

Spoken Language Healthcare Interpreter Work Group

DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2025

MINUTES PREPARED BY: LEA BITTNER

LOCATION: VIA TEAMS

Attendance

- Daniel Monari - member
- Jama Dahir – member
- Jose Tor Maguina – member
- Katie Freeman - member
- Lailee Tung – member
- Maikhou Vang – member
- Marc Sony Cadet – member
- Marisa Rueda – member
- Michele Reither – member
- Munna Yasiri – member
- Nijeb Ibrahim – member
- Rachel Herring – member
- Rick Michals – member
- Rosemond Owens – member
- Talee Vang – member (Aida Strom - delegate)
- Lea Bittner – Alliant Consulting
- Kelly Deering – Alliant Consulting
- Jessie Schuppe – Alliant Consulting
- Jia Vang – MDH
- Jill Freudenwald – MDH
- Julianna Leintz - MDH
- Richard Laurion – Guest Speaker
- Dan Edreson – community member
- Denise McCabe - community member
- Chelsey Olson - community member
- Ellan Johnson – community member
- Johah Ondieki – community member
- Lucia A. – community member

Agenda

- Welcome and Project Recap
- Meeting Schedule and Dec Meeting Date Discussion
- Rachel Herring: Translating/Interpretation in Academic Research
- Guest Speaker Richard Laurion
- Review and Discussion of Resources on Surveying People Receiving and Providing Interpreter Services to Understand Changing Needs and Consumer Quality Care
- Future Meeting Topic Prep, Next Steps and Closing

Key Points

- New Work Group members in attendance introduced themselves sharing their name, the seat they represent and their hopes of participating in this Work Group.
- A December meeting poll was conducted to vote on the second meeting for December. Dates being considered are December 18, 23, or 30. 11 members voted and 73% selected Dec 18 and 27% selected Dec 30.
- Members are asked to RSVP to calendar invitations (send response) or send a delegate to meetings; note that those missing two meetings without an RSVP will be contacted by MDH to confirm they can accept their member responsibilities.
- A proposed work group timeline with topics and dates was provided.

Work Group Early Recommendations Discussion

- Work Group members discussed how to effectively survey people receiving and providing interpreter services to better understand changing needs and quality of care.
 - Key points included ensuring Limited English Proficiency (LEP) communities can access and respond to surveys in their own languages, exploring partnerships with community organizations, and considering logistical factors such as budget, interpreter support, survey language and length.
 - Other communication channels such as social media were suggested in lieu of formal, written surveys.
 - Members emphasized focusing on feasible recommendations rather than conducting the survey itself, referencing existing surveys as potential models. Suggestions included developing multiple audience-specific surveys, adapting questions from past efforts, and considering satisfaction measures comparing in-person and remote interpreting services.
 - Possible partnerships with Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association (UMTIA) were suggested
 - The importance of buy-in from insurers and medical organizations in the questions they ask people receiving services was mentioned. Dr. Freeman offered to get more information on this if possible.

Decisions Made

- None.

Next Steps

- Next Meeting Thursday, November 13th 1:00-2:30 pm.

SPOKEN LANGUAGE HEALTHCARE INTERPRETER WORK GROUP

- Group members will be drafting recommendations for Surveying People Receiving and Providing Interpreter Services to Understand Changing Needs and Consumer Quality Care.
- Members are asked to seek input from their communities in preparation for the next meeting.
- Rick is working on a central document storage location for Work Group members to access.

Reminders

- Work group members are requested to share topic information or suggested subject matter experts (SMEs) to speak to the group on the designated topics ASAP via the new email box: SLHCIWG.MDH@state.mn.us so that they can be scheduled to address the Work Group.
- Members are expected to RSVP to the meeting invites and notify the SLHCIWG email box for any meeting which will be missed. Members can send a delegate in their absence. Contact MDH asap if you cannot fulfill your member responsibilities.
- Members are expected to refer to the meeting summary prior to engaging in any subsequent conversation to ensure timeliness of effort.
- Members are asked to submit Expense Forms for meeting participation if they are not compensated through their work organizations.

Minnesota Department of Health
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05/05/2026

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4200.