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Telecommunications Device for the Deaf Surcharge

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Agenda Item VIII B (HEALTH CARE)
Meeting Date: 04-24-18

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) Surcharge

Collection of Funds

Allocation of Funds

Funding for full-time
Commission Director

TDD Surcharge Funds - Collection

Pursuant to NAC 707:

- All providers of telecommunication access lines in Nevada collect a surcharge to fund services for persons with impaired speech or hearing
- Current surcharge rate set at 7 cents per line, per month
- The telecommunication providers transfer the collected funds to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN)

TDD Surcharge Funds - Allocation

Pursuant to NRS 427A.797:

- Surcharge is capped at 8 cents per month
- PUCN transfers all collected TDD surcharge funds to the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)
- ADSD uses these fund to:
 - Cover the costs of the Communication Access Services program
 - Fund the centers for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - Cover the costs incurred by the Division to carry out the registry for interpreters and real time captioning providers (NRS 656A)

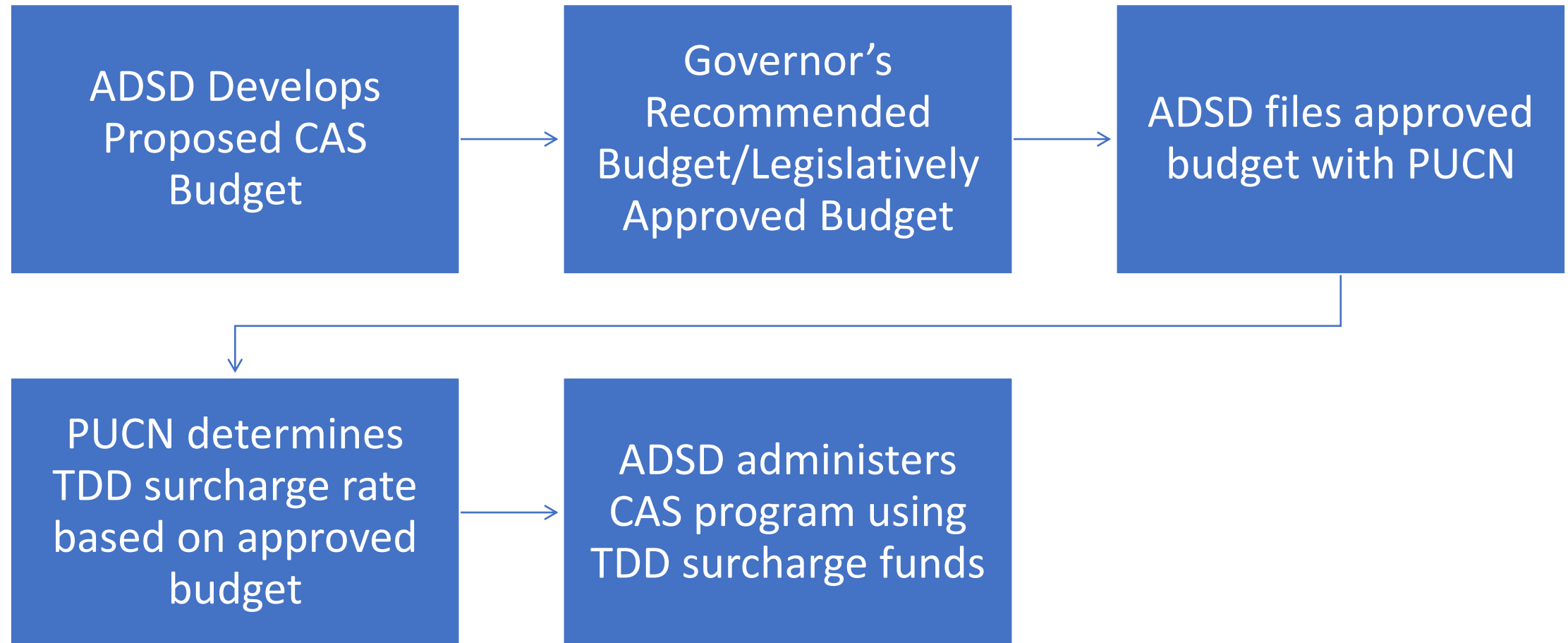
TDD Surcharge Funds – Allocation cont.

- NRS 427A.797 states, “The money in the Account may be used only:”
 - For the purchase, maintenance, repair and distribution of the devices for telecommunication and other assistive technology
 - To establish and maintain dual-party relay system
 - To reimburse telephone companies and companies that provide wireless phone services for expenses incurred in collecting and transferring the surcharge to the PUCN
 - For the general administration of the Communication Access Services program developed and administered by ADSD

TDD Surcharge Funds – Allocation cont.

- To train persons in the use of the devices for telecommunication and other assistive technology
- To fund the centers for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing
- To cover the costs incurred by the Division to carry out the registry for interpreters and real time captioning providers

Funding process



Funding for Full Time Commission Director

The use of TDD surcharge funds to support a full time director for the Nevada Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Speech Impaired

- The use of these funds to support a full time director is not explicitly described in the current statutory authority and would need to be reviewed
- NRS 427A.797 and NAC 707

Thank You

Questions?