

**Language Access Committee**  
Videoconference Webex

January 15, 2021

**Members Present**

Evangelina Burrows  
Yadira Call  
Rory Jones  
Judge Michael Leavitt  
Russ Pearson  
Judge Kelly Schaeffer-Bullock  
Judge Michael Westfall  
Lynn Wiseman- Chair

**Members Excused**

Amine El Fajri

**Guests**

Jonathan Puente

**Staff**

Kara Mann

**(1) Welcome**

Lynn Wiseman welcomed committee members to the meeting. Ms. Wiseman addressed the September 18, 2020 minutes. Judge Michael Leavitt moved to approve the minutes. Rory Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**(2) Introduction- Director of the Office of Fairness and Accountability**

Kara Mann introduced Jonathan Puente, the new Director of the Office of Fairness and Accountability. Mr. Puente explained his new role with Utah State Courts is to shrink the access to justice gap and expressed that he looked forward to working with the committee.

**(3) Updates and News**

Ms. Mann provided information to the committee on the Interpreter Credentialing Subcommittee. Ms. Mann shared the subcommittee approved of a workaround solution to offering interpreter testing and training requirements remotely online, except for two exams. Ms. Mann advised she had received an exemption to offer the English Written Exam and the Oral Proficiency Exam in-person, as required by the National Center for State Courts, from the Management Committee.

**(4) ASL Committee Vacancy**

Ms. Mann shared she had again emailed the ASL court approved interpreters to see if anyone had an interest in serving on the committee for the vacant position. Ms. Mann advised that Chip Royce expressed an interest in serving on the committee.

Russ Pearson motioned to nominate Chip Royce to serve on the Language Access Committee to the Management Committee. Ms. Wiseman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **(5) Committee Chair Nominations**

Ms. Mann shared that the current chair of the committee, Ms. Wiseman, would be retiring before the committee's next meeting. Ms. Mann shared a document on Webex that outlined each committee member's end date and if they could serve a second term.

Judge Michael Westfall motioned to nominate Judge Leavitt for a one year appointment as chair of the committee. Judge Kelly Schaeffer-Bullock seconded. Judge Leavitt accepted the nomination and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **(6) Proposed Reciprocity Rule**

Ms. Mann reminded the committee that there was a question on if approved interpreters should be included in the reciprocity rule. Ms. Mann shared she looked at the history of the reciprocity policy, and it included approved interpreters dating back to at least January 12, 2014, which was the farthest back she could find a record of the policy. Ms. Mann shared she researched other states and found no evidence of a state offering reciprocity for any credentialing other than for certified interpreters.

After discussion, Judge Leavitt motioned to remove approved interpreters from the reciprocity rule. Judge Westfall pointed out a grammatical issue with the removal of the approved interpreter section from the rule. Judge Leavitt motioned to remove approved interpreters from the rule and to approve grammatical changes to the rule. Judge Westfall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **(7) Continuing Education Requirement**

Ms. Mann reminded the committee that an extension had been granted for the current continuing education reporting period to June 30, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Mann asked the committee if the next reporting period should run July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022, or if it should be extended from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Ms. Mann expressed that the reporting period usually coincided with the calendar year, and suggested the next cycle should end on December 31<sup>st</sup> to get the reporting period back to ending when a calendar year ends.

Yadira Call advised that there were many online opportunities now for certified interpreters to meet the 16 hours of continuing education requirement. Judge Leavitt motioned to have the next reporting period run from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Judge Schaeffer-Bullock seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Call asked if an interpreter had completed their hours for the current reporting period, could any classes they take before June 30, 2021, count towards the next reporting period. Judge Leavitt amended his motion to include that any interpreter who has complete their 16 hours of continuing education can take courses before the current reporting period ends and have it apply towards the next reporting cycle running July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Judge Westfall seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mann asked the committee if there should be a limit on how many hours an interpreter can complete from one company or provider. Ms. Call shared that she will take numerous classes

from one instructor if she likes their teaching style and informed the committee that some companies have multiple instructors working for the company offering the classes. After further discussion the committee determined as long as the classes have been approved for continuing education credit, there should not be a limit on how many hours an interpreter takes from one company or provider.

**(6) Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.