



ISG Registry Committee History

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<http://www.umtia.net/ISG.html>



Formation

- A committee looking at certification and licensure formed in 2004.
- Initially it investigated the system and requirements used by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.
- It also looked at differences between licensure systems, registry systems, certification systems, and rosters.
- Within the topic of licensure, it looked at alternative paths to licensure.



The Question of Certification

- Since certification development is a long and expensive process, it was decided that this would be better done at the national level, and the committee refocused on the questions of licensure, registry requirements, and rosters.
- In 2005 this committee became the ISG Roster Committee



Registry vs. Roster

- A roster is a listing of people. There are no requirements for being on the list. Information is *not* verified. It is *not* standard-setting.
- A registry is a listing of people who have met certain requirements, such as particular training, or particular levels of demonstrated skills. Information is verified. It *is* standard-setting.



Voluntary vs. Required

- A roster or a registry may be voluntary or required.
 - Listing on the Court Roster is **required** to interpret in court.
 - Listing on the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) or the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is **required** to interpret ASL.
 - The American Disabilities Act **requires** a qualified interpreter, and this is defined by the RID and NAD registries.
- This roster is **voluntary**.
 - On August 11, 2000, Executive Order 13166 was issued with clarifying guidelines defining what it means not to discriminate against someone based on their national origin (Title VI of the American Civil Rights Act of 1964).
 - The guidelines require a qualified interpreter, but there is no law or executive order defining who is qualified to interpret spoken languages.
 - (MN Courts, however, have created a Rule which has the effect of law for interpreters employed in the courts.)



Benefits of a registry

- In languages of greater diffusion, a registry provides the ability to distinguish between those of greater skill and those of lesser skill.
- A roster simply duplicates and centralizes the current state of knowledge.



Benefits of a roster

- In languages of lesser diffusion, there are unlikely to be many people meeting the qualifications of a registry.
- In this case, a roster does NOT duplicate information already available, because most people do not know where to find any interpreters for the language, and a roster listing would represent an increase in current knowledge and resources.



What is a language of greater/lesser diffusion?

Although there are over 7000 languages spoken in the world today, there are fewer than 400 languages spoken in Minnesota.

Of those, 5 accounted for 90% of all court interpreter encounters in 2004.

19 languages accounted for 99% of all court interpreter encounters in 2004.

Languages of greater diffusion are languages which are frequently encountered in MN.

Languages of lesser diffusion are languages which are rarely encountered in MN.



Most common languages in court interpreter encounters 2004

	Language**	Population of non-English speaking residents in MN*	Number of hours invoiced by 7/04 for the period 1/04-6/04	Percentage of requests covered
1.	Spanish	175,000	9625	59.7%
2.	Somali	25,000	1838.11	71.1%
3.	Hmong	60,000	1778.14	82.1%
4.	American Sign Language	64,000	803.08	87.1%
5.	Russian	12,500	385.33	89.5%
6.	Vietnamese	25,000	345.8	91.7%
7.	Arabic-Standard	?	231.65	93.1%
8.	Khmer (Cambodian)	7,500	177.15	94.2%
9.	Lao	13,000	166.9	95.3%
10.	Bosnian (Serbian, Croatian)	3,000?	109.75	95.9%
11.	Amharic	2,750?	102	96.6%
12.	Oromo	3,750?	94	97.1%
13.	Nuer	500?	64	97.5%
14.	Chinese, Mandarin	1,500?	61	97.9%
15.	Korean	1,500?	46.45	98.2%
16.	Tigrinyan	1,000?	36.25	98.4%
17.	Arabic-Levantin	?	34	98.6%
18.	French	?	24.75	98.8%
19.	Anuak	100?	18.5	99.0%

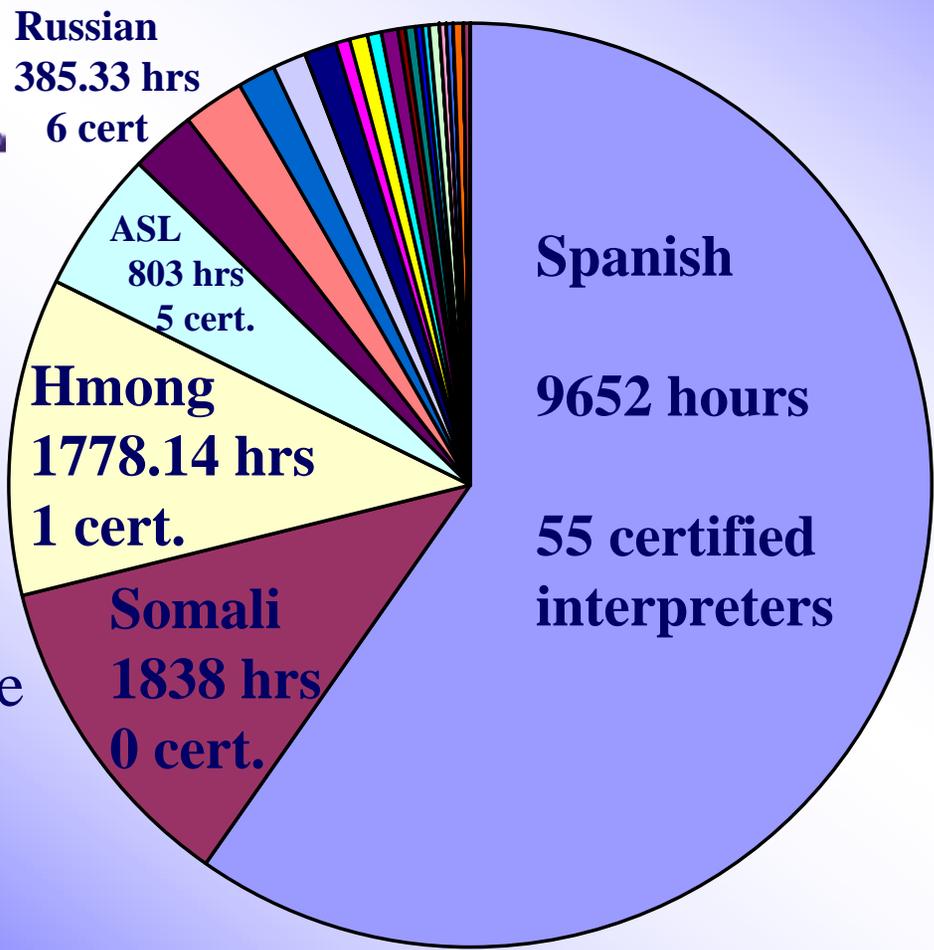
* Numbers without question marks are taken from "Estimates of Selected Immigrant Populations in Minnesota: 2004 by Barbara J. Ronningen.

