

**Advisory Committee on Qualifications for Health Care
Translators and Interpreters**

Meeting Site:

Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
4900 North Lamar
Austin, Texas 78751
February 12, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Detra Stewart
Esther Diaz
Fabio Torres
Jacque Burandt
Manuel Higginbotham
Teresa Williams
Whitney Gissell

Members Not in Attendance:

Gel Detrick
Irma Rubio
Miguel Fuentes
Tony Martin
Zee Broussard

Non-voting Members in Attendance:

Joan Tuttle-Vargas, Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)
Randi Turner, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Christopher Evaro, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
Patricia Hosey, Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

1. Call to order

Jacque Burandt called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

2. Approval of minutes for July 24, 2015 meetings (vote required)

Approved, with one edit.

3. Election of officers.

Unanimous votes were made for Whitney Gissell as committee Chair, and Jacque Burandt as Vice-Chair.

4. Discussion on disseminating information on the committee recommendations to the Executive Commissioner about qualifications for health care translators and interpreters.

See Item #5.

5. Review of communication ideas discussed at informal meeting of September 18, 2015.

Jacque and Whitney led the discussion. The committee reviewed the top ideas, noting which committee members could lead or work on them. Top items were rated according to efficiency: how many people, how much time, and how much cost would be needed for each item.

The committee will work on developing a logo, slogan, and poster template that could be used for different audiences and purposes. Esther will update the committee's PowerPoint presentation to use for a press release and presentations at conferences. The committee discussed the possibility of sponsorship for presentation materials and merchandise.

The group brainstormed on a short slogan or tagline to use for the committee's recommendations, such as the "Gold Standard." Paula will send out a call for slogans to all committee members.

The information needs to be shared beyond the interpreter and translator associations; it should go to hospital administrators, medical professionals, and procurement staff.

The National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) will hold its annual membership meeting in Austin April 1, 2016 in Austin. Members want to share information on the recommendations, perhaps through a press release timed for the opening of the meeting.

6. Discuss goals, work plan, and schedule for committee for 2016.

Esther reminded the committee about the recommendation for a spoken language health care interpreter registry. The committee discussed two options on where to house the registry: the Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators (TAHIT) or Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) web site. If BEI did not host the registry, perhaps there could be a link on the BEI web site to the registry. If TAHIT hosts the registry, interpreters could either pay a fee or become a dues-paying member to be listed on the registry. The registry could use the format Ryan Foley presented at the December 2014 meeting.

At least at first, the registry would list only people who are certified, except for the languages that have no certification yet.

The committee developed a tentative meeting schedule. Paula will send an email to all committee members to confirm the dates.

- May 20
- July 15
- September 16
- December 2

7. Public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Other Discussion

The group listed upcoming conferences/workshops where the committee recommendations could be shared.

- NCIHC Membership Meeting - April 1, 2016 in Austin
- International Medical Interpreters Association - April 29, 2016 in Boston
- Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf - July 21 - 24, 2016 in Houston
- TAHIT Symposium - September 9 - 10, 2016 in Fort Worth
- Translation and Interpretation Network Symposium - September 30, 2016, Fort Worth
- San Antonio Health Literacy Conference - October 7, 2016

Detra and Randi plan to co-present at the Texas Interpreters for the Deaf (TSID) Conference.

Manuel will offer the *Bridging the Gap* class in February and March at UMC Brackenridge.

The oral test for certification by the Certification Commission on Healthcare Interpreting is now offered in Austin.

Action Items

Paula: ask committee members to send in slogans for the template; get information on how to develop a press release with HHSC Communications.

Esther: work with Joan Tuttle-Vargas how to update the committee's *Interpreter Help* website; update the committee's PowerPoint presentation; find out if committee can have a table or booth at NCIHC.

Esther: send Joint Commission document to members to give to health care facility language services managers.

Whitney: look into developing a hashtag and Facebook page.

Joan: check to see if DADS media can assist with preparing materials.

Jacque: send poster template from Health Literacy; determine if UHS can help with logo and template.

Next Meetings

March 18, 2016, Brown-Heatly 4501

May 20, 2016

July 15, 2016

September 16, 2016

December 2, 2016