

Meeting Date	Language Access Committee	
September 23, 2016	Council Room	
Members Present	Member Excused	
Judge Su Chon	Judge Rick Romney	
Judge Michael Leavitt (by phone)	Maureen Magagna	
Sherry Parkes (for Megan Haney)	Russell Pearson	
Randall McUne		
Miguel Medina		
Amine El Fajri		
Michelle Draper		
Mary Kaye Dixon		
Jennifer Andrus		
Gabriela Grostic		
Staff: Keisa Williams, Rosa P. Oakes		
Guests: Randy Morris (AOC Intern), Vida Allahverdi		
Judge Chon welcomed everyone as the chair for this meeting. Given that it was Judge Leavitt's first meeting, he introduced himself and committee members did the same.		
Topic: Approve minutes of June 10, 2016		
No changes were made to the minutes. Michelle Draper moved to approve them; Mary Kaye Dixon seconded the motion.		
Motion: Passed unanimously		
Topic: Farsi Interpreter Exemption Request		
		By Rosa Oakes
Redacted for privacy.		
Topic: Defense Counsel Member Application		
		By Keisa Williams
Ms. Williams informed the committee that she had received one letter of interest to fill the defense counsel vacancy. She provided a copy of the letter and the resume. Ms. Williams stated that Bebe Vanek is a relatively new attorney, who currently works with the Utah Juvenile Defender Attorney's office. According to the director, Pam Vickrey, Ms. Vanek is motivated and would be a good fit for our committee. Ms. Williams asked the committee to formally approve Ms. Vanek as a candidate to be elevated for approval by the Judicial Council.		
Gabriela Grostic moved to approve Ms. Vanek as the candidate to fill the defense counsel vacancy on this committee. Randall McUne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.		
Topic: DOJ Language Access in State Courts		
		By Keisa Williams
Ms. Williams shared a recent report authored by the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. In particular, she reviewed an interactive map demonstrating state courts' performance on providing language access to LEP patrons. Ms. Williams pointed out that while Utah's scores appear low and are consistent with neighboring states, some important information was not taken into account. Nevertheless, there are some improvements such as providing court staff training on language access that can be made.		

Topic: Subcommittee and Program Update	
Topic: Subcommittee and Program Update	By Keisa Williams
<p>Ms. Williams reported that since she started in her current position she has committed to visiting court sites across the state to speak with TCEs and interpreter coordinators about language access issues they are encountering. Visits to the 1st and 2nd districts have yielded good feedback bringing some concerns to the surface. Specifically, the issue of stipend recipients and those who no longer receive it.</p> <p>Some TCEs want to make certain exceptions for bilingual employees who at one time received a stipend, but no longer do because of their failure to pass the language assessment. The issue was also raised at the monthly TCE meeting wherein Ms. Williams reinforced the stipend policy.</p> <p>Ms. Williams has deemed this topic to be an issue of training court staff overall on the use of stipend recipients. Judge Chon stated that this topic requires more discussion given that there may be a need for a stipend policy update. The topic was tabled until the November meeting.</p>	

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: November 18, 2016