

Advisory Committee notes of the August 9, 2010 meeting

Present:

<i>Southeast</i>	<i>Northeast</i> Carol Black	<i>Northwest</i> Diane Schmidt	<i>Central</i> Sarah McKinney Kristi Hill	<i>Southwest</i> Sherry Miller* Mary Roark Theresa Beuerlein
<i>At Large</i> Jennifer Carrick		<i>ISLR/Outreach staff</i> Jean Parmir	Pam Brodie	Margaret Murphy

**Sherry Miller has completed her term. We appreciate her many years of service.*

ISLR/Outreach updates

Budget: Most of our program and staff funding now comes from federal grants. Those funds are expected to remain the same. However, cuts to OSD state funding would have an impact on us as well. The state is in the middle of its biennial budget; however, cuts are still possible. All state agencies have been asked to present budgets with flat funding and with a 10% decrease. This is also an election year, and that may have an impact on state funding.

New School construction: The site preparation has been taking place. The next phase, construction of the new buildings, will be delayed because bids came in 41% above the estimated cost. The Ohio Schools Facilities Commission, OSD, Ohio State School for the Blind, and the architect and construction management firms will be meeting to discuss options. This may delay the projected completion date of 2012. The OSD gym was also to be renovated over the summer through capital improvements money. During that work, they discovered that the concrete pad under the floor had crumbled and that there were water lines buried under the pad. Moving the lines and installing a new pad have extended the work, and the gym will not be available until October. We will need to find another location for our girls volleyball, including the Central States Schools for the Deaf volleyball tournament which we are hosting this year.

Staffing: Our Parent Mentor has resigned, and we have posted that position. We have offered the Intermittent K-12 Education Consultant position to Abby White and are expecting her to begin soon. She will be assisting with K-12 consults. She will also help with parent mentor duties until a new mentor is found and with preschool consults during Carrie Davenport's maternity leave.

The human resources office at the state level is working on changing all Education Consultant positions to other classifications. They are planning to establish an interpreter classification. We are looking at an Education Liaison category for staff members who provide inservices and go out on consults. Bob Donaldson's position as ASL Instructor has been approved for a different classification, and the position was also converted from intermittent to part-time. Bob provides staff and family classes. We are hoping to set up distance classes for families using distance technology. We have polycom equipment that we can loan; however, some families do not have high speed internet access, and sites that have often do not have staff at times that parents are available for classes. Bob can be contacted regarding classes for families (donaldson@osd.oh.gov).

Positions open at OSD include aides for students (contractual positions through the home school districts) and an ASL teacher. The ASL teacher provides distance learning classes to students in other parts of the state; some of these students are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information on the classes, contact Cheri Balk (balkc@osd.oh.gov).

Alice Cogswell Center: The ACC daycare and preschool has been receiving more requests for placement for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. As a result, they will no longer accept children with normal hearing. Those children who had been attending ACC either had parents or siblings who are deaf or hard of hearing or who had other connections with sign language, including OSD staff.

Cochlear Implants: We have seen a large increase in the number of infants and young children who are receiving implants. Many parents and providers believe that children with CIs do not need visual access to language. However, presenters at the recent Northeast Ohio Consortium for Children with Cochlear Implants (NOCCCI) conference that was cosponsored by Outreach emphasized that a CI does not cure

deafness. There is a difference between hearing sounds and recognizing speech. Screening to identify which children are appropriate for implants may not happen or may be ignored. Also, many who do well one-on-one are not able to use audition for access to language in large groups.

OSD has set up an Auditory Access Task Force to determine the best ways to support students here who have CIs or other access to speech through technology. The AATF is consulting with Mary Koch, who has worked with The Learning Center and Kendall Demonstration Elementary School in providing sign language as support to their students who have auditory access. They are focusing first on the ACC and elementary students.

Website and database: Kevin Eck from our tech department has designed a prototype using the new web design software. There is still some work to be done before we transfer to that site. We are still experiencing difficulty with our database; some people are not receiving email messages sent using that system. Only one of the AC members present at this meeting received notice of the link to the summer newsletter which was sent in late July. We will send that link again.

Mentoring program: We have some funds for contractors, and all five of our contract mentors (Marla Berkowitz, Sharon Bordean, Amy DeLorenzo, Kathy Geething, and Leah Subak) have indicated they are available. We need to look at possible changes for our structure. Because the state fiscal year ends in June, it can be a problem to have contracts for sessions that last beyond that time. We will have two sessions using staff and contract mentors, fall (September to December) and spring (February to May). In the summer we will have mini-sessions with staff mentors only. The Advisory Committee and staff will review current forms and documents as well as materials from the Western Region Interpreter Education Center (WRIEC) and suggest revisions to our materials by September 10.

