

National Standards for Training Programs
An update from the NCIHC Standards, Training and Certification Committee
November 2009

The Standards, Training and Certification Committee continues to advance the work of establishing National Standards for Healthcare Interpreter Training Programs. Stergios Roussos and Priscilla Mendenhall are currently gathering the background information that will form part of the basis for the Standards. This includes information on what and how training programs are teaching healthcare interpreters around the country, as well as background on adult education, the establishment of educational standards, and interpreter tasks.

As part of our effort to seek input on what the standards should cover, a third focus group will be held on November 7, this time in Chicago, following the guide revised after the NCIHC's Annual Membership Meeting. The results of the two previous focus groups have been compiled and are ready for analysis by the Advisory Committee.

The next set of tasks in the process will be a job/task analysis. By knowing what skills, knowledge and attitudes a competent healthcare interpreter must have, we can better recommend what content should be included in training programs of various lengths. This information will be garnered partly through collaboration with the Job/Task Analysis process being carried out as part of the CCHI's work on developing national certification, and partly through observation of working interpreters.

As the work continues, updates and opportunities to participate are being posted to a new page on the NCIHC website. Check it out at <http://www.ncihc.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=98592&orgId=ncihc>.