

Home for Trainers Interpreter Trainers Webinars Work Group
An initiative of the Standards and Training Committee



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INTERPRETING IN HEALTH CARE

No Interpreter Left Behind: Ensuring Language Access for Less Common and indigenous Language Communities

Guest Trainer:
Katharine Allen, M.A.

Webinar Work Group Hosts:
Linda Golley & Eliana Lobo

December 11, 2014

www.ncihc.org/home-for-trainers





Housekeeping

- This session is being recorded
- Certificate of Attendance
 - *must attend full 90 minutes
 - *trainerswebinars@ncihc.org
- Audio and technical problems



- Questions to organizers
- Q & A
- Twitter #NCIHCWebinar



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INTERPRETING IN HEALTH CARE

Welcome!

Guest Trainer:
Katharine Allen, M.A.

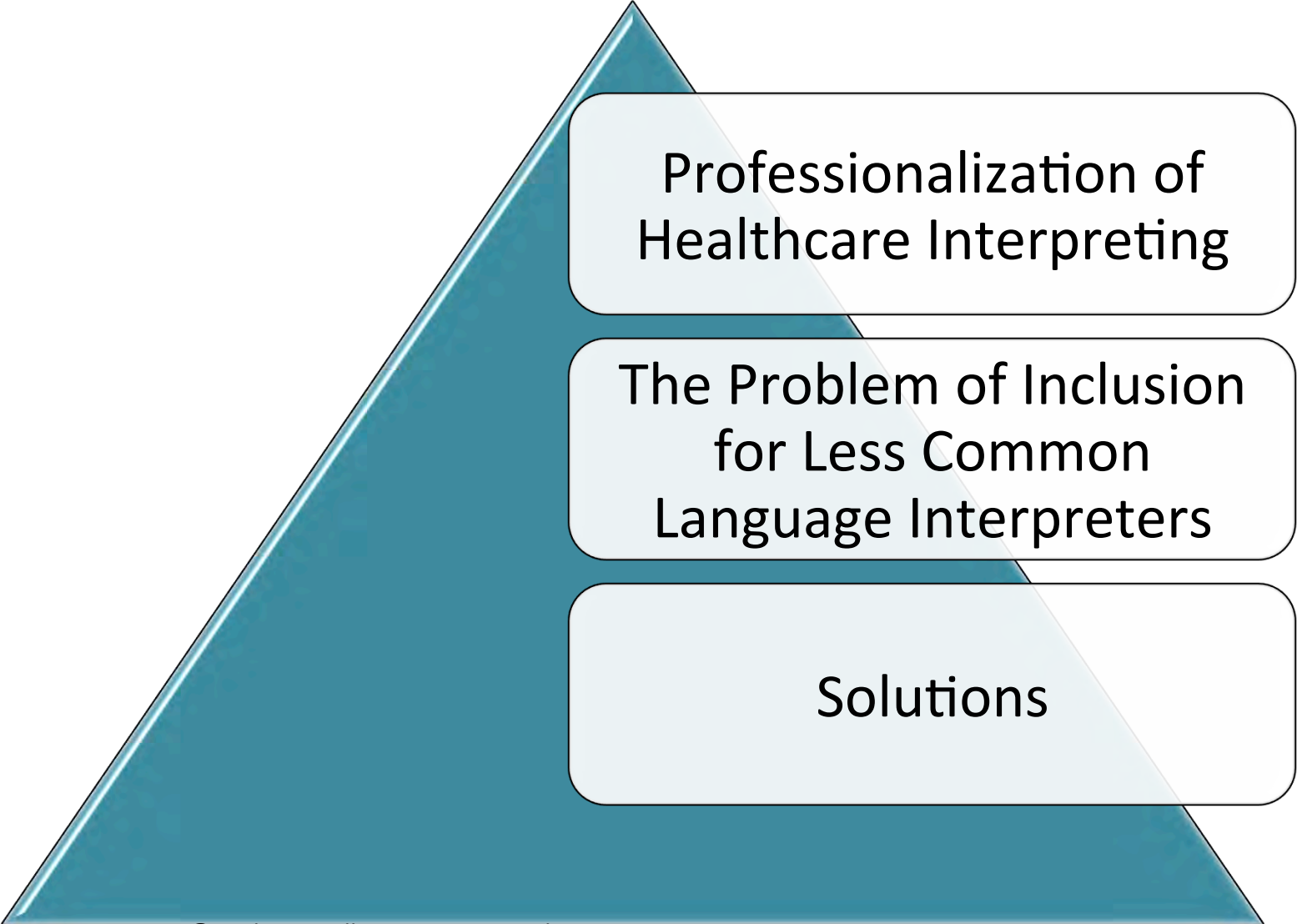


- Community Interpreter
- Trainer
- Curriculum developer
- Public speaker



**...everything
supports facilitating
communication.**

Today's Agenda



Professionalization of
Healthcare Interpreting

The Problem of Inclusion
for Less Common
Language Interpreters

Solutions

Polls: Audience Background



Problem #1



The **partial professionalization** of healthcare interpreting is threatening to **exclude interpreters** from less-common but high-demand language groups

Problem #2



Low **literacy** and **numeracy** skills in interpreters of less common languages is excluding them from our **training programs**.



The Big Picture



© Katharine Allen, MA, Co-President, InterpretAmerica – www.interpretamerica.com

Photo Credit: Earth to Sky Calculus Club, https://www.facebook.com/pages/Earth-to-Sky-Calculus/174490502634920?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

