**Tim Smalley**

**Panel Questions**

1. Panelist Introductions (Organization, Your Name, and Title).
   * **Nevada Association of the Deaf (NVAD), Tim Smalley, NVAD President**
2. Please prepare to respond in 2 minutes or less for each question. All questions may not be addressed during our panel session.
3. What is the biggest challenge in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community at the moment from your organization’s perspective?
   * **Access to high quality interpreter in School District state-wide**
   * **Access to interpreter in medical/legal situation**
   * **Access to resource and advocacy for our D/DB/HH (That are either part of D/DB/HH community or Deaf person.)**
4. What are the legislative issues facing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community and what changes need to be made?
   * + **Funds. Right now, only certain amount of tax goes toward D/DB/HH community, and the fund is slowly decrease as the technology has evolved.**
     + **Majority of TDD/TTY user has either switch over to VideoPhone (VP) and/or Captioned Call (internet based).**
     + **Landline Telephone user has been decrease meaning our ability to collect fund are getting smaller annually.**
     + **Need to revisit the Interpreter Laws as the new Law that went in effect on April 1, 2023**
     + **New law has prevented from potential Certificated Deaf Interpreter (CDI) within the State of Nevada.**
     + **This new Interpreter laws also impacted some of those small rural cities all over in State of Nevada.**

4.1. What are the most critical changes that we must make to face the future effectively?

* + - **Interpreter Laws need to be revisited to ensure that any upcoming Hearing Interpreter and Deaf Interpreter has ability to work within State of Nevada. (Currently law prevent any of us to be able to success therefore would cost more because need to outsource interpreter service out state to come here and interpreter.**
    - **State of Nevada decided to form new department called “Communication Access Services” (CAS) where they hired 4 “State Interpreters” where they would interpreter for any State Level or any Press Conference by State Leadership.** 
      * + **This happens for year or so then we never saw any State Interpreters because they somehow convince State Level and made some change in how they provide service. So, we lost 4 State Interpreter because they want to focus on “Mentoring” new interpreter.**
        + **We need Interpreters at various State Agencies/Organization/Press Conference**
        + **If Interpreter don’t interpreter Statewide then they shouldn’t have those funds.**
    - **Need either increase tax for landline or come up with some kind of tax on the internet provider and cell phone provider. (can do similar tax concept as landline). By doing this it will increase our overall funds.**

1. What are common issues that prevent people from being advocates for themselves or for the community?
   * **Too many pushes back and oppression from State level,** 
     + **Hearing people think they know what the best for us D/DB/HH people is without even asking us.**
     + **D/HH Commission has very limit ability to help community out due to all red tapes and/or can’t advocate for our community due to the nature of job title.**
     + **State level would show up and listen but doesn’t follow through on most of issues.**

5.1. What is one piece of practical advice you would give to someone starting out as an advocate?

* DO NOT assume you know what the best for us WITHOUT asking us for our feedback. Please prepare to invest time and energy with our community by attending event, meeting, host/provide workshop, or anything.

1. How do we include the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in planning for the legislative changes?
   * **Host meeting with interpreter and explain what is happening in Legislative that could impact our community in general.**
     + **Host meeting with either key leadership from each organization.**
       - **Then the person will bring back all info to their members and collect any feedback to reply back to the person who host.**
     + **Or, can find location and everyone is welcome to come and listen and make feedbacks**
       - (might be time consuming but everyone has chance to voice)