

Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Director and Chair Report 2025

February 12, 2025

General Update(s)

Eric Wilcox, Chair

Budget

- Budget Update (FY25 Starting funds of \$26,528.00)
 - Total Spent/Obligated (through 3/31/2025): \$23,378.42
 - Balance (as of 3/31/2025): \$3,149.58
 - Governor's Posted with Contract increase of \$7,000 for FY26/27 totaling \$34,282 annually (<https://openbudget.nv.gov/OpenGov/ViewBudgetDetail>) see outcomes of the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means meeting held 5/5/2025.
 - The Subcommittee recommended closing the following Aging and Disability Services Division budget accounts as recommended by the Governor, with or without technical adjustments, and provided authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments, as necessary:
 - Tobacco Settlement Program (262-3140) DHS-ADSD-20
 - **Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf (101-1006) DHS-ADSD-23**
 - Senior Rx and Disability Rx (262-3156) DHS-ADSD-24
 - Communication Access Services (101-3206) DHS-ADSD-47
 - FOCIS and MFP (101-3271) DHS-ADSD-85
 - Planning, Advocacy and Community Grants (101-3278) DHS-ADSD-91
 - Statewide Independent Living Council (101-3283) DHS-ADSD-132
 - Additional Meeting Details: [Joint Meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means - 8:00 AM, 5.5.2025, pg. 9.](#)

Obioma Officer, ED
Jennifer Montoya, SSPS III

Communication Access Services Program Report(s)

- Communication Access Services Report Updates: **(see attached meeting materials for supporting document).**
 - CAS available to attend our meetings for reports **upon request**.
- *REMINDER:** All CAS reports will be submitted for Commissioners' review for quarterly meetings in advance due to meeting time restraints. Reports will be reviewed in

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advance by Commissioners for questions to be addressed during quarterly General Meetings. Presentations will be offered upon request for imperative topics of interest or need as outlined by the Commission or CAS team.

- At this time, if there are any questions or clarifications needed, J. Montoya or CAS Team Member can address them if in attendance pending topic of request. If not, please make note of questions for further response and/or clarification in writing prior to our next meeting. Again, presentation is offered upon request.

ED/Chair Updates:

- The Executive Director Annual Report will be completed and shared upon completion and shared at the General Commission Meeting once completed. Further discussion about 2025 Engagement Conference will be held then, in accordance with Annual Report outcomes and pending funding opportunities.

Membership Update(s)

Eric Wilcox, Chair
Catherine Nielsen, Vice Chair

Recently Filled Positions

- Updates or appointments to report:
 - Item #4 – Commissioner Resignation
 - 2 New Appointments: Dolores Parrish, Commissioner Seat L; and Dr. Kimberly Baur-Schaub, Commissioner Seat K.
- Please be sure to apply online if interested.
 - For additional support in the process, please reach out to O. Officer, D/HH Commission Executive Director, to support your efforts and appointment initiative. **Please Note:** Decisions are made by the Governor, at their pleasure and discretion. O. Officer is only available for further directional assistance in navigating the online submission process and can support if further clarification is needed on the waiting period. Boards should be contact directly for further assistance: Boards <boards@gov.nv.gov>.

Current Open Position(s) Report from Boards (Dated: 10/29/2024):

Our records show the following vacancies for the Commission for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired:

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(b) One member who is a member of the Nevada Association of the Deaf, or, if it ceases to exist, one member who represents an organization which has a membership of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired. – **Application(s) under review for appointment.**

(d) One nonvoting member who is the Executive Director of the Nevada Telecommunications Association or, in the event of its dissolution, who represents the telecommunications industry.
– **Inactive**

(g) One member who represents educators in this State and has knowledge concerning the provision of communication services to persons *hearing or speech impaired* in elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools and the laws concerning the provision of those services.
– **Application(s) under review for appointment.**

2025 Chair/Vice Chair Elections

Please note, elections have been postponed and will be held at our next meeting. Be sure to send in your nominations and respond to emails of acceptance or denial if you are nominated in a timely manner to ensure we remain on schedule.

Outreach Efforts/Events/Announcements

Obioma Officer, ED

Shelly Freed, LVDS Secretary

Outreach

- Deaf Day at the Legislature – April 28th, 2025 (Travel includes April 27th – 29th)
 - **OUTCOMES:**
 - 133 Registered
 - 20 Onsite Registration Needed
 - 109 Participated from Registration
 - 9 Vendor Booths
 - 4 Legislature stopped by
 - 32 Lobby Visits Scheduled hosting 2-4 community members in attendance each
 - Feedback:
 - Survey will be sent for community direct feedback.
 - **Budgetary Outcomes:**
 - To be reported on by Shelly Freed, LVDS Secretary