History of Modern Interpreting

1945 - Nuremberg Trials led to birth of modern interpreting profession

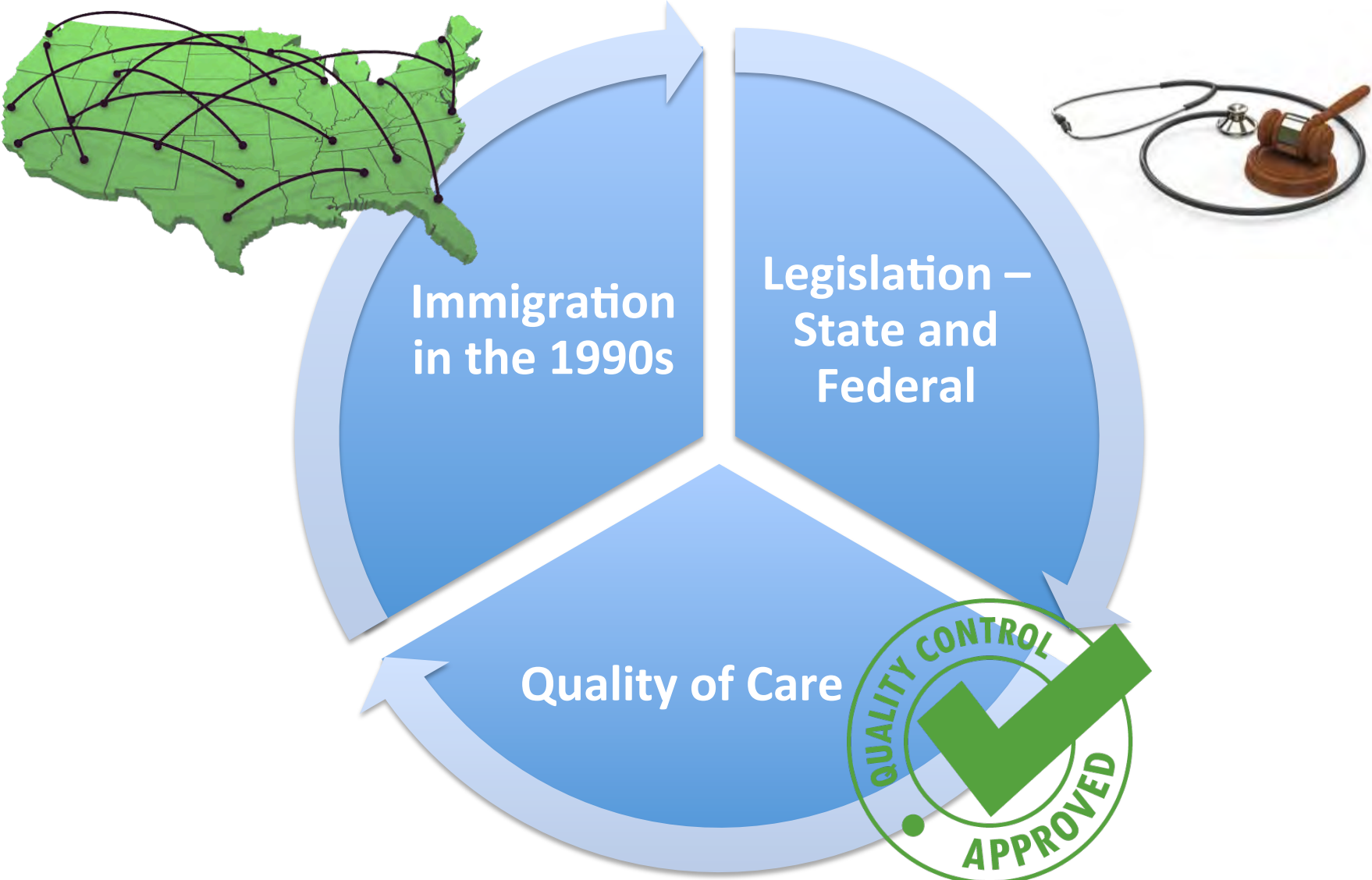
1960s and 1970s

- **Court interpreting** legislation passed
- **Community interpreting** starts to form in Australia, Sweden, Canada
- **America signed UN Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (officially recognized RIDs founded (education went from 6-8 weeks to 2-4 years)

1980s to present -

We are a young profession!

Forces Driving Healthcare Interpreting



Medical Interpreting Milestones





- Increasing recognition of healthcare interpreting as a professional activity.
- Increasing buy-in for certification by interpreters and employers.
- Healthcare interpreting included in state legislation.
- Increasing unionization.





How Do Professions Mature?



Professionalization

Professionalization is the social process dating back to the Middle ages by which any trade or occupation transforms itself into a true "profession of the highest integrity and competence."

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professionalization>

Establishing acceptable qualifications



Professional bodies to oversee the conduct of members of the profession



Some degree of demarcation of the qualified from unqualified amateurs.

Elements of a Profession

Has an accepted body of knowledge that practitioners possess.



Has a defined and prolonged period of academic preparation.



Requires a certification or licensure exam to prove competence.



Ongoing requirement for continuing education and/or trainee period.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Profession#Characteristics_of_a_profession

Elements of a Profession

Has a code of ethics, standards of conduct that are enforceable.



Profession serves a higher public good.



Has professional associations overseeing field.



Members are regulated by professional body or Federal Gov't



Exclusion, monopoly and legal recognition



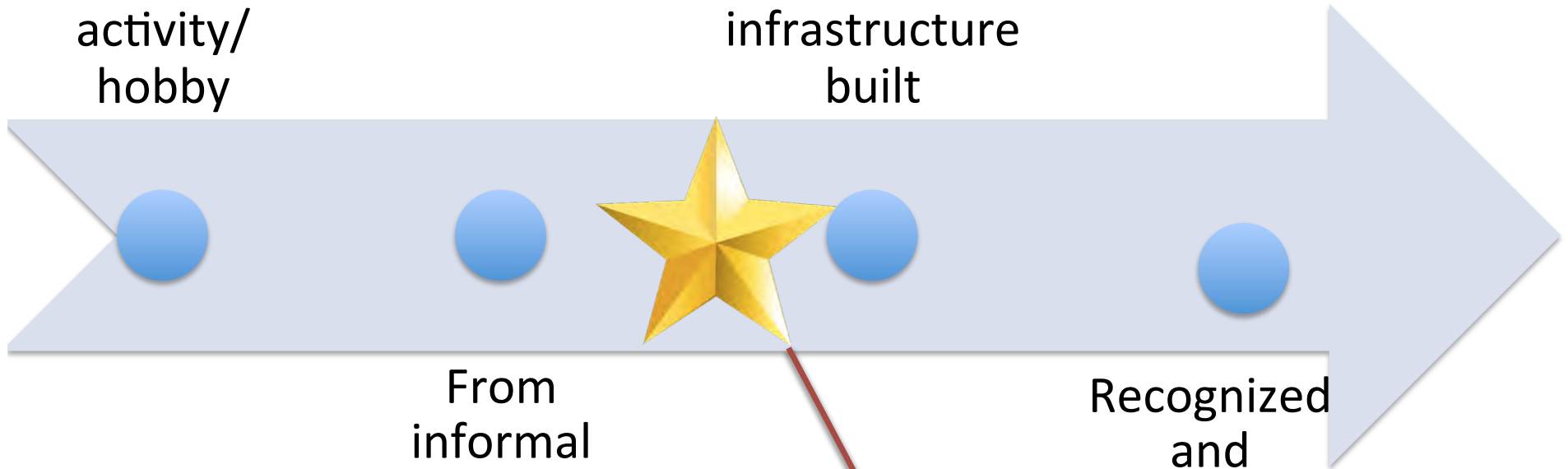
Control of remuneration and advertising



Where We are Now

Interpreting
as an
unregulated
activity/
hobby

Professional
infrastructure
built



From
informal
hobby to
formalized
professional
activity

Recognized
and
respected
profession

***Healthcare
interpreting
profession***

Where We Are Really


40 hours is considered “trained” when it’s really just an orientation

Our tests are entry level.

We have very minimal modal training. (i.e., *how to interpret*)

Very few have academic training beyond a year-long program (most have less than that)

We specialize before receiving general interpreting education.

A blurred photograph of a subway station. In the foreground, a large red sign with white text reads "IT'S TIME TO GET REAL!". The sign is mounted on a wall and is slightly out of focus. In the background, several people are walking on a platform, also blurred. The overall scene is in black and white, with the red sign providing a strong color contrast.

Many trained, professional and/or certified medical interpreters are still at a beginning level of training and skills...

...as Interpreter trainers and leaders, we have a lot of work left to do.

Problem #1



The **partial professionalization** of healthcare interpreting is threatening to **exclude interpreters** from less-common but high-demand language groups

Professionalization Paradox

paradox

The more we succeed in getting people to value professional interpreting services...

The more people expect professional-level services...

As one end of our profession successfully increases levels of professionalization (more common languages)...

Our most vulnerable language communities are getting locked out...

Certification Today

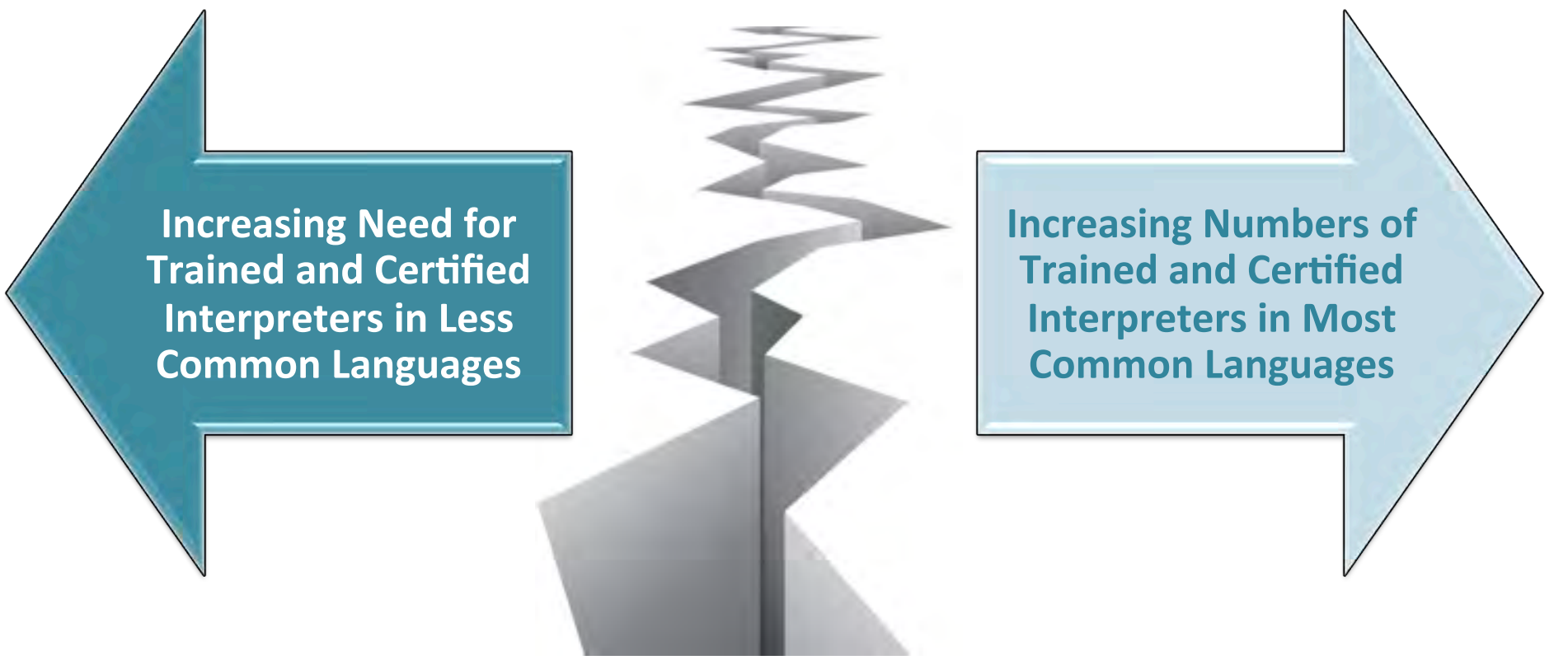
For Common Languages certification means:

