

## Interpreter Work group Minutes – Oct. 20, 2009

2 sites participated in the DDN meeting including: Tulare Middle School and Rapid City

Those in attendance include:

Grady Kickul

Janet Ball

Greta Howe

Todd Christensen

Diane Svacina

Bobbie Beth Scoggins

Tom Kober

Larry Puthoff

Mark Johnson

Lisa Fowler

Mitch Richter

Marlee Dyce

Christa Gunderson

Kasey Entwisle

Kathy Strand for Beth Driesen (Beth did email that Kathy would be taking her place)

Interpreters – Julie Paluch, Ryan Strege, secretary, Linda Noonan

The following were not present:

Ann Larson

Mark Koterwski

A brief review of the minutes from the last meeting was discussed, which involved the legislation process and the need for a unified support of any bill that is brought forward. Topic items from the last meeting also included the complaint process, annual registration, extension process and qualifications of education interpreters. Bobbie Beth requested that the last page of the minutes be changed from Ben's name to CSD. Minutes were approved.

At the last meeting, Grady and Janet attended via a DDN studio in Pierre. Grady confirmed that distance meeting created communication issues and as we move forward DRS staff will be attending meeting at the SF location.

After the review of the minutes, the Division of Rehabilitation Services outlined a previous interpreter workshop that was hosted by the Division. As on-going support for the interpreters in South Dakota, 3-4 workshops are held annually to help interpreters maintain their CEU requirements and for continued growth in skills and knowledge. The workshop held in Aberdeen was presented by Eileen Gray, Professor from N.D. 19 interpreters & students attended. 4 were Augustana students. 2 mentors also attended. The training focused on the NIC testing tool. Marlee then outlined the NIC knowledge training group available through Augustana. If anyone is interested in joining, they can contact Marlee.

Information was then provided on the future Robin Dean interpreter workshop which is also co-hosted by the Division of Rehabilitation Services and will be held in March at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

Grady confirmed the continued commitment that DRS has in maintaining the opportunity for continued growth of SD interpreters. We want to continue providing as many opportunities as we can to enable interpreters to become certified. As this process moves along, we would like Marlee to invite us to tour and have a meeting there at Augustana. Marlee agreed that this is a good idea.

- a) Lisa encouraged mentors to also attend the training as it would be beneficial for them in preparing future interpreters for testing.
- b) Mark confirmed that it would also be beneficial for deaf mentors as well.
- c) In the future, Janet will send out training opportunity information to all the mentors as well as interpreters and students of the IT programs.
- d) Grady confirmed our priority is to provide preparation for national testing. That is the state's most immediate need.

Grady then provided a review of the department procedures as they request bills for legislation. Human Services is proposing legislative changes. What we are proposing is the initial step in the process. One change is contact hours and CEU. Second change is to add the authority for rules. Friday DHS had submitted proposed recommendations to the Bureau of Administration. It will be in the Bureau of Administration for up to a month and a half. At the end of November, we should hear back from them to see if there is a bill or not. The 3 recommended changes are what we have been discussing as a group.

1) Continuing education hours on state level are more demanding than the national requirements. Section 1-36A-10.5 #4, a person certified pursuant to subdivision may continue their certification only if the person completes 125 continuing education units every 5 years. What we are proposing is to change to 80 continuing education contact hours every 4 years in order to mirror the national level.

- a) Lisa – Has it already been submitted, can we change words-- continuing education contact hours?

2) Section 1-36A-12. The department may promulgate rules so we can establish standards of action for professional conduct. At the very end where it says: serving medical, educational, or legal settings – add “to adopt a code of ethics and establishing a procedure for discipline”. That will grant us authority and a procedure for discipline.

- a) Larry – change of words? Code of ethics to code of conduct?
- b) Casey – Use of word – Adopt - code of professional, follow national code of ethics?
- c) Grady – Advised by Legal to use the word “adopt”.
- d) Grady – will check with our legal department to see if it can be changed to code of professional conduct.

3) 1-36A-12 -- to give the department the authority to promulgate rules for an extension process. They still have to meet their continuing education hours, this just grants us the authority to allow an extension. We can be as strict as we choose.- an example – grave illness.

- a) Is there a current problem?
- b) Janet – no problem now but there could be a problem in the future. It gives them a little more time.
- c) Marlee - There is an interpreter with a serious illness and she did lose her certificate.
- d) Grady – current law will not let us grant extension. I don't want to be judge and jury but there are situations that arise where an individual is limited due to illness or another example would be someone with a military assignment.
- e) Janet – We have a shortage of interpreters in SD and we want to keep them in SD.
- f) Grady – Department is going to be very reluctant and specific.
- g) Mark - Look at the medical field or nurse, do they have an extension? If we could look at that.
- h) Grady – will look at other professions.

Grady added once things have been finalized within the department the group will be notified regarding the bill.

Annual registration - The general agreement is that we change the registration to a set date – July 31. That does not take a legislative change. This would require a rule change.

Tom - Is it possible to have an advisory board? This advisory board would work with the state and have a check and balance system. If something pops up, then we can discuss it as a group. We want to continue this group as an advisory board.

Grady – An advisory board is not required by law, but we can continue to work with this work group pertaining to interpreter issues on an on-going basis. Grady – we will work in that direction to establish an advisory council, but it will be at the agency level and no higher. Secretary Hofer does know about these meetings.

Next meeting – Dec. 1 at 3:30, we will give you any specifics we may have about the bill. Send agenda items to Janet. Dec. 1 meeting we will discuss some of these topics and what we have not discussed. How can we encourage educational interpreters? If you have any other agenda items you want discussed, send them to Janet and she will get them on agenda.