

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

MEETING NOTICE

Date: February 3, 2026

Time: 2:30 PM

Pursuant to NRS 241.020(3)(a), as amended by Assembly Bill 253 of the 81st Legislative Session, this meeting will be held using remote technology only. The meeting can be listened to via telephone or viewed live over the internet.

Join Online:

Meeting Link: TEAMS Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion.

1. Roll Call & Opening Statement:

Members: Shelly Freed; Eli Schwartz; Beth Jones; Catherine Nielsen

Resigned: Lee Bullock 1/26/2026

Staff: Obioma Officer, Executive Director; Autumn Blattman

Lori Lutu, Wendy Thornley, Amanda Mata, Hodan Edan

Guests: **CART:** Becky Van Auken; **Interpreters:** Jamie Jaramillo & Sonya Stark; Shawn McCusker, Yasin Bayraktar Carr, Carolyn, Jaz, Eric Wilcox, Judy Yang, Kathryn Culhane, Honey Houston, Laura Fussell, Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Betty Hammond, CJ Johnson, Valarie Martinez

- 2. Public Comment:** Betty Hammond - stated that anything with Big Beautiful in it is usually a bunch of [explicit]. Captions do not work for everyone, and the FCC has mandated them online and they are still not consistent. Deaf people who don't read English cannot access information via captions and strongly disagree with it.

Catherine Nielsen – registration for the Silver State Self Advocacy Conference in Las Vegas August 3rd and 4th is open and is accepting applicants for attendance for speakers. Travel funds are available for those that may need assistance getting there. Attendance is free for individuals with disabilities and their families' members. For those interested in speaking can register at the Silver State Self-Advocacy Conference Website: <https://silverstateselfadvocacyconference2026.my.canva.site/>).

- 3. For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve November 4, 2025, draft minutes by Obioma Officer, Executive Director.

Beth Jones motioned to approve the draft minutes, Shelly Freed seconded. Members voted and the motion carried.

- 4. For Information Only:** Information and initiation of recruitment of new members as many of the current members are newly appointed commission members. Congratulations to our newly appointed Commission member, Lee Bullock. Being that our bylaws do state that we can only have a maximum of 2 Commission members per subcommittee, A Commissioner, Lee Bullock, has stepped down to increase general community perspective and engagement.

Anyone interested in joining the committee please reach out to Obioma Officer at NVDeafCommission@adsd.nv.gov

- 5. For Possible Action:** Discuss 2025 Engagement Conference Outcomes and possible vote on future Engagement Conference scheduling adjustments. Action to include a formal report from the Planning Team Committee Members on the Legislative Subcommittee, review of notes taken, and attendee feedback from the 2025 Engagement Conference by Eli Schwartz, Planning Team Committee Member and Obioma Officer, Executive Director.

There was good attendance at the conference, this will be discussed further and more in depth at the General Commission meeting on February 11th.

The general public requested to move the date of the next Engagement Conference 2026, from December to November. All Members agreed to move the meeting to within the first 2 weeks of November 2026, no exact date at this time but more information and final vote on dates will be provided in the next General Commission meeting on February 11th.

- 6. For Information Only:** Deaf and hard of Hearing (D/HH) Legislative Bill Reports and research Outcomes from Nevada's 83rd Legislative Session and Topics Approved by General Commission and agreed to last Legislative Subcommittee Meeting held November 4, 2025, to Revisit for the 84th Legislative Session. To include Discussion and Action to revise AB247 into 4 concepts to solicit BDR support. Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Related Bills to be Reported on: Obioma Officer, Executive Director and Eli Schwartz, Chair

- [AB247 Overview](#) – Formally called, “Big Deaf Bill” to be broken into 4 revised concepts:
 - 1. Removal of Sign Language Interpreters in Public Meetings concept
 - No further discussion on this topic
 - 2. Open Captions in Public Spaces - asking Las Vegas City Council to pass ordinance to allow captioning in public spaces
 - Shelly Freed recommended making changes to the verbiage from Open Captioning to Closed Captioning. On a federal level there is an ADA accommodation, however the language is a little weak.

The committee would like to establish something on a State level to be clear and make it a requirement to have Closed Captioning turned on in public spaces.

- 3. ASL as a Foreign Language with Foreign Language Credit, and
 - The revision is to AB395 is to include ASL into schools as a foreign language. Currently on a college level this is seen as an elective credit and not a foreign language credit.
- 4. Deaf School Study vs. Deaf School Request.
 - Shelly Freed recommended, in relation to a fiscal note, that the committee creates an impact analysis report and compare schools for the Deaf and the funding that goes into it and how it compares it to a mainstream program.
 - Shelly Freed offered to provide contact information to Eric Wilcox for a contact at the School for the Deaf and Assessments in California.
 - The Education subcommittee is supporting planning to deploy a survey out to public schools for the students and teachers about the challenges and experiences to hopefully help support the request to create a School for the Deaf.
 - Eli Schwartz suggested that we try and reach out to other School for the Deaf in other states for advice.
 - Beth Jones suggested including information on extracurricular activities for students and how it would benefit the kids outside of a mainstream setting.

Shelly Freed recommended separating all 4 revisions to AB247 Overview into its own individual bills.

- [AB395 Overview](#) – Formally called, Shelly's (LVDS) Bill: Interpreter Access in Medical Settings Discussion and Revisions for Resubmission for BDR support.

This revision would help focus on the senior living. Las Vegas Deaf Seniors have a workshop where they discuss, a representative ombudsman will share what is available at this time and work with the state and move on with this BDR.

- [SB192 Overview](#) – Interpreters Access in Maternity Facilities Discussion and Revisions for Resubmission for BDR Support.

This will be removed as it has already passed.

7. For Possible Action: Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting, May 5, 2026.

Addition to NRS 6568 (CAS State Registry for Sign Language Interpreters) for discussion to provide to support to the Interpreter subcommittee.

Keep all discussed topics from this meeting for updates.

Discussion to plan on how the sub committees can show support for Deaf Day in September.

Catherine Nielsen will be presenting on behalf of Eli at the General Commission Meeting on February 11th.

8. Public Comment: No public comment

9. Adjournment: 3:39 pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Supporting Materials: Supporting public materials for this meeting will be available during the meeting, and on the ADSD website: [Legislative](#). Meeting materials can also be obtained via the Administrative Support Staff listed below.

Translation Requests: To request document translation or interpreter, please contact the Administrative Support Staff listed below. Si quiere este documento traducido, por favor escriba a wthornley@adsd.nv.gov

Accommodation Requests: ADSD program applicants, participants, and board/committee members who require an accommodation may make a request for an ADA accommodation to:

- ADSD Administrative Support in writing (listed below); or,
- Via the [ADSD ADA Inquiry Form](#) located on the ADSD webpage at ADSD.nv.gov.

To acquire necessary aids or services, ADSD requires reasonable advance notice, based on the time needed to arrange the requested accommodation (e.g., scheduling interpreters).

Administrative Support Staff Contact:

Wendy Thornley
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AGENDA POSTING LOCATIONS:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations:

- 1550 E College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706
- Aging and Disability Services Division webpage: [Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired](#)
- Nevada Public Notices webpage: <https://notice.nv.gov/>