- Proficiency testing in all languages spoken.
- Written exam for ethics/terminology skills.
- Interpreting skill established in oral performance exam.
- Full certification credential (CHI, CMI)
- Greater access to continuing education

For Less Common Languages certification means:

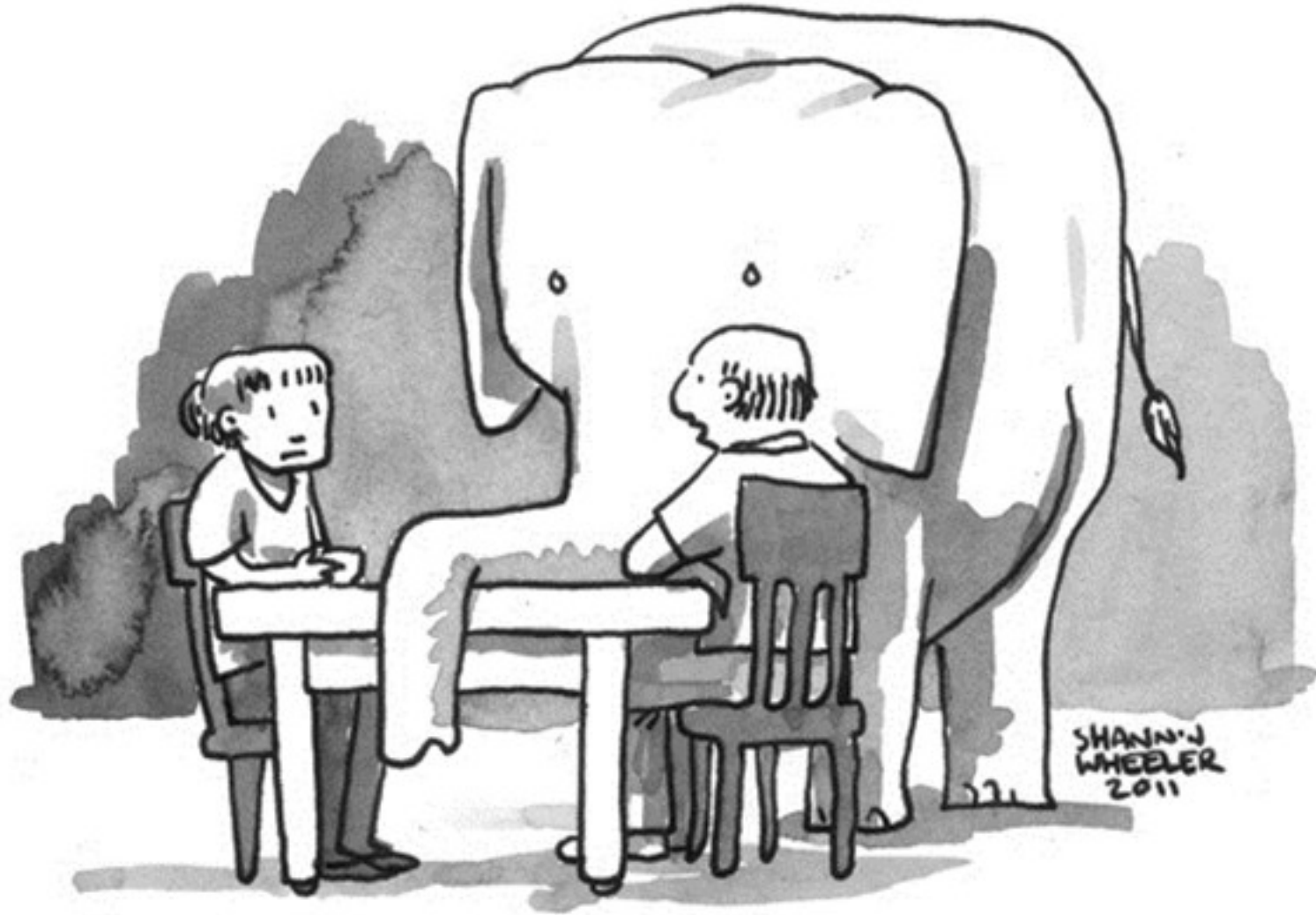
- Ad hoc proof of proficiency in non-English language
- Written exam for ethics/terminology skills
- Interpreting skills not formally test / established.
- Ad hoc interview and proof process to show skills.
- Partial or no certification credential.
- “Qualified” status conferred.
- Continuing education expensive and hard to access.

Consequences of Success



**Increasing Need for
Trained and Certified
Interpreters in Less
Common Languages**

**Increasing Numbers of
Trained and Certified
Interpreters in Most
Common Languages**



"HONESTLY? I PREFERRED WHEN WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT THE ELEPHANT"

Problem #2



Low **literacy** and **numeracy** skills in interpreters of less common languages are excluding them from our **training programs**.



Definition of Literacy

The ability to use printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one's goals, and to develop one's knowledge and potential.

Definition of Health Literacy

The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information needed to make appropriate health decisions and services needed to prevent or treat illness.



Health Resources and Services Administration
<http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/healthliteracy/healthlitabout.html>

Health Literacy Impacts

Older adults

Minority populations

Those who have low socioeconomic status

Medically underserved people

Making It Difficult to...

Locate providers and services

Fill out complex health forms

Share their medical history with providers

Seek preventive health care

Know the connection between risky behaviors and health

Manage chronic health conditions

Understand directions on medicine

Numeracy

- The concept of “at-homeness” with numbers and an ability to use math skills, which enable an individual to cope with practical mathematical demands of everyday life.
- It includes having some appreciation and understanding of information that is presented in terms of numbers.

Health Numeracy

The individual-level skills to obtain, interpret, and process quantitative information for health behavior and decisions.

Low Health Numeracy

Less use of health information

Difficulty scheduling appointments

Problems following complex health regimens

Trouble evaluating risks and benefits of health options



Numbers are ubiquitous in health decisions, whether determining the number of pills somebody takes, deciding what time of day to take those pills, or choosing among different treatment options based on risks and benefits.

Numbers instruct, inform, and give meaning to information about health plans, medications, and treatments.



Patient Online Portal

The screenshot displays a patient online portal with a sidebar on the left and four main content areas. The sidebar contains links for 'Medical records', 'Health Tracker', and 'Education'. The 'medical records' area includes a 'Request PHR' button with a red arrow icon and a 'View Medical Records' button. The 'current medication' area shows a list of medications, including 'Norvasc 2.5 MG', with a 'request refill' button and a 'View all meds' button. The 'recent referrals' area shows a referral to 'Bob Barrett' valid until '08/15/2013' and a 'View all referrals' button. The 'latest lab results' area shows a table of lab tests performed on 08/15/2012, including 'X-Ray CHEST PA LATERAL0', 'ECG RECORDING1', and 'URINALYSIS, COMPLETE2'. A feedback form and an 'Advertise With Us' link are located in the bottom left corner. The footer contains the copyright information: 'Copyright © 2012 eClinicaWeb. All rights reserved. version 5.0'.

