

Language Access Committee
Videoconference Zoom

March 20, 2020

Members Present

Michelle Draper - Chair
Yadira Call
Judge Su Chon
Amine El Fajri
Mary Kaye Dixon
Monica Greene Diaz
Rory Jones
Russ Pearson

Members Excused

Judge Michael Leavitt
Judge Kelly Schaeffer-Bullock
Lynn Wiseman

Staff

Kara Mann

(1) Welcome

Michelle Draper welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Draper addressed the November 15, 2019 minutes. With one minor spelling correction, Mary Kay Dixon moved to approve the November 15, 2019 minutes. Yadira Call seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kara Mann introduced and welcomed new member, Rory Jones, to the committee.

(2) Committee Update to the Judicial Council

Ms. Draper informed the committee that she and Ms. Mann provided the Language Access Committee update to the Judicial Council on February 24, 2020. Ms. Draper shared that the Judicial Council had questions regarding:

- Lack of Spanish interpreters
- Recruiting
- National pass rate for the Oral Proficiency Exam
- Interpreter Pay
- Scheduling

Judge Chon asked if the expectation is that interpreter usage will continue to increase as it had for 2019 over 2018. Ms. Mann advised that she believed the numbers would continue to increase and that potentially the usage of interpreters is being underreported in CORIS.

(3) Proposed Changes to the Accounting Manual

Ms. Mann advised the committee that finance had suggested changes for the interpreter section of the Accounting Manual that they wished the committee to consider.

Finance asked to change the name of section 7 from “Minimum Fees” to “Interpreter Fees”. The committee decided on “Interpreter Compensation”.

Finance asked to change section 7(f) to clarify the wait time policy. The committee added “Interpreters may be called on to provide interpreting services and should be readily available during their wait time.” The committee asked for clarification if wait time is a maximum of 1 hour per day, even if the interpreter is eligible for wait time multiple times in a day.

Finance asked to add section 7(h) to clarify meal times are not considered wait time and will not be factored into compensation. The committee agreed to this addition.

Finance asked to add section 7(i) to clarify payment for interpreters who interpret in multiple languages on the same day. The committee decided to replace the suggested language of “show actual times” to “individually list start and end times”. The committee asked for clarification on how the time waiting for cases to be called will be paid when the interpreter holds different credentials for each language.

Ms. Mann shared she would speak with finance about the committee’s questions. The committee decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

(4) Chair of the Committee Nomination

Ms. Draper informed the committee that her term as chair was ending, and shared her appreciation for the committee. Ms. Draper asked for chair nominations.

Judge Chon asked for a reminder on when committee members’ terms expire before nominating a new chair. Ms. Mann shared she was unable to access that information during the meeting. Ms. Mann advised there was no longer a quorum since a member had to leave during discussions for another meeting. Ms. Diaz asked if an email with the term limits could be sent to the committee. The committee agreed Ms. Mann would send out the term limits for all committee members and to hold the nominations by email.

(5) July Meeting Date

Ms. Mann asked the committee if the July meeting date could be moved to either July 10th or July 31st. The committee agreed and suggested emailing the dates so that all committee members could select which new date works best.

(6) Other Business.

Michelle Draper informed the committee this is her last meeting as her term ends in April 2020. The committee thanked Ms. Draper for her commitment to the committee and the time she spent as chair.

(7) Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.