

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 Expenses (through 12/31/2024): \$6,868.21
 - Balance (as of 12/31/2024): \$19,339.99
 - Governor's Budget Posted with Contract increase of \$7,000 for FY26/27 totaling \$34,282 annually (<https://openbudget.nv.gov/OpenGov/ViewBudgetDetail>).

Obioma Officer, ED

Communication Access Services Program Report(s)

- CY24 hearing Aid Program Report
 - In accordance with NRS 427A.610, please see the attached annual Hearing Aid Program report for calendar year 2024 in Meeting Materials.
 - Adrienne Navarro, Social Services Chief II, is available to attend our meetings for reports **upon request** prior to meeting date.
 - 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 will be completed and shared by our next General Meeting. Further discussion about 2025 Engagement Conference will be held then, in accordance with Annual Report outcomes.

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Membership Update(s)

Eric Wilcox, Chair
Catherine Nielsen, Vice Chair

Recently Filled Positions

- Updates or appointments to report: ADSD's update to be shared in item# 4.
- Seat (I) currently under review for appointment.
- 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:

(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

(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.**

(k) One member who is the parent or guardian of a child who is less than 6 years of age and is deaf or hard of hearing. – **Application(s) under review for appointment.**

(l) One member who: (1) Is registered with the Division pursuant to NRS 656A.100 to engage in the practice of sign language interpreting; and (2) To the extent practicable, has experience with and knowledge of interpreting in a primary or secondary educational setting and a post-secondary educational setting and freelance interpreting. – **Application(s) under review for appointment. Currently on Governor's Agenda for February 2025.**

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2025 Chair/Vice Chair Elections

Please remember that elections for Chair and Vice Chair 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

Outreach

- Engagement Conference 2024 – December 13th-14th, 2024
 - **OUTCOMES:**
 - 156 Participants
 - 25 Vendor Booths
 - 1 Legislature
 - Feedback:
 - Please see meeting materials for supporting document.
 - **Budgetary Outcomes:**
 - Total Budget: **\$78,561.22** (*awaiting Chair Reimbursement claim outcomes; estimate \$980.72 not included from BA:1006*)
 - **2023 Conference Balance – \$1,171.13** (balance forwarded by NVAD)
 - **2024 Granted Funds – \$40,500**
 - DD Council Paid directly to vendors \$16,808.26 and LVDS collected balance \$23,691.74
 - **2024 Sponsored Funds collected by LVDS – \$10,368.28**
 - **Commission Expense for Accommodations (BA:1006) – \$7,160.00**
 - Terp – \$5,780.00
 - CART – \$1,380.00
 - **ADSD Support for Terp Accommodations – \$12,736.13**
 - **DETR Sponsored Accommodations – \$6,625.68**
 - 2024 Total Expenditures – **\$78,505.11**
 - Held for pending Vendor Invoice for CART Accommodations – \$600
 - LVDS – \$34,575.04
 - DD Council – \$16,808.26
 - Accommodations – \$26,521.81
 - 2024 Conference Balance forward to EC 2025: **\$56.11**

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- Webinar on proposed Deaf and Hard of Hearing 2025 Legislation for Nevada State Legislators was held on 1/13/25 at 5:30pm via Zoom, hosted by Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May and the State Innovation Exchange.
 - **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.
 - **Hosted by:** Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May and Stacy Shinn, Executive Director of SiX Legislators
 - **Commissioners present:** Eric Wilcox, Chairperson, Eli Schwartz, Commissioner, and Susan Beckett, Commissioner. Obioma Officer MC'd the webinar.
 - **Additional speaker:** Shelly Freed, Secretary/Advocate from the Las Vegas Deaf Seniors.
 - **In attendance:** Assemblyperson Jovan Jackson, Assemblyperson Erica Roth, Assemblyperson Venis Karris, Assemblyperson Tanya Flanagan, Senator Dina Neal, and Senator James Ohrenschall.
 - **Agenda was as follows:**
 - Entering Zoom Room:** 5:30pm
 - Welcome/Kick-Off:** 3 min, 5:35pm (Stacey & Tracy)
 - Overview of Event and Introduction of Speakers:** 2 min, 5:38pm (Obioma)
 - Deaf School:** 5 min, 5:40pm (Eric)
 - Closed Captioning:** 5 min, 5:45pm (Eli)
 - ~~**Higher Ed/ASL as 2nd Language:** 5 min, 5:50pm (Susan)~~
 - Medical Translation (and intro of Asm Roth):** 5 min, 5:55pm (Shelly)
 - SB 78 Elimination of the Commission:** 5 min, 6pm (Eric & Susan)
 - Question & Answer:** 15 min, 6:05pm (Moderator – Stacey/Obioma)
 - Close and Wrap:** 6:20pm

