An Interpreter Workgroup meeting was held via DDN on
Thursday – July 23, 2009

- 4 sites participated including: Aberdeen, Rapid City, Pierre and Sioux Falls
- Those in attendance include:
    - Grady Kickul – Department of Human Services, Rehab. Services
    - Janet Ball – Department of Human Services, Rehab Services
    - Kasey Entwisle – Owner of Interpreter Services
    - Beth Driesen – SD RID representative
    - Mitch Richter – Interpreting Services, rule making
    - Marlee Dyce – Augustana College
    - Mark Johnson – Representative of deaf community
    - Larry Puthoff – Representative of deaf community, SDAD
    - Lisa Fowler – Interpreter and mentoring
    - Greta Howe – Rapid City – Educational Interpreters
    - Diane Svancine – Aberdeen – Rural interpreters in NE area
    - Ann Larsen – Department of Education in Pierre
    - Interpreters are: Julie Paluch and Renee Standish, student intern from Augustana program

- The following were not present:
    - CSD- Bobbie Scroggins
    - Rapid City-Todd Christensen
    - Tanya Miller
    - Mark Koterwski
    - Lance Sigestad
    - Christa Gunderson

- The 1st meeting is a fact finding to get recommendations on what is working in SD and what is not working in SD.
- Grady welcomed everyone and indicated that we wanted representation from all areas of the interpreting field, including agencies that employ interpreters, educational interpreters, business who purchase services from interpreters, consumers, etc. How far should we take this? Should we also invite individuals in the medical and legal field; do we need their input and recommendations?
- If there is a membership that is not represented on this work group, we would like your recommendations.
- Mark asked if NAD (National Association of the Deaf) was represented. Was Bobbi Beth Scoggins representing that group or CSD?
- It was clarified that SDAD (South Dakota Association of the Deaf) was the local chapter for the NAD and that it did have representation.
- Grady clarified that we asked for names and received several from SDAD as we wanted the deaf community to be represented.
- Mark stressed that smaller cities and deaf areas are difficult to represent. Also nice to include Aberdeen, Pierre and Rapid City as their needs are different. Grady – If we want to include other from these areas, SDAD should get names to us.

- Lisa Fowler also recommended that rural areas include a deaf education student in high school and their needs are also unique.

Review of the certification/register process of 2006

- Janet Ball outlined laws and rules from the Legislative session in system 2006 indicating that they are a combination of law changes over the years. It was hard to match old law and & new rules.
- Review of certification – grandfathered all SD Certified interpreters in who tested in South Dakota prior to 7-06. They were required to register initially during the month that their current certification expired and then apply for annual registration yearly by submitting the registration fee and including 25 continued education hours
- Provisional Certification: Proof of graduation from a postsecondary degree program of 2 years or more, register with a mentoring program, they will be given a Provisional Certification for no more than 5 years. For the next 4 years, they must register annually, provide proof of 25 CEU hours, and provide proof of mentorship hours.
- EIPA Certification - Must have 3.5 level or higher for SD certification. Renew EIPA (Education Interpreter Proficiency Assessment) certification annually by submitting continued interpreter education consisting of 25 hours annually and continuing education hours.
- National Certification - RID (Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf) or NAD – Must register initially and then annually by providing proof of continued eligibility on the national level. CEU hours are maintained through their CMP (Continuing Maintenance Program) program on the national level.

Questions surrounding this overview

- EIPA – if someone is being tested somewhere else and comes to SD, do they have to have 3.5 or higher for SD certification. – Yes
- Diane asked if the state requires the written portion for the EIPA? No, written test is required, only a 3.5 on the performance.
- If someone is an interpreter in school but certification lapses, what happens? SD has a list on our Website which is in Law. It is the SD registry and identifies every certified interpreter in SD. If they are not on this list, they are not legal to work for remuneration in SD.
- What is the process if someone does not pay dues – They forfeit their current certification and then are required to test on the national level and provide proof of that certification before they are certified in SD to work for remuneration.
- Larry asked how the state monitor's certification? Janet - the state has an interpreter database showing everyone that is registered, their certification type, certification expiration date and CEU. Janet also sends out reminders of certification expiration dates as a reminder 60 days prior to expiration. A SD register is complied from this database updated regularly. You can also call Janet if you have any questions surrounding someone's certification and if they are legal to work in SD
- Question – If a person graduates from an interpreter training program and comes to SD and asks for provisional certification, is there a deadline on how many years have

lapsed before they seek Provisional Certification? No. Some felt this should be further discussed to prevent folks who have not worked in the field for a long time.