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- Mandatory Webinar on Deaf Day at the Legislature prep and training held on 4/22/2025 at 6:00pm via Zoom, hosted by the State Innovation Exchange (SiX).
 - **OUTCOMES:** The webinar included members of the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf & Hard of Hearing who discussed priorities of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community for the 2025 Legislative Session and Las Vegas Deaf Senior's Representative for AB395.
 - **Hosted by:** Stacy Shinn, Executive Director of SiX Legislators
 - **Commissioners present:** Eric Wilcox, Chairperson. Obioma Officer MC'd the webinar.
 - **Additional speaker:** Shelly Freed, Secretary/Advocate from the Las Vegas Deaf Seniors, and All Voting is Local Director, Kerry Durmick.
 - **In attendance:** Community members attending Deaf Day at the Legislature.
 - **The agenda was as follows:**
 - 6:05- Kick off/Welcome. Overview of Deaf/HH Day Agenda (Obioma)
 - 6:15- Medical Interpretation Bill Explanation (Shelly)
 - 6:20- Deaf Omnibus Bill Explanation (Eric)
 - 6:25- Ballot Language Access Bill Explanation (Kerry/Chanel)
 - 6:30- Overview of Legislative Process (Stacey)
 - 6:45- Lobbying Tips and Tricks (Stacey)
- **D/HH Camp DETR Collaborative Efforts – June 9th-14th**
 - Beyond the Deaf Home and Transition Day
 - **For Possible Action:** Friday, June 13th Camp – ED and Commissioner Guest Speaker Request for 10am at UNLV. Topic: Commission Role and Priorities – Interactive Presentation on Student Needs and Community Request – **Co-Presenter needed.**

Event(s)

- Sammy's D.E.N. Annual BBQ/Cookout 2025 – May 3rd, 2025 (Non-Commission event)
 - **OUTCOMES:**
 - 158 in attendance – Commissioners are encouraged to engage the greater community to show support of developing D/HH outreach.

Announcement(s)

- **REGISTRATION STILL OPEN** – DeafNation World Expo [2025 DeafNation World Expo – DeafNation](#) – **FREE REGISTRATION** – July 22-24, 2025
 - **Daily schedule:**
TUESDAY, JULY 22

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- 8 am to 4 pm: Exhibitor Setup.
 - 12 pm to 4 pm: Pick up the wristband (Bring your e-ticket and ID) at the registration desk by the Pavilion.
 - 8 pm to 9 pm: Kick-off Ceremony at the Fremont Street Experience
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 23**
- 8:30 am to 5 pm: Pick up the wristband (Bring your E-Ticket and ID) at the Registration Desk by the Pavilion.
 - 9 am to 5pm: DeafNation World Expo & Conference Exhibition Entertainment Sessions at the Pavilion. (Location: [3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109](#))
 - 8 pm to 12 am: DeafNation World Pool Event at the Westgate Pool (Restricted to all people who stay at the Westgate).
- THURSDAY, JULY 24**
- 8:30 am to 5 pm: Pick up the wristband (Bring your E-Ticket and ID) at the Registration Desk by the Pavilion. (Location: [3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109](#))
 - 9 am to 5 pm: DeafNation World Expo & Conference Exhibition Entertainment Sessions at the Pavilion. (Location: [3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109](#))
 - 5 pm to 7 pm: Exhibitor Tear Down.
 - 8 pm to 12 am: Evening Event TBD.
 - [HOTEL](#)
Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino
Reserve your room for \$109 per night today! Enjoy cozy accommodations and exceptional service. **Group Code:** [SDNW5R](#)
[BOOK NOW](#)
 - Deaf Commission to have a share booth under ADSD with Ombudsmen, APS, OCHA, and CAS.
 - **For Possible Action: Commissioners needed to man booth both days. – Volunteers NEEDED – Appoint 2-4 representatives to support ED.**

Community Contact(s) – For Possible Action

Obioma Officer, ED
Eric Wilcox, Chair

This section is being added for the Director/Chairperson to report major issues/concerns reported by the community to the Commission.

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Executive Director:

Obioma U. Officer, ED

- N/A

Chair and/or Vice Chair:

Eric Wilcox, Chair

Catherine Nielsen, Vice Chair

- 83rd Legislative Cycle – Chair and Vice Chair have been made aware of the community's concerns with upcoming legislative proposal SB78 and are actively monitoring for ongoing educational opportunities, seeking greater understanding of the needs, and seeking the community to follow their lead. Agrees with the ED's advice to maintain the mindset of COMMUNITY, showing up, and bringing awareness.

Networking Efforts: Resources/Collaborations/Potential Partner/Partners

Obioma Officer, ED

Network System

- If you are interested in one of our networking options, please email us at NVDeafCommission@adhd.nv.gov and we will get you started TODAY!
- For more information and to learn more about the Commission's ongoing vision, please check us out at [Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/Commission).

Recent Resources/Collaborative relationships/efforts

All 2025 current efforts since the last General Meeting made available upon request.

2025 Meeting Schedule Reminder

Obioma U. Officer, ED

- **Next General Commission Meeting, Wednesday, August 13th, 2025, @9:00am.**
- Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings:
 - Accessibility Subcommittee: Friday, June 20th, 2025, @2:30pm – 3:45pm
 - Interpreter Subcommittee: Friday, June 20th, 2025, @4pm – 5:15pm
 - Legislative Subcommittee: Tuesday, August 12th, 2025, @2:30pm – 3:45pm.
 - Education Subcommittee: Tuesday, August 12th, 2025, @4:00pm – 5:15pm.