

Language Access Committee
Matheson Courthouse
Council Room
450 South State St.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

May 17, 2019

Members Present

Michelle Draper - Chair
Yadira Call - by phone
Judge Su Chon
Monica Diaz - by phone
Megan Haney
Judge Michael Leavitt
Randall McUne
Russ Pearson
Lynn Wiseman - by phone

Members Excused

Mary Kaye Dixon
Amine El Fajri
Chris Kunej
Judge Kelly Schaeffer-Bullock

Staff

Kara Mann
Jeni Wood - recording secretary

Guests

(1) Welcome.

Michelle Draper welcomed everyone to the meeting. The committee agreed to have more generalized minutes moving forward. The Third District staff interpreter vacancy will be posted in August because the first posting did not retrieve any qualified candidates.

Ms. Draper addressed the amended January 18, 2019 minutes. Megan Haney moved to approve the January 18, 2019, as amended. Russ Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Draper addressed the March 15, 2019 minutes. With no changes, Judge Su Chon moved to approve the March 15, 2019 minutes, as presented. Randall McUne seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) Language Access Plan

Ms. Mann presented revisions to the Language Access Plan as addressed during the March meeting. Ms. Mann compared the Department of Justice's Language Access Planning and Technical Assistance Tool for Courts (Toolkit) with the Utah State Court's Language Access Plan (LAP). Many of the discrepancies can be remedied, however, some issues such as quality control, may take further consideration. The possibility of creating working groups to review each section was discussed. Ms. Mann will research western states for a Language Access Plan that this committee can mirror and will distribute to committee members to review before the next meeting. The committee will create working groups at the next meeting.

(3) Interpreter Coordinators' Handbook

Ms. Mann presented a manual that provides Interpreter Coordinators with an overview of information on language access, court interpreters, and their job responsibilities as the interpreter coordinator. Currently, the Third District is the only district that has a full-time dedicated interpreter coordinator. In section I page 2, Ms. Mann will add "juror" as someone who would be entitled to an ASL interpreter. There was discussion on what constitutes a "reasonable accommodation" in section I page 2. Ms. Mann will conduct further research and speak with General Counsel to ensure the handbook follows the requirements of ADA and the courts.

Ms. Mann will clarify section III page 6 ASL interpreter requirements, that court approved ASL interpreters are overseen by the Utah Interpreter Program, a program within the Department of Workforce Services Rehabilitation. Ms. Mann will verify if InterWest Interpreting is the only state contract for ASL interpreters and will add that any person can request a certified deaf interpreter.

Ms. Mann will speak with the Deputy State Court Administrator on rules/exceptions surrounding hotel stays and mileage due to weather or an early morning assignment.

Ms. Mann will confirm that there is a 2-hour minimum for ASL interpreters. Ms. Mann will amend the accounting manual section and clarify if necessary. Ms. Mann will include testing locations. Ms. Mann will clarify sight-translation. Ms. Mann will add delinquency to juvenile cases.

Ms. Mann will revise the handbook, distribute it to some long-standing coordinators for review and edit, and then re-address it with the committee.

(4) Recorded Evidence Guidelines

This item was not addressed.

(5) Notice of a Formal Complaint

The committee went into executive session to address a formal complaint.

After discussion, the meeting continued.

(6) Other Business.

No further business was discussed.

(7) Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.