

**Sign Language Interpreter & Transliterators State Registration Act
Stakeholder Meeting: February 23, 2018**

Location: 1521 N 6th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102; OVR Central Office

Time: 10:00am – 3pm

Members in Attendance:

Jessica Bentley-Sassaman (ITP); Benjamin Moonan (ODHH); Denise Brown (ODHH); Russ Goddard (OVR), Corrin Zimmerman (PARID); Jennifer Piring (ODHH); LaTanya Jones (PARID); Jeanne Bonnes (Agencies); Gerald Penna (PSAD); Osvaldo Aviles (AOPC)

Interpreters: Cindi Brown and Nichole Wade

CART: Hillary Walsh

Visitors: Melissa Hawkins, Harry Barnum, Jo Madden

Meeting Summary:

Ben welcomed everyone and the stakeholders reviewed and finalized meeting minutes from the last meeting October 27, 2017.

Cindi and Nichole created two flow charts to help reduce misunderstandings with the registration and renewal processes. One flow chart explains the RID exam process and the other flow chart is regarding the Act 57 provisional registration. The RID exam process flow chart is very clear. The other chart was reviewed and the stakeholders concluded that if the “Start Here” boxes were clearly labeled, the chart would be easier to follow. The revisions will be noted and reflected on the flow chart to see if it is more clear. Red arrows mean stop, green arrows mean go.

The stakeholders then reviewed the results of the survey. A total of 278 responded to the survey; 71 Deaf people, 15 Hard of Hearing, and 192 hearing people. Approximately half of the interpreters in Pennsylvania completed the surveys. Jennifer sent it out and she suggested that students 9th grade and higher took the survey. The stakeholders then went through each question and the comments associated with that question.

Some comments that were emphasized were the provisionally registered card and that some people are not aware of what it looked like, how some of the comments were worded and how it appeared that someone else took the survey for a Deaf person, for example, “I did assist the Deaf client...”, etc.

Denise stated that this survey provided information about what is going on and where there are issues. She also emphasized the importance of keeping the information within these comments confidential as specific names were mentioned. Denise also contacted the National Association

of State Agencies for Deaf and Hard of Hearing commissions and found that Pennsylvania is the only place that has Exemption 5.

The stakeholders then discussed the BEI and the meeting that took place in January with Angela. There are different levels of the BEI which include: BEI Basic which is K-12, BEI Advanced which is more government, medical, etc., and the BEI Master which is complex terms, systems, etc. Denise is going to confirm with Angela about what states administer the written and performance portions of the BEI.

Oswaldo stated that the main purpose of the meeting in January was to talk about the BEI legal CIC (court interpreter certification) which is an additional test under BEI. Some states have already implemented using the CIC test and accepting it as an equivalent to the SCL but the issue is the cost involved and how the candidates are required to travel to Texas to take the test. The fee for the test is \$185. They then would pay a yearly fee and for every 5 years, they have to come up with an equivalent of 60 hours of CEU's in order to renew their certification.

After all the discussion, the stakeholders came to a conclusion that the BEI will be proposed!

For the following meetings, the stakeholders agreed to keep a running list of what they have agreed upon and a list of what they are talking about next to stay on track at the meetings.

The alternate pathways document was passed out and the stakeholders are to read it so that can be discussed at the next meeting.

The March 23rd meeting from 10am-3pm was cancelled so the next meeting will be on Friday, April 27th from 10am-3pm.