

**WASCLA Monthly Conference Call  
January 28, 2009  
11:00 to 1:00**

REMINDER: For next call, please do not call from a cell phone or put your phone on hold!

Participants:

Jill Dutton	Darcey Samad	Cynthia Conroy	Emily Hill
P. Diane Schneider	JoAnn Guzman	Nancy Leveson	Jenny Johnson
Joanna Ramos	Emma Garkavi	Cindy Roat	Jason Reed
Eliana Lobo	Bill Plumley	Esther Moss	Ashley Mai
Katherine Vasquez	Ann Kennedy	Katrin Johnson	Julie Bryan
June Krumpotick	Andy Comer	Molly Ertel	Harvey Sloan
Maggy Labori	Luisa Benitez	Terry Mirande	Martha Cohen
Milena Waldron	Jamie Lucero	Fatima Morales	Eric Bakken

**DSHS Certification and Budget Update**

Jason Reed provided a brief update on DSHS budget in spoken language services. They have not been taken out of the budget, right now Medical Interpreter Services will continue, based on Gov. proposed budget. The budget will not be final until after the legislative session.

Asked Katherine Vasquez to give an update on testing/certification process and how it is being affected by the budget. **Have lost 50% of their budget for language testing, have lost two FTE.** They are still conducting tests each month and are looking at different ways to administer testing, etc. Currently have testing in two locations Yakima & Olympia. Because they have a specified amount to spend each month, if they reach their max they will suspend the testing. Slots are available depending on location. Discussion on how to get information on the DSHS list of qualified interpreters led to following possible solutions: DSHS doesn't have resource to create anything new or post. However many providers need to know before they meet the interpreter in order for DSHS to be able to reimburse. (Interpreters do have documentation that they are certified). Perhaps this list can be sent to WASCLA for posting or possibly can be taken up with interagency state LEP group. Some info is posted by Labor and Industries. Website: LNI website, <https://fortress.wa.gov/lni/ils/>

**Prescription Translation Requirements**

Cindy Roat is familiar with the advocacy done in New York on lack of language access in pharmacies. These pharmacies are seeking federal funds from Medicaid and Medicare, but have not been providing language access. It was hard to get a dialogue going with the commercial pharmacies. Walgreens will be using telephonic interpreting and translated pill bottle instructions. Cindy believes that most of these places are going to take this change national. Available free online to pharmacies: choose a medication, go through and check how it is to be taken, computer will read aloud to patient in their language, then will print. System is called "Meducation" and involves info that is pre-translated and pre-recorded. They are starting with 4 languages. Part of the way that they chose what language comes next, will be demand and marketing. Their intention will be to continue adding languages. Joanna Ramos said she will follow up on what is happening with local pharmacies in Washington State.

### **Regional Meetings**

There is a need for interpreters of indigenous languages on the Olympic Peninsula and elsewhere in the state. In response to request from interpreters and others WASCLA will hold a meeting/training and talk about gaps and needs for interpreting. Goal is to discuss how to provide interpreters in courts and in law enforcement, making sure that people that need to access the police, DSHS or the courts without fear that their immigration status will be looked at. Agreement in King County that immigrants attending court will not be arrested, Memorandum of Understanding, can be e-mailed to Jill and we will send it out. (Note, this is not available). Meeting is open to all on the Peninsula and we hope to have several judges, advocates, interpreters and translators, medical providers etc.

### **Olympia – DSHS & Government Agency Meeting –**

Still in the planning stages, hope to have medical providers community colleges, schools, state agencies, someone from Governor's office, Human Rights Commission etc. to share resources and discuss strategies. Please email Jill if interested in attending or know groups that should be invited.

### **Washington Language Access Bills**

Correct links to the bills are as follows.

Senate: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5140&year=2009>

House: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1519&year=2009>

Fatima Morales: Language access issues at Steven's Hospital, Found that there was a language barrier, Senate Version SB5140, or HB5819 – Goal of the bills are to expand provision of interpretation having private insurance companies cover interpreter costs.

Bills will establish a Working Group – they will meet for one year and will devise standards.

The workgroup will consist of 15 people description of group is in the bill. The other component of the bill, require a study around interpretation, language access in the state.

Bill if passed will take effect in 2011.

Luisa Benitez : There is another bill that will not exempt interpreters, individual interpreters rights. SB0966, bill has not been given a final number. For more info you can contact Luisa at [jlbenitez@comcast.net](mailto:jlbenitez@comcast.net).

### **Directory Workgroup and Gmail Address Update**

Some interpreters from WITS have been working on getting a good list of info to be put into the directory/registry. They want interpreters to be able to list their credentials. Minnesota, looks as if there could be a contract where the development of the database could be shared with WASCLA, we are waiting to hear more about this.

Have three surveys, have been a delay of sending them out, because we have been waiting for the Gmail account to be up and running, once that is ready we will send them out. .

### **Technology Workgroup Updates**

Group is starting by looking at what is in the Language Portal. First focus is looking into the different resources that are out there. Eliana is looking at the Portal primarily for medical, but the group wants to let others know about the kind of technology that is out there and how it is

used in different areas. Please e-mail Jill if you are interested in joining the group and she will send out an agenda for that meeting.

### **Next Conference**

We are planning to have the conference in Spokane. Molly will look into conference hotel and availability for October 2/3, 9/10 or 16/17. We need to reserve soon since the hotels fill up. One suggestion is to add carpooling & rooming to the conference planning tasks.

Those who are willing to join the planning group include: Therese, Maggie, Katrin, and Julie

### **Retreat Planning Update**

The retreat is scheduled for April 18 to 19, 2009. Please put this date on your calendar! The purpose is to get people to gather and discuss how to strengthen the coalition and come up with a formal structure such as incorporating into a 501(c)(3). This group will also explore funding issues and further develop WASCLA goals. Are there people interested in having a conference call to push this forward? We need and want a professional facilitator. We don't really have a budget for and so are hoping to keep costs very low. We are hoping to learn from the experience of the interpreters group in Minnesota. Tara Gibbs reported on this at the last conference.

**CALL ENDED, NEXT CONFERENCE CALL WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25, 11:00 to 1:00**