

Joe Lombardo  
*Governor*



Richard Whitley  
*Director*

# NV Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Presentation for 2024 Engagement Conference

## 2024 CommUNITY IMPACT

ADSD / OCL

Obioma U. Officer, MA, Executive Director

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024



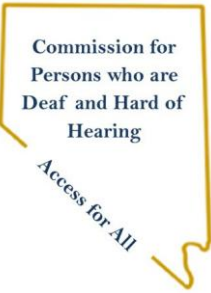
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Department of Health and Human Services

*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



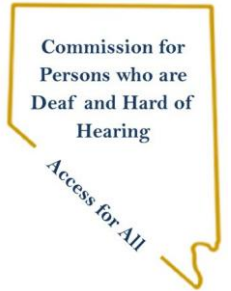
# Agenda



- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Objective**
- 3. NVCDHH 2024 Year in Review**
  - 1. Legislative**
  - 2. Community Support and Resourcing**
  - 3. Bringing Awareness**
  - 4. Inviting Input of the CommUNITY**
  - 5. Highlights**
- 4. What's Next?**
- 5. Contact Information**
- 6. Community Announcements**
- 7. Questions**



# Objective

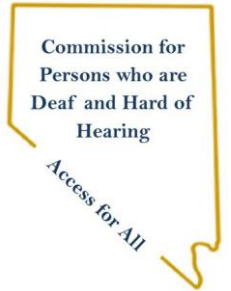


- The Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and hard of hearing initiative to Engage the community has led to a revitalization of community and allyship. This session takes a moment to reflect on the year's activities with the Commission and Community Partners. Highlighting milestones that have led to renewed knowledge and awareness from a community perspective that has gained us access to “Unity in CommUNITY” as seen throughout this conference. Join us as we close our conference with a positive look into our future united as a CommUNITY uniting a stronger D/HH message for CommUNITY based Advocacy for Legislative Change
- **CEUS AVAILABLE:** RID/NIC 0.05 PS; BESW 0.5 CC



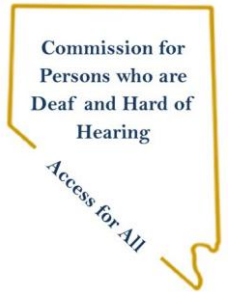
# Legislative

- Gave testimony to the Nevada Legislature on April 30th
- Returned to the Legislature on August 26th for the #NothingWithoutUs event
- Networking with and gaining support from Legislators
  - Networking efforts with Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May and Senator Erica Roth





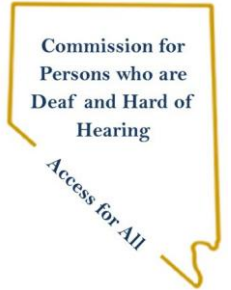
# Community Support and Resourcing



- Deaf Camp at CSN - Beyond the Deaf Home
- Worked with Voc Rehab and DETR to provide a week of engaging activities and helpful resources for the Deaf Students of Nevada. Also, the students had Prom and Transition Day.
- Sign The Show screening in the south.
- Screening of Jesus: A Deaf Mission Film
- #NothingWithoutUs at the Legislature
- Worked with the State Innovation Exchange
- Support with bringing DeafNation World Expo back to Nevada



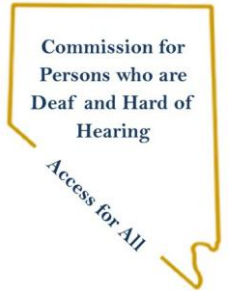
# Community Support and Resourcing



- Supporting community advocacy and engagement connecting community leaders to share the vision and help support one another
  - Sammy's DEN.
  - Las Vegas Deaf Seniors
  - Nevada Black Deaf Advocates
  - Silver State Interpreting
  - Nevada Deaf Access Therapist Network
  - F2F
  - Developmental Disabilities Council
  - Nevada Special Education Technology Assistance Project



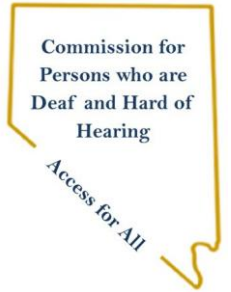
# Bringing Awareness



- Presentations at Conferences:
  - Silver State Self-Advocacy Conference in Reno
  - ADSD's Force Awakens Conference in Reno
  - Language Access Summit in LV
- Collaboration with Joel Barish at the School for the Blind in Henderson to bring awareness to sign languages from around the world and Deaf International travel.
- Supported the community town halls for the Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities in the Fall for their five-year plan.
- Medical Alliance Meetings with ACHE, Hospitality Reps, UNLV Med Reps, Hauck Consulting, and more!
- Collaboration and Awareness Education with LAS in Preparation for 2025 Events
- Gave input on what the Deaf community is seeing and needing in Nevada.

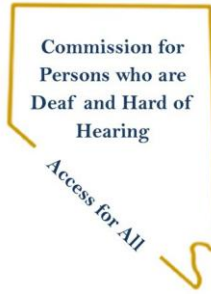


# Inviting Input of the CommUNITY



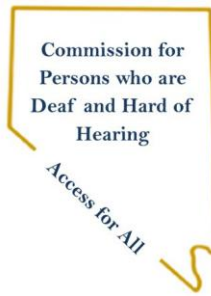
- Quarterly Commission meetings
- Town Halls:
  - Spring 2024 tour (April)
    - Reno, Ely, and Las Vegas
  - Fall 2024 tour (October)
    - Reno, Elko, and Las Vegas





# Highlights

- The 2025 Deaf Day at Legislature is fully funded through ongoing efforts, community collaborations, the Winter Gala, and generous donations from the Governor's Council.
- Since the last conference there has been a surge in community activity:
  - Sammy's DEN Cookout launch in the summer.
  - LVDS Getting a website and increasing membership through community leader networking collaboration.
  - Advocacy for access in entertainment options through F2F.
  - Deaf Santa for the community through F2F efforts.



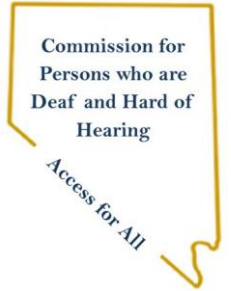
# Highlights

- Deaf access therapist network – presented here this weekend
- Silver State Interpreting agency starting in the North
- Increase in DNOs throughout Nevada, including a large showing for the Las Vegas Super Bowl DNO in February in collaboration with NVAD, and three DNOs in the North coordinated by NVBDA and NATRC, and attended by the Nevada Deaf/HH Commission. In addition to several of Sammy's DEN DNOs, local ASL College Clubs, and Deaf Community members.
- This includes a new engagements with F2F, along with collaborating with Joel Barish.



# What's Next?

- February 2025 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session – February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025
- Deaf Day at the Legislature and April Townhall – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Beyond the Deaf Home – Increasing D/HH Culture and Awareness of our Youth
- DeafNation World Expo 2025 – IT's BACK!
- October 2025 Townhall Tour
- 2025 Engagement Conference
- 365 Days of showing up in UNITY as a CommUNITY for Legislative Advocacy!



# Contact Information

NV Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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[https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired/](https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/NCPWADHHSI/Nevada%20Commission%20for%20Persons%20Who%20Are%20Deaf%20Hard%20of%20Hearing%20or%20Speech%20Impaired/)



# Community Announcements

**Please share upcoming  
announcements of ways to engage in  
UNITY in CommUNITY.**



# QUESTIONS?

**Commission for  
Persons who are  
Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing**

**Access for All**