

Advisory Committee notes of the July 8, 2009 meeting

Present:

Southeast

Tammy Dearth

Northeast

Lisa Petrucci

Carol Black

Northwest

Central

Sarah McKinney

Southwest

Mary Roark

At Large

ISLR/Outreach staff

Jean Parmir

Pam Brodie

ISLR/Outreach updates

Budget: The Center for Outreach Services receives federal funds through the Ohio Department of Education and state funds through the Ohio School for the Deaf. The federal VI-B funds were reduced for the coming year, but we are expecting to receive federal stimulus funds which will make up that loss. Previously, grants were administered on the federal fiscal cycle, which overlaps the state fiscal cycle by three months. This year federal funds are administered by following the state fiscal cycle, which has changed how we schedule and manage activities. As of today's meeting the legislature has passed only an interim budget. At the moment we do not have authority to spend and do not know what our biennial budget will be for FY 2010 and 2011. We expect a significant cut in the state funds that OSD receives, which will significantly impact the amount available for outreach programs. The new school construction funding is separate and cannot cover any deficit.

Our first priority is OSD students; funding for outreach efforts is secondary. With the funding we receive, our priorities are (1) to retain essential staff and (2) to maintain programs. To address funding reductions, staff will be reimbursed only for essential travel using state vehicles; no mileage reimbursement will be allowed. We will also no longer reimburse Advisory Committee members for mileage until further notice. We still plan to host events which have already been planned and advertised, contingent on contracts being authorized in time for those to occur. We will be looking closely at all contracts to see if work can be done by staff.

Technology: We have added a web page with information and documents from the online community of practice and the Summer Institute session on interpreting for students who have Cochlear Implants. The Deaf-Blind interpreting self-study modules are now available through the National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials (NCRTM) website. However, the video takes a long time to download (1 hour 40 minutes to 3 hours estimated time). We have asked OCDBE for copies of the CD to put in the State Library collection and will include information about options for getting the video in the Moodle course. We have added the ability to host our own connections for distance events and will maintain our Moodle and Adobe Connect licenses. We have been having problems with sending email to groups through our database. We are investigating the problem and are also looking into replacing our current database program with File-Maker Pro.

Summer Institute Feedback: Evaluations were very positive for the event and for individual presentations. Jean will be sending thank you letters including comments from the overall evaluation in addition to presenter sessions. Often the feedback we receive is contradictory; for example, one person asks that we start earlier and end later, while another asks for the opposite. Also, people ask for topics that we recently presented. Since we do not have information about what they have attended in the past, we are not able to know if they could not have attended those previous sessions.

Interpreter Needs Survey: All areas asked about were rated as extremely valuable by more than half the respondents. Summer Institute was the most highly valued. However, most of the respondents have attended SI, so their responses may not reflect the feelings of educational interpreters across the state. We will continue to collect responses and to consider them as we deal with budget cuts.

Discussion:

ISLR Services and Activities for FY 2010: Given budget cuts, changes in services are necessary. The online survey we have been taking and AC member feedback were used to develop proposals which will be taken to an ISLR planning meeting. It is clear that we will not be able to contract with presenters, but will have to use Outreach staff or employees from other state agencies who would not receive an honorarium or expenses.

Ideas for in person professional development include:

- Using state-owned facilities and equipment or using sites.
 - We have tentatively scheduled October 3 or 17 for a workshop to be provided at OSD. We would either use staff or would piggyback on a workshop provided by another group.
- Working with an Interpreter Training Program or another organization such as OCRID
 - Arranging to use their facilities at no cost to us.
 - Offering our staff as presenters for them and providing equipment and email advertizing for them at no cost to them.
 - They would have to perceive this as a value to them. Benefits could include recognition among educational interpreters, registration fees, and ability to provide needed training.

Ideas for Summer Institute include:

- Having only one day of workshops. This should be a full day to make it worth the trip for interpreters in out-lying areas.
- Locating a place with dorm rooms.
- Providing a workshop on using online learning tools to help interpreters become more comfortable with online workshops.

Ideas for mentoring include:

- Prioritizing access to mentoring according to the following suggested criteria.
 1. Currently employed (or recently hired) interpreters with the associate license who have job-mandated performance goals.
 2. Currently employed (or recently hired) interpreters with the associate license who live in isolated areas.
 3. Currently employed (or recently hired) interpreters with the associate license who are in the first 4 years of employment.
 4. Currently employed (or recently hired) interpreters with the associate license who do not fit in the first 3 categories.
 5. Interpreters with the long-term substitute license who regularly work in a school system.
 6. Interpreters who hold an associate license but are not currently employed.
 7. Interpreters with the long-term substitute license who are not regularly employed by a school system.
 8. Interpreters who do not hold either license.

Review of Goals for 2008-2009

Fill open positions: Jean received one complete application from Jennifer Carrick for an At-Large position. Jennifer will join us for the August meeting. Jean also received an application for a Northwest Region representative and is waiting for one more item. We have an additional person who expressed interest in an At-Large position during SI, possibly changing to Southwest Region next year when there will be an opening. Carol has been attempting to contact her to follow up.

Publicize EIPA: Sara Paullin Casto is working on locating or developing an overview of the EIPA that could be disseminated to parents. We have had more requests for performance test slots, though some are from out-of-state, and more questions about the tests. The Interpreter Training Program collaborative is considering possible evaluation tools as exit criteria, including the EIPA-WT, EIPA-PT, and NIC written test.

Revise Guidelines: The AC prefers to work on this face-to-face as a group. We will work on sections of it during our face-to-face meetings.

Regional reports

Tammy Dearth, Southeast: Tammy will be working in high school this coming year. She is currently interpreting for football camp. She has been teaching signs to the student's brother. The brother has joined a group called "Quiet Love" that performs gospel music in ASL (<http://www.quietlove.us/>).

Lisa Petrucci, Northeast: Beachwood will be receiving federal stimulus money. They will be offering the EIPA-Written Test in the fall. Interpreters who wish to take that test must pay for it. They expect to hire an additional interpreter for the coming school year. The district has funds to support interpreters attending professional development events.

Carol Black, Northeast: The Canton student who both completed the Early College Program and received a degree from Stark State College was honored at a special luncheon during a principals' meeting and at other events. *[Note: His family and he have given permission to share his name. He is Paul Allen Hovan, and he earned an Associates degree in Technical Studies from Stark State College along with his high school degree.]* The other student in the EC program is enrolling at Stark State to complete a degree. Carol will be working in the high school next year. There are 11 interpreters in the district. They had hoped to have funds to take the EIPA- Performance Test, but the district is still struggling financially.

Sarah McKinney, Central: No report.

Mary Roark, Southwest: The elementary class may move to another building. Last year they held 3 family meetings, with ASL instruction done by a Deaf Services Center (DSC) interpreter in collaboration with the elementary teacher and presentations by a Deaf person. They hope to have monthly meetings this year. This is a grant-funded collaboration with DSC, which is now serving the Portsmouth area in addition to Central Ohio. The district paid for Mary and a colleague to attend Summer Institute.

Sherry Miller, Southwest: No report.

Next meetings:

October 24, 2009 and April 17, 2010

Meeting on the OSD campus from 9:00-3:00

January, 2010

An Adobe Connect meeting during the week at the end of the school day so interpreters can access a high-speed online connection at their work place.