

INTERPRETING STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2008

Present: Carol Berg, Rebecca Blanco, Allison Dinnocenzo, Bruce Downing, Russell Hastings, Tom Hiendlmayr, Kathy Huntley, Nuh Jama, Michelle Livon, Alejandro Maldonado, Musse Mohamed, Sherri Mortensen-Brown, Maikia Moua, Osman Sahardeed, Salim Sahardeed, Minh Tong

On the phone: Francesco Almarza, Sarah LeCocq, Hilda Sanchez-Herrera, Peter Turpin,

Welcome and Introductions

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

Announcements/ Updates

Tom Hiendlmayr gave Registry Committee updates on behalf of Tara Gibbs:

- Roster Updates:
 - New Programmer for website begins January 7, 2009
 - Currently have five interpreters who have submitted information to the roster
 - Committee is now in the process of discussing requirements for the registry
 - Committee will continue to meet 2nd & 4th Thursday at 5:00 pm at EA Bilingual Services
- 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 information is at www.umtia.org on the homepage.
- Critical Link Conference planned for May or June 2009 in Vancouver, Canada
 - Hosted by Critical Link Canada
 - Not the same as the International Critical Link Conference which takes place every 3 years, which will be sometime in 2010
- Peter Turpin will be taking a new position in the Fargo/Moorhead area, so he will be leaving ISG and the Training Committee Chair position

Carol Berg distributed a draft power point presentation that Tai Gilbert assembled from the key points of the roster flyer. This is just another format ISG members can use to convey the information when they have an opportunity to meet in person with interpreters. Please let Carol know of any edits to this draft (attached to minutes). She also reminded everyone that we need ISG members to sign up for various target audiences in the "Dissemination Plan" handout to make sure we are using all avenues to get the word out to interpreters encouraging them to apply to the roster. Please let her know if you can be a point person for any organizations or groups on the list that don't have someone indicated on the list yet.

Approval of ISG Executive Committee Slate of Candidates

Bruce Downing reviewed the slate of candidates that had been emailed out with the invitation for any ISG members to express interest/willingness to serve on this committee:

- Chair: Carol Berg
- Vice Chair: Michelle Chillstrom
- Secretary: Idolly Fajardo
- Members-at-large:
 - Connie Nelson-Health Plan representative
 - Russ Hastings-Interpreter Agency representative
 - Kathy Huntley-Hospital Administration
 - Tara Gibbs-Interpreter Education (UMTIA)

There was discussion that we should clarify in the governance guideline that the Nominating Committee strives to have a diverse mix of all sectors and that they seek Executive Committee representation that includes the refugee/immigrant perspective among these members. The slate of candidates was approved as submitted.

Results of ISG Survey

Carol reported on the survey responses which Sue DeGolier compiled from 17 respondents. The key themes of the 2009 priorities were:

- Continuing education for interpreters in the field
- Continue involvement with NCC on certification process
- Supporting more interpreter training and education opportunities, including train the trainer sessions
- Work on legislation (regarding interpreter qualifications, financing of services, etc)
- Raise funds for training, scholarships, etc.
- Continue work on interpreter registry
- Partner with all types of spoken language interpreters
- Explore organizational options for ISG

Let Carol know if you want a copy of the summary of the results.

The highest number of votes for ISG committees for 2009 are listed here:

1. Registry
2. Training/Education
3. Legislation/Policy

It was felt that communications issues can be handled and/or delegated by the Executive Committee. Regarding committee chairs, Tara Gibbs indicated she can continue to chair the Registry Committee. Peter Turpin said he has not been able to recruit someone to take on the chair role for the Education/Training Committee. No one volunteered so the Executive Committee will continue actively recruiting for this role. Carol said that David Zander had indicated he could be the convener/chair of a new legislative/policy committee. She will check with him on the next steps.

Here are the other comments regarding selection of ISG priorities to work on in 2009 that a few respondents made note of:

- “I’m noticing that CHW programs have not been filled as expected. I’m wondering if this has to do with the difference in pay for interpreters; that people are choosing interpreting over CHW roles. How can the CHW and Interpreter Groups work together to be inclusive in advancing the overall responsiveness to client/patient needs?”

- Only a few of the members are doing most of the work, either because of their unique expertise or because of time constraints, but it is not realistic to add too many more initiatives.
- Priorities need to be realistic within the scope of our governance and taking into account the amount and type of resources available to ISG.
- I think there needs to be continuous focus on professional development and advocacy for certifications, why it is necessary, how it benefits the providers and communities we serve.”

Regarding ISG meeting place, all respondents said the UCare location is fine and there were no other suggestions. The top choice for ongoing day/time was what we are currently doing: third Friday from 10:00-12:00. The next top vote getter was on Friday from 1:00-3:00. Tara said she could come in the afternoon. Carol said that Elizabeth Watkins had said the third Friday conflicts for her. An email will go out to ISG members to see if perhaps we could stick with our current schedule for most meetings but meet once a quarter (4 times/year) at the 1:00-3:00 time slot.

Update on ISG membership in National Coalition on Health Care Interpreter Certification

Alejandro Maldonado reported the following regarding progress for the National Coalition:

- Other organizations are voicing the same concern regarding change of what the National Coalition is trying to achieve and the change of direction
- Committee for Languages of Lesser Diffusion
 - Need help and input for survey
 - Looking for individuals who either represent or work with these individuals
 - Send referrals to Alejandro
- Meeting for National Coalition to take place on Jan21-22, 2009 in Los Angeles
- Items being monitored by Legal Committee:
 - The Legal Committee is working on keeping track of new bills and laws across the United States about language access, quality of such services, and enforcement issues. The one that I am trying to follow now is the bill introduced in Texas: H.B. 233 (by Rodriguez). This is about "the creation of an advisory committee to establish and recommend qualifications for certain health care translators and interpreters". This is the link:
<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB233>
- Discussed fund raising to support the covering of expenses to send our representative to the different meetings taking place

ISG Governance Structure

- Different options were discussed regarding the structure and governance for ISG. The three basic options were:
 - Stay under UMTIA
 - Become separate entity with 501C3 status
 - Incorporate legally and utilize fiscal agent
- Recommendation made to form ad-hoc group to look at different options and the feasibility of the different options

The next **ISG Meeting** is 10:00 A.M. on January 16, 2009. Agenda items include: Discussion of ISG committee priorities, Review ISG objectives, Next steps in exploring ISG organizational structure

Submitted by Russ Hastings and Allison Dinnocenzo (on behalf of Sue DeGolier, Secretary)