

LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Friday, November 9, 2007
Susannah Wesley Community Center

RETREAT NOTES

1. The retreat started at 1:15 p.m. Those in attendance are as follows:

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
- Lito Asuncion Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Canisius Filibert Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Suzanne Zeng Language Access Advisory Council Member

Excused:

- Namaka Rawlins Language Access Advisory Council Member
- Dr. Tin Myaing Thien Language Access Advisory Council Member

Others Present:

- Frances Lum Department of the Attorney General
- M. Uilani Pauole de Sa Office of Language Access
- Shari Dela Cuadra Office of Language Access
- Jeremy Low Office of Language Access
- Carol Rodrigues Office of Language Access
- Merry Balatico Office of Language Access
- Kim Winegar Catholic Charities Hawaii
- Debi Tulang-De Silva Office of Equality and Access to the Courts
- Philip M.Liu Office of Equality and Access to the Courts
- Ana Lisa Vidad Office of Equality and Access to the Courts
- Pat MacManaman Na Loio Immigrant Rights Center
- Dr. Michael Cheang University of Hawaii

2. Welcome and Introductions

Dominic Inocelda, chair of the Language Access Advisory Council, welcomed the group. Those in attendance introduced themselves. OLA executive director Jun Colmenares introduced Dr. Michael Cheang who served as the facilitator.

3. OLA Overview

Jun Colmenares provided an overview of the Office of Language Access, its creation by Act 290, its functions, what it had done during the 6-month start-up period, and what its future plans are.

4. Purpose of the Retreat

Jun Colmenares talked about the purpose of the retreat which is to provide input and a process to the development of OLA's 10-year strategic plan.

5. Community Input

Dr. Cheang started the facilitation of the strategic planning process by reviewing submitted written input from several stakeholders/individuals. An oral presentation was made by Pat MacManaman of Na Loio where she laid out some of her thoughts as to what OLA is expected to do.

6. OLA's Vision, Mission and Values

Using a fishbone technique, Dr. Cheang started discussion of OLA's vision and mission. However, due to lack of agreement and because of time constraints, it was decided to defer the discussion of OLA's vision and mission and instead, look at its values and goals first. A list of values was developed (see attached).

7. OLA's Goals and Strategies

Six proposed goals were presented to the group for discussion. After discussion, a revised list of six goals were agreed on and voted upon in terms of priority and importance. The goals are as follows (in terms of priority):

- Promote information, education, public awareness, and advocacy.
- Ensure that all state and covered entities are in compliance with the language access law.
- Assist in developing an adequate pool of trained language service professionals
- Develop staff expertise and resources in language access.
- Ensure the just and timely resolution of complaints about language access.
- Provide statewide leadership in language access, including policymaking.

Dr. Cheang asked the group to identify possible strategies for each goal. A list of strategies for each goal was subsequently developed (see list).

8. Next Steps

Owing to time constraints, Dr. Cheang informed the group that the list of values, goals and strategies will be compiled and summarized and provided to all participants. From there, statements of vision and mission will be developed and finalized in a future meeting.

9. Dinner and Adjournment

The retreat was concluded at 7:00 p.m. after dinner was served.