- Kasey gave an example: if a person moved to another state that did not require state certification; she allowed her SD state certification to lapse; then moves back to SD; she cannot interpret? Kasey felt this was a justifiable reason to not put restrictions on when you received your interpreter training degree.
- Lisa commented that there are interpreters begging to work but they cannot due to lack of certification. It was recommended then that they should test on the National Level.
- A question then was asked about provisional certification for a CODA (Children of Deaf Adults). Again, it was commented that they also can test on the national level.
- Mark – Provisionally Certified individual must obtain 8 hours every month of mentoring, does it require a deaf person or interpreter? The state allows both. How do they choose a mentor? Majority of provisionally certified individuals were already on a mentoring program during classes at Augie, so they are aware of the program. There is no list but Janet will put that on the website. Currently Mentees ask CSD, Interpreter Services, or Augie. It is not hard to get hooked up to them.
- Mark asked why the deaf community was not informed of the changes that took place during the 2006 legislative session? Grady stated that SDAD was represented on the committee and leaders were aware of the issues being discussed. Grady stressed the importance of committee member's responsibility to get the word out regarding this process and to keep the folks they represent informed.
- Grady then asked Janet to provide interpreter numbers in SD. SD has approximately 88 registered interpreters. Approximately 45 are nationally certified, 35 hold SD Certification and approximately 10 hold SD Provisional or EIPA Certification. There is still a shortage of interpreters in SD. We are seeing more NIC certified individuals, which points out that our trainings and mentoring have been producing results. We are moving the right direction.

Overview of the 2008 administrative rule changes.

- These were areas of concern identified by the department during the implementation of this new registration system which needed further clarification in administrative rule.
- One change dealt with SD and EIPA certified interpreters and their CMP. We clarified what the cycle is and requirements. The changes mirrored how the RID handles their CMP program so that both national certified and SD certified interpreters are adhering to the same CMP program. They are now allowed to obtain 125 continuing education hours over a 5 year period.
- Also removed the section on initial registration for SD certified interpreters as rule no longer is applicable as they have all registered by now.
- We added language to the EIPA certification. An interpreter must apply for registration of their EIPA certification within 5 years of obtaining that certification.
- Complaint process which was pulled due to no authority by law. This outlined the process, investigating of the complaint and possible actions. We do not have the legal authority. We would have to amend the law to have complaint process.

- The last recommended change dealt with granting an extension period for those who did not met their annual registration qualification, which was similar to the national level. We currently have a shortage of interpreters in SD and we hate to lose good interpreters who let their certification lapse due to good cause. This was pulled as we do not have legal authority to grant an extension.

Other areas of concern

- To test nationally, currently you need AA degree. 2012 must have BA level.
- Does the medical or legal community need to be here? Do we bring in more stakeholders to this including interpreters grandfathered in from the old SD testing.

Other recommendations brought forth

- Kasey recommend having state certified, EIPA certified and provisional certified individuals become members of RID. They could become associate members of the RID and then the RID could track their CEU maintenance in the same fashion as those nationally certified.
- Marlee asked what would be the benefit for these individuals as they are already meeting their CEU requirements through the state.
- Lisa – there are many interpreters who do not want to join the national association. They are responsible to maintain their CEU requirements through the state.
- If we require national associate membership to monitor CEU requirements, we should then lower the registration fee for SD Certified individuals.
- Mitch – we will need to look at time frame and make changes before Oct. or Nov. in order to put recommended law changes before the Legislature.

We currently have 7 areas of concern on the table as follows:

- Provisional Certification – Should the time be limited on when a person receives their degree to when they apply for Provisional Certification. There is a concern that someone may not interpret for years but still possess an IT degree.
- Put a list of Mentors on the Website
- Complaint Process – Currently there is no legal authority
- Extension Process – Grant an extension for those who fail to meet their annual registration similar the RID process.
- Should all interpreters be required to register during the same time period.
- RID associate membership requirement for CMP maintenance for all SD interpreters.
- EIPA – Do we want to require the written test in addition to the performance test
- Annual Registration – Do we want everyone to register at the same time?
- Do we need to look at the qualifications for educational interpreters?
- Should we grant Provisional Certification for CODA's?

What is working in SD now?

- Mentoring very successful.
- Recent training and involving of deaf community have proven successful.
- There are 9 to 10 graduates from Augie this year.

- State sponsor training appreciated but need diversity to come in too.

Closing Comments

- Grady – This has been a good start up discussion; where do we go from here?
- The group agreed that we should meet on a monthly basis.
- Once school starts, we should start at 3:30 or 4:00 to accommodate educational interpreter members
- The state will get out minutes
- Members are to provide Janet with items of concern so that they can be complied and sent out to the group for consideration prior to the next meeting
- Need to post minutes on home page.
- Next meeting –August 18, 2009
- Members, please share information on this workgroup with the constituents you represent so that all stakeholders are informed and so that you can bring forth their concerns.