



Interpreting Stakeholder Group (ISG) – 2009

(Committee under Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association, www.umatia.org)

Mission

To improve the quality and delivery of spoken language interpreter services in Minnesota, and to promote the professionalization of the interpreting industry as a whole. (Note: ISG is intentionally not focusing on translation services as there is a translator certification process established already (see www.atanet.org))

Goal

Meaningful access to health care and human services for limited English proficient populations.

Objectives:

The overall objectives of ISG are listed below but not all are worked on with equal emphasis each year. The 2009 work plan priorities are identified in the next section.

1. Identify and promote interpreter training opportunities among prospective interpreters and employers across the state in order to increase the number of interpreters who have completed at least a minimum of interpreter training.
2. Seek funding opportunities to expand avenues of training, evaluation, and partnerships.
3. Discuss effective evaluation mechanisms for quality of interpreting (standardized pre- and post-testing, consumer feedback, health care provider/user input).
4. Explore options for enhanced interpreter service delivery models in MN.
5. Identify and implement internships for interpreters who would benefit from shadowing other professionals.
6. Address issues that would help make the profession of interpreting more attractive (e.g., appropriate reimbursement for qualified interpreters, employment opportunities, education of providers, etc.).

2009 Priorities

The ISG formed three work groups to accomplish 2009 priorities in the following areas:

- Education/Training: Chair is Sandy Maloney (sgilinterpreter@hotmail.com)
- Interpreter Registry: Chair is Tara Gibbs (tara@visi.com)
- Policy/Legislation: Chair to be determined.

Members and Structure

Interpreters, interpreter service agencies, institutions involved in interpreter training, health care organizations, health and human service providers, DHS, and others interested in achieving the above stated objectives. The ISG governance structure is described on page two. An Executive Committee is elected annually.

Meetings

Meetings are held the third Friday of the month from 10:00-12:00 except for the second month of each quarter (Feb, May, Aug, and Nov) when it is from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at UCare, 500 Stinson Blvd NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413. For directions, go to www.ucare.org and click on “Contact Us”.

January 16 10:00-12:00
February 20 1:00-3:00 p.m.
March 20 10:00-12:00
April 17 10:00-12:00
May 15 1:00-3:00 p.m.
June 19 10:00-12:00
July 17 10:00-12:00
August 21 1:00-3:00 p.m.
September 18 10:00-12:00
October 16 10:00-12:00
November 20 1:00-3:00 p.m.
December 18 10:00-12:00

Contact Information

If you are interested in being involved in this group, contact Carol Berg, ISG Chair, at cberg@ucare.org or 612-676-3635.

Interpreting Stakeholder Group: Governance Structure for the Collaborative

The ISG will be governed as a volunteer collaborative through the following structure while we explore options for a more permanent “home” for our joint activities.

The Executive Committee will have power to exercise the authority of the members in the management of the business of ISG under the approval of the Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association (UMTIA). The Executive Committee will act only in the intervals between meetings of the members and will at all times be subject to the direction of the ISG members. Terms of the executive committee are for one year and are limited to three consecutive terms, except for UMTIA liaisons. Half of the Executive Committee should have staggered terms so there is "institutional memory" on the Committee. The Executive Committee will arrange for ISG meeting dates/locations, set agendas, and oversee communications with ISG members.

ISG members will elect representatives from each participating sector to serve on an Executive Committee comprising the positions described below. ISG strives to have diverse perspectives among the Executive Committee members (from both provider and consumer perspectives as well).

Chair. Subject to the direction of ISG members, the Chair will see that the directives of ISG are carried into effect. The Chair will preside at all meetings of the ISG, and the Executive Committee, except in those instances in which the authority to execute is expressly delegated to another officer or agent of ISG.

Vice Chair. It will be the duty of the Vice Chair to act in the absence of the Chair and to perform such duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Chair.

Secretary. He or she will keep (or cause to be kept) the minutes of all meetings of the ISG and of the Executive Committee. The Secretary will give or cause to be given all notices of the meetings of the Board of Directors and other notices required by ISG.

At Large Members (4 positions). Members to represent the various sectors involved in ISG: interpreters, academia, interpreter agencies, direct service providers, hospitals, health systems/health plans, state agencies, etc.

Nomination and Election Process

All current members of the ISG distribution list are eligible to run for office. To become a candidate, you must be officially nominated—either by yourself or someone else. Nominations will be submitted to an Elections Committee by fax, postal mail, or electronic mail by a date to be determined by the Committee. NOTE: No member of the Committee may be a candidate for election.

The Elections Committee must have the following information in hand for all candidates: full name, position desired (see list of officers above), contact information (including phone and email), and a short “campaign statement”. Campaign statements will then be published electronically on the ISG list.

January 2009