** Languages in purple are languages for which certification exams are available

9/17/08



Hours invoiced 1/04-6/05



- Spanish
- Somali
- Hmong
- Sign Language - American
- Russian
- Vietnamese
- Arabic - Standard
- Khmer, Central
- Lao
- Bosnian
- Amharic
- Oromo, Borana-Arsi-Guji
- Nuer
- Chinese, Mandarin
- Korean
- Tigrinya
- Arabic - Sudanese
- French
- Anuak

Just a few languages made up most of the interpreting hours invoiced to the courts in

2004

4/17/08



Review: Benefits of a registry

- In languages of greater diffusion, a registry provides the ability to distinguish between those of greater skill and those of lesser skill.
- A roster simply duplicates and centralizes the current state of knowledge.



Review:

Benefits of a roster

- In languages of lesser diffusion, there are unlikely to be many people meeting the qualifications of a registry.
- In this case, a roster does NOT duplicate information already available, because most people do not know where to find any interpreters for the language, and a roster listing would represent an increase in current knowledge and resources.



Roster Workgroup

- The roster workgroup came to the conclusion that it was not interested in the creation of a roster for languages of greater diffusion, but rather in the creation of a registry.
- For languages of lesser diffusion, however, it was interested in the creation of a roster.



A Two-tiered System

- For these reasons, it was felt that a two-tiered system would be most useful
- The two-tiered system could become a three-tiered system when certification became available.



Registry Committee

- Since the creation of a roster without requirements was pretty straight forward, in 2006, the roster committee changed its focus to defining what the requirements would be to be on a registry which would be targeting languages of greater diffusion.
- To reflect its new focus, early in 2007 the roster committee became the registry committee.



ISWG

- In 2007, the state legislature formed the ISWG to make recommendations to the legislature regarding interpreting.
- The registry workgroup of the ISG continued examining different systems of qualification and drafted two alternative proposals for a two-tiered roster-registry system for ISWG.
- The recommendations were significantly simplified by the ISWG.



2008 Legislation

- In 2008, legislation was introduced by the Council of Health Plans in MN to create a roster of medical interpreters at the MN Department of Health.
- It also called for a plan for a registry to be developed by January 1, 2010.
- In June 2008, the legislation passed and was signed by the governor.



Implementation

The legislation specifies 3 phases. This has been broken into 4 phases, due to the fact that the developer would have needed the finished specifications essentially one week after the legislation was signed.



4 Phases

- Phase 1:
 - Development requirements due: July, 2008.
 - Committee focus in June and July, 2008.
 - A list of people.
 - No requirements to be on the list (except \$50)
 - Purely contact information.
 - Interpreters can start entering themselves in Nov, 2008
 - On Jan. 5, 2009 people can begin doing searches of the roster
 - Voluntary



4 Phases

- Phase 2:
 - Development requirements due: January, 2009.
 - Committee focus in October, November and December of 2008
 - A list of people.
 - No requirements to be on the list.
 - Includes quality fields regarding language proficiency and interpreter skills testing, education, and training.
 - Provides a password and account so interpreters can renew and update their profiles
 - Expected: July of 2009.
 - Voluntary



Phase 3:

- Development of a plan for the creation and implementation of a registry.
 - Due to legislature January 1, 2010
 - Committee focus in 2009.
 - There is no commitment by the legislature that this plan will be acted on.



Phase 4:

- Implementation of recognition of interpreter certification one year after it becomes available.
 - Future project with undefined timeline.
 - Commitment is unclear



Meeting Schedule

5pm-6:30pm (really 7pm)

Second and Fourth Thursday of the Month

Location: EABilingual

1885 University Ave W,
3rd Floor Conference Room

St. Paul, MN 55104

(Thurs) Sept 25th Communications

(Thurs) Oct 9th Communications/Phase 2 fields

(Thurs) Oct 23rd Phase 2 fields

(Thurs) Nov 13th Phase 2 fields

(Tues) Nov 25th Phase 2 fields

(Thurs) Dec 11th Phase 2 fields



2007 side note

- In 2007, ISG organized an expert panel of people working on interpreter certification around the country.
- At the same time, a number of other efforts were happening nationally.
- This conversation happens at the national level and is beyond the purview of this committee.



CHIA database side note

- In 2005 Cindy Roat, working on behalf of CHIA, began a series of discussions and studies to develop a database with substantial quality measures in it.
- In 2007, the CHIA database went live, which included very sophisticated database entries, where by people on the roster could upload information about their test scores, partially bridging the gap between the concept of a roster without qualifications and a registry which sets minimal qualifications.
- This has been the inspiration for Phase 2 development.