



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



NAC 656A PUBLIC WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN; the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division held a workshop to consider amendments to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 656A related to the practice of Sign Language Interpreters in Nevada.

The workshop was conducted via virtual meeting platform beginning at 2:00 pm, July 29, 2021, at the following location: [Join Zoom Meeting Online](#), Meeting ID: 991 2051 3066, Passcode: 147914 and via Teleconference 1-253-215-8782. The workshop was conducted in accordance with NRS 241.020, Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

AGENDA

1. Introduction of workshop

Jennifer Montoya began the introduction of the workshop process and explained virtual meeting logistics.

2. Public comment

No public comment

3. Explanation of the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) and the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 656A.

Jennifer Montoya explained the difference between the NRS and NAC and how the presentation is color-coded to show what changes just occurred with SB179 in the NRS and what the proposed changes are for updating the NAC.

4. Discussion and recommendations on the new minimum standards by regulation

Jennifer Montoya and Kalen Beck outlined the current and proposed changes to NAC 656A. The proposed changes can be found on the PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

5. Public Comment

Andrea Juillerat-Olvera gave a public comment. Ms. Juillerat-Olvera asked about the definition of an educational interpreter in NRS 656A.

Laura Fink gave a public comment. Ms. Fink asked what is the anticipated percentage of drop in available ASL interpreters based on these recommendations?

Paul Maucere gave a public comment. Mr. Maucere stated that he appreciated the opportunity to attend this NAC workshop. He then asked how these proposed changes would affect the available number of interpreters. His concern was that there are not enough interpreters, especially in the Northern and rural areas of the state.

Jamers Speier gave a public comment. Ms. Speier expressed concern for the community provisional classification. She felt the credentialing requirements were too narrow and did not allow for individuals who acquired interpreting skills outside of a formal interpreter training program to register. This includes individuals who are Deaf interpreters.

Lisa Wolf gave a public comment. Ms. Wolf expressed concerns about the proposed requirements for being an approved mentor. She stated that the minimum requirement of being an interpreter in a professional registration classification was not sufficient due to the fact that an interpreter could have recently earned their credentials and would not be appropriate to mentor other interpreters. She suggested that the State increase the requirement to include a minimum number of years in the professional registration classification.

Andrea Juillerat-Olvera gave a second public comment. Ms. Juillerat-Olvera also expressed concern for the educational requirement to increase to a bachelor's degree. She felt that the state has many interpreters who are very qualified to work who do not hold any post-secondary degrees. Ms. Juillerat-Olvera included the cost of continuing education as a barrier for many of the working interpreters in the state.

6. Adjournment at 2:45 pm PDT.

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have a disability and wish to attend the meeting. If an accommodation for the meeting is needed, please notify Jennifer Montoya in writing at 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706, via email at jmontoya@adsd.nv.gov or by video phone at (775) 434-0237 as soon as possible.

The exiting law requires the Aging and Disability Services Division to adopt regulations to establish qualification requirements and register signed language interpreters and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) providers meeting the requirements under NRS 656A.

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-656A.html>

The proposed regulation changes provide provisions for the following:

- 1) Definitions:
 - a. Changes the definition of “mentor.”
 - b. Changes the definition of “community setting.”
 - c. Changes the definition of “primary and secondary setting.”
 - d. Changes the definition of “practice of sign language interpreting.”
 - e. Adds the definition of “postsecondary setting.”
 - f. Adds the definition of “professional development.”

- g. Adds the definition of a “nationally recognized sign language interpreter or transliterator certification”
- 2) Removes:
- a. Registration requirement for Cued Speech Transliterators.
 - b. Some definitions for clarity.
- 3) Changes:
- a. The current seven classifications by reducing them to four classifications and adds a student classification per SB179
 - i. Community Professional
 - ii. Community Provisional
 - iii. Educational Professional
 - iv. Educational Provisional
 - v. Student
 - b. The renewal cycle to annual renewal for all classifications.
 - c. Professional Development and Mentoring hour requirement for non-certified interpreters due to converting to an annual renewal cycle.
 - d. The minimum qualification requirements for Educational classifications per SB179.
 - e. Specific language requiring certification types to “generally recognized national organizations.”
 - f. The substitute limitations for educational interpreters.
 - g. Some language for clarity.
- 4) Adds:
- a. Additional acceptable qualifications for Community classifications.
 - b. Time limit for Provisional classifications per SB179.
 - c. Code(s) of ethics for Community and Educational classifications.
 - d. Qualifications for professional mentors.

Members of the public may make comments at this meeting. Persons wishing to submit written testimony or documentary evidence may submit the material to Jenn Montoya, Social Service Program Specialist II at the following address:

Aging and Disability Services Division
3416 Goni Road, D-132
Carson City, NV 89706
(775) 687-0574 (FAX – Attention: Jennifer Montoya)
JMontoya @adsd.nv.gov

If you prefer to provide comments in ASL, please leave a SignMail message at (775) 434-0237.

A copy of the notice and the proposed regulations are on file for inspection and/or may be copied at the following locations during normal business hours:

Aging and Disability Services Division
3416 Goni Road, D-132
Carson City, NV 89706

Aging and Disability Service Division
3320 West Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Nevada State Library and Archives
100 Stewart Street
Carson City, NV

A copy of the regulations and small business impact statement can be found on-line by going to:
http://adsd.nv.gov/Meetings/Meeting_Notices/

A copy of the public workshop notice can also be found at Nevada Legislature's web page:
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Notice/A/>

A copy of this notice has been posted at the following locations:

1. Nevada Disability, Advocacy and Law Center, 1875 Plumas Street, #1, Reno, NV 89509
2. Nevada Disability, Advocacy and Law Center, 2820 W. Charleston Blvd., #11, Las Vegas, NV 89102
3. Nevada Disability, Advocacy and Law Center, 905 Railroad Street, #104B, Elko, NV 89801
4. Aging and Disability Services Division, 3416 Goni Rd., Carson City, NV 89706
5. Aging and Disability Services Division, 3320 West Sahara, Las Vegas, NV 89102
6. Aging and Disability Services Division, 9670 Gateway Dr., Ste. 200, Reno, NV 89521
7. Aging and Disability Services Division, 1010 Ruby Vista Dr., Suite 104, Elko, NV 89801

A copy of all materials relating to the workshop may be obtained at the workshop or by contacting the Aging and Disability Services Division, 3416 Goni Road, D-132, Carson City, NV 89706, 775-687-4210, adsd@adsd.nv.gov.

Per NRS 233B.064(2), upon adoption of any regulations, the agency, if requested to do so by an interested person, either prior to adoption or within 30 days thereafter, shall issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for and against its adoption, and incorporate therein its reason for overruling the consideration urged against its adoption.