

## LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, October 02, 2007  
DLIR Conference Room 321

### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

#### 1. Roll Call:

##### Present:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| – Serafin “Jun” Colmenares | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| – Bill Hoshijo             | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio   |
| – Dominic Inocelda         | Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson             |
| – Gerald Ohta              | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice Chair              |
| – Alohalani Boido          | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Sr. Earnest Chung        | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Nāmaka Rawlins           | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein     | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Dr. Suzanne Zeng         | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |

##### Excused:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| – Lito Asuncion     | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Canisius Filibert | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

##### Others Present:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| – Darwin Ching           | Director, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations |
| – Frances Lum            | Department of the Attorney General                   |
| – Shari Dela Cuadra      | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access          |
| – Jeremy Low             | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access          |
| – M. Uilani Pauole de Sa | Senior Legal Analyst, Office of Language Access      |
| – Merry Balatico         | Clerk  |

#### 2. Approval of minutes of September 12, 2007 meeting.

- As there were no corrections to the September 12, 2007 minutes, a motion was made by Ms. Namaka to approve the minutes seconded by Dr. Thein.
- Minutes approved unanimously.

#### 3. Message from DLIR Director Darwin Ching

- Director Darwin Ching welcomed and thanked the Office of Language Access Advisory Council for their volunteer work in striving to implement Act 290.
- Director Darwin Ching emphasized the need to remind people of the Law and their obligation.
- He also recommended that funding for the Language Bank be initiated vs. waiting on the feasibility studies which may take up to 5 years.
- Discussion ensued regarding funding request. Requests could be done in two ways: administrative and/or via non-profit.

#### 4. OLA Executive Director's Report

- See written report.

Discussion:

- a. Forums as a means to get data.
  - Interpreter's perspective
  - Training (standards, exams, recruitment)
  - Funding (Legislature, grants)
- b. Training: The Judiciary has a court certification program in place (In-Court Interpreters). (OEAC) Office on Equality and Access to the Courts. OLA to Coordinate training and use what the Judiciary Courts already have in place.

#### 5. Report on State Language Access Coordinator Meeting

- See Hand-out on Feedback from State Language Access Coordinators. Shari Dela Cuadra, Research Analyst, noted that the hand-out reflects the issues in alphabetical order.
- Executive Director Colmenares reported that the Language Access Coordinators met to network and give feedback on Budgetary and Non-Budgetary Issues. The two main issues were money and the establishment of a Central Language Bank
- Recommendation and Suggestions to be offered in next LAC meeting scheduled on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Executive Director Colmenares will also invite a speaker to help deal with these Issues. He further stated uniting the LAC will make a stronger voice and better impact with the Legislature.

#### 6. Pending Legal Challenges (Deputy Attorney General)

Chairman Dominic Inocelda turned the discussion to Frances Lum, Deputy Attorney General.

- Attorney Lum stated that she is unable to disclose detailed information due to pending litigation, however, the entity, DHHS, went through Federal investigations and is currently in negotiations.

#### 7. OLA Strategic Planning Retreat

Chairman Dominic Inocelda turned the discussion to Executive Director Colmenares.

Director Colmenares informed the Language Access Advisory Council that the date of the Retreat has been set for the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, at Susannah Wesley Community Center from 1 pm to 7 pm.

Dr. Michael Cheang of UH will facilitate. Dinner will be provided. Director Colmenares gave a brief description of the agenda for that day.

- Engage Staff and Council to refine vision, mission and goals.
- Prioritize Objectives
- 5 year plan vs. 10 years
- Discuss strategies in smaller groups

- Creating Logic Models to include action steps.

Discussion:

Ms. Rawlins suggested that the initial stakeholders be involved in the retreat.

Sister Chung suggested that it be opened up to people of interest. Other options- to invite comments on website.

Mr. Hoshijo stated the front end of the “retreat” should be clear on the expectations as to reason for OLA’s existence.

According to Deputy Attorney General Frances Lum, the retreat is considered a public meeting and thus would need posting of notices.

Chairman Inocelda, Executive Director Colmenares, and Vice-Chair Ohta to further discuss the retreat agenda with the facilitator, Dr. Michael Cheang.

8. Community Feedback

- Sister Chung informed us on the Article that was in the Sunday Advertiser. Issues with the Increase in Micronesian population using Homeless Services. Negative impact on the Micronesian community, discrimination, etc...
- Shari, Research Analyst, updated the Council in regards to the Micronesian Task Force.
  - OCS and other state agencies are coordinating efforts to support the Micronesian population
- 911 Lack of Linguistic Access. Problems in non-emergent situations. Neighbor Island County Fire Departments will model after the Honolulu Fire Department except For the Big Island.
- Dr. Thein stated DLIR issues regarding employment and contracting interpreters: Employees vs. Independent Contractors.

9. Discussion of Agenda for Next Meeting

- Training (Regarding Plans)
  - a. Sort out the “Best” LEP Plans- use these plans as models for training
- Mr. Hoshijo suggested incremental steps to move process in right direction to include steps for Funding. To be further discussed in “strategic planning”.
- Dr. Zeng mentioned besides planning, offer “guidance”, and “continuity”.
- Director Ching recommended that Frances Lum, AG, update the Council with legal issues, and the ramifications of inaccurate translations, also the implementation of disclaimers.

10. Announcements:

- Cancel November 6, 2007 Advisory Council Meeting in lieu of November 9, 2007 Meeting at Susannah Wesley Community Center.

11. Adjournment:

There being no further discussions, the Meeting of the Office of Language Access Advisory Council adjourned at 11:00 a.m.