

National Standards for Training Programs
A report from the NCIHC Standards, Training and Certification Committee
April 19, 2010

The development of National Standards for Healthcare Interpreter Training Programs is forging ahead and on schedule!

March saw the completion of the background research for this project, including a literature search, analysis of a sample of existing training curricula, and a review of healthcare interpreter job descriptions. This background helps illuminate how other fields have created standards for training, what training programs for healthcare interpreters programs are currently teaching, and what skills employers are looking for. A Body-of-Knowledge (BOK) survey was also completed in March, in tandem with the CCHI's Job/Task Analysis for the CCHI's National Certification test. The BOK study provides insight into what skills and knowledge interpreters and trainers believe interpreters should have, and when these should be acquired. Together, all this provides a foundation on which to base training standards.

Another key step completed in March was the naming of a project Advisory Committee. These individuals were invited to help draft the Standards because of their extensive experience in training diverse groups of healthcare interpreters, in trainings of various lengths and in various venues.¹

Laurie Swabey, PhD, Professor of ASL & Interpreting, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN
Elizabeth Nguyen, MA, Senior Diversity Specialist Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, CA
Katherine Langan, PhD, Interpreter/Translator/Trainer, Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, IA
Marjory Bancroft, MA, Director, Cross-Cultural Communications, Columbia, MD
Robert Pollard, PhD, Director, Deaf Wellness Center, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, NY
Agustin Servin de la Mora, President, Florida Institute of Interpretation and Translation, Lead Interpreter for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Interpreter Trainer, FL
Nora Goodfriend-Koven, MPH, Healthcare Interpreter Certificate Program, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Eduardo Berinstein, Translator/Interpreter/Trainer, Boston, MA
Marilyn Mochel, RN, Clinical Director, Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition, Merced, CA

On April 16-17, the NCIHC Standards, Training and Certification Committee met in Chicago with this new Advisory Committee to consider all the background research and to take a first stab at drafting an initial version of the National Standards for Training Programs. Long discussions about the content of trainings, the pre-requisites for trainings, the most effective teaching methods for training interpreters, and the qualifications of instructors filled the two-day convening. The group also debated what format the Standards document should take. The draft Standards will be released soon, with a comprehensive plan for obtaining public comment through focus groups, conference presentations and internet survey.

¹ Holly Mikkelsen, MA of the Monterey Institute, Catherine Ingold, PhD, of the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland, and Barbara Rayes, Translator/Interpreter/Trainer from Phoenix, AZ were also invited but were unable to participate because of scheduling conflicts.