

COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 18, 2016

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

State Courts Building

1501 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Conference Room 119A/B

APPROVED

March 10, 2017

Present: Judge Don Taylor; Mr. Hyung Choi; Mr. Juan Carlos Cordova; Mr. Juan Pablo Guzman; Judge Rosa Mroz; and Ms. Cristina Parra *proxy for Mr. Alfred Gonzalez.*

Telephonic: Judge Charles Harrington; Ms. Kathy Schaben; and Ms. Martha Torres *proxy for Ms. Diane Culin;*

Absent/Excused: Judge Anna Huberman;

Presenters/Guests: Mr. Scott Loos;

Administrative Office of the Courts: Ms. Catherine Clarich; Ms. Kelly Gray; and Mr. David Svoboda.

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The November 2016 meeting of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee was called to order by the Honorable Don Taylor, Chair, at 12:02 p.m. The Chair asked for Committee member roll call and introductions of staff and guests.

B. Approval of the September 2016 Minutes

The draft minutes from the September 16, 2016 of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee were presented for approval. The Chair called for any omissions or corrections to the minutes; a typographical error was noted, but no substantive issues were identified.

- A motion was made by Mr. Juan Pablo Guzman to approve the September 16, 2016 minutes of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee with the correction of any typos identified by the Committee.

Seconded by Ms. Martha Torres (proxy for Ms. Diane Culin). Motion passed unanimously.

II. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program (ACICP) Update

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, provided a status update on the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program (ACICP). The group discussed the following:

- Statistical information including the interpreters registered in the Arizona Court Interpreter Registry, the number of credentialed interpreters, and the demographics of credentialed interpreters.
- The results of the September 2016 English Written Exam and Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI), as well as the pass rates for these exams to date.
- The remaining ACICP testing dates for 2016 and the upcoming exam dates for 2017.

B. Lesser Used Language (LUL) Participation in Credentialing

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, reviewed information regarding the participation of interpreters for languages other than Spanish in the credentialing program. He requested that the group make recommendations on actions ACICP could take to increase participation by LUL interpreters. Discussion ensued and the following suggestions were provided:

- Place announcements in a variety of foreign language community publications which cater to groups who speak and/or interpret in lesser used languages.
- Place announcements in the interpreting community social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), as well as in other feeds like the Arizona Supreme Court, Superior Court of Maricopa County, etc.
- Host informational sessions to attract potential LUL interpreters and provide more information about the ACICP.

- Publish a press release and contact local media outlets to generate interest in the interpreting profession and/or attract LUL interpreters to the ACICP.
- Create a quick reference guide/brochure for LUL and other interpreters which can be provided to the courts, other agencies (refuge organizations, social clubs, religious community groups, etc.), as well as interpreting agencies for distribution to interpreters.
- Survey LUL interpreters from the Registry to find out why they have not engaged more with the ACICP.
- Survey other states whose certification programs are similar to the ACICP on what strategies have worked to attract LUL interpreters, and the programs and incentives available for LUL interpreters in their states.
- A motion was made by Mr. Juan Pablo Guzman that this Committee recommend the actions listed above be taken by the AOC Language Access staff, and be presented to the Committee for review and further recommendations at a future meeting. Seconded by Mr. Hyung Choi and Ms. Cristina Parra (proxy for Mr. Alfred Gonzalez). Motion passed unanimously.

C. National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Pipeline Development Report

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, requested that the group review the NCSC Pipeline Development Report and make recommendations for the development of the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program. The report contains recommendations for recruitment and training of interpreters.

After brief discussion of Recommendation One, it was decided to table the review of the report until the next meeting. The Chair requested that members formulate their recommendations and talking points in preparation for a longer conversation at the March 2017 meeting of this body.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. ASL Interpreters and the English Written Exam

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, requested that the group make a recommendation that ASL interpreters be

allowed to complete the English Written Exam here in Arizona as part of the Texas Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) ASL Interpreter Certification Tests.

He explained that the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) licenses ASL interpreters in Arizona. The ACDHH requires that ASL Interpreters applying for a legal license possess a National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) or Board for the Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) certification. RID/NAD certifications are currently unavailable to ASL interpreters entering the field, leaving the BEI certification as the sole credential eligible for legal licensing in the state of Arizona.

The BEI certification requires candidates pass a written test of English proficiency and then a performance test of ASL interpreting ability. The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services—Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DARS-DHHS) administers the BEI certification exams in Texas only, requiring interpreters to travel to Texas multiple times; once for the English Written Exam, and again for the performance test.

The BEI's English Written Exam is administered by the Texas Administrative Office of the Courts and is the same exam that the ACICP uses (National Center for State Courts, Council of Language Access Coordinators (CLAC) English Written Exam).

The ACDHH secured approval from the Texas DARS-DHHS for ASL interpreters to sit the English Written Exam in Arizona, provided candidates submit their results to the Texas DARS-DHHS.

Currently, there are approximately 20 ASL interpreters in Arizona who need to take the BEI test and who may request to sit the English Written Exam in Arizona.

Mr. Svoboda requested that the Committee make a recommendation to allow ASL interpreters to sit for the English Written Exam in Arizona. He suggested that ASL interpreters would need only create a profile in the Arizona Court Interpreter Registry, then register for the English Written Exam using a unique form available only to ASL interpreters. He suggested that allowing the ASL interpreters to sit for the exam in Arizona would benefit the Program by increasing ASL interpreter listings in the Registry, and promoting a collegial relationship with the ACDHH. This arrangement would not adversely affect the ACICP financially.

- A motion was made by Judge Rosa Mroz to recommend to the Executive Director of the AOC that ASL interpreters in Arizona be allowed to sit for

the ACICP English Written Exam. Seconded by Mr. Hyung Choi. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GOOD OF THE ORDER/CALL TO THE PUBLIC

The Chair asked the Committee if there were any other matters to discuss and made a call to the public.

Mr. Scott Loos, guest/member of the public, requested that the group discuss reports he has received regarding the ACDHH's requirement that ASL interpreters for mental health events be certified through a program available in Alabama. He pointed out that this may affect mental-health-related court hearings as well as other types of mental health proceedings unrelated to the courts. After a brief discussion, Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, agreed to investigate the matter and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair reminded the Committee of the next meeting date and the meeting was adjourned at 2:01p.m.

VI. NEXT COMMITTEE DATE

Friday, March 10, 2017
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
State Courts Building, Conference Room 230
1501 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007