

INTERPRETING STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2008

Present: Osman Ahmed, Ali Khadijo, Carol Berg, Rebecca Blanco, Larry Bogoslaw, Allison Dinnocenzo, Bruce Downing, Idolly Fajardo, Russell Hastings, Tom Hiendlmayr, Kathy Huntley, Kathryn Kmit, Sarah LeCocq, Alla Litkewitsch, Michelle Livon, Alejandro Maldonado, Silvia McCalip, Elizabeth McWhite, Merilee Metz, Santiago Morgan, Sherri Mortensen-Brown, Mary Pohl, Osman Sahardeed, Salim Sahardeed, Minh Tong, Peter Turpin,

On the phone: Hilda Sanchez-Herrera, Ryan Noyes

Welcome and Introductions

Members introduced themselves. Membership roster was available to record attendance and to mark with corrections.

Announcements/ Updates

Silvia McCalip reported these updates on behalf of Tara Gibbs, UMTIA:

- The UMTIA conference is planned for Saturday and Sunday June 20-21st at William Mitchell College of Law. A Save the Date flyer is attached to the minutes. UMTIA's conference planning meeting is November 22 from 1-3 pm at 1515 Lake Street, Suite 211
- There is a workshop on interpreting for domestic violence situations being held tomorrow. Information is at www.umtia.org on the homepage, including registration forms. 17 people are currently signed up, I'm not sure if there is a cap at 24 or not.
- Tara did a presentation on October 24th in Washington State at the WASCLA conference on the MDH roster and on ISG's formation. They are trying to form a similar group there, and are very interested in what we are doing here and how we are doing it.

Carol Berg distributed a rough draft of the 2008 ISG committee accomplishments and their respective suggestions for priorities to work on in 2009. She also asked for input on the draft survey to be sent out to ISG members to collect their suggestions for 2009 priorities for the ISG work plan. It was agreed that these should be emailed out and give members two weeks to submit their response. Russ Hastings has been helping with roster communications along with Tai Gilbert.

Alla Litkewitsch announced that HCMC has a new Interpreting Services Manager. Her name is Annie Oettinger.

Larry Bogoslaw announced the opportunity to listen to Natally Kelley, an Expert in Phone Interpreting talk on Public Radio on 11/22 at 5PM. Interested people can go to NPR website to find out about stream video as well. Larry said that Natally recently

published a book on standards and best practices for phone interpreting. She works for common sense advisory. She's done a number of articles about interpreting. Larry will forward email to ISG list for interested members.

David Zander announced the fact that there will be a lot of jobs deriving from the Census 2010. There are some diversity committees. Three contact names were circulated to the members for interested people: Ami Nafsger, US census bureau

Ryan Dolan, campaign coordinator

Liz Maria Frias – City of St. Paul

Update on ISG membership in National Coalition on Health Care Interpreter Certification (NCC)

Alejandro gave an update on the NCC activities. He said at their September meeting NCC members decided to focus on certification standards development rather than the original focus to develop a national certification process. He said that NCC members were asked to submit a letter to NCC indicating what they think the NCC focus should be on. Alejandro passed a draft letter asking the NC to reconsider their focus, to raise the ISG concern that NCC return to its original stated purpose. Discussion followed regarding ISG members questions and concerns. Volunteers were asked to help Alejandro edit the draft letter from ISG to NCC. Volunteers included Bruce, Russ and Sandy. They will send the edited version to the ISG executive committee for approval before submission to NCC by November 25. Carol asked ISG members if there was agreement to donate \$400 (from training that ISG volunteers received for a pilot training done last May) to the NCC. All NCC members are being asked to financially contribute to the work of NCC. Members said yes that was the proper thing to do because ISG is trying to support this national certification effort.

Training/Education Committee updates

Peter Turpin said that they will have the table of training programs completed by the end of the year. The committee has approached 2 people to talk about pursuing funding for interpreter training, but has not had much time on that. He also said that the committee will finalize the evaluation of the materials from the U of M in regards to the provider training. Bruce said the materials are still waiting for final changes on the printout and some other fixes. He will provide them when ready to the training/education committee. They are trying to link this manual from the UMTIA website, but Peter is not sure about it. Peter did say that the table of training will definitely be posted in the UMTIA website.

David Zander commented that 237 newly arrived Karen immigrants are in Worthington, but that more will be arriving since they have about 100,000 refugees coming to the US from camps abroad.

Registry Committee updates: Tara Gibbs

Tara sent an email with the update that the committee has been working on test reporting fields. They will be working on training and experience fields at the meeting next TUESDAY, November 25 (not Thursday). The developer who was working on the MDH website has moved into another job and Tom Heindlmayr said this will change the

timeline. Interpreters can begin registering in November, but the site will be searchable sometime in early 2009 (not in January). MDH is in the process of hiring a replacement.

Members were asked to give any last edits to the interpreter roster Q&A document and the one page fact sheet that were emailed out. Allison Dinnocenzo distributed a “jazzed up” version she created of the one page flyer and the group agreed they liked that format better. It needs to add the note about the option to send in check with application to MDH. Russ Hastings and Carol will send out the list of ideas generated earlier for different avenues of disseminating these communication pieces. All ISG members are asked to help get the word out to encourage interpreters to apply.

Members discussed how some interpreters do not understand the benefits to them of applying to be on the roster. We need to make sure we are all communicating the various benefits (access to training information, networking, and employment opportunities) clearly and talk to them about any questions they may have. Members discussed how the roster (and eventually the registry will help interpreters to bring them a step above, being the role model for their fellow interpreters and will give them a chance to be contacted for more work and network with others.

At the next meeting we can further discuss plans for dissemination of roster information and how ISG members can help get the word out.

ISG Governance Structure

Silvia McCalip distributed a handout with slight revisions to the ISG governance structure that more clearly outlined the ISG committee relationship to UMTIA as our umbrella organization. This prompted discussion on whether ISG should continue as a committee under UMTIA or become a separate organization. After some discussion it was suggested that we outline the pros and cons of the various organizational options for ISG and then discuss at the December meeting. Tom suggested to have this discussion (pros and cons) at the next Registry Committee meeting on Tuesday November 2, 5pm, at EA Bilingual. We will then schedule a one hour time slot to further discuss this at the ISG meeting on December 19.

Provider Training Update

Veronica commented she had an interesting talk with the Director of an OB/GYN program at the U of M. He seemed interested in the provider training and invited her to help him provide one hour training for providers on December 5. He offered to assist Veronica in the creation of vignettes using grants money he has received and he can use our support as a group. Veronica said the presentation was well received by MMA Diversity Committee about a month ago. They are willing to help promote the training among members.

She also talked about the Provider training at Ramsey County in which they use the 3-hour version of the training. Silvia and Veronica have done this training for over 500 providers in Ramsey County. The evaluations have been very positive.

Veronica said:

- Materials will be put on web
- Interested parties may try out the training module before it is posted.
- Report to Veronica what problems they had, if any.
- Final tool kit will then be made available.

Nominations Committee Update

Bruce and Idolly reported that we still need a volunteer for the Secretary position for the slate of candidates for the ISG Executive Committee. Please let them know if you can volunteer to serve.

The next **ISG Meeting** is 10:00 A.M. on December 19. Agenda items include: Election of ISG Executive Committee, Discussion of ISG structure, Finalize 2009 ISG priority focus areas and committees.

Submitted by Idolly Fajardo (on behalf of Sue DeGolier, Secretary)