

Advisory Committee notes of the July 9-10, 2008 retreat

Present:

<i>Southeast</i> Tammy Dearth	<i>Northeast</i> Lisa Petrucci Carol Black	<i>Northwest</i> Sue Lottier	<i>Central</i> Sarah McKinney Julie Loedding	<i>Southwest</i> Mary Roark
<i>At Large</i>	<i>ISLR staff</i> Jean Parmir Trudy Halker	Sara Paullin Casto Margaret Murphy	<i>Other Outreach staff</i> Pam Brodie Cindy Whicker	

Information sharing from Outreach/ISLR:

SI 2008 feedback: Overall and individual workshop evaluations were very positive, with few criticisms. Some topics were suggested, and there were also suggestions for repeating or expanding on information. Some participants would prefer to have lunch on their own, but to do this we would have to allow 1.5 to 2 hours for lunch, cutting into time available for earning Professional Development Contact Hours. There were not enough seats in some of the sessions. Since participants were required to preregister for sessions, some may have forgotten which ones they were to attend. To alleviate this issue, we will put individual registration information in folders and on name tags. We will also clarify procedures for CEU stickers, introduce student reps in each session so they can be more helpful, and make minor changes in the registration form.

Staff news: Jean will be absent for surgery in August. We have posted a position for an interpreter and are in the process of conducting interviews. This is an Education Consultant 1 position, so it requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

ASL Coordination news: The Sign Language Proficiency Interview team held a training recently and has added eight new members. ASL Exhaustively registration information has been mailed. This event replaces ASL Immersion. There is no longer a subsidy for hotel rooms, and participants are encouraged but not required to stay at the host hotel.

Other Outreach news: The new school construction means that the Evaluation Center rooms are moving to the administration building, with the exception of the audiology booth which will be moved to the current high school hall. The girls' dorms will be demolished, and the girls will be boarded in the east end of the staff building until the new dorms are completed. Entrances to the campus and parking will need to be modified.

OSD has received budget cuts of 2.5% for Fiscal Year 2008 and 10% for FY 2009. Outreach has also had cuts, and we will not be able to set up a Deaf Mentor program as planned. We are looking for grants to supplement other activities.

The state has ended the Special Education Regional Resource Center Program and replaced them with State Support Teams. The teams provide services within their area, but may not provide all the services the SERRCs provided. We received library materials from some of the SERRCs, and these have been given to the State Library.

OSD distance learning education includes ASL classes for public school students, some of whom are deaf/hard of hearing, and special classes for deaf/hard of hearing students in general education programs.

Outreach preschool and teacher consultants were invited to Ohio Valley Voices, which teaches deaf/hard of hearing children birth through age 8 using spoken language. These students can benefit from support from our consultants when they transition into general education programs.

We are working on setting up a yearlong calendar on the Outreach web pages rather than posting events as they are imminent. Outreach will sponsor a presentation at NOCCCI in September and will also have a booth and provide an information session about our services.

Kathe Shelby is the new director of the Office for Exception Children at ODE. Pam Brodie is now a member of the LPDC regional committee for Central Ohio. There is more information about the regional committees on the ODE website.

ITP sharing: Jean shared highlights of the ITP Collaborative meeting in May, including activities of the individual programs and ODE licensure information. Washington State Community College in Marietta is now approved for licensure. The new standards for interpreter licensure, which will apply to initial program approval and periodic review of the approved programs, are expected to be approved soon. [Note: The new standards, dated 7/8/08, are available as a pdf on the ODE website:
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=553&ContentID=1224&Content=52185>]

Chapter 3301-21 of the Ohio Administrative Code, "Colleges and Universities Preparing Teachers," is being revised and will include requirements for all associate licenses. It currently includes requirements only for the pre-kindergarten associate.

Discussion

Newsletter: One SI evaluation comment related to wanting to know more about professional and consumer organizations. We brainstormed names and will begin listing a few in each newsletter along with a brief description and website information. The next Sharing Solutions feature article is on Visual Phonics, and Sara is looking for ideas of people or topics for future newsletters. Ideas suggested during the meeting include Cochlear Implants, ethical questions, and helping students become engaged in their own success. Other forums to address these topics include Iva D'Lema and the Deaf Educators Network. Many of the InSight column responses collected at SI were from the same people, so Sara will be looking for venues to collect more responses.

Web: Sara is looking at reformatting so that resources are shared by topics rather than by user groups. The AC would like to see a list of resource information in the newsletter, since not all interpreters have easy internet access. OSD may not be an approved website for some school districts, but as a state agency we should not be blocked. Sara has made changes to make the website easier to navigate and would appreciate being informed of gaps or errors.

Working Conditions Survey: Sara and Sarah are working together to revise the information for dissemination. The handout used at SI will be the basis for the website document. They also want to consider providing additional perspectives on the information; for example, converting hourly rates to an annual amount. Other ideas for dissemination include informing people that the document is available through *Signals*, putting some information each quarter in *Signals* rather than one large article, and an RID *Views* article. AC members may be able to use some of the data collected to contact interpreters or districts.

EIPA: We will conduct 5 performance tests (PT) in July. Three of the candidates are from Ohio. We have no slots yet for August through December, but we are on the waiting list. For 2009 we have 5 slots per month during the school year and 15 slots in the summer months. CSCC and WSU are offering the written test (WT). Kent State has offered the PT, but has filled most of their slots. Forms and resources have been added to our website. It might be good to add a FAQ section; for example, there is confusion on whether the RID written test is sufficient for those wishing to have RID acknowledge EIPA certification. (RID requires the EIPA-WT in addition to a 4.0 or above on the EIPA-PT.)

