

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wednesday, January 08, 2014
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Office of Planning, Policy and Program Development
Kinau Hale Conference Room 119
1250 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 9:38 A.M. with quorum by council Chair Dominic Inocelda. The Neighbor Island council members from Kaua`i and Hawai`i Island, joined the meeting via teleconferencing.

1. Attendance

Present:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| – 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 |
| – Lito Asuncion | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Melba Bantay | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Jennifer Dotson | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Mindy Emmons | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Patricia Harpstrite | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Margarita Hopkins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Ruth Mabanglo | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Rebeca Zamora | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Edelene Uriarte | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Guest: Anita Licea, ASL Interpreter

Staff: Becky Gardner and Gail McGarvey

2. Welcome and Introductions

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

3. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2013 Meeting

- There was one correction to the minutes as pointed out by Kristine Pagano. On page 3, second paragraph Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) should be Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). Minutes were approved as corrected.

4. Executive Director's Report

- The Executive Director distributed a written report on updated OLA activities, some of which are highlighted as follows and with discussions/comments from the council:
- Deputy Director for Environmental Health Gary Gill has been designated Acting Director of Health (DOH) until February 2014.
- On December 19, 2013 Executive Director with Becky Gardner met with Representative Mark Nakashima to discuss legislative proposal to support training/testing and additional remuneration for state bilingual staff providing services as interpreters in addition to their usual functions. Documents and information was provided from OLA relating to this proposal. The Executive Director mentioned that the State of Washington is testing bilingual staff for language and interpreter skills and has also passed a law for bilingual staff to receive additional salary for their interpreter services. Patricia Harpstrite said she knows of bilingual staff who have passed testing in California and who receive additional salary compensation for interpreting. She also stated that there is a difference between a bilingual employee doing their regular job and being an interpreter. Ruth Mabanglo said that as a teacher she sees true value in testing.
- The contract for Bridging the Gap (BTG) training is still under review by the State Department of Attorney General.
- The request for the release of funds for the Language Access Resource Center (LARC) and Multilingual Website Project has been approved by the Department of Budget and Finance and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The next step will be to establish and fill the LARC and Website Project positions.
- The Executive Director and Dominic Inocelda, Chair, appeared on the DOH Healthy Foundation program introducing the Office of Language Access (OLA) on January 6, 2014. To be viewed on Ōlelo TV in February.
- Still looking for a venue for the annual language access conference in August 2014. The theme for the conference has also not been finalized.
- Thus far 35 people have registered to attend the Medical Terminology Workshop scheduled for five sessions January-February. Limit is 50. Patricia Harpstrite wanted to know if the credit hours being earned at the workshop will be accepted by national certification organizations. Mindy Emmons said that Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) has allowed her to update her application online without having to submit her certificates.

- The winter issue of the OLA Quarterly Newsletter will come out before the end of this month.
- Executive Director will be attending the opening of the 2014 legislative session on January 15, 2014.

5. **Report of the Chair**

The Chair, as mentioned in the Executive Director's report, appeared on the 30 minute DOH Healthy Foundation program with the Executive Director on January 6, 2014. They talked about the history of OLA and the Hawai'i State Language Access law. Kristine Pagano asked if it was or will be closed captioned. Gerald Ohta said he would follow up on this question.

6. **Reports of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

- **Legislative Committee.** At this time they are waiting for the bills to be introduced by January 23, 2014. Kristine Pagano wanted to know who was introducing the bills. Becky Gardner responded that the House Majority staff office is drafting the bills. There are three bills for OLA. #1 to restore OLA positions that were previously removed, #2 request for additional funds for the LARC and Website Project, and #3 request for funding support for training medical interpreters and prepare medical glossaries in certain languages. Patricia Harpstrite asked if there was any mention in the bill of training materials for people to use. Gerald Ohta responded this was not in the bill. Serafin Colmenares said that the additional money requested would go to the trainer. Mary Santa Maria on Maui said none of the people on Maui have had formal interpreter training, she would like to see the bill require some formal training as an interpreter. For example, DOH has bilingual health aides who work for the state but do not have formal interpreter training. Gerald Ohta thinks DOH may be able to make the requirement internally by the administration. Kristine Pagano agrees with what Mary said, she also thinks they need to train interpreters on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws. She said HIPAA requires interpreters to sign forms and they need liability insurance. Gerald Ohta asks if they would need more specialized HIPAA training. Dominic Inocelda said the state contracts to agencies and that staff needs training also.
- **Special Projects Committee (Untold Stories Project).** Becky Gardner said to continue to send in written stories and mentioned the possibility of using Ōlelo to tell our stories to the public.
- **Plans Review Committee.** No meeting. Executive Director informed the council that OLA continues to receive language access plans from state funded entities and wanted to know if the council would help review them. Gerald Ohta suggested that the council should develop a protocol on how to do this.
- **By-Laws Committee.** No meeting.
- **Permitted Interaction Group – 7th Annual Hawaii Conference on Language Access.** No meeting. However, still looking for a conference venue. Discussion followed about other possible venues to explore, such as Neil S. Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall (NBC), Tokai University, Kapiolani Community College, and UH Mānoa Campus Center Ballroom. Literacy themes/topics were discussed by the council who felt the need to define literacy and its different aspects, health, cultural, legal, religious, technological, and literacy in LEP clients, to mention a few.
- **Permitted Interaction Group for Language Access Month.** No report.

7. **Other Upcoming Events.**

- Hawai'i Educational Policy Center Conference, "The Impact of Immigration and English Language Learners on Education in Hawai'i" Saturday, January 18, 2014, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm @ William S. Richardson Law School, UH Mānoa, cosponsored by the College of Education, the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and the William S. Richardson School of Law.

8. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- None

9. **Announcements.**

- Interagency Council (IAC) meeting for January will be a luncheon meeting on 1/22/2014.
- Next LAAC meeting – January 08, 2014 @ 9:30 location to be announced.

10. **Adjournment.** -Meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted by secretary, Gail McGarvey