

**Minutes from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the
Hard of Hearing, Search Committee Meeting.
Meeting held August 25th, 2025 at 4:30 pm.
The meeting was held via Zoom Teleconference.**

Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Sienko called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM.

Commissioners present: Commissioner Sienko, Commissioner Swenson, Commissioner Bolmarcich, Commissioner Kidd, Commissioner Herron, Commissioner Cohen

Commissioners absent: None

AAG: Elise Phalen

ADOA Staff: Brian Westerberg, George McNeely

ACDHH Staff Present: Ricky Gonsowski, Chyla Dalton-Nava

Approval of Minutes- June 26th, 2025

Commissioner Kidd moved to approve the minutes from the June 26th meeting;

Commissioner Herron seconds the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Resume Review

Commissioner Kidd expressed his desire to go into executive session to ask ADOA how they narrowed the list of applicants down to 30 from 60 initial applicants. **Commissioner Kidd moved that the Search Committee enter executive session to discuss the selection process with ADOA; Commissioner Herron seconded the motion, the Committee moved into closed session at 4:43 PM.**

The Committee returned to open session at 5:03 PM. Chair Sienko informed the group that Commissioner Swenson lost power at 4:47 PM and was unable to connect back to the meeting. As a quorum still remains, the group will continue the meeting. Commissioner Sienko explained that George and Brian at ADOA received approximately 60 applications, which they narrowed down to 31 based on each candidate's key knowledge, skills, and abilities. One candidate is no longer interested, leaving about 30 resumes for review. Commissioner Bolmarcich inquired about the purpose of the resume review. Chair Sienko confirmed that the primary objective is to shorten the candidate list for committee interviews. **Commissioner Kidd moved to go into executive session to discuss candidate resumes; Commissioner Herron seconds the motion, the group went into closed session at 5:10 PM.**

Katie Hobbs
Governor



Nikki Soukup
Interim Director

The group returned to open session at 6:04 PM.

Chair Sienko informed the livestream that the committee had narrowed the candidate pool to six. Commissioner Kidd suggested sending a questionnaire to ACDHH staff to ascertain their vision for the agency's leadership. Following this, Commissioner Sienko proceeded to the next agenda item for continued discussion.

Executive Director Search Procedure

The group continued discussing the interview process. Commissioner Herron suggested the committee interview the initial six candidates. Once finalists were chosen, they would meet and interact with ACDHH staff. This interaction could include a presentation to staff, a Q&A session, and a staff vote to determine the best fit. Commissioner Cohen inquired about the standard timeframe ADOA requires to contact all candidates and commence the interview process. Brian clarified that ADOA needs a two-week time is typically necessary to begin the process. Commissioner Herron raised concerns regarding ADOA's proposed process, specifically that Chyla would need to arrange for interpreters and CART before interviews could begin. Additionally, she noted that scheduling six one-hour interviews might be challenging for the group, with a preference for three-hour sessions. She suggested sending a poll to schedule the next meeting. The meeting would discuss interview questions and how the committee would introduce the finalists to ACDHH staff and the community. Chair Sienko will reach out to Chyla to get that process started.

Adjournment

Commissioner Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 PM; Commissioner Herron seconded, the meeting concluded at 6:16 PM.

Dated this 28th day of August, 2025 at 12:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava, Assistant to the Executive Director.