Medical records

Health Tracker

Education

medical records

Personal Health Record can be requested by clicking on the Request PHR on the right side

Request PHR

View Medical Records

current medication

Norvasc 2.5 MG

request refill

View all meds

recent referrals

referral to: Bob Barrett

valid until: 08/15/2013

View all referrals

latest lab results

Lab:	Date:
X-Ray CHEST PA LATERAL0	08/15/2012
ECG RECORDING1	08/15/2012
URINALYSIS, COMPLETE2	08/15/2012

request new lab


View all my labs

Let us know what YOU think
Submit Feedback

Advertise With Us

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Electronic Health Record

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help • Logout 	Patient Details  <p>GME0000 Smith, Caroline</p> <p>Sex: Female DOB: 1940/01/01 Next of kin: John Smith</p> <p>Phone: 365-565-9090 Address: 19 Provincial Rd. Edmonton AB T6M 1R7</p>			GP Details Name: Jones, Evans Phone: 333-465-5545 Address: 11 Terrence Ave., Edmonton, AB T4Y 8U9																																																																								
Patient Record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary Lab Results Diagnostic Images Details Notes or Comments 	Alerts Allergies – Sulfa Drugs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pap smear due • Td due • A1C above target 			Other Healthcare Providers <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Disp.</th> <th>Last Encounter</th> <th>Next encounter</th> <th>Right of Access</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Diaz, Ellen</td> <td>Cardiology</td> <td>01/2006</td> <td>07/2006</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fournier, Janice</td> <td>RN</td> <td>08/2005</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohen, Richard</td> <td>Dermatology</td> <td>07/2005</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Name	Disp.	Last Encounter	Next encounter	Right of Access	Diaz, Ellen	Cardiology	01/2006	07/2006	Y	Fournier, Janice	RN	08/2005		N	Cohen, Richard	Dermatology	07/2005		N																																															
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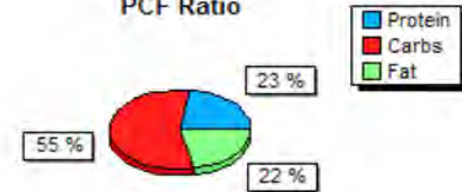


Diabetic Meal Plan - 1200 calories

Avg Calories Per Day: 1227

PCF Ratio: 23-55-22

PCF Ratio



Week 1

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
B R	Oatmeal, Fortified, Instant - 4 Oz Milk, Cow's, Nonfat (skim) - 1 Cup	Milk, Cow's, Nonfat, Vit-a (skim) - 8 Oz All-bran, Rte - 1/2 Cup	Milk, Cow's, Nonfat, Vit-a (skim) - 1 Cup Ham And Eggs - 1 Serving	English Muffin, Plain - 1 Serving Milk, Cow's, Nonfat, Nfms, Vit-a (skim) - 4 Fl Oz Peanut Butter, Smooth, No Salt - 2 Tbsp	Milk, Cow's, Nonfat, Vit-a (skim) - 1 Cup Blackberry, Raw - 1/2 Cup All-bran, Rte - 1 Cup	Milk, Cow's, Nonfat, Nfms, Vit-a (skim) - 1/2 Cup Puffed Wheat, Fortified, Rte - 1 Oz	Milk, Cow's, Nonfat, Vit-a (skim) - 1/2 Cup Special K, Rte - 1/2 Cup
M S	Apple, Raw - 1/2 Medium	Pear, Raw - 1 Pear	Egg Bagel - 1 Mini-bagel Cheddar Cheese - 1 Cubic-inch Milk, Cow's, Nonfat, Vit-a (skim) - 8 Fl Oz	Cottage Cheese, 1% Fat - 2 Oz KiwiFruit, Raw - 1 Medium	Fruit Smoothie - 1 Serving	Yogurt, Strawberry, Nonfat - 8 Oz	Carrot, Raw - 1 Cup Salad Dressing, French, Diet - 1 Oz
L	Chicken Sandwich - 1 Serving Carrot, Baby, Raw - 6 Oz	Cheese And Fruit Submarine Sandwich - 1 Serving Salad Dressing, French, Diet - 1 Tbsp Iceberg Lettuce, Raw - 1/2 Cup	Mixed Vegetables, Boiled, No Salt - 1/2 Cup Tuna On Pita Bread - 1 Serving	Turkey Sandwich - 1 Serving	Spinach Pasta With Olive Oil - 1 Serving Zucchini W/skin, Boiled, No Salt - 1 Cup	Salmon Pasta Salad - 1 Serving	Enchilada Vegetable Wrap - 1 Serving
A S	Raisin, Seedless - 25 Raisins Peanut, Dry Roasted, No Salt - 1 Oz	Carrot, Raw - 10 Large Strip	Broccoli, Raw - 1/2 Cup Salsa, Chunky Chili Dip, Canned - 2 Tbsp Apple, Raw - 1 Medium Cheddar Cheese - 1 Cubic-inch	Salad Dressing, 1000 Island, Diet - 1 Tbsp Carrot, Baby, Raw - 4 Oz	Celery, Raw - 2 Medium Stalk	Carrot, Baby, Raw - 4 Oz Salad Dressing, French, Diet - 1 Tsp	Apple, Raw - 1 Medium
D	Jambalaya - 1 Serving Broccoli Vinaigrette - 1 Serving	Mixed Vegetables, Boiled, No Salt - 4 Oz Kale, Boiled, No Salt - 1/2 Cup Eggplant Parmesan - 1 Serving Spaghetti Pasta, Cooked, Enriched - 1 Cup	Salad Dressing, French, Diet - 2 Oz Sloppy Joes - 1 Serving Cauliflower, Frozen - 1/2 Cup Iceberg Lettuce, Raw - 4 Oz	Pasta, Kale And Chickpeas - 1 Serving	Turnip Greens, Boiled, No Salt - 1 Cup Beef Tenderloin - 1 Serving Brown Rice, Long Grain, Cooked - 1 Cup	Asparagus, Boiled - 1/2 Cup Beef Roast Au Jus - 1 Serving Polenta - 1/2 Serving	Fish With Tomatoes - 1 Serving Spaghetti Pasta, Cooked, Enriched - 1 Cup
E S	Yogurt, Strawberry, Nonfat - 8 Oz	Applegurt - 1 Serving	Cantaloupe, Raw - 1 Wedge Milk, Cow's, Nonfat, Nfms, Vit-a (skim) - 1 Cup	Diabetic Baked Banana - 1 Serving	Cottage Cheese, 1% Fat - 2 Oz Mixed Fruit, Dried - 1/2 Oz	Banana, Raw - 1 Medium	Watermelon, Raw - 1 Cup
	1237 Calories(kcal); 84 Protein(g); 174 Carbs(g); 28 Fat(g); 5 Sat Fat(g); 227 Cholest(mg); 25 Fiber(g); 1291 Sodium(mg)	1276 Calories(kcal); 74 Protein(g); 211 Carbs(g); 24 Fat(g); 11 Sat Fat(g); 55 Cholest(mg); 38 Fiber(g); 1633 Sodium(mg)	1159 Calories(kcal); 84 Protein(g); 160 Carbs(g); 24 Fat(g); 11 Sat Fat(g); 105 Cholest(mg); 16 Fiber(g); 1674 Sodium(mg)	1205 Calories(kcal); 73 Protein(g); 170 Carbs(g); 31 Fat(g); 7 Sat Fat(g); 81 Cholest(mg); 22 Fiber(g); 1310 Sodium(mg)	1258 Calories(kcal); 67 Protein(g); 177 Carbs(g); 40 Fat(g); 16 Sat Fat(g); 101 Cholest(mg); 41 Fiber(g); 1002 Sodium(mg)	1218 Calories(kcal); 70 Protein(g); 163 Carbs(g); 34 Fat(g); 9 Sat Fat(g); 118 Cholest(mg); 13 Fiber(g); 958 Sodium(mg)	1238 Calories(kcal); 61 Protein(g); 174 Carbs(g); 36 Fat(g); 14 Sat Fat(g); 98 Cholest(mg); 17 Fiber(g); 1301 Sodium(mg)