Fall workshop: Our October workshop is scheduled for OSD. Currently there is limited parking and construction work is occurring. We could look for another site, but OSD is familiar to our participants, and we have easy access to our equipment here. We will plan to have the workshop here; if we need to find another location we will notify those who are registered.

Online learning: We are still working on the self-study materials for the EIPA Written Test. The workshops related to this topic were the least attended of our Summer Institute offerings, and the experience of committee members is that this is an area where most interpreters could pass the test using their experience and reading through the EIPA website on their own. However, some interpreters would benefit from assistance in studying this, and self-study is a flexible way to earn professional development credit. We reviewed a list of previous offerings; the AC recommended reprising the topics of Interpreting Strategies for Students with CIs and Deaf Identity. Another topic that had been suggested was Assistive Technology used with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The AC recommended that we develop a self-study related to that.

Statewide testing pilot project: Jean and Pam met with staff from the Office of Assessment and Office for Exceptional Children at ODE via teleconference with representatives of the Clerc Center at Gallaudet and Beachwood City Schools regarding accommodations for statewide testing. AC member Lisa Petrucci is one of the Beachwood representatives. One issue that came up is the use of the word "verbatim" for use of sign language in the accommodations information from ODE. Another item that was discussed was the possibility of developing video versions of the test for ASL users. These would be parallel to audiotape tests that are available for some spoken languages. Another meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 22 or 23.

Discussion/Future planning

Ohio Guidelines for Educational Interpreters: The revised version has been posted on Moodle. The document was available at Summer Institute for participants to look at and comment on. There were no comments made, but two participants approached Jean and volunteered to look at it. Jean sent them information about how to access the Moodle site, but they have not done so. Some of the AC members have looked at revision in Moodle, but others have not. We will leave it open for review in Moodle until August 30. Then we will send it out for review by others between August 31 and September 30. Individuals suggested as reviewers include four teachers of the deaf, including two who are also certified interpreters; one supervisor who does not have a background in deafness; one administrator with a strong background in deafness; and ODE consultants.

Spring workshop: Our regional workshops last year were in both Northeast and Southwest Ohio. These two areas have had more consistent attendance than other areas, and we have had more representatives from these regions to assist with planning. It might be difficult to plan for a workshop in the Northwest or Southeast. Also, more interpreters are accessing online activities. Instead of planning a regional workshop, we will increase our focus on online professional development. We might also host a spring training event for our mentors and include an activity where they lead a session for lead interpreters.

Recruitment: Tammy Dearth is not able to continue her term, so we have no representation from Southeast Ohio. We also have one position open for a Northwest representative and one for an At-Large member.

Committee priorities: We will discuss priorities for 2010-2011 at our next meeting. Our priorities for the past year were (1) revision of the *Guidelines*, (2) recruiting new members, and (3) publicizing the EIPA. The revision is nearing completion, and recruitment is an ongoing need. The number of requests for EIPA tests have increased as has interest in professional development related to the test. Interpreters in the Cleveland area would like to have a site for taking the EIPA-PT in their area.

Summer Institute: Evaluations showed that overall participants were very satisfied. There were a few comments about food and drink; we are limited in what we can provide for that without charging a great deal more. We will continue with the same schedule for 2011. Suggestions were made on presenters and topics.

Keynote: Ari-Asha Castalia on any topic related to interpreting; Leah Subak on her research

Concurrent sessions Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning: interpreting for foreign language courses (David Quinto-Pozos); relationships and getting along with difficult people (Anthony Nelson); ethics (Dave Calvert & Judy Cain, facilitators from New Professionals Online, Ari-Asha); student behavior/language; how to work with practicum students, interpreting for students with cochlear implants, and fingerspelling in the upper grades (no presenter identified); Ask the Teacher (slang/language, possibly with Shannon Clancy, formerly Taylor; computers/technology; geography/place names)

Tuesday afternoon sessions: focus on 3 major features in the EIPA-PT

Plenary Sessions: open with Statewide Testing update or IDEA topic; close with fun, unifying activity (Ari-Asha)

Regional reports

Due to limited time and limited school activity during the summer, reports were not given. One issue that was brought up was the lack of a visual alerting system for emergency messages at schools. While fire alarms typically include a strobe light, tornado alerts and lockdown messages do not. Schools usually rely on the interpreter or another staff member or student to inform students who are deaf or hard of hearing when these alerts occur. Another option is to broadcast a text message; this would require that students be allowed to have pagers.

Next meetings:

Meeting dates for 2010-2011 are October 2, January 22, and April 9