

Language Access Advisory Meeting

Wednesday, October 5th, 2022, and Friday, October 7th, 2022

12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting Minutes

1. Attendance: Justice Dickson, Laura Tomes, Judge Salinas, Kristin Garn, Rhonda Marcrum, Mike Moore, Judge Crawford, Maria Wildridge. Staff: Manpreet Kaur
2. Language Access Plans-Currently, about 50% of the counties have submitted their language access Plans. Members discussed approaches to increasing the number of counties submitting their language access plans. **Consensus:** Manpreet will send a list of counties that have not submitted their language access plans to Laura, who will then establish a point of contact for language access in each county and encourage counties to submit their plans.
3. VRI and Next Steps- Members discussed viable solutions to remote interpreting including a discussion of virtual calling platforms, their features, and how they could be of service or pose a challenge to interpretation needs. A pivotal discussion point was “How can lawyers and attorneys talk to their clients privately via Zoom or other online meeting platforms?” Laura suggested breakout rooms in Zoom as a potential solution. In Hamilton County, a platform similar to Zoom is used to provide a breakout room for the attorney, their client, and an interpreter at the attorney’s request. This occurs before the hearing commences and the conversation is not recorded.
4. Interpreter Complaint Form- Justice Dickson suggested altering some of the language in the form. Change “If you are not provided with a language interpreter, were you provided a reason?” to “If you answered no, then proceed.” Alter the question by asking the complaining party to describe a solution. Eliminate the language of “chief” judge and replace it with “the” judge. Members discussed whether an interpreter complaint form is necessary and if having one available will encourage more complaints. **Consensus:** There needs to be a formal way of filing complaints, even if complaints are rarely filed.
5. Concerns with interpretation- Members discussed a Court case dealing with poor language access

Complications with WebEx lead to the conclusion of this meeting to occur on Friday, October 7th, 2022

Friday, October 7th, 2022

In attendance: Judges Crawford, Salinas; Justice Dickson, Rhonda Marcrum, Laura Tomes, Maria Wildridge, Michael Moore, Kellyeane Norrod, Kristin Garn. Staff: Manpreet Kaur

1. Reflection on the previous meeting- Manpreet gave a summary of the last meeting's discussion and introduced Kristin Garn to discuss the remainder of the Court case that exemplified poor language access.
2. Concerns with interpretation (continued)- It was acknowledged that language accessibility issues do occur and discussed how to educate the judges about language accessibility while recognizing the pressure of a busy docket and supporting the judge's needs. Distributing a best practices memo to the courts that is endorsed and or encouraged by the higher-ranking professionals was discussed. A member suggested adding a section to the interpreter complaint form that focuses on language accessibility issues. This would include information about when and where the language accessibility issue occurred and a description of the language accessibility issue. Mike provided some insight into language accessibility for deaf people and suggested the members of this committee work together to revise and or create clear guidelines for spoken language accessibility. Creating a bench card, providing education/resources, and taking a reformative approach to language accessibility were discussed. Laura is willing to share her language access training with the committee for feedback and revisions. Kristin is going to reach out to her colleague to see how they want to proceed. Judge Crawford provided an update on how Hamilton County handles language accessibility and privileged conversations. **Consensus-** send a letter to the judge.
3. Advisement of Rights-Mike Moore Mike provided an update on the advisement of rights. 7 advisements were reviewed, and feedback was provided by several entities. Mike would like to provide this committee with feedback and recommendations on the advisements, make the revisions to the advisements accordingly so that they are standardized, and begin translating them into ASL and other languages.
4. Language Access Update-2022 Grants: 741,857 grants and 49,525 emergency grants were given out
 - a. Court Certification Program- Spring session: 15 individuals took the written exam, 5 passed the written exam, and 0 passed the oral exam. Fall session: 22 individuals took the written exam, 4 passed the written exam, and all are predicted to take the oral exams which are scheduled for October 24, 25, 26, and 27. Some individuals who passed the written exam during the spring session may take the oral exam this Fall.
 - b. Reciprocity Request: 12 requests have been received and are being processed
 - c. Indiana Language Access Rating: 38.99/100
5. Members discussed implementing bias training for interpreters
6. Members asked if the committee should resume meeting in person. Manpreet will send out a form to gauge interest in meeting in person or a hybrid format.

Next meeting: Friday, October 21st, 2022, at 12:00 PM location TBD

Language Access Advisory Meeting

Friday, October 21, 2022, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Virtual Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Justice Dickson, Judge Salinas, Laura Tomes, Stephanie Ritchie, John McGauley, Kristin Garn, Maria Wildridge. Staff: Manpreet Kaur

1. Language Access Plans— no further updates
2. VRI and next steps— no further updates
3. Advisements of Rights— no further updates
4. Interpreter Complaint Form—Laura shared her version of the interpreter complaint form, and the committee will review the suggested alterations.
5. Language Accessibility issue— meeting in November to discuss the contents of the letter.
6. Language Access Training— Kristin proposed language access training for legal and court personnel. She would like to be able to train court personnel in language accessibility best practices and procedures.
7. Language Access Training Modules— Manpreet made the committee aware of the language access training modules in progress. Manpreet would like the committee to review, refine, and provide feedback on these draft narration and visual suggestions for the language access training module.
8. Bench card- It was proposed that the bench cards be printed and laminated so that they are not mistakenly disposed of. Consensus: Print and laminate the bench cards and give them to the judges at the upcoming conference or through the mail.
9. Language Access updates/new projects-Manpreet will be speaking in Allen County on November 1st and at another conference.

Next voluntary meeting: Friday, November 18, 2022, at 1:00 pm via Teams