Immunization Timing

Age 2 months	Interval from previous dose
DTaP	
Hib	
PCV (Pneumo)	
Polio (IPV)	
RV ² (Rotavirus)	
HepB ¹	

Age 4 months	Interval from previous dose
DTaP	1-2 months
Hib	1-2 months
PCV (Pneumo)	1-2 months
Polio (IPV)	1-2 months
RV ² (Rotavirus)	4-10 weeks
HepB ¹	

Age 6 months	Interval from previous dose
DTaP	1-2 months
Hib ³	1-2 months
PCV (Pneumo)	1-2 months
Polio ⁶ (IPV)	1-14 months
RV ² (Rotavirus)	4-10 weeks
HepB ¹	

Age 12 months	Interval from previous dose
DTaP ⁴	
Hib ⁴	2-9 months
PCV ⁴ (Pneumo)	2-6 months
MMR ⁵	
Varicella ⁵ (Chickenpox)	
HepA	

Age 18 months	Interval from previous dose
HepA	6-12 months

Age 6 mos and older	and high risk kids
Flu	Every Year

Early Childhood Program Entry (Age Appropriate)
 DTaP, Polio, Hib, Pneumococcal, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, MMR, Varicella

Kindergarten Entry
 DTaP, Polio, MMR, Varicella, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B



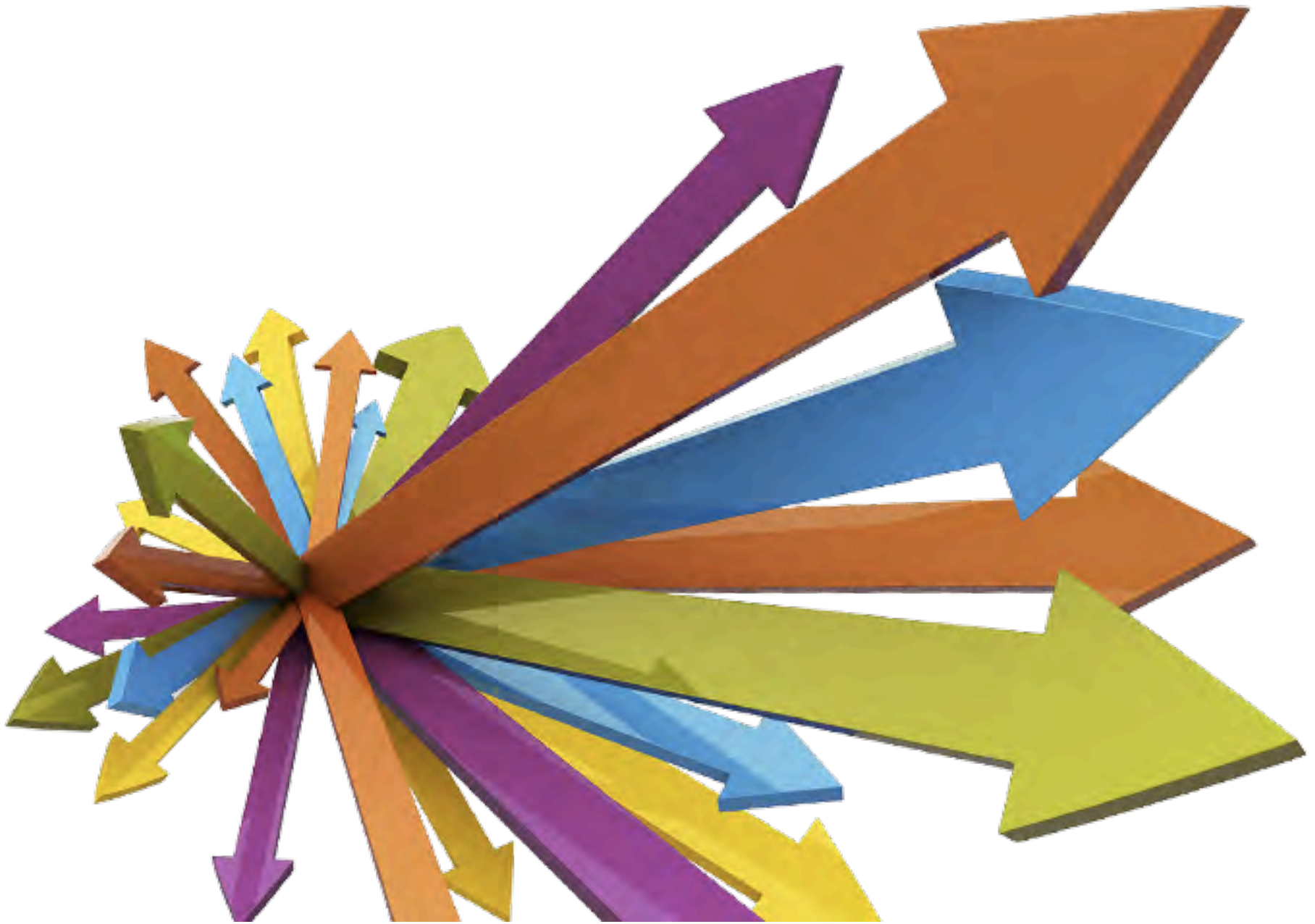
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Mobile Health Technology

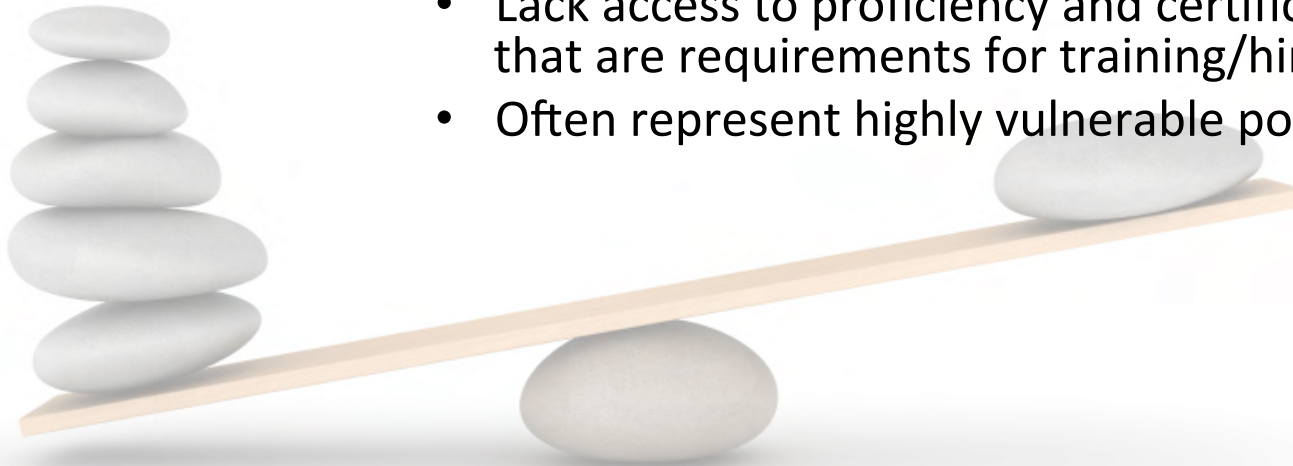




The looming loss...

