

Advisory Committee notes of the April 19, 2008 meeting

Present:

<i>Southeast</i>	<i>Northeast</i> Carol Black	<i>Northwest</i> Sue Lottier	<i>Central</i> Sarah McKinney Julie Loedding	<i>Southwest</i> Mary Roark
<i>At Large</i> Pat Maille	<i>Guest</i> Diane Schmidt	<i>ISLR/Outreach staff</i> Jean Parmir	Pam Brodie	

ISLR/Outreach updates

ASL consultants: Molly Estes, Mike Halischak, and Bob Donaldson are now under ISLR in the Outreach table of organization. Molly is a fulltime OSD staff member, and Mike and Bob are intermittent employees. Molly will continue to provide ASL assessments and support for students, coordinate ASL tutoring for staff, and coordinate the SLPI. Mike primarily provides ASL instruction for parents, and Bob provides ASL classes and tutoring for staff. In addition, they are available for Deaf Culture and ASL vocabulary sessions.

Writing Team for ODE Educator Preparation: The team wrote performance-based standards during face-to-face meetings in February and completed the draft through email. The standards will be used by higher education to submit program reports and to request approval for new programs. The draft has been sent to Carol King at ODE, who has requested clarification of a few items before sending the document on for approval. After it is approved, it will be available for individuals and programs to view.

April regional workshop: The workshop had positive evaluations from the participants. Sharon's presentation was interactive and included a lot of discussion. Some comments from participants may be incorporated into something for the newsletter.

Mentoring: We have 4 applicants for our spring session. Margaret is looking for ways to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Mentoring can focus on many topics, including learning how to mentor your peers or preparation for certification.

Other Outreach activities: Outreach will have a booth at the Deaf Nation Expo next week. The Deaf Educators Network (DEN) meeting included 2 sites connecting through video conferencing, and we are interested in continuing to do that.

Working conditions task force: Two task force members, Becky Costas and Sarah McKinney, presented to the DEN meeting. The presentation will be adapted for Summer Institute and will include more in-depth printed information, since their time will be limited to 30-45 minutes. We also intend to make the information available on our website. We need to include that the information was collected during the 2006-2007 school year.

Standardized testing accommodations: The *Ohio Guidelines for Educational Interpreters* includes the recommendation that interpreters be permitted to review the tests prior to interpreting. In the 2007 Rules Book, Appendix J gave a protocol for interpreters to review tests. The 2008 rules do not include that protocol. In the section on test security, the current publication says that only people that the district identifies as authorized may see the test before, during, or after administration. Since the Guidelines are best practice rather than rules, and since the protocol has been removed, many administrators have not authorized interpreters to review the tests even though the current rules do not prohibit them from doing that.

Also, the current rules use the word "verbatim" when describing interpretation. Consultants at the Office of Assessment have said that they did not intend "verbatim" to mean that an interpreter cannot change the language, only that the interpretation should not add or omit anything. However, administrators may take the word "verbatim" as it is defined, to mean word for word.

ODE and ISLR recommend that interpreters use the Oral Translation Script as a guide for what is permissible to interpret. The scripts require that most of the text in the reading questions and answer choices be given to students directly in English, and some districts will not permit any interpretation of that section to insure compliance. There are samples of scripts from previous years, and administrators can order the scripts for the current tests. This will provide a guide for interpretation and may also make administrators more willing for the interpreter to review the tests, since the scripts are packaged as one per grade and therefore there is only one seal to break.

ODE has revised the Rules Book three times in 2008 and will continue to make changes. The Accommodations appendix was removed in the March version, but was put back on the website on April 17, posted as a separate document rather than within the body. We strongly recommend checking the website prior to interpretation of tests to get the most recent information.

The Office for Exceptional Children has been given responsibility for accommodations, and Bonnie Nelson is our contact in that office. Wendy Stoica, who was our contact for several years in OEC, is now working in the Office of Assessment, which has overall responsibility for testing. Questions may be directed to either of them.

Regional reports

Tammy Dearth, Southeast: No report. Thanks to Tammy Dearth for arranging the site and locating a caterer for our April 12 workshop.

Lisa Petrucci, Northeast: No report. Lisa is attending an event where the Beachwood interpreter union is being honored. [Note: After the meeting, Lisa reported that Beachwood is expecting to hire a Deaf Education teacher and interpreters for the next school year.]

Carol Black, Northeast: Two Kent State students are completing their practicum with Canton schools. Deaf students from the Early College will be graduating in May, 2009.