Event(s)

- Networking Event: LVDS Community Winter Gala & D/HH Commission Gratitude Ceremony – December 15th, 2024
 - **OUTCOMES:**
 - 127+ in attendance – Proceeds paid for venue, meal, and Deaf Day at the Legislature needs.
 - 50+ Raffle Baskets Donated to aid in funds raised for Deaf Day at the Legislature (Transportation, Hotel, and Accommodations for Participants during the Event and Townhall).
 - 2023 Total Funds Raised: \$3,392.83
 - 2024 Total Funds Raised: \$5,205.62
 - 2024 Funds Sponsored: \$10,418.17
 - **Total Funds accrued for Deaf Day at the Legislature 2025: \$19,016.62**

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(After Bus and Hotel Deposit = \$17,351.02 COH)

- 14 Nominees for Pillar Awards by the Community representing 4 D/HH Nonprofits
 - 5 Pillar Award Recipients

Announcement(s)

- **Statewide Townhall Tour 2024** – Annual Report Outcomes
 - *Please see annual report: To be posted ASAP (prior to next meeting).
 - Executive Director Overview and Proposed Recommendations
 - **FOR POSSILBE ACTION** – approval of recommendations and 2025 Prioritized Objectives – Pending completion of report.
- **Deaf Day at the Legislature** – April 28th 8am – 4pm in Carson City
 - Registration **COMING SOON**
 - Additional information to follow.
- DeafNation World Expo [2025 DeafNation World Expo – DeafNation](#) – **FREE REGISTRATION** – July 22-24, 2025
 - **Daily schedule:**
 - TUESDAY, JULY 22**
 - 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

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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.

➤ **Commissioners needed to man booth both days.**

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

- **For Possible Action:** Nevada's EHDH program is requesting a "letter of support" from your organization to help demonstrate existing and future collaborative efforts.

Perry Smith, Program Coordinator

- **For Possible Action:** ADARA Article to be Approved.

Laura Fussell, Commissioner

- 83rd Legislative Cycle – Commission has been made aware of the community's concerns with upcoming legislative proposals and are monitoring for ongoing educational opportunities. ED advises the community to maintain the mindset of COMMUNITY, showing up, and bringing awareness.

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@adsd.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/nvdc).

Recent Resources/Collaborative relationships/efforts

All 2024-2025 current efforts since last General Meeting.

- All Voting is Local
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Joining the Ally/Partner efforts for D/HH Resource development
 - Collaborative efforts:
 - Deaf Day at the Legislature Efforts
 - 2025 Engagement Conference in hopes of sponsorship and united educational efforts to systemic engagement statewide
 - **Last Meeting:** January 22, 2025
- American College Healthcare Executives (ACHE)
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Allyship and Qualifying Education for Conference for 2024 Engagement Conference with Corey Axelrod, CEO of 2axend.
 - Last Meeting: November 11th, 2024
- Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May
 - **Current Efforts/Request:**
 - Assemblywoman Brown-May who is the Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs has confirmed attendance and joining the 2024 Engagement Conference breakout session per Community Partner request.
 - **Last Engagement:** Engagement Conference, December 13-14, 2024
- Deaf Community Advocacy Resource Center Discussion
 - **Current Efforts/Requests:**
 - Monthly meetings to network and support the Deaf Ecosystem in development, cohesion, and support of Deaf advocacy and resources.

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- **Last Meeting:** January 22, 2025
- DeafNation World Expo – Joel Barrish Event
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Outreach Collab and advocacy.
 - Preparation for 2025 outreach through advocacy and networking with local entertainment resources.
 - Preparation for 2025 Local State and Community Vendors
 - **Last Meeting:** January 7, 2025
- DETR Vocational Rehabilitation – D/HH Camp and Transitions Day 2025 Planning Team
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Planning Team and collaborative support for Transition Day 2025.
 - **Last Contact:** January 29, 2025
- Dolores Consulting – Networking and connections to LAS Airport and Language Access development/Hospitality in medical settings through ACHE
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - LAS Airport Resource and Advocacy – last discussion was to introduce O. Officer to the ADA compliance officer of the Airport and discuss community concern and ongoing educational allyship as new laws are implemented.
 - UNLV Connections with Medical Department
 - Additional efforts for resource development for 2025 Engagement Conference
 - **Last Meeting:** January 31, 2025
- F2F – Fiorentino 2 Fiorentino
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Efforts are ongoing for allyship, resources, and networking.
 - 2025 Fundraiser through Production Menopause
 - **Last meeting:** January 21, 2025
- GTC Updates and Clarifications of Allyship
 - **Current Efforts/Requests:**
 - Continued collaborative efforts to connect with the community.
 - **Last Meeting:** January 15, 2025
- Innivee Strategies – Collaborative/Resourcing
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Nevada’s current need for Deaf and Hard of Hearing strategics support to revise services.

