

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
Court Interpreter Funding Committee
MINUTES

February 28, 2003
State Courts Building
Conference Room 422
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Louraine C. Arkfeld
Kathy Barrett
Judge Margarita Bernal, by Phone
Judge Francisca Cota, By Phone
Jayson Meline, By Phone
Donna Whitman, By Phone
Marian Yim

AOC STAFF:

Karen Kretschman, AOC, CSD
Ted Wilson, AOC, CSD

1. Report on Action Items

Research on Grant Sources

Judge Arkfeld reported on the research she had regarding grant sources hold potential for this committee. They included State Justice Institute (SJI); the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Byrne Foundation and private funding such as Valley Leadership. Of the group researched, only SJI funding looks like it holds any promise at this time.

She said that although single jurisdiction SJI grants are no longer available other possibilities exist. SJI annual grants are based on the federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) and the closing date for applications was February 7th. However, they also have Curriculum Adaptation Grants of up to \$20,000 that are offered on a quarterly basis. These quarterly grants allow groups to adapt existing training curricula from other jurisdictions that for use by programs under development. This will be further explored. SJI also provide technical assistance grants that provide funding for a consultant to provide assistance in program development or allow committee to travel to other jurisdictions for on-sight training technical assistance.

Ted mentioned that there are three areas of funding needed for Arizona's court interpreter program. They are 1) interpreter training (including orientation classes) funds, 2) test procurement and administration funds, and 3) funds for ongoing

management of the program, including staffing of an interpreter oversight committee. This committee agreed that it might be appropriate to get a portion of the funding in place, i.e., training, then work on securing resources for the other areas.

The committee will work with Education Services, the Arizona Court Interpreters Association and other sources to find the best approach of gathering information needed to develop a model interpreter training curriculum.

Department of Highway Safety

Judge Bernal reported that she had contacted the Governor's Office of Highway Safety regarding possible funding. She indicated that she has worked with the office on for other projects and that there is a possibility that some type of funding for interpreters might be available. Judge Bernal and Ted Wilson will work on developing an interest letter and proposal.

Responses from "Court2Court"

Ted Wilson reported that a query was posted to the Court2Court list serve, a service managed by the National Center for State Courts that allows court administrators and others interested the court management to share information and discuss issues related to the courts. As of the start of the meeting, few responses to the question of how other jurisdictions are funding their services had been received. Of note, Wisconsin reported that they do not receive any state funding for its orientation and certification program. They were able to start orientation sessions using a grant received from the state's Office of Refugee Services, passing through federal refugee resettlement money. However, the basic requirement is that states applying for these funds need a sizable refugee population - not Spanish-speaking population. Missouri obtained a one-year STOP Violence Against Women Act grant to fund foreign language interpreters need by LEP female victims who are filing a petition for protection order and in subsequent proceedings.

Jayson Meline also did some research regarding other states' approach to funding. His email showed that most of the states he contacted had received some state funding. However, the funding has been recently cut to an almost nonexistent level by most states.

Meeting with NCSC Consortium Members

Ted mentioned that he and Donna, and any other members of the committee who might be available, planned to meet with Robert Joe Lee, Supervisor of the Court Interpreting, Legal Translating and Bilingual Services Section for the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts and Wanda Romberger, Manager, Court Interpreter Services in the research division of the National Center for State Courts. Wanda manages the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2003, while these individuals are in

Arizona to attend a conference. The purpose is to get additional ideas about funding sources.

2. March 2003 AJC Agenda

Ted mentioned that Judge Arellano on the agenda to make a presentation at the March 12, 2003 meeting of the Arizona Judicial Council. She will be providing an update of the work of the Commission to include material from the February 12th meeting and from this meeting. A report will be made at the next meeting of this committee.

Action Items

- ▶ Report from meeting with Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification members.
- ▶ Ted and Judge Bernal will contact the Governor's Office of Highway Safety about grant possibilities for interpreter services.
- ▶ Kathy Barrett will work on developing budget numbers.
- ▶ Marian Yim will contact the Governor's Office about other funding sources and explore provisions for Title 4D grants.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 19th at the Superior Court Southeast Facility in Mesa, starting at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will center on developing grant proposals from the organizations identified thus far.