Less common language speakers:

- May lack formal education
- May lack literacy in any language
- Lack access to language specific interpreter training.
- Lack access to proficiency and certification tests that are requirements for training/hiring.
- Often represent highly vulnerable populations



More common language speakers:

- Certification/Assessment preconditions for hiring
- Literacy in English and target language required.
- Sometimes have higher levels of education.
- Have sufficient numbers who can succeed in existing training programs

In danger of being left behind:

- ***Long term medical interpreters with a lot of accumulated knowledge and community trust***, but with low education background due to growing up in:
 - refugee camps
 - war zones
 - indigenous areas with few schools
 - communities which do not school their gender or their specific ethnic group
- ***Potential new interpreters*** coming to this country from similar backgrounds
- ***Potential new heritage speaker interpreters*** of less common languages

Immigrant Communities Getting Left Behind



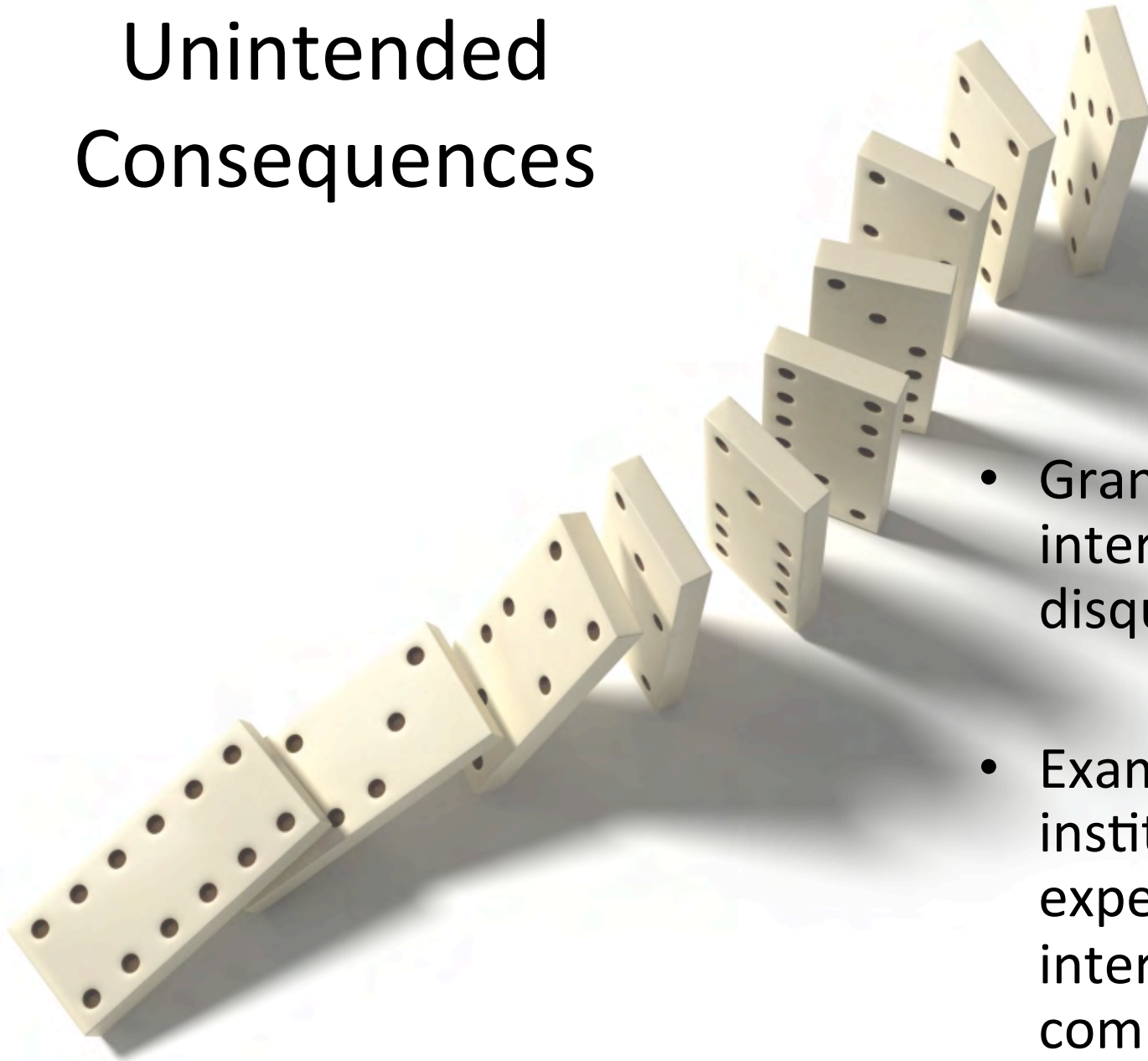
THE AMERICAS: Native American, including Alaskan Native and Navajo. Indigenous communities in North, Central, and South America, including Quechua, Zapateco, Mixteco, Triqui, Purepecha

AFRICA: Somali (due to refugee experience), Swahili, Mai Mai, Congo, Nuer, Mandinka, Soninke, French (African speakers of French), Sudanese, Rwandan

ASIA: Mongolian, Tibetan, Mien, Cambodian (due to widespread murder of teachers and intellectuals followed by refugee experience), Lao, Hmong, Burmese, Hakka Chin, Thai, Nepali

PACIFIC ISLAND: Micronesian languages, Polynesian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan

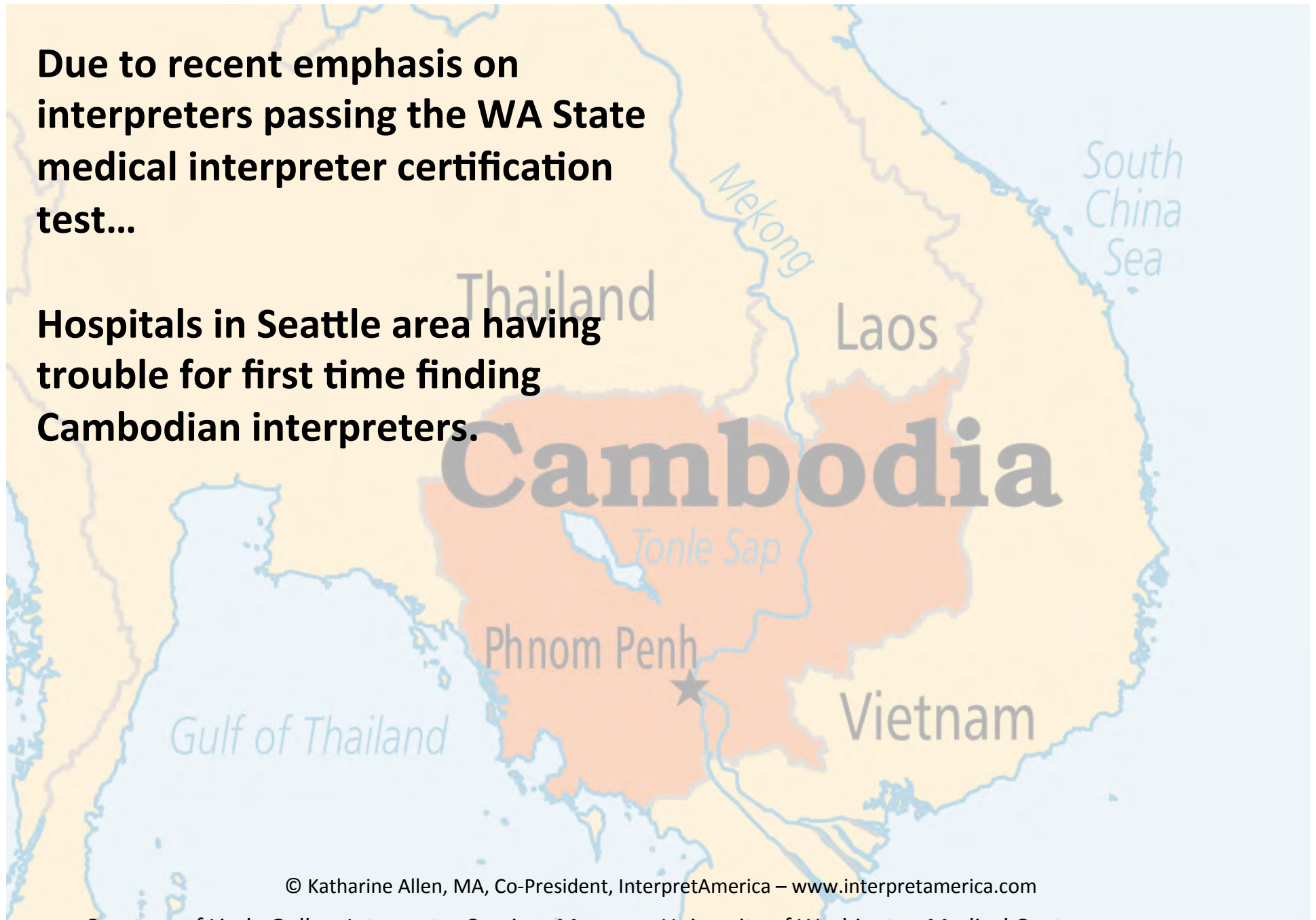
Unintended Consequences



- Grandfathered interpreters being disqualified.
- Examples of institutions losing experienced interpreters in less common languages

Due to recent emphasis on interpreters passing the WA State medical interpreter certification test...

