

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Wednesday, January 14, 2009
DLIR Conference Room 320

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:18 A.M. by Chairperson Dominic Inocelda.

1. Attendance

Present:

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|------------------------------------|---|
| – Dominic Inocelda | Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson |
| – Gerald Ohta | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice-Chair |
| – Dr. Suzanne Zeng | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Sr. Earnest Chung | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Serafin “Jun” Colmenares | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| – Livia Wang for Bill Hoshijo | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio |
| – Kristine Pagano for Francine Wai | Executive Director, DCAB, Ex-officio |
| – Jennifer Li | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Azi Turturici | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Lito Asuncion | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Betty Brow | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Mary Santa Maria | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Canisius Filibert | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Excused:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| – Alohalani Boido | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Nāmaka Rawlins | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

Others Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| – Frances Lum | Department of the Attorney General |
| – Kendall Zukeran | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| – Jeremy Low | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| – Uilani Pauole de Sa | Senior Legal Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| – Dr. Fred Magdalena | University of Hawaii at Manoa |

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of minutes of December 10, 2008 meeting

- Motion to approve the minutes made by Lito Asuncion. Seconded by Mary Santa Maria.

- Minutes approved unanimously. Motion carried.

4. Executive Director’s Report – See attached

- Executive Director Colmenares summarized the three possible budget scenarios regarding the OLA and sought advice from the Advisory Council in the event budget scenarios #2 or #3 take place.
- Council members advised that it is still premature to decide what to do at this time. The LAAC should advocate for the OLA if #3 takes place.
- Revisit the strategic plan; cut activities but not staff.
- Recommendation was to call a special meeting depending on what transpires and follow the Sunshine Law. Frances should be consulted if there are any questions or clarifications needed pertaining to the law.
- Regarding state language access training, OLA has talked with the DHS, DOH, and Executive Office of Aging for possible funding.
- Recommendation was made to possibly talk with the Department of Justice since they provide interpreters for LEP individuals.

5. Update on the Feasibility Study

- Dr. Fred Magdalena shared regarding his draft of the Feasibility Study for a centralized language resource center (a copy was handed out to all council members). He addressed some concerns relayed by the Council and will update Table 13 (pg. 14) to reflect the latest statistics in Hawaii. Dr. Magdalena also advised that the study is intended to be practical versus being a regular thesis or academic paper. Thus, there is not an expanded definition of the terms used but this can be included in the footnotes.
- Council members commented that many agencies such as Catholic Charities, AUW, Pacific Gateway, etc. were left out and should have been included in the study.
- Suggestion was made to add a disclaimer in the executive summary, clarifying that certain entities were not included or did not respond.
- The methodology should be strengthened to better counter the critics of this report.
- ASL was not included in the study. A side comment can be included to explain this exclusion due to the issues this survey is attempting to address.
- Since only a small sample was returned, the wording in the document should be changed from “needs” to “it seems.”
- Suggestions were made to address whether the community is satisfied with what is out there? Reasons why or why not? What would a language pool look like? Also to add an addendum to the report, showing the dollar amount spent by agencies, how much the state could save with a centralized language resource center, the cost and benefits or “bang for the buck.”
- Funding is important but partnerships will be needed to create a center.
- The next steps are to revise the report with the suggestions made and submit this back by the end of the month for the Council to review.

6. Update on State Agencies Monitoring Visits

- The OLA has completed visiting 16 of 17 state agencies receiving federal funds, to see how they are progressing in terms of language access plan implementation and compliance with the law. In terms of plan implementation, six were found to be leaning more towards compliance, six were in “partial compliance” and four were more on the “non-compliant” end of the spectrum. Regarding adherence to the Hawaii Language Access Law, seven

agencies were mostly in compliance, seven were in “partial compliance”, and two were found to be in “non-compliance.”

- Areas that the agencies are struggling with include identifying their vital documents, public contact positions, bilingual staff, training issues, and data collection.
- The posting of multilingual posters is the signature tool that gets the agencies rolling in implementing their language access plans. Some agencies have not even taken this initial step.

7. Update on Language Access Conference Planning

- Jennifer Li has accepted the role of chairing the conference planning efforts.
- Two meetings were held over the holidays outlining what the conference may look like.
- The tentative dates are September 24 & 25, 2009, which are a Thursday and Friday.
- There will be two tracks: Language Access Plan Implementation and Best Practices.
- The University of Hawaii’s East-West Center will be the event site due to its central location.
- Fee of \$100 for attendees, which will include 2 breakfasts, lunches, and materials.
- Keynote speakers will need to pay their own travel expenses and suggestions were made to invite New York Mayor Bloomberg, the new Secretary of the Department of Labor, or the new Attorney General for the Department of Justice.
- Funding will be sought by speaking with other agencies, foundations, seeking the assistance of LAAC members, etc.
- Concerns were raised that attendance will be greatly impacted as a result of the economic downturn, layoffs, and other uncertainties. In addition, if the OLA’s budget is reduced significantly, the conference should be cancelled.

8. Legislative Matters

- Only one bill for this legislative session, which is to make every September “Language Access Month” in Hawaii.
- New LAAC members should be present at their upcoming confirmations since an absence is not looked on favorably.

9. Appointment of Language Access Month Sub-Committee Chair

- Tabled till the next LAAC meeting.

10. Updates on Language Access Cases/Agreements

- DHS’ voluntary agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is ongoing. DHS is aware that it needs to meet certain deadlines and has been in contact with the Federal Government.

11. Announcements

- The next Language Access Advisory Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 9 A.M. in DLIR Conference Room 320.
- Dr. Myaing advised that Pacific Gateway has moved to a new address, 83 North King Street. The agency phone number is the same.
- Dominic Inocelda reported that the Inter-Agency Council on Immigrant Services and the OLA are working on submitting a proposal for a \$50,000 grant, related to immigrant integration. This is due at the end of the month.
- Kristine Pagano announced that the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) and Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC) will be sponsoring a “Technology

Conference” at the Neal Blaisdell Center on 6/2/09 from 9 A.M.- 6 P.M. Immigrants and LEP individuals are welcome to this free event. There will be about 30 booths displaying the latest in communication access technology and software. There will also be free workshops to learn how to use the latest assistive technology.

12. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 11 A.M.