

**Minutes from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the
Hard of Hearing, Search Committee Meeting.
Meeting held September 15th, 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 4:34 PM.

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

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Swenson

AAG: Elise Phalen, Michelle Kunzman

ADOA Staff: Brian Westerberg, George McNeely (in at 5:25 PM)

ACDHH Staff Present: Ricky Gonsowski, Chyla Dalton-Nava

Approval of Minutes- August 25th, 2025

Commissioner Herron moved to approve the minutes from the August 25th meeting;

Commissioner Kidd seconds the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

First Round Interview Logistics, Process, Location

Commissioner Cohen moved that the Search Committee enter executive session to discuss the interview logistics and process with ADOA; Commissioner Kidd seconded the motion, the Committee moved into closed session at 4:42 PM. George McNeely of ADOA entered the meeting and went into closed session at 5:25 PM.

The Committee returned to open session at 6:08 PM.

Criteria for Advancement to Final Round

Before discussing this agenda item, Chair Sienko informed the board that one of the candidates withdrew their application.

Commissioner Kidd moved to go into executive session to discuss criteria for advancement to final round interviews, the group moved into closed session at 6:12 PM. The group returned to open session at 6:18 PM.

Community Town Hall/Community Feedback

Katie Hobbs
Governor



Nikki Soukup
Interim Director

Arizona Commission

for the deaf and the hard of hearing

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Commissioner Herron expressed that she has received feedback from members from the Deaf community, explicitly requesting an opportunity to provide input on their vision for the Executive Director role. She would also like ACDHH staff to have the opportunity to contribute their insights. She would like to discuss the possibility of establishing a community forum to gather feedback. Commissioner Kidd agrees, but states that the challenge will be time. He suggested the possibility of hosting two in-person events in Phoenix and Tucson to gather input, or creating an online survey statewide (e.g., Google Form) allowing ASL video responses from the community. Commissioner Cohen reminded the group that public comments were an option for community members to provide feedback. Commissioner Bolmarcich agreed that public comments were a valuable resource, and also proposed the idea of a livestreamed forum. Chair Sienko let the committee know that she will work with Chyla to arrange this. **Commissioner Sienko moves to table the remaining agenda items to the next meeting; Commissioner Cohen seconds the motion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

Commissioner Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM; Commissioner Herron seconded, the meeting concluded at 6:30 PM.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2025 at 5:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava, Assistant to the Executive Director.