

# Spoken Language Healthcare Interpreter Work Group

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

MINUTES PREPARED BY: LEA BITTNER

LOCATION: VIA TEAMS

## Attendance

- Daniel Monari - member
- Lailee Tung – member
- Marc Sony Cadet - member
- Marisa Rueda – member
- Michele Reither – member
- Munna Yasiri – member
- Rachel Herring – member
- Rick Michals – member
- Rosemond Owens – member
- Talee Vang – member
- Maikhou Vang – member
- Katie Freeman - member
- Lea Bittner – Alliant Consulting
- Kelly Deering – Alliant Consulting
- Jessie Schuppe – Alliant Consulting

## Agenda

- Welcome and Project Background
- Introductions
- Work Overview and Timeline
- Meeting Cadence
- Draft Charter Review
- Future Meeting Prep, Next Steps and Closing

## Key Points

- The background of the work group and founding statute ([Minnesota Laws of 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 3, Article 1, section 96](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/3/) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/3/>)), was shared; member seat and representation were provided. The work group members represent diverse backgrounds and experiences related to health care interpretation.
  - Some members helped develop the legislation.
  - MDH is providing regulatory oversight of the work group; the work will be directed by work group members.

- A neutral, independent consultant, Alliant Consulting, was hired to lead and facilitate the work group.
  - Lea Bittner – lead facilitator
  - Kelly Deering – project support
  - Jessie Schuppe – project support
- Work group members in attendance introduced themselves sharing their name, the seat they represent and their hopes for participating in this work group.
- An overview of the project work and timeline was shared.
  - Initial recommendations to be completed by the work group by June 2026.
  - Work group meetings will occur October 2025 – June 2026.
  - Meeting cadence will be twice monthly for 90 minutes. Aiming to agree on a day and time from an availability poll which will be sent to work group members.
- A draft of a work group charter was reviewed; this resource was created to align the group, clarify roles and expectations.
- The group was invited to provide suggestions for future meetings including speakers, topics and other general work group considerations.
  - There were suggestions to group the recommendations into categories, and a suggestion to break the work group into their subject matter expertise.
  - There were numerous comments about the financial aspects of interpretation services including reimbursement and billing.
  - The topic of potential parallels with other professions was brought up: what can be modeled from other roles that are embedded in the industries that interpreters serve?

## Decisions Made

- Recommendations may be reordered/grouped — to be decided by the group.
- Meetings will be twice per month; the availability poll will confirm day/time.

## Next Steps

- Work group members are requested to respond to the availability poll by Friday, 10/3.
- The charter will be distributed; work group members review and provide feedback at next meeting (week of Oct 13th), in which charter will be finalized.
- Work group members to continue considering speakers and topics and bring suggestions to next meeting.
- Rick will identify central document storage for work group members to access.

SPOKEN LANGUAGE HEALTHCARE INTERPRETER WORK GROUP

- Rick to share the compensation form with eligible work group members for their submission and payment.

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05/05/2026

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