

Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Director and Chair Report 2025

August 13, 2025

General Update(s)

Eric Wilcox, Chair

Budget

- Budget Update (FY25 Starting funds of \$26,528.00)
 - Total Spent/Obligated (through 7/7/2025): \$25,809.00
 - Balance (as of 7/9/2025): \$719.00

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 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 and Qualitative Data Analysis (see meeting materials).
 - Executive Director Recommendations have been addressed in item #8. Recommendations include: 1. Prioritizing the top three community-identified needs, 2. Empowering subcommittees to begin advocacy efforts aligned with regional feedback. 3. Additionally, including the 2025/26 Engagement Conference should reflect these priorities and include legislative initiatives, with a focus on transparency, collaboration, and addressing unmet needs, including those of the DeafBlind community.

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Membership Update(s)

Eric Wilcox, Chair
Catherine Nielsen, Vice Chair

Recently Filled Positions

- Updates or appointments to report:
 - 1 New Appointments: Angee Pompa, Commissioner – Seat C.
- If interested in Vacant Seats, please be sure to apply online https://hal.nv.gov/form/Governor/Boards_and_Commissions_Application.
 - 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:

(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.

(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.

(h) One member who represents an advocacy organization whose membership consists of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired

2025 Chair/Vice Chair Elections

Please see item #4 on August 13, 2025 General Meeting agenda.

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Outreach Efforts/Events/Announcements

Obioma Officer, ED

Outreach

- Beyond the Deaf Home Collaboration with Vocation Rehabilitation
 - **OUTCOMES:**
 - Staff Orientation, May 30th, 2025
 - Orientation was held in person for ALL 16 staff (2 joined virtually online – out of state hires) at the VR Office on W. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV. Orientation took place in English and American Sign Language; Interpreters were provided.
 - Camp Held at UNLV June 9th – 14th (14th was the Dream Big Deaf Youth Transition event)
 - Camp had roughly 30 students hosted in a cohort model - (2 cohorts: New Students (World One) and Returning Students (World Two))
 - Students engaged in a variety of evening activities and day Pre-Ets Workforce development studies with a robust presentation schedule from Community Partners across our state and more.
 - End of the week the students enjoyed a formal Prom and did a group project that was shared at their Dream Bigh Deaf Youth event MC'd by Obioma Officer surrounded by family, friends, and a host of vendors from the vendor fair.
 - Friday, June 13th Camp – ED and Commissioner Guest Speaker, Eric Wilcox, Chair fulfilled the VR Request for 10am at UNLV. Topic: Commission Role and Priorities – Interactive Presentation on Student Needs and Community Request.
 - Student's enjoyed the brainstorming but were more hesitant this year in speaking up in a larger group.
- DeafNation World Expo Collaboration and ADSD Exhibitor Booth
 - DeafNation was held July 22nd – 24th at Westgate Resort in Las Vegas, NV
 - Registration was upward of 14,000+ and brought in 130+ international representatives.
 - Aging and Disability Services Division's exhibitors' booth highlighted 4 programs and out D/HH Commission: OCHA, APS, Ombudsman, CAS, and the Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

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- Special thanks and gratitude to our team members, volunteer Commissioners and Subcommittee members for engaging attendees from across the globe!
- ASL Therapist Network Meet and Greet – May 31st, 2025
 - O. Officer did a presentation of the history and development of the network and the Commission's initiative to engage the greater community.
 - Event was held at the Lazy Dog at the Lazy Dog in Las Vegas, NV
- Las Vegas Deaf Seniors General Meetnig – June 5th, 2025
 - New LVDS Commissioner Applicant Elected for Seat (h) and additional vacant seat Elected for Seat (b) now that NVAD has been officially obsolved.
 - Both representatives will send in their applications in hopes for appointment by the Governor.

Event(s)

- Deaf Bowling League Tournament Las Vegas, NV – June 27th – 28th
- Deaf Seniors of American 2025 Conference – August 1st – 7th in Kansas City, MO
 - **OUTCOMES:**
 - O. Officer, Executive Director and LVDS Representatives S. Mulholland and S. Freed attended along with CAS Representatives of ADSD J. Montoya and A. Firth.
- National Association of State Agencies for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Summit – August 6th – 7th in Kansas City, MO
 - **OUTCOMES:**
 - O. Officer, Executive Director and CAS Representatives of ADSD J. Montoya and A. Firth attended as members to represent the state of Nevada.
- **SAVE THE DATES:**
 - Thursday, August 14th – CSD Presentation
 - Thursday, August 28th – D/HH Healthcare Medical Summit
 - Friday, December 12th – Community Winter Gala; Host: Sammy's DEN
 - Saturday, December 13th to 14th – NVCDHH Engagement Conference 2025

Announcement(s)

- **Holiday:** Labor Day – Monday, September 1st – State Offices will be closed.
- **Oct. 2025 Townhall Tour**

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- Townhall (North) – Reno, NV – Friday, October 10th
 - Location: TBA
- Townhall (Rural) – Laughlin, NV – Monday, October 20th
 - Location: TBA
- Collab (South): Commission Deaf Day Collaboration – Tuesday, October 21st
 - Location: TBA
- Townhall (South) – Las Vegas, NV – Wednesday, October 22nd
 - Location: TBA
- **Holiday:** Nevada Day – Friday, October 31st – State Offices will be closed.
- **Holiday:** Veterans Day – Tuesday, November 11th – State Offices will be closed.

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.

Executive Director:

Obioma U. Officer, ED

- No additional concerns to present at this time.

Chair and/or Vice Chair:

Eric Wilcox, Chair
Catherine Nielsen, Vice Chair

- All concerns addressed in agenda.

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.nvcdhh.com).

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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, November 12th, 2025, @9:00am.**
- **Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings:**
 - Accessibility Subcommittee: Friday, September 12th, 2025, @2:30pm – 3:45pm
 - Interpreter Subcommittee: Friday, September 12th, 2025, @4pm – 5:15pm
 - Legislative Subcommittee: Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, @2:30pm – 3:45pm
 - Education Subcommittee: Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, @4:00pm – 5:15pm
 - Accessibility Subcommittee: Friday, November 7th, 2025, @2:30pm – 3:45pm
 - Interpreter Subcommittee: Friday, November 7th, 2025, @4pm – 5:15pm