

WASCLA Monthly Conference Call
December 10, 2008
11:00 to 1:00

Participants.

Maggie Labori- Evergreen Hospital
Brit Sparks - Group Health
Cindy Roat Consultant
Susana Stettri Sawrey
Martine Pierre Louis - Harborview
Julie Bryan Interpreter KC
Terry Mirande - Pierce College - Interpreting Program Coordinator
William (Bill) Plumley, interpreter, Forks
Kathleen To - Swedish Medical Ctr.
Katrín Johnson - AOC
Jason Reed - DSHS
Leticia Camacho NJP
Sandra Gresl UW law School
Jamie Lucero - BCC
Monica Kashayap - Seattle University
Jodi Sullivan NJP Port Angeles
Ashley Mai - Swedish Medical Ctr.
JoAnn Guzman NJP Seattle
Jill Dutton NJP Seattle
Molly Ertel DOC

I. Report from Jason Reed on DSHS Testing and Certification

There are five different workgroups working on the comprehensive review of DSHS testing program.

1st Tool and Pre-Test workgroup is looking at the testing tool and pretest materials to make them more comprehensive and useful for candidates taking the test.
Target date for getting test completed? By the end of this year, is not going to happen.

Is the goal to re-validate the English & Spanish test? Or will DSHS be re-validating other language tests as well?

2nd Testing Administration Group – This group is reviewing test scheduling, how often they test, improving that process, testing fees, test proctoring is done and test grading.

3rd Bilingual Employee Workgroup – This group is reviewing how to go about compensating those employees.

4th Supply and Demand Workgroup – Group would identify needs for employee and contractor language providers. This group is on back burner.

5th WAC Workgroup – This group will review and approve process once it is all final.

This will become available once it is finalized.

Department's budget and State budget effects: Admin Services Division which runs this Testing Program was asked to reduce costs by 50%, also Staff reductions in this unit.

Testing for Feb 09 is already full. There will be limited testing locations in March through June, unknown what will happen after that. Not known what will happen to this program.

About 19% of the people that are DSHS certified are currently actively working with DSHS. Per a participant the process is very cumbersome. One program on top of the list for cutting is the medical interpreter program in legislature, because this is an optional program. DSHS may not be using the brokerage system if this happens. There will definitely be some changes because of the budget cuts. DSHS will not know about the brokerage issue until after legislative session.

How big is the budget for certification? Not sure.

II. Update from technology workgroup.

Recent conference call with Cindy Roat, they are gathering info on what resources are out there for translated information and also on technology available (examples such as technology to assist with translation, video conferencing etc.) They will have to get a report next meeting. Maggie would like to participate in workgroup, but has not received any information. She should contact JoAnn or Jill to get connected. Technology will be up on website www.pgsi.com, Cindy to talk more about this on next conference call.

III. WASCLA Meeting on Peninsula in early 2009.

Jodi – hoping to schedule a meeting for the last week in January meeting in Port Townsend, Jefferson county law enforcement has been using border patrol officials to interpret for them. Purpose of the meetings: Talked a little bit about having a mini WASCLA Conference, really might be worthwhile to get out there and help coordinate interpreter services. The meeting is still in the discussion process. Interpreters needed primarily for Spanish, but also some indigenous languages such as Mam and Kanjobal. Cindy would love to come to these meetings as a participant or presenter. WITS representative will join. Katrin would make an effort to come out that week. If any gaps we could get that out to WASCLA members. Harvey Sloan will also be there which will be great when meeting with the Law Enforcement group.

IV. Next conference call NEED TO CHANGE TIME.

Moderating next conference call: Tasks are not difficult, involves getting names of participants and helping the group follow the agenda. NJP will dial in as a host; NJP will send out reminders

and set up call line; NJP will create the agenda although all are free to send suggestions ahead of time.

Moving Conference call to 1st or 4th Wednesday, current schedule conflicts with a couple of other conference calls. For January, we will plan to schedule this conference call for the 4th Wednesday, which is January 28, 2009.

Jason has been working with Migration Policy presented on the last webinar, currently free of charge, may be a charge in the future. Jason will forward e-mail to JoAnn to send to WASCLA Members.

V. DSHS meeting in late January –

Agencies from the conference are interested in meeting. ESD L&I, inter agency LAP taskforce, share resources. Share best practices, and expertise, contact Jill if you are interested in participating. Will have representative from interpreters, translators, Katrin, Roy Gonzalez, both courts, hospitals, community colleges, and other large agencies are interested in joining. .

VI. Prescription Translations

Issue came up at national language access advocates conference in Wa. D.C. Case out of NY agreed to get Rx translated as part of a settlement. There have been a number of inquiries on this issue here in Washington State. Pharmacies receive federal funding, we have heard of numerous instances where people got Rx and didn't understand and either overdosed or used improperly. Technology may be out there and WASCLA will look into how we can tap into that. Molly knows that machine translation is being used for Rx, which has resulted in some problems. Counseling piece, usually pharmacist takes patient aside and explains how to use and give chance to ask questions. Is this being looked at? Jill will get more information and will distribute best practices.

VII. Directory workgroup update – Interpreter Translator and Agency Surveys, we are facing a technical issue with setting up a gmail account. Once that is resolved we will get the surveys out for distribution. We are also having a conference call with Tara Gibbs from Minnesota to see what technology they have developed and if it can be adapted to Washington State. Call is scheduled for Thursday, December 18. Please email Jill if interested in joining.

VIII. Retreat planning update – 2 day retreat to invite interested parties, to discuss what kind of entity could move WASCLA forward. We are looking for a place, centrally located, looking at the last week in April. Pierce CC might be able to help provide a facilitator, and we are looking into Seattle Univ or UW for space. Anyone interested in working on retreat e-mail to JoAnn. Next year's WASCLA conference will be in Spokane, this topic will be discussed on January's call.

IX. WASCLA Quarterly newsletters

Please contact JoAnn or Jill if interested in working on an article. Hope is to capture information from the conference that should be shared as well as do regular updates from the groups. We are hoping first issue can come out beginning the end of January.

CALL ENDED, NEXT CONFERENCE CALL WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28 11:00 to 1:00

Conf call dates for first half of 2009. Please put in your calendar.

Jan 28

Feb 25

March 25

April 22

May 27

June 24.