

## **Consortium for Language Access in the Courts**

### **Professional Issues Committee (PIC)**

**Thursday, August 16, 2012**

**2:00 EST; 1:00 CST; 12:00 MST; 11:00 PST**

**Present:** Carmel Capati (WI), Andrea Krlickova (NV), Ksenia Boitsova (MD), Jennifer Singletary (WV), Maria Perez-Chambers (DE), Melanie DeLeon-Bloomstrom (OR), Brooke Bogue (NC), Pamela Sanchez (NM), Carola E. Green (NCSC), and Alisa Kim (NCSC)

**Absent:** David Sawyer (AL), Camille Wiggins (IN), Alejandra Donath (CT), Brenda Carrasquillo (NJ), Kelly Mills (OR) and Katrin Johnson (WA)

Konstantina (Tina) Vagenas was unable to join the call as initially anticipated due to telephone issues. She will try to attend the next meeting of the Professional Issues Committee (PIC). Carmel Capati (WI) conveyed Tina's enthusiasm for working together with everyone.

#### **Review of PIC Meeting Notes from July 5, 2012**

Meeting notes from July 5, 2012 were reviewed and no changes were made. Meeting notes will be uploaded to the Members-Only site.

#### **Existing Projects Update**

##### **Online Interpreting Courses**

Paula Couselo (NMCLA) was not on the call so was unable to provide updates for the two upcoming online course offerings scheduled to begin on September 10.

Pamela Sanchez (NM) provided a report on the proposal submitted by Paula regarding possible collaboration with states on the Justice System Interpreting (JSI) Certificate Program. This program was developed with the NM State Courts for people interested in becoming court interpreters and since its inception has received positive feedback. Pam estimated that 60-75 people have gone through the JSI program to date.

The general crux of NMCLA collaboration with states is envisioned as students enrolling in a 20-week online course with NMCLA and then completing part of the internship that requires face-to-face interaction in the state where the student resides. Pam reported that many aspects of the internship can be completed online however the mentorship weekend which involves mock trial hearings must be done in-person.

The total cost is around \$2,500 however, NMCLA has been successful at working with Workforce Solutions within their state to provide financial assistance to low-income or unemployed students who enroll in the course.

There was general interest in the possibilities of partnership however not all states are at the point in their development where it would be feasible. Andrea Krlickova (NV) asked if it would be possible to review the curriculum to better assess the benefits for collaboration. Pam said she will talk with Paula to see if PIC members could access the learning platform to review the curriculum as was done with the online courses.

Regarding the grant submitted to the State Justice Institute (SJI) to train bilingual employees, Pam reported that SJI is currently reviewing the proposal and will have a board meeting on September 17 to make a decision.

### **Website Redesign Project**

Carmel Capati (WI) reported on the website redesign project. To date, she has received responses from states about their materials and has had an initial discussion with Tina about how to move this project forward. Carmel said she and Tina had discussed trying to get approval from more states before migrating state-specific information from the private website to a public site. Tina will be overseeing this project after receiving input from the states. NCSC IT department have this project on their agenda and have begun working on it in earnest.

### **Remote Interpreting (RI) Guide**

Carmel said Tina had informed her that this project is underway with the NCSC and is expected to be completed by December 2012. A number of states have been appointed to this committee and include Jennifer Singletary (WV). Jennifer asked members about the preferred way to share the PIC's RI guide so as to avoid duplication. Carmel thought the contact person at NCSC should have a most recent draft of the PIC RI guide but if not, Jennifer should feel free to share with as many people as appropriate.

Jennifer said the first conference call for the sub-committee on best practices (which she sits on) is scheduled for tomorrow (August 17). Jennifer reported that her work group is scheduled to have weekly meetings and will be presenting their findings in October at the Summit. The two sub-committees consist of best practices and technical/practical information

Jennifer said the NCSC guide is aimed at covering three categories: 1) business model; 2) best practices (manual) and 3) technical standards. There was discussion as to the audience for the NCSC RI guide. Jennifer said it was her understanding this guide was intended for court business experts and relevant vendors. Members thought it may be necessary to provide a definition of a court business expert. The preferred outcome is for only one RI guide to exist, however, members felt if two separate guides were necessary, the guides should complement each other.

Members were hopeful the information for program managers initially compiled for the PIC RI guide would remain in at least one of the guides.

### **LAAC Update**

Carmel said the biggest news from LAAC is the hiring of Tina as the new Executive Director. There was discussion about meeting informally as a committee at the Language Access Summit in Houston as everyone who was on this call will be at the summit. PIC will schedule a September meeting and make a determination then as to whether there is interest or need to meet at the summit as a sub-committee. Carmel said three regional conference calls have been scheduled for the week of August 27<sup>th</sup>. Members are welcome to join whichever call is most convenient. Members asked if PIC would be required to report out on their activities at the October conference which Carmel said she did not believe there would be a need to do so. Maria Perez-Chambers (DE) said it will be important to make all sub-committee meeting minutes and notes available somewhere on the new web pages so new program managers, new policy makers and the general public will be made aware of the Consortium's activities over the years. Carmel said memorializing the Consortium's history is an aspect of the website redesign project that will need to be addressed in order to determine how best to preserve the important history of the Consortium.

### **Next PIC Meeting**

The next PIC conference call was scheduled for Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM Eastern Standard time. Carmel will send out the call-in number, password, and meeting materials as the date draws nearer.