Sue Lottier, Northwest: Lucas County ESC may be taking over responsibilities, including interpreting, from Sandusky County ESC which is closing. There will be a Deaf Awareness Day at the Toledo Mud Hens on May 29, and deaf students will sign the national anthem. Sue will be doing community work after many years of interpreting in public school settings. This is her final term with the committee, and we wish her well!

Sarah McKinney, Central: Delaware-Union County ESC is closing, and the Franklin County program is taking over some of their staff and contractual services. Delaware-Union has employed interpreters this year; they work with OSD students at the Delaware Area Career Center. It is not known whether those services will be taken on by FCESC. Upper Arlington, which houses the FCESC program, has early dismissal days, and the interpreters often arrange for professional development credit for activities on those days. Recently, Cameron Crane presented on cochlear implants to interpreters and teachers.

Julie Loedding, Central: The Columbus Hearing Impaired Program will be hiring interpreters.

Mary Roark, Southwest: Green Local has had two practicum students. They were placed through the Community Services for the Deaf in Portsmouth, which provides services to students in the community. The host organization for CSD was Southern Ohio Medical Center, but they have eliminated that sponsorship because of budget cutbacks. Deaf Services Center in Columbus has agreed to take on CSD through June 30, 2009, and they are assisting the CSD staff in looking for ways to continue services beyond that date. Some students are involved with the DSC Deaf Kids and Teens Club.

Sherry Miller, Southwest: No report.

Pat Maille, At Large: The local CSD sponsors a Youth Enrichment and Recreation Club, which includes monthly field trips, presenters, and other activities. Pat will be doing C-Print for the Speech and Hearing Center's "Great Communicators" banquet. The honoree this year is a deaf person.

Diane Schmidt, guest: Mansfield City schools have new administrative staff who will be supervising the interpreters. The interpreter positions are hourly rather than staff. They are likely to need interpreters for the next school year.

Common issues:

When deaf students are in study hall, interpreters are sometimes assigned to be with them. This is appropriate when it involves the interpreter reviewing material that the teacher provided, from a class that they interpreted, or when they are interpreting for a tutor who is working with the student. It is not best practice when they are expected to go over materials without having interpreted that class or received materials from the teacher. In many programs, study hall for students is prep time for interpreters. Being on call for students can limit the interpreter's ability to do the preparation necessary for effective interpretation.

Many interpreters rely on computers at their school to access the internet. Although the state has built infrastructure for online learning, not all schools have high speed capability needed for accessing online video. Also, schools typically block many sites, including some which may be required by online learning programs.

Discussion

EIPA test site planning: ISLR staff members Sara Paullin Casto, Trudy Halker, Margaret Murphy, and Jean Parmir scored well on the performance test. OSD has been given 10 performance test slots for July under Janet Gordon, who was the LTA for our testing. Sara, Trudy, Margaret, and Jean are applying to be Local Test Administrators and expect to be approved. We are requesting additional slots for 2008 and will ask for 10 for summer months and 5 for other months during 2009. Interpreters who take the test must pay a fee to Boys Town, which administers and scores the test. LTAs may charge up to \$75 in addition to that fee. We will not charge for Ohio interpreters, but will charge out-of-state applicants. There has been increased demand for the EIPA since RID agreed to allow interpreters who have passed the written test and have a 4.0 or higher on the performance to join in the certified member category. Some states require interpreters to have a specific rating to work in the schools. Ohio currently does not have an EIPA requirement, though Beachwood City Schools requires it. There is an organization called ASK-12 that is a coalition of states and agencies that provide the EIPA. One of our Summer Institute presenters is its director, and we will discuss options for collaboration across states.

Summer Institute preparations: The schedule and hotel are set. Our goal is to have registration online on April 23. There will be an event similar to ASL Immersion held in August at a hotel. The change in date is to accommodate the availability of instructors.

Online events: The "Deaf Identity" seminar will be repeated in September-November. All of the participants in the just completed session were interpreters except one who is a parent. Instructor Marla Berkowitz would like to increase the number of parents and other educators who participate. We will limit the number of interpreters to 10 of the 20 slots in order to keep spaces for others and are looking at ways to advertize to those groups.

Professional development listings: We are revising our professional development listings to include consults, mentoring, and large and small group topics available from all Outreach staff. When the suggested revisions from staff have been incorporated, we will send the draft out the AC members for feedback.

Website: We are also making changes in our website and are working on adding features, including a vlog. We want feedback from AC members and also ask that they let us know of any missing links or information that they would like us to add.

Next meeting:

We will have our retreat the first or second full week in July. Jean will send out email asking AC members to respond with their preferred dates.