

National Standards for Training Programs
A report from the NCIHC Standards, Training and Certification Committee
May 26, 2010

Have you ever ridden a really big roller coaster? Do you remember what it was like to laboriously grind your way to the top of that first big hill, to pause for a moment at the very top and then – whoosh! – to go swooping down the other side, faster and faster, with the wind in your face and excited screams in your ears --

Well, I think that the National Standards for Training Programs project reached the top of that first big hill in April. And now we're starting to gather speed on that downhill slope. Here we go --

As I reported in the last NCIHC bulletin, the NCIHC Standards, Training and Certification Committee met in Chicago with the Advisory Committee in mid-April to review all the background research we'd collected and to discuss what the Standards should include. At this meeting the advisors made some critical decisions about content.

Then, at the NCIHC's Annual Membership Meeting at the end of April, we shared the work of the Chicago meeting with all the attendees, and solicited additional input. Now the STC Committee is hard at work integrating all these ideas and recommendations into a draft standards document. This draft will serve as a basis for eliciting feedback at a series of interpreter gatherings through the summer and early fall. We'll be at:

- The Iowa Interpreter and Translator Association Conference, June, Des Moines
- The Southeastern Regional Conference for Healthcare Interpreters, June 11-12, Charleston
- The California Healthcare Interpreters Association Trainers Symposium, July 22-24, Merced
- The Texas Healthcare Interpreters Association Conference, August 13-14
- The Upper Minnesota Translators and Interpreters Association Conference, September

And, in order to reach all those interpreters and trainers whom we won't get to talk to in person, we'll be posting the draft on-line with an electronic survey. We have targeted the end of June for posting the survey, and it will stay up until mid-September.

In early October, the STC will be meeting in Chicago to review all collected input and revise the Standards. These will then go out to the Advisory Committee, which will meet in early November. We'll do a final round of revisions, and by December we expect to publish the final version: the result of the expertise, considered opinion and careful thought of thousands of healthcare interpreters and trainers across the country.

So, keep your eyes open for your chance to chime in and join us in a big WHEEEEEEEE as we head down the other side of that big hill!