

# INTERPRETING STAKEHOLDER GROUP

## Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2009

Present: Ali Abdirahman, Carol Berg, Larry Bogoslaw, Bruce Downing, Tara Gibbs, Russell Hastings, Kathy Huntley, Alejandro Maldonado, Larissa Martin, Sandra McGown, Sahra Noor, Santiago Morgan, Veronica Newington, Michelle Livon, Tom Hiendlmayr, Ali Khadijo, Sarah LeCocq, Kristin Penaloza, Winston Schimming, Sue Zollinger  
On the phone: Hilda Sanchez-Herrera, Connie Nelson

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### Welcome and Introductions

Members introduced themselves. Membership roster was available to record attendance and to mark with corrections.

### Announcements/ Updates

#### General (time open to members)

Bush Foundation Grant: Bruce Downing reported:

- Given go-ahead to spend the remainder of the funding
- Two areas have been decided upon:
  1. Additional orientation/training in rural MN: specifically Marshall
  2. Training of specialists of oral proficiency testing
    - Will take place summer (July/August) 2009
    - 4 days of training
    - There are enough funds to train 10 people
    - Hoping for a mix languages, i.e., 2 Hmong, 2 Somali, 2 English etc
    - Who would be good candidates?
      - Non-interpreters (conflict of interest)
      - Neutral party
      - Available to proctor oral exams
      - Connected/Respected in their community for their language skills or has history of teaching the language to be tested

Bruce also mentioned an article in the *Language Educator* (April 2009) that he was interviewed for entitled, "Career Focus: Using Languages in Health Care". It highlights the career of interpreting and they published photos from the U of M classes.

Additional Training for Oral Language Raters: Veronica Newington mentioned:

- Training (focus on Somali language) taking place in White Plains, NY
  - If we are able to send two participants to that training, that will open up two placements at the Minnesota training for other languages.
  - Requirements for participants:
    - Similar to that of Minnesota training:
      - Highly proficient in the language
      - Experience teaching the language either here or in other countries
      - Experience in translation and/or interpretation
- Once again, any candidates come to mind?

Veronica will send an email to ISG members to ask for candidates to forward.

Provider Training Module: Veronica said that Stratis Health would like to post the ISG Provider Tool Kit on a new web site they are developing for providers regarding cultural competence but there were questions to be addressed:

- Would they need copy write permission or need to buy the program?
  - They have our permission to use the toolkit and there will be no charge as it was developed with grant funds.
  - They would have an indefinite time frame to use the materials.
- Can they change the content?
  - Not without approval of ISG and Veronica is the contact person.
- Can they change the logo?
  - ISG logo needs to remain on all materials but they could also add their logo.
- Will a copy of the video be provided? And/or could they use the new interpreter training video?
  - A copy will be provided to Stratis Health who can then make the copies they need to distribute to providers.
  - The new training video can be included but considered additional materials as its vignettes do not completely coincide with the order of the Tool Kit and embedding them into the PowerPoint would not create a connected flow of ideas during the training.

UMTIA conference: Tara Gibbs reminded people to register for the UMTIA conference on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. She also said there is an ATA Translation exam in September. Exact dates are on the website: [www.umtia.org/ataexam/ataexam.html](http://www.umtia.org/ataexam/ataexam.html) Pre-test is available.

Century College Training: Tara distributed flyers of the interpreter training to be offered at Century College.

Other conferences: Alejandro Maldonado mentioned some other conferences: 2009 ESL, Bilingual, and Migrant Education Conference

- Title VI workshop
  - It was a great success.
  - Many Minneapolis School District Interpreters will be sent to conferences/trainings
- MDH Roster News Release: Tom Hiendlmayr said that MDH published a news release about the “search function” of the roster and sent it to the MN News Network to disseminate and it is up to them to use in their media outlets. A notice was also included in the nursing home newsletter.

Other Updates

- Texas passed **HB 233**, Relating to the creation of an advisory committee to establish and recommend qualifications for certain health care translators and interpreters.
- A bill (S.F. No. 544) was introduced to Minnesota legislature to make English the official language of the State of Minnesota.
  - The bill was not heard.

### **New Interpreter Training DVD**

Viewed training video that was developed along with the interpreter training materials with grant funding. Members thought it was well done. There was some discussion of the various vignettes.

## Registry Committee updates

Roster/Registry overview provided by Tara Gibbs (overview can be found at:

[www.umtia.org/isgr/isg\\_registry\\_committee.html](http://www.umtia.org/isgr/isg_registry_committee.html)

Discussed the proposal for registry requirements

- See hand out: Ladder of Standards for Minnesota Healthcare Interpreter Roster-Registry-Certification

Questions/Feedback regarding the registry proposal can be directed towards Tara Gibbs via e-mail: [tara@visi.com](mailto:tara@visi.com) Members were encouraged to attend the next Registry Committee meeting will be held May 28<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm at EA Bilingual Services' conference room: 1885 University Ave W Suite 345, St Paul, MN 55104

Revisions that were made to the Roster promotional letter to be sent out to interpreter agencies was approved (had added explanation of ISG and definitions of roster, registry, certification, etc).

## Other Committee Updates:

### Education/training:

Sandy Maloney was not able to attend the meeting today but asked Carol to report that she is still setting up a committee meeting date and the group will be looking at ideas for sources of grants to apply for more training/scholarship funding.

Veronica and Kathy Huntley reported on an opportunity to apply for a Medica Foundation Grant. They want to sponsor more training sessions in Southwest Minnesota. With the grant, there will be enough funds to bring two or more trainings to the area as well as send eight more students through full courses.

### Legislation/Policy:

Sahra Noor volunteered to chair this new committee. Asked for volunteers to serve on this new group. It was suggested to meet with Registry Committee to discuss ideas for policy/legislation to have the committee focus on at this point in time.

## Update on National Coalition on Health Care Interpreter Certification

NCC work is still on hold pending completion of the review of the conflict of interest policy being done by pro-bono lawyers. There is confusion being caused by the certification testing/process being promoted now by Language Line and IMIA.

Discussion followed regarding their offering this now before the work of the NCC is done:

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
No more waiting (something is better than waiting several more years for NCC work to be done) Medical interpreters have the opportunity to have some sort of certification at this point in time	Not endorsed by any organization besides their own No accountability because of restricted access to the test. Created by Language Line which can cause debate based on their language rating history. Providers are content with having "certified" interpreters- regardless of who is certifying the interpreter

- This new testing/certification causes more pressure on the NCC to set a time frame.
- NCC reaction:

- In the mean time, providers need to be pressured to set their own standards for interpreters perhaps creating their own form of testing/training, as pro-bono legal work cannot be pressured.
- Urges providers to keep in mind that Language Line testing is not the only oral testing available to date.

**Ad Hoc work group for exploring organizational structure for ISG**

Alejandro reported that the work group recommends that ISG continue to operate as it does now (as a committee under UMTIA) and that the ISG Executive Committee will meet with the UMTIA Board to further clarify our reporting relationship to them and what else should be done to formalize that relationship.

**Future ISG Meetings:**

- June Meeting: Cancelled because members are encouraged to attend UMTIA conference on June 20-21
- July Meeting: Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, from 10am-12pm
  - Topics:
    - Debrief about UMTIA conference (E.g., updates on certification tests, etc)
    - Committee Updates

Please note that next meeting on July 17 is at the regular morning schedule of 10-12pm.

Submitted by Kristin Penaloza on behalf of Idolly Fajardo, Secretary