurance communication, Deaf Seniors of America (their president will be invited to present on this subject), and accessibility.

**Track D:**

This track will be about youth resources and advocacy such as Nevada Hands and Voices, Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), 504 Plans, Vocational Rehabilitation workforce services, deaf school resources, DHH curriculum, and communication accessibility for K12 and beyond.

These tracks are not yet fully detailed in the current objective statement but there are plans to revise and include them in an updated draft.

With three months to go before the Engagement Conference (December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with the location still to be determined.), the registration information will be sent out soon.

The following people volunteered to be on the planning team with Obioma Officer: Beth Jones, Shelly Freed, Eli Schwartz, C.J. Johnson, members of the ADA team, and Catherine Nielsen.

This conference will be partnered with the Las Vegas Deaf Seniors and Lee Bullock will be there, representing them.

5. **For Information Only:** Deaf and hard of Hearing (D/HH) Legislative Gains and Outcomes from Nevada's 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session and Proposed Topics to Revisit for the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

a) Outcomes/Gains on Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Related Bills:

Shelly Freed, Member  
Eli Schwartz, Chair  
Obioma Officer, Executive Director

- [AB247 Overview](#) – **Died.** (No further action taken.)

Eli Schwartz explained this bill was combined with other bills and had a fiscal note attached.

- [AB367 Overview](#) – **Passed.** 1. This section and sections 41, 42 and 43 of this act become effective upon passage and approval. 2. Sections 1 to 40, inclusive, of this act become effective: (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and (b) On January 1, 2026, for all other purposes.

Having ASL in the election booth through the electronic devices and pre-recorded signs for each of the ballots to review.

- [AB368 Overview](#) – **Passed.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval. 2. Sections 1 to 36, inclusive, of this act become effective: (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and (b) On or before October 1, 2025, for all other purposes.

Use of Electronic Devices for Communication

Nevada law now allows individuals, including those who are deaf or have physical disabilities, to use electronic devices for communication access without restrictions.

This ensures equal access and removes barriers for those who rely on technology to communicate.

Assembly Bill (AB) 368 – Monitoring Devices in Facilities

Purpose: To protect individuals in care facilities from abuse and neglect.

Key Provisions:

Individuals have the right to install monitoring devices (e.g., cameras) in private spaces like bedrooms, not just common areas.

The individual decides whether to install a device, giving them control over their own safety and privacy.

These devices can help:

Document abuse or neglect that may occur in private settings.

Protect staff and facilities from false accusations.

Provide evidence in cases involving non-verbal individuals or those unable to report incidents.

Additional Notes

Flyers have been created to explain the bill's key points, including:

Who must comply.

Consequences for non-compliance.

Why the law matters.

There is a need for clarification on whether communication devices are also covered under AB 368, as the bill currently focuses on monitoring devices.

- [AB395 Overview](#) – **Died.** (No further action taken.)

Access for deaf and hard of hearing patients in a medical and health care facility.

That was about nursing homes, physical therapy, occupational therapy, having access to sign language interpreters and all the stated the facilities in that building because of.

Web platform cost it would have been \$200,000.

The fiscal note that was attached to that bill is what caused it to die. Las Vegas Deaf Seniors will try for this again in the next legislative session.

- [SB78 Overview](#) – **Died.** (No further action taken.)

This proposed to remove the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission.

- [SB188 Overview](#) – **Passed.** Effective October 1, 2025.

This dealt with access to communication for deaf and hard of hearing individuals and for Spanish speaking patients in hospitals.

- [SB192 Overview](#) – **Died.** (No further action taken.)

There are different birthing centers, hospitals, homes, birthing centers that are required to have a live sign language interpreter,

somebody there in person, or they're deaf and hard of hearing patients. The Commission will work on having a Bill Draft Request for the next legislative session.

- [SB352 Overview](#) – **Vetoed by the Governor.** (Return to 84<sup>th</sup> Session)

This had to do with discrimination by insurance companies. This will be brought back to the legislature for the next session.

- [SB400 Overview](#) – **Passed.** Section 3 effective June 9, 2025. Section 1 effective July 1, 2025. Section 2 effective July 1, 2026.

This bill had an error in its language and is being addressed by the Commission.

6. **For Possible Action:** Approval of tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, November 4, 2025.

Adding bills that were discussed.

Outcomes of activities

Update of the planning committee for the Engagement committee

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

7. **Public Comment:** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial + 775-321-6111. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 699 527 801#. Comments will be limited to five minutes per person. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

No Public Comment

8. **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

## **Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:**

### **NOTE:**

- The following complete link for the meeting is included below:
- [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MmM3NTM1ODEtZjViNC00MmI4LWE5MTAtZDA3MWM1MjhhNzE5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22475491ee-57c2-4886-a603-7652e6b96551%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmM3NTM1ODEtZjViNC00MmI4LWE5MTAtZDA3MWM1MjhhNzE5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22475491ee-57c2-4886-a603-7652e6b96551%22%7d)  
Items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to

an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based on viewpoint.

- We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Wendy Thornley in writing at 1550 E. College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706, email [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) as soon as possible.
- If at any time during the meeting an individual who has been named on the agenda or has an item specifically regarding them included on the agenda is unable to participate because of technical or other difficulties, please email Wendy Thornley at [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) and note at what time the difficulty started so that matters pertaining specifically to their participation may be continued to a future agenda if needed or otherwise addressed.
- Please be cautious and do not click on links in the chat area of the meeting unless you have verified, they are safe. If you ever have questions about a link in a document purporting to be from ADSD, please do not hesitate to contact [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov) for verification.
- This meeting may be recorded to facilitate note-taking or other uses. By participating you consent to recording of your participation in this meeting.
- To request document translation or interpreter please contact [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov)  
Si quiere este documento traducido, por favor escriba a [wthornley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:wthornley@adsd.nv.gov)
- 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](mailto: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 \(nv.gov\)](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 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 \(nv.gov\)](http://ADSD (nv.gov)) and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>