Hospitals in Seattle area having trouble for first time finding Cambodian interpreters.



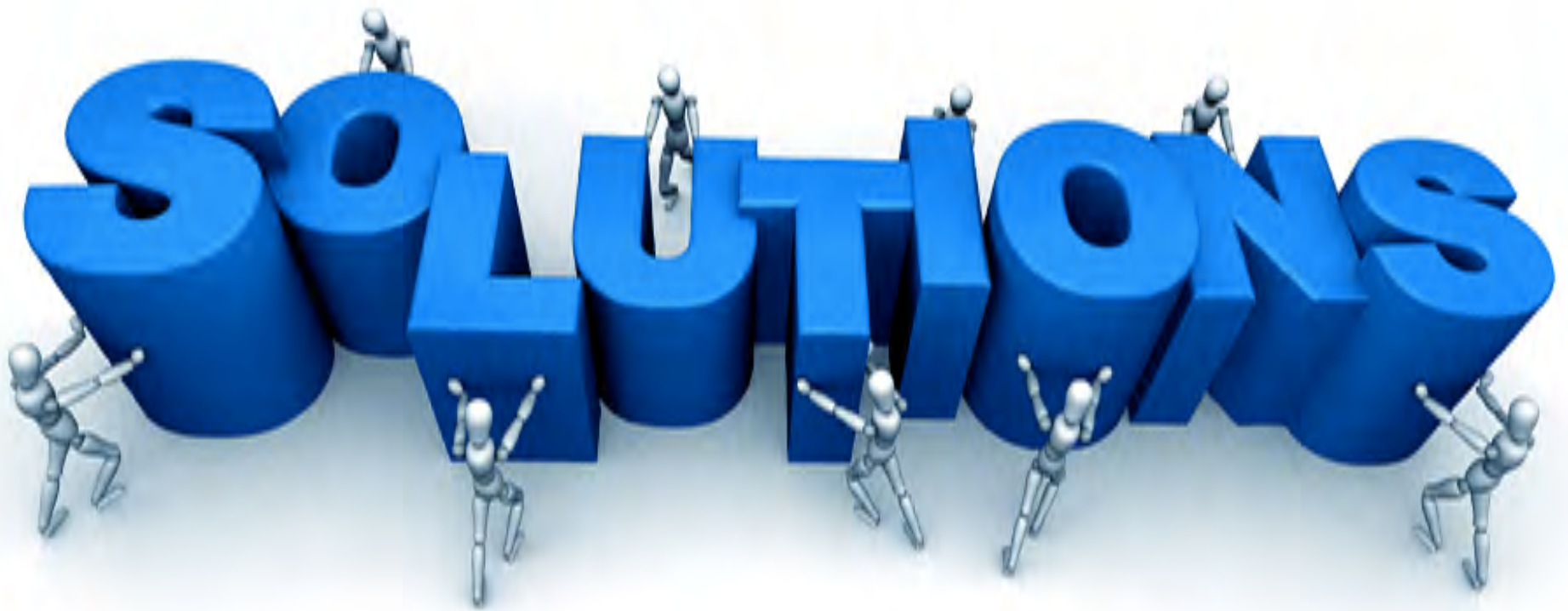
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Courtesy of Linda Golley, Interpreter Services Manager, University of Washington Medical Center



This is the talent.

Healthcare interpreting must expand to create pathways to competency and for retaining competent interpreters for speakers of all languages in demand, not just some.





~~“Well, we’ve built it. It’s up to them to come.”~~

“Well, we’ve built it. It’s up to us to go to them.”

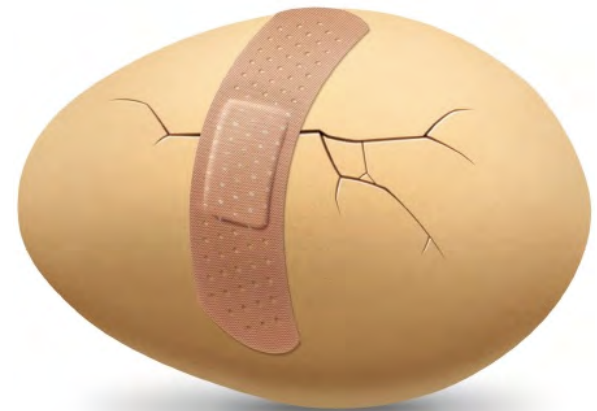
Solutions

- Stop-gap solutions
- Short-term and mid-term solutions
- Long-term – *promoting literacy*



Stop Gap Solutions

- **Halt expulsion** of non-credentialed interpreters from working.
- **Identify and engage with** working and potential medical interpreters in these communities, though not fully trained.



Short-term and mid-term solutions

Teach interpreter skills and knowledge using small reliance on literacy and numeracy

- Explain content, use lots of visuals
- Demonstrate using audio and practical, hands-on methods
- Focus on experiential learning with roles plays, group work and manual activities



Long-term solutions

- Develop interpreter-relevant training in English and target-language literacy and numeracy.
- Develop relationships with less common language community leaders and community organizations.
- Interpreting leadership can provide tech support with materials and connecting interpreters with resources.



Solutions

- Effective outreach and partnering with LLD communities – building positive relationships with the communities



**Indigenous
Interpreting+™**

**Micronesian Health
Advisory Coalition
Interpreter/Translator
Training Project**

What's Working?





- ✓ Initial outreach
- ✓ Use of ad hoc interpreters
- ✓ Adapted Bridging the Gap
- ✓ Paid Internship
- ✓ 11+ permanent jobs



5 years in the making and counting...



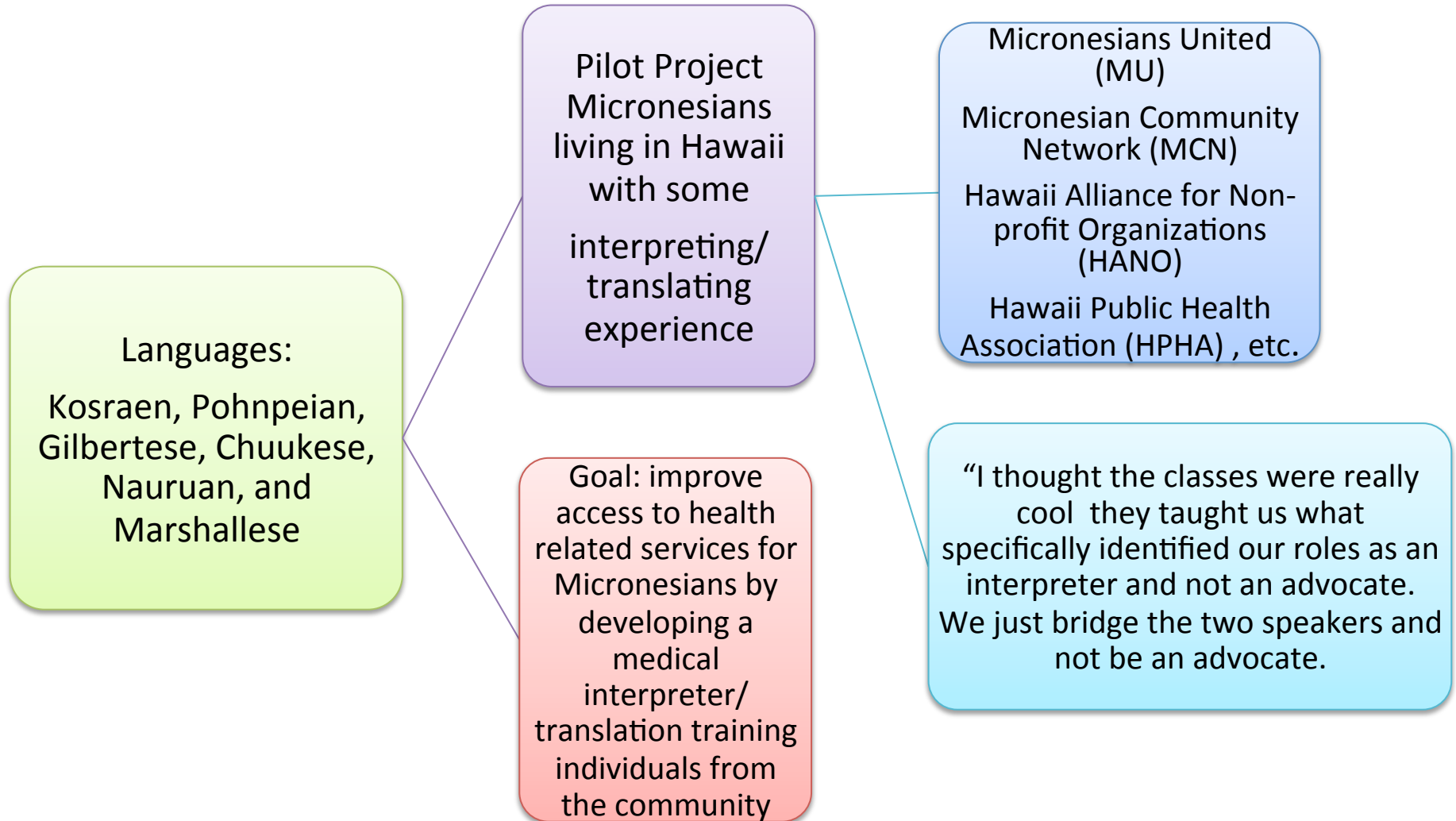
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Micronesian Health Advisory Coalition Interpreter/Translator Training Project





