

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard
Whitley, MS
Director



**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: Legislative Subcommittee

MEETING NOTICE

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, May 6, 2025
2:30 PM

Location of Meeting: ZOOM

Draft Minutes

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

Susan Beckett, Acting Chair

Members Present: Susan Beckett; Beth Jones, Catherine Nielsen

Members Excused Absent: Eli Schwartz

Guests: Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Nathanael Officer, Laura Fussell, Lee Bullock, Shelly Freed

Staff: Obioma Officer, Executive Director; 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 646.931.3860. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 841 6228 8658 Passcode: 900960. 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 the February 4, 2025, meeting.

Susan Beckett, Acting Chair

Beth Jones motioned to approve the draft minutes. Catherine Nielsen seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

4. **For Possible Action:** Nominations, Elections, and/or reappointment of subcommittee members to the Legislative subcommittee. Nominees: Shelly Freed and Lee Bullock.

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Shelly Freed and Lee Bullock both introduced themselves. Catherine Nielsen motioned to add the nominees to the subcommittee. Susan Beckett seconded. The Commission voted to approve the nominations. The motion carried.

5. **For Possible Action:** Commission Directive Topic(s): For Discussion and approval to bring to the Commission for final approval if needed.

- a) Outcomes from the Subcommittee Planning Team for Deaf Day at the Legislature 2025 and Community Feedback.

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Shelly Freed, Las Vegas Deaf Seniors Secretary

Stacy Shinn, Executive Director State Innovation Exchange (SiX)

Obioma Officer: Total of 148 registered attendees with a total of 129 who attended; 109 were preregistered; 20 people came at the time of the event. It was a fantastic experience.

Shelly Freed: It was a memorable occasion. Everything was accessible and the schedules and appointments worked out. There was a lot of feedback from people who worked with the lobbyists and legislators. Most people were very happy with the meals. LVDS Las Vegas Deaf Seniors did a wonderful job. There were ASL students and ITP did a great job. Some bills may need to be amended or ratified regarding the fiscal notes.

Obioma Officer: There were 32 separate Legislator meetings with people in our community. The following day, the several people came up to Stacy Shinn and stated that they were thrilled by Deaf Day. Thanked the DD Council for their donations, supports, and sponsors.

Catherine Nielsen: Thanked this group for the DD Council to be there, to be part of the Council. She thanked Obioma Officer for her work putting everything together.

- b) Discuss Updates and Status on Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Related Bill activities:

Susan Beckett, Acting Chair

- [AB247 Overview](#) – **Summary:** Revises provisions relating to persons with disabilities. (BDR 19-574) – “Big Deaf Bill” related

to person with disabilities; Sponsor(s): Assemblymember Tracy Brown-May.

There are no final votes, the last was on April 16, 2025.

Shelly Freed: She met with people regarding the funding. They are looking at the numbers in the itemized budget.

Obioma Officer: Shelly and Eric Wilcox worked with Stacy Shinn to figure out what AB 247 needed.

Catherine Nielsen: Fiscal notes are one of the things that will kill a bill. The DD Council is willing to take that piece on. They want to make sure the discussion about the Deaf School takes place.

Susan Beckett: The sign language was for high school credit.

- [AB367 Overview](#) – **Summary:** Makes various changes related to language access in elections. (BDR 24-364) – relating to elections; setting forth certain language access requirements relating to elections; Sponsor(s): Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.

Shelly Freed: Administration passed so the staff said it looked good, signed and some of the budget was in this portion.

Susan Beckett: When the Assembly Bill passed on April 21, 2025, there were 41 yeas, no nays, and one did an excused.

- [AB395 Overview](#) – **Summary:** Revises provisions relating to services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. (BDR 40-841) – relating to health care; requiring certain health facilities and providers of health care to provide qualified sign language interpreters to certain persons who are deaf or hard of hearing; Sponsor(s): Assemblymember Erica Roth and Assemblymember Tracy Brown-May.

Susan Beckett: There was a reprint on April 24, 2025, but there are no notes yet.

Obioma Officer: Thanked Susan for her presentation.

- [SB78 Overview](#) – **Summary:** Revises provisions relating to boards, commissions, councils and similar bodies. (BDR 18-301) – relating to governmental administration; revising in skeleton form the powers and duties of the Office of Nevada Boards, Commissions and Councils Standards of the Department of

Business and Industry; Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development.

The amendment to this bill has been removed and there is more work on this bill. A new amendment will be proposed.

- [SB192 Overview](#) – **Summary:** Revises provisions relating to public health. (BDR 40-86) – related to public health; imposing requirements relating to birth in a hospital or freestanding birthing center; Sponsor(s): Senator Dina Neal.

There was a reprint on April 25, 2025.

Obioma Officer: This was a huge win for the deaf community when it comes to access for anyone who's experiencing labor and having an interpreter offered as an accommodation.

Shelly Freed: Strongly suggested that the Commission submit a letter to the governor to draw attention and for him to take into consideration of these matters.

Catherine Nielsen: The Governor needs to be educated about the impact of these current bills.

Shelly Freed motioned for this subcommittee write a letter to the Governor outlining community needs and emphasizing the lack of services. Lee Bullock seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

6. **For Information and Discussion Only: 2025 Legislative Session Monitoring**

Executive Director Obioma Officer will provide a brief update and reminder regarding the 83rd (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature, which began on February 3, 2025. Board members will be encouraged to continue to independently monitor legislative developments and utilize the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS) for real-time updates. No specific legislative issues are identified for discussion or board action.

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://legis.nv.gov/83rd-session)

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

Obioma Officer: The members of this subcommittee need to be involved in watching the process.

7. **For Possible Action:** Approval of tentative Agenda Items for Next meeting, August 12, 2025.

Obioma Officer, Executive Director

Agenda items ideas can be submitted to Obioma Officer.

Updates on bills and actions that the members can take.

Actions for the Engagement Conference related to the Legislature and Legislative

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No public comment.

9. **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at: 3:41

Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:

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>