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I would like to introduce myself. I am the new Executive Director for the Deaf Centers of Nevada. I am very excited to be able to share with you the new vision and mission of our agency. Are mission is very simple... To serve the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Nevada. We have an unbiased approach to serving the community. We do not care what a person primary language is, or where they may come from. We will service anyone that needs our assistance in helping them became the best they can be and be provided equal access to communications, employment, education and services. We strive to help our community become self-sufficient and to advocate for themselves. We encourage and empower persons that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to live happy, healthy and independent lives. That is our mission.

I am very proud of the team that we have put together. We have a diverse group of persons that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and hearing. This diversity has allowed us to provide services to many people and to open doors for them that have not previously been open. In a very short period of time, we have been able to help 278 new clients and we are now averaging around 25 new clients a month. We take over 400 phone or VP calls per month and received over 200 emails per month from members of our Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. As you can see our agency is growing quickly and we are filling a very critical gap for persons that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in our state.

I know that there is talk of creating a Commission for the Deaf here in Nevada, I am in total support of the concept. However, as the plan currently stands I feel that creating a Commission that would duplicate services and support that is already being met by the Deaf Centers of Nevada is not the best use of resources or time. I believe that through the collaboration between the Commission for the Deaf and the Deaf Centers of Nevada, we will be able to create a strong and sustainable foundation that will be able to truly met the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in our great state. I would love to be able to talk with you more about our agency and services we provide. I also would ask that if you have any questions or concerns that you may call me any time.

I am attaching for your review our Deaf Centers of Nevada strategic plan. I hope this can guide you in more detail as it relates to our specific programs and services that our agency represents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you have a wonderful day and I hope we talk soon.

Best regard,

Kevin

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Agenda Item VI A-1 (SeniorVetSpecial)
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