Professional Development: We are interested in offering more professional development online and through other technology. We have been exploring online platforms other than Moodle, including Adobe Connect and eLuminate. These platforms can offer meetings where participants would use a webcam/earpiece to see and hear each other as well as materials that the moderator/presenter would display online. Questions include whether the speed of transmission is acceptable for signing and the ability for participants to access the link at specific times. These platforms are also good for work groups, because everyone can look at documents at the same time, and for mentoring.

Mentor program: The program is now in its 4th year. The program is full for summer, and we have 2-3 mentees who have requested mentoring in the fall. We would like to train a second cohort of mentors, using the same criteria as the first cohort. The EIPA offers an additional way for interpreters to become certified and meet the certification criteria for mentors. Also, the focus of mentoring recently has often been related to the EIPA.

We would like to develop a 6 month to 1 year training program on preparing for the EIPA (WT and PT). Cindy Farnham has been identified as a trainer for the EIPA-PT, and George Clark for the EIPA- WT. An additional resource is Deb Jones. She was scheduled to present at SI, but because few participants signed up for her workshop it became a consultation. One question raised during that session was what credentials Deaf people would need to take the mentor training. One approach is to look at people who we would be interested in employing as mentors and consider their resumes. It is important that they know about interpreting as well as about language.

Goals for 2008-2009: The AC would like to have all positions for representatives filled and to identify regional constituents and improve communication with them. The survey data and the Outreach database may be helpful in reaching interpreters. Also Pam Brodie and Debbie Brewer will present a workshop for interpreters in August at the Lucas County ESC and can promote the AC there. An informal pre-dinner "meet the AC" session at SI could also help identify people for 2009-2010.

We would like to promote the EIPA with interpreters and employing entities. One way to do that might be to make parents aware of the EIPA and what the levels represent. Parent Mentors, the organization Hands and Voices, and the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) are possible ways to reach parents. AC members would like to look for funding for interpreters to take the test. One possibility is an award or grant through OCRID.

Another goal is to revise the *Ohio Guidelines for Educational Interpreters*. State Printing is converting the *Guidelines* to text files, which will make this task much easier.

Regional reports

Carol Black, Northeast: The students in the Early College program should graduate in May 2009. That program will have a new principal. Finances are still an issue for the district. The district had paid for WT and had hoped to pay for the EIPA-PT, but finances may not allow that. All licensed staff members receive an annual amount as an educational stipend, which helps with earning Professional Development Contact Hours. There is no requirement on what it is used for and there is no additional pay for degrees earned.

Lisa Petrucci, Northeast: The preschool-K teacher has retired, and the district recently finished interviewing for that position. They are getting some new students, including preschoolers. One student has a physical disability and will have an aide.

They will also be hiring interpreters as they reach the end of the phase-in for the EIPA-PT requirement of 3.5. The hiring committee includes Lisa, another interpreter, and the director of pupil services. The hiring process includes a 72-hour EIPA screening, which recommends whether to hire. Interpreters who are hired through the screening must test again in February. The district pays for the test. If they do not achieve the required level, they are dismissed at the end of the school year. Longevity pay was in previous contracts but was negotiated out and replaced with EIPA. Those who already had it kept it. They receive a stipend for passing at the required level and additional pay for 4.0 or above. The EIPA-WT is available, and the interpreters pay only the EIPA fee, not an additional proctor fee. The interpreters were involved in writing the job description and advocating for standards and benefits.

Sue Lottier, Northwest: September 20 there will be an OCRID LC 1 (Toledo area) workshop with Ben Hall and Linda Ross. The topic is NIC performance and interview practice. Sue will email the information to AC members to disseminate.

Sarah McKinney, Central: Upper Arlington High School will offer ASL 2. This is for elective credit, not foreign language credit.

Julie Loedding, Central: Columbus City Schools will be hiring an interpreter. The committee consists of Marcia Orvets (supervisor), Sharon Bordean, and Lori Giuliani, who has volunteered to serve as contact person for absences and takes care of other needs for the interpreters. They appreciate Lori's assistance, but would like to have a coordinator who could also fill in as a sub as needed. There is a high school student coming to the district with

a recent hearing loss who has shown no interest in signing. The student has been in a general education class, and the district is considering placement options. Suggestions have included a self-contained class, use of C-Print, and online classes.

Tammy Dearth, Southeast: The Zanesville program has closed. Tammy is getting ready for the middle school football camp. Students in her school have the option of coming to school or doing all lessons on computer through Novanet. The program is supervised by a teacher and has been very successful for some students.

Mary Roark, Southwest: The district might get a new teacher of the deaf for the high school.

Sherry Miller, Southwest: No report.

Pat Maille, At Large: No report.

Common issues: Interpreters are dealing with communication with deaf/hard of hearing students and interpreting interns during school lockdowns.

For interpreters who are members of OPSEA and are interested in forming separate unions, release must be done as a group and the process can be difficult. Interpreters who work for ESCs are in a different situation than those who work for districts. There is interest in the possibility of a statewide interpreters union.

Local Professional Development Committees have some guidelines from the state, but there are many variations in who can and who must be on the committee, what forms they use, and what they will approve.

Future planning

Statewide fall workshop: November 15, Demand-Control Schema workshop in Columbus. We will contact Mark Alan English, who has been working with Columbus State Community College to implement DC-S.

Regional spring workshop: The Northeast region will host this at Timken High School. We will contact Marla Berkowitz about doing an all day version of her "Idiomatic ASL" workshop on March 7 or 14.

SI 2009: Proposed location is the Holiday Inn Worthington. Preferred dates are June 15-16. The first day schedule will be the same as this year, but the second day will be adjusted to bring everyone together at the end rather than at the beginning. Ideas for speakers and topics were suggested.

Dates for meetings 2008-2009: October 18, January 24 (ITP representatives invited to join in the morning), and April 25