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2012 Study of Somali immigrants in Minnesota

...Western healthcare can be alienating for many mothers. Somalis have very different expectations for reproductive medicine..

“I’ve had eight children and everything was fine. I know my baby is healthy because it is moving. Why do I have to be measured every two weeks?”

Somalia’s 98 percent rate of female circumcision is one of the highest in the world. It leads to difficult deliveries and requires specific types of episiotomies..

Western medicine emphasizes preventative care—screening, testing and health management. Somalis typically only go to the doctor once problems emerge and only return if things get worse.

Both Somali women and men said C-sections are only acceptable if the mother’s or child’s life were in danger and objected to the high US rates of C-section.

“We have no business intervening in a woman’s sexual identity. For many Somali women, her circumcision is a beautiful thing that she is proud of,” said one provider.”

Technology Is Our Friend

Remote platforms offer:

- Increased training opportunities
- Full-time work opportunities



Trainers

- Mixed language groups or targeted language training /
- Oral proficiency testing (with identified qualified speakers)
- Respect privacy of low literacy students
- Proactive recruitment strategies
- Collaborative group training models, even with diverse skill levels.
- Encourage active mentorship.
- Inclusive training materials (examples, role plays)
- Techniques for “safe interpreting”
 - How to say “no”
 - Mediation strategies
 - Protocols
 - Assignment preparation
- Community wide graduation ceremonies/PR



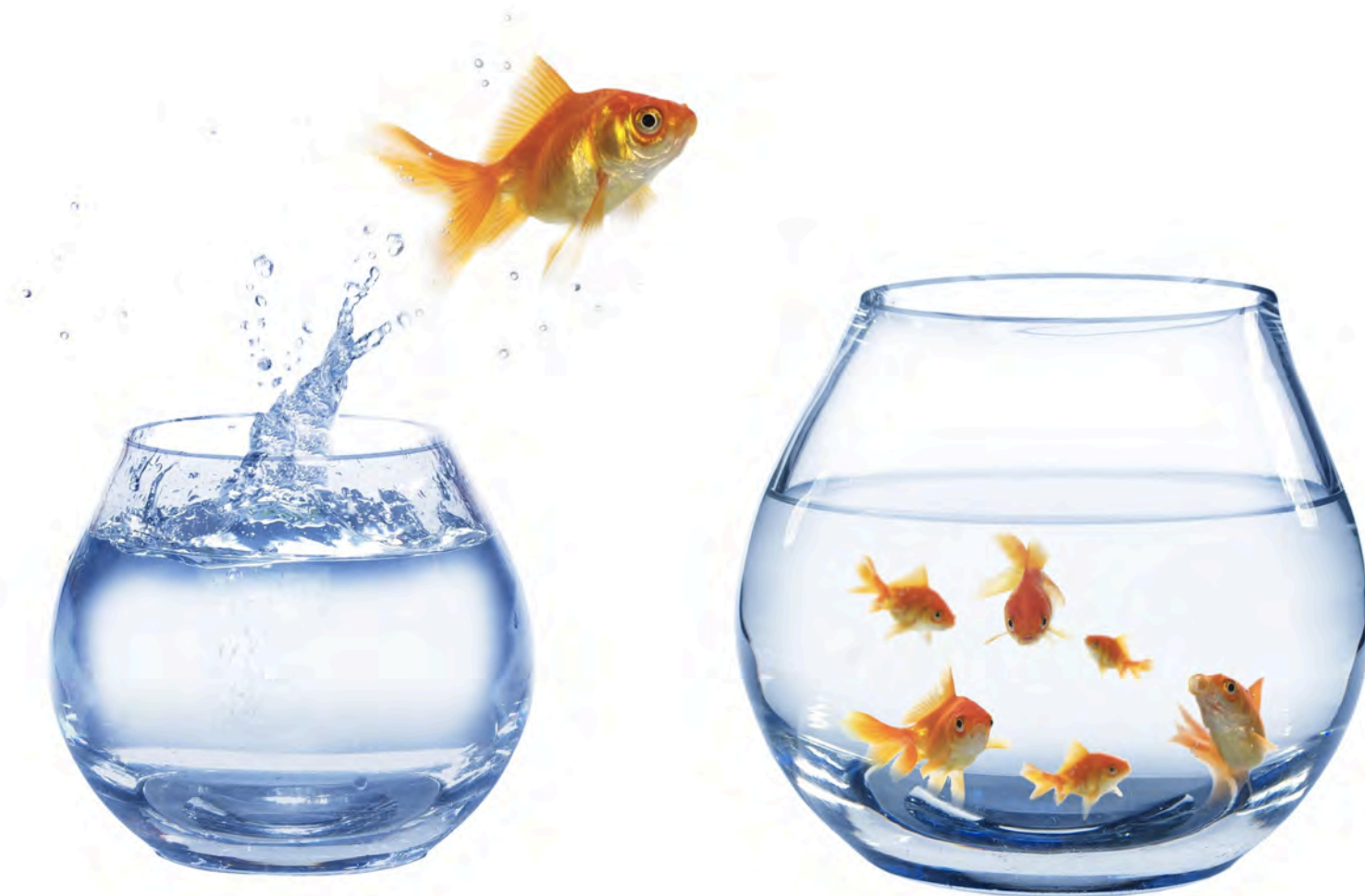
Oralyze and Adapt Self Proficiency Tests

- A 1: I can understand familiar words and very basic phrases concerning myself, my family and immediate surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.
- C 2: I have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, even when delivered at fast native speed, provided I have some time to get familiar with the accent.

Example set of progressively more difficult elements:

- In English: D P H Y etc, name each letter and pronounce correctly in English, give an example of a word with this letter in it, out loud.
- s w q r etc, name each letter and pronounce correctly in English, give an example of a word with this letter in it, out loud.
- Write the letters of the alphabet (or copy a basic character set), in upper and lower case.

Where To Next?



A Plumber is Plumber is a Plumber (sort of)

- Healthcare interpreters require more varied skill sets.
- Each language / culture has DISTINCT issues interpreters must master to achieve consistency in quality and competency.
- Each language / cultural group needs leadership in the broader profession.



FAST
FRIENDLY
RELIABLE



Take the first step...

- What are your demographics?
- Who are your community leaders?
- Who is currently doing the interpreting?
- Partner with colleagues.
- Work with your professional association.
- What else?



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Feel free to connect...



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Announcements

- Next webinar: February 19, 2015
- Session Evaluation
- Follow up via email:

TrainersWebinars@ncihc.org

Home for Trainers Interpreter Trainers Webinars Work Group
An initiative of the Standards and Training Committee
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Thank you!

No Interpreter Left Behind: A Ensuring Language Access for Less Common and Indigenous Language Communities

Guest Trainer: Katharine Allen, M.A.

December 11, 2014

www.ncihc.org/home-for-trainers