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- O. Officer attending their Deaf Organization Executive Summit – leadership support following current clement changes and community support
 - **Last Meeting:** January 28, 2025
- Las Vegas Deaf Seniors (LVDS)
 - **Current Efforts/Request:**
 - Ongoing collaborative efforts in Policy and Legislative Advocacy in BDR efforts.
 - Collaborating in the 2024 Empowerment Weekend.
 - Hosting the 2024 Community Winter Gala that will collaboratively house the networking event, 2024 Gratitude Ceremony, that will recognize this year's Pillar Award nominees and winners.
 - Collaborating in the 2025 Engagement Conference - CONFIRMED
 - **Last Email:** January 1/30/2025
- National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Seeking structural engagement of the Executive Director on their Search Committee – further details released following duties/outcomes.
 - **Last Contact:** January 27, 2025
- Nevada ASL Accessible Therapist Network
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Collaborate or develop a co-op network for ASL Accessible Therapist in the state of Nevada. Hopes are to include workshops, resourcing, presentation opportunities, and outreach.
 - Continue the next steps to get ongoing collaborative efforts out to the community.
 - Potential asks to engage Transition Day as a vendor.
 - **Last meeting:** January 12, 2025
- Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center (NATRC)
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Ongoing allyship in community outreach and support of the D/HH Community needs for assistive technology.
 - **Last Contact:** January 7, 2025
- Nevada Association for the Deaf (NVAD)
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Assisting in transition and resignation of Board President and contact support from National level through the local region representative. Further details can be shared by contacting NAD Regional Representative.

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- **Last Meeting:** January 3, 2025
- Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Ongoing D/HH Support and Resources
 - Open Discussions of 2025 Engagement Conference efforts – No confirmations at this time.
 - **Last Contact:** January 28, 2025
- Nevada EHDI and Partner Alliance – Perry Smith, EHDI Coordinator
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - This group of EDHI annual meeting attendees will continue to meet to discuss pertinent topics related to Nevada EHDI and items learned at the annual meeting. D/HH Commission ED will continue to resource and ally to provide D/HH expertise resources and community partner options for insight.
 - **Last Meeting:** November 21, 2025
- Sammy's DEN
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Networking and resources.
 - Redefining Executive Director Allyship and support of community outreach efforts to align with all Community Partner efforts.
 - **Last Meeting:** January 8, 2025
- State Innovation Exchange (SiX) Stacey Shinn, NV State Director
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - D/HH Policy Advocacy and BDR Development.
 - Collaborative educational moments for Legislatures in relation to D/HH needs in policy making and accessibility statewide.
 - Webinar hosted January 13, 2025, at 5:30pm
 - 8 Legislatures present varying from both houses.
 - **Last meeting:** January 27, 2025
- United Way – Language Access Plans Grant with nonprofits
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Ongoing efforts to aid in effectively utilizing recent grant award for Language Access Plans Grant with nonprofits. Special emphasis on Deaf and Hard of Hearing access through American Sign Language. Providing ongoing advice as the content experts.
 - **Last Meeting:** Have missed the last two meetings due to accessibility. The continue to work to improve this aspect to allow for better collaboration. – Very open to ongoing learning and implementation.

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- **University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Well-Being & Integrative Medicine**
 - **Current Efforts:**
 - Collaborative dialogue and advocacy of early exposure of medical students to D/HH Accessibility, communication access, and self-care. Lead contact with Anne E. Weisman, Ph.D., Director of Well-Being & Integrative Medicine as the Associate Professor Medical Education program.
 - Last Meeting: January 7, 2025

2025 Meeting Schedule Reminder

Obioma U. Officer, ED

- **Next General Commission Meeting, Wednesday, May 14th, 2025, @9:00am.**
- Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings:
 - Accessibility Subcommittee: Friday, March 14th, 2025, @2:30pm – 3:45pm
 - Interpreter Subcommittee: Friday, March 14th, 2025, @4pm – 5:15pm
 - Legislative Subcommittee: Tuesday, May 6th, 2025, @2:30pm – 3:45pm.
 - Education Subcommittee: Tuesday, May 6th, 2025, @4:00pm – 5:15pm.