

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.

Arizona Supreme Court
Court Interpreters Funding Committee Meeting
March 19, 2003
Superior Court in Maricopa County
Cholla Room, Juvenile Court Facility
1810 South Lewis Drive
Mesa, Arizona

In Attendance:

Judge Silvia Arellano
Kathy Barrett
Judge Margarita Bernal by telephone
Judge Fran Cota
Jayson Meline
Marian Yim by telephone
Donna Whitman by telephone
Mark Stodola for Judge Arkfeld
Ted Wilson

Welcome and introductions

Judge Arellano opened the meeting and introduced individuals who were in attendance. Marian Yim, Judge Bernal and Donna Whitman participated by telephone. Mark Stodola, Deputy Administrator at the Tempe Municipal Court attended on behalf of Judge Arkfeld. Judge Arellano indicated that she might not be available for the entire meeting because of a pending hearing.

The minutes of the February 28, 2003 meeting were approved.

Ted Wilson reported that Judge Arellano was unavailable for the March 12th meeting of the Arizona Judicial Council and that Marian Yim was scheduled to make a presentation of this committee's activities. However, the AJC agenda was running about 2 hours behind so it was decided to remove this item from the agenda. The consensus was to request that this committee's report be provided at the next AJC meeting. The date of the next AJC meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2003.

Ted Wilson and Donna Whitman reported on their meeting 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. The meeting was to allow Donna and Ted to get information that might benefit this committee in developing court interpreter funding. Robert and Wanda relayed experiences from Florida and New Jersey. Both states initially funded their interpreter programs through state general revenues with some portion of the total expenses paid by interpreters for training and testing. They also provided information about other states

that have primarily used general funds for interpreter programs but said that a couple of states have been successful in getting grants. One example is the state of Wisconsin's ability to secure a grant through the Office of Refugee Services, Department of Workforce Development.

Action Items:

In light of the generally limited availability of grant funds, the committee discussed the idea of separating the three general areas of funding needs. Rather than look for a grant source for entire program the committee feels that by separating grant needs into the areas of 1) curriculum development and training; 2) testing, to include securing tests and administering them; and 3) interpreter certification administration, will allow a gradual approach to implementing an interpreter program, with a greater potential for success. It should be easier to get funds in these smaller increments since organizations that are in a position to fund the aggregate program have not been uncovered in research to date.

Training Sources. Jason Meline reported that he had done a nation-wide community college search of interpreter classes. He indicated that most schools offer interpreter classes through extended learning and most usually award a certification of completion. He will provide material on curricula that he was able to obtain. He also mentioned that the interpreter programs offered at UC Davis, UC San Francisco and UC Riverside are slowly dying because of lack of students. The belief is that the market for interpreters in California is becoming saturated.

Donna Whitman reported that Dr. Gonzalez is working on an interpreter component as part of the for the University's general curriculum. Donna also reported that the Arizona Court Interpreters Association is willing to help local schools with curriculum development.

Grant Proposal Discussion

The committee discussed the three separate funding areas. As mentioned earlier these are: 1) training, 2) testing, and 3) certification program administration. They also reviewed various funding sources including SJI grants, and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety

The committee agreed to start the process of developing and submitting a grant request to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. The funds, if approved with be used for curriculum development and training

Jayson and Donna will start to work on an interpreter workshop curriculum. This curriculum will include material on interpreter case law, ethics, courtroom protocol and due process.

The next meeting was tentatively set for Monday, April 21, 2003. Meeting adjourned.

Arizona Supreme Court
Court Interpreters Funding Committee Meeting
April 21, 2003
Superior Court in Maricopa County
Cholla Room, Juvenile Court Facility
1810 South Lewis Drive
Mesa, Arizona

In Attendance:

Judge Silvia Arellano
Judge Margarita Bernal
Jayson Meline
Donna Whitman
Marian Yim
Mark Stodola for Judge Arkfeld
Ted Wilson
Karen Kretschman

The meeting was called to order by Judge Arellano at 1:15 p.m.

The minutes of the March 19, 2003 meeting were approved.

This meeting was devoted to a critique and editing the proposal for training funds from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. The committee reviewed each section of the grant. The changes will be incorporated and final copy submitted by Ted Wilson.

The committee agreed to next meet on Monday, May 12, 2003, again at the SEF. The committee discussed follow-up items and the tentative agenda for this meeting. These included exploring Violence Against Women and IV grants.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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**Interpreter Funding Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2003
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Superior Court in Maricopa County
Southeast Juvenile Facility
1820 South Lewis Drive
Mesa, AZ**

Members Present:

Judge Silvia Arellano
Judge Louraine Arkfeld
Judge Margarita Bernal, by telephone
Jayson Meline
Donna Whitman, by telephone
Marian Yim, by telephone

Members Present:

Katherine Barrett
Judge Francisca Cota

Staff:

Ted Wilson, AOC
Karen Kretschman, AOC

- I. Welcome and Introductions. Judge Arellano called the meeting to order.
- II. Approval of the Minutes. After review, the Committee approved the minutes of the April 19, 2003 meeting.
- III. Discussion – Report to the AJC. Ted Wilson reported that an update from this committee was scheduled for the March 12th meeting of the Arizona Judicial Council (AJC). However, this item was postponed because that meeting was running overtime. Judge Arellano noted that the administrative order establishing this committee, Arizona Supreme Court A.O. 2003-05, requires periodic reports of its activity to the Arizona Judicial Council (AJC). Ted will submit the request to add this committee to the June 16th AJC agenda. In addition, Ted will provide Judge Arellano with an updated outline of material for the presentation. The report should let the AJC know that most grantors look for a commitment in the form of matching dollars from the state's budget. The result is a dilemma for this committee because the state is not in a position to commit funds at this time.
- IV. Follow-up to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant Application. The committee discussed the material included in the Highway Safety Grant. The grant request, submitted in April, asks for \$25,000. The grant money, if awarded, will be

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used by the AOC to develop curricula for interpreter training. A response to the request should be received in August or September.

- V. Outline for Future Proposals. Based on experience gained while working on the proposal that was submitted to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, a first attempt by this committee, the committee now has a better understanding of the process, including an understanding of how critical it is to rapidly respond to grant proposal time lines and to include detailed information on how anticipated funds will be used. The committee also agreed to continue to apply for grants related to the three separate areas of funding, i.e., training, testing and program administration, and to look for long-term funding sources.

VI. Other Grant Possibilities:

- a. Ted mentioned that there will soon be an announcement about a grant from the STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program. The formula grant authorized for Arizona in fiscal year 2004 is slightly more than \$2 million. As part of the grant, five percent (5%) is earmarked for court programs. The AOC will apply for grant funds for a number of projects, including interpreter training.
- b. Marian Yim reported on her findings about possible IV-D funding for interpreters. She has found that the available sources of funds in this area are already being accessed by the Superior Court.

- VII. Meeting adjourned.