

COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 1, 2019

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

State Courts Building

1501 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Conference Room 230

APPROVED 3/6/2020

Present: Judge Don Taylor; Mr. Alfred Gonzalez; Mr. Juan Pablo Guzman; Judge Anna Huberman; Judge Danielle Viola.

Telephonic: Ms. Diane Culin; Ms. Kathy Schaben

Absent/Excused: Ms. Margarita Bernal; Judge Catherine Woods; Mr. Juan Carlos Cordova.

Presenters/Guests:

Administrative Office of the Courts: Ms. Kelly Gray, Ms. Cathy Clarich, Mr. Craig Washburn, and Mr. David Svoboda.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The November 1, 2019 meeting of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee was called to order by the Honorable Don Taylor, Chair, at 12:06 p.m. The Chair asked for Committee member roll call, introductions of staff, and guests.

B. Approval of the August 16, 2019 Minutes

The draft minutes from the August 16, 2019 meeting of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee were presented for approval. The Chair called for any omissions or corrections to the minutes; there were none.

- Motion was made by Juan Pablo Guzman to approve the August 16, 2019 minutes of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee meeting. Seconded by Anna Huberman. Motion passed unanimously.

II. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. ACICP Update

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, presented statistics on Staff Interpreters. Mr. Svoboda presented data collected from Superior Courts on interpreter compliance. Additional data for the limited jurisdiction courts will be collected and disseminated at a later date.

Mr. Svoboda discussed the Oral Exam Prep Seminar from October. Potential training on specific modal skills, such as consecutive interpreting, is proposed as a future possibility.

Mr. Svoboda discussed the future testing and training events that will be put on by the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program, to include the November Oral Court Interpreter Exam, the Written Exam in January, and the Oral Proficiency Interviews in February.

B. 2019 Interpreter Coordinator Summit Recap

Mr. Alfred Gonzalez, in his role of 2019 Interpreter Coordinator Summit Workgroup Chair, discussed the events of the 2019 Interpreter Coordinator Summit. Mr. Gonzalez talked about some takeaways from the summit including interpreter utilization from the courts.

Discussion was held regarding the Committee's recommendations, such as the introduction of an English oral proficiency interview (OPI) requirement, which were shared during the Summit. There was also discussion about the proper way interpreters can be utilized to assist in form completion and how this information can be better disseminated to the courts. Additional training was proposed for the bench, hearing officers, and bilingual staff.

- Motion was made by Alfred Gonzalez to establish a 2020 Interpreter Coordinator Summit Workgroup. The motion was seconded by Daniella Viola. Motion passed Unanimously. Members of the workgroup will be named in due course.

C. CLAC Conference Recap

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, reviewed the 2019 Council of Language Access Coordinators (CLAC) conference which was held in San Francisco in September. Mr. Svoboda indicated that the issues faced in Arizona are the same as those faced at the national level. These include, among others, the identification of resources available to interpreter candidates, how to increase the interpreter pipeline, and the pass rate of candidates taking the oral court interpreter exam.

Mr. Svoboda talked about the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) creating a national Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) database of credentialed interpreters. As part of this project, National Center will also be releasing training for courts and interpreters on VRI related hearings.

Mr. Svoboda informed the Committee that NCSC is performing exam maintenance on the Spanish oral exams. Newly revised exams will be available in early 2020.

Mr. Svoboda discussed the use of technological tools showcased by other states during the conference. These included an artificial intelligence system to be used in wayfinding kiosks, and a tool which collates US Census Data for local courts to be able to identify languages needed by their jurisdiction. This latter tool is of interest as a means of aiding courts with their language access planning, as some courts have indicated a lack of reliable data on interpreter needs.

Mr. Svoboda also presented an online program that could be utilized by the credentialing program in its development of a mentorship program. The program is a web-based portal similar to Skype but does not require as many resources.

The Committee also discussed language access requirements for online tools such as online dispute resolution (ODR) and the online order of protection portal (AZPoint).

D. Pima Community College Collaboration Update

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, discussed the ongoing collaboration between the interpreter program and Pima Community College. Mr. Svoboda discussed the upcoming testing dates for the current class. Mr. Svoboda will also make a presentation to this class on November 21st.

The Committee discussed how the exam fees for the program are collected and how this program might be expanded or duplicated throughout the state.

E. Staff and Contract Interpreter Discussion

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, introduced the topic of the staff deadline and invited the Committee to discuss the possible questions and concerns that might be faced by program staff before, during, and after the staff credentialing deadline of 7/1/2020.

The Committee discussed issues regarding preference that courts need to show in the event they do not have a qualified staff interpreter after the 7/1/2020 deadline. They reviewed the existing preference guide that was issued by this Committee. Discussion of court compliance on this issue focused on Spanish interpreters as Spanish is currently the highest requested language in the state.

Discussion moved to including interpreters in languages other than Spanish. The limited availability of these interpreters raises concerns that they currently do not see a need to obtain a credential as they will continue to get hired, as the court is obligated to provide meaningful language access.

The committee reviewed the possibility of preventing non-credentialed interpreters from interpreting for the court. Points were raised regarding the price of bringing in a credentialed interpreter from out of state and how this would disproportionately affect non-urban courts, such as those in outlying counties.

The Committee discussed possible recommendations such as revisiting the current tier structure of the program.

The Committee believes that additional information is needed prior to making any formal recommendations. The Committee asked for staff to reach out to Superior Court Presiding Judges of rural counties to discuss any issues they may have. Further recommendation was made that, with the Justice Gould, Training, staff should take the opportunity to address concerns while onsite with courts.

- Motion was made to establish the Credential Streamlining Workgroup by Diane Culin. The motion was seconded by Juan Pablo Guzman. Discussion was held as to the scope of the workgroup. The workgroup will seek to reexamine the current credentialing tiers. The scope was further amended to examine the possibility of restricting in-court interpreting to credentialed interpreters only. The motion passed unanimously. Membership will be announced in due course.

III. CALL TO PUBLIC

A. Good of the Order/Call to the Public

Call was made. There was no answer.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjourn

- Motion was made by Juan Pablo Guzman at 2:26 p.m. to adjourn. Seconded by Alfred Gonzalez. Motion passed unanimously.

V. NEXT COMMITTEE DATE

March 6, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
State Courts Building, Conference Room 345
1501 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007