

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

DLIR Conference Room 320
830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Agency on Elderly Affairs, Piikoi Building, Suite 330
444 Rice Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:56 A.M. with quorum by council Chair Dominic Inocelda. The Neighbor Island council member from Kaua`i, joined the meeting via teleconferencing.

1. Attendance

Present:

- Dominic Inocelda Language Access Advisory Council, Chair
- Gerald Ohta Language Access Advisory Council, Vice Chair
- Serafin “Jun” Colmenares Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio
- Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio
- Kristine Pagano for Francine Wai Executive Director, Disability and Communication, Ex-officio
- Melba Bantay Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Mindy Emmons Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Patricia Harpstrite Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Edelene Uriarte Language Access Advisory Council Member

Excused:

- Lito Asuncion Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Jennifer Dotson Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Ruth Mabanglo Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Mary Santa Maria Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Margarita Hopkins Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Tin Myaing Thein Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Rebeca Zamora Language Access Advisory Council Member

Guest: Heather Benjamin, ASL Interpreter

Staff: Becky Gardner and Gail McGarvey

2. Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair welcomed all present including those participating by teleconferencing from the neighbor islands.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2013 Meeting

- The minutes were accepted as circulated.

4. Executive Director's Report

- The Executive Director distributed a written report on updated OLA activities and highlighted the following:
 - Meeting with Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland and the Language Access working group to update them on Act 217. OLA's memo to request release of funds was signed by DOH Director Fuddy and was sent to B&F, at first we were misinformed that it was not signed. Due to limited funds only three of the five positions were requested to be funded (two for LARC and one for the website). Kristine Pagano asked when the positions would be filled. Jun responded that the Governor needs to approve the memo to release the funds, already submitted, once approved OLA will have to request to establish the positions and then go thru the hiring process, all this will take some time. No date as to when we would be ready to fill the positions.
 - Bridging the Gap (BTG) licensing agreement with Cross Cultural Health Communications (CCHC), the Hawaii Attorney General's office had some disagreements on the legal jurisdiction for any disputes to being held in Washington State, it should be in held in Hawaii.
 - The Executive Director chaired a panel and did a presentation on Language Access and Hawaii's Filipinos at the 7th International NAKEM Conference at UH Mānoa on November 15, 2013.
 - Gave an overview of Hawaii's language access law and OLA (with Becky Gardner) on November 25 to a group of visiting professors from the Philippines' Mindanao State University: Dr. Faina Ulindang, Dr. Samuel Anonas, and Dr. Jamail Kamlian. They were in Hawaii under a grant from the U.S. Institute of Peace and were interested in the promotion of cross-cultural understanding.
 - Gave a presentation on Hawaii's language access law and OLA to the Honors Program class on Cultural Competency for the Health Professions at the Shidler College of Business, UH Mānoa on December 3, 2013.
 - The East-West Center conference facilities will be undergoing renovations and may not be available for the language access conference in August 2014. Need to look for another location. Other possible venues suggested by the council were State capitol, which is not available due to the elections this year, Japanese Chamber of Commerce Manoa Ballroom, UH Campus Center Ballroom, Ala Moana Hotel, Dole Cannery and Neal Blaisdell Center.

5. Report of the Chair

- The Chair had no report.

6. Reports of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

- **Legislative Committee.** Report given on the status of three bills. Bill #3 on the giving of scholarships, name was changed to “financial assistance” instead of the word scholarship. Also added was a provision that those who received financial assistance will provide X hours within two years of getting certification. Becky Gardner reported that the AG office said this is okay and not considered involuntary servitude. Additions to be made: the money is to go directly to the agency not to the interpreter, and if the participant cannot fulfill this, they are to write a letter to OLA informing us of this. Jun said Vice Speaker John M. Mizuno has accepted the changes to the bill. The House will be sponsoring this bill.
- There were questions by the council members regarding applying for the certification training program and discussion about qualifications for being a medical interpreter. Kristine Pagano wanted to know if applicants have pre requisites before applying for certification. She pointed out that the ~~Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB)~~ Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) requires an ASL interpreter to have a BA degree. Currently, Hawaii does not have any certification for medical interpreters/translators. Mindy Emmons said that for most of the languages used in Hawaii, there is no certification for them. Jun Colmenares said the two national certifying agencies are: Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) among their eligibility requirements, minimum age of 18 years and 40 hours of healthcare interpreter training, minimum high school diploma (or GED) and the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI) with similar pre requisites for age and a minimum 40 hours of medical interpreter training program certification. Kristine Pagano was concerned that 40 hours of medical training is not enough to qualify for a medical interpreter certification as it is a complicated and specialized field. Gerald Ohta agreed with her, but pointed out that as a baseline we would be accepting the baseline of two national certifying agencies. Dominic Inocelda suggested that we can use DCAB’s pre requisites as a model to follow if the state is going to have its own certification program.
- **Special Projects Committee (Untold Stories Project).** Becky Gardner said to continue to send in written stories especially if it relates to literacy as this will be the theme of our upcoming language access conference.
- **Plans Review Committee.** No meeting.
- **By-Laws Committee.** No meeting.
- **Permitted Interaction Group – 7th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access.** No meeting. As the East-West Center may not be available it was suggested to move the conference dates toward the end of the week to August 7, 8, 9, 2014, Thursday, Friday and Saturday with Saturday for a workshop which could be held at a different location. Talked about still defining the literacy theme for the conference, the impact of culture and literacy on language and looking for names of possible key note speakers on literacy and local community speakers on literacy.
- **Medical Terminology Workshop 2014** – The workshop will be limited to the first 50 applicants. Two checks are required, \$40 for the textbook, \$50 for a deposit on the class (this will be returned if the participant completes all five sessions of the workshop). Upon completion participant will receive a certificate for 20 hours which can be used towards national board medical interpreter certification. The office is currently working on a flyer and registration form for immediate distribution for interpreters/translators interested in medical interpretation in healthcare. Kristine Pagano was concerned that the class will be taught in English. She asked how interpreters will handle the medical terms in their own

languages. She thinks they should have follow up in their own language. Jun said follow up could be done for languages with their own medical glossaries. OLA's bill regarding medical glossaries will be mainly for Pacific languages.

- **Permitted Interaction Group for Language Access Month.** No meeting.

7. **Other Upcoming Events.**

- On 12/16/13 there will be a meeting with UH CITS and Roadmap Initiative to discuss how CITS can beef up its training program.
- Hawaii Public Health Association is looking for grants to hold a healthcare summit which may address the issue of having a medical interpreter training center.
- Edelene Uriarte's church has been going to public parks to speak to homeless families. They created a booklet of support help with information and listed resources. Would OLA have any feedback, support or help to give regarding this booklet?

8. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- None

9. **Announcements.**

- Dominic Inocelda said there will be no Interagency Council (IAC) meeting for December.
- Next LAAC meeting – January 08, 2014 @ 9:30 location to be announced.

10. **Adjournment.** -Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.