



**NCIHC Open Call
May 20, 2005
9:30 – 11:00 PDT**

**Topic:
What Should NCIHC be Doing in 2006**

The NCIHC Open Calls are held quarterly, as a means of encouraging exchange among professionals working in the field of language access and soliciting input from practitioners in the field to inform NCIHC policy making.

Participants: about 25

Introduction

The open call began with a short introduction. Cornelia E. Brown, from the NCIHC Advisory Committee, reviewed the mechanics of the call and then introduced this month's topic.

This month's call focused on the group's hopes for NCIHC's work for the next year. The NCIHC will be having its annual meeting in June and will be considering what projects or issues it should address in 2006. For this reason, the Council is interested in hearing what practitioners in the field feel are important topics for the Council to address.

Dr. Brown then introduced Wilma Alvarado Little, Chair of the NCIHC Board, who gave a background presentation on what the Council has accomplished this past year and is doing right now.

Background on What the NCIHC is up to now

Wilma updated the group on the Council's current work

1. Advisory Committee: Open calls – input being used in Council work

The September call was on research priorities felt by practitioners in the field. Input was used by the P&R Committee to frame the research convening held in November

The January call focused on the draft National Standards of Practice. Input was used to help develop the final version of the National Standards of Practice, which will be released later this summer.

The March call was on the dissemination of the Code of Ethics. Input was used to develop a framework to disseminate the National Code of Ethics

2. Policy and Research Committee

A research convening was held in November for researchers who have been working on language access issues.

The annotated bibliography developed for The California Endowment is going to be updated.

3. Membership Committee

A membership drive was conducted for the second year.

The Listserv continues to serve a growing number of people.

The Website is being continually updated.

4. Standards, Training and Certification Committee

Completion and dissemination of the Code of Ethics

Completion and dissemination of the Standards of Practice (coming up in July)

Publication of the Environmental Scan

5. Organizational Development Committee

Review of by-laws

Production of a Policies and Procedures Manual

Grants from The Commonwealth Fund, The California Endowment, the National Health Law Project

Questions for input

1. What do you see as the role of the Council now?

- The NCIHC should eventually become a credentialing body like the AMA or ANA
- The NCIHC serves as a “think tank,” developing policy and procedures papers and tools for certification and training for use by the public.

2. In what ways has the Council helped you?

- Provided guidelines and link to resources
- The Working Papers have been very useful
- Wonderful network of committed, dedicated people
- The provision of guidelines and standards for the field is extremely helpful
- Code of Ethics has been adopted and given the profession more shape, so people see us as a profession.

3. How could the Council help you in the future?

- More guidelines on certification, standards of training
- Specific guidelines or materials about interpreting with children, interpreting in mental health, interpreting in child custody cases

4. What should the Council be working on 2006

- More dissemination of and training around the country regarding the Code of Ethics
- Training on difference between the Codes of Ethics for legal and health care interpreters.
- More and better coordination with ASL interpreters and other national interpreter associations
- Creation of a membership database searchable by language to help interpreters network with others of the same language
- Provide training for health care providers on how to work with interpreters, perhaps through the AMA
- Create a certification process for medical interpreters, first at a minimal level, then at a master level.
- Work with RID to create a specific certification for ASL interpreters for medical interpreting
- In the Standards of Practice, specify exact skills and competencies so we can know what to test when developing a certification.
- Establish and dissemination a newsletter with case scenarios, updates and events
- Create more publicity for medical interpreting through the media
- Update the website (the announcement on slides on annotated bibliography is out of date)
- Changes to the listserv
 - Have responses go to the whole listserv, not only to poster
 - Set up special sub-lists to get feedback about particular situations.
 - Set up some rules re advertising (2 respondents felt that advertising was OK because it lets people know what new resources are available; 1 felt that advertising should include a detailed description of the product being advertised.
- Help regions start non-profit interpreter training and dispatch centers? Yes, especially in isolated rural areas.
- Keep up the good work with networking!

5. How would you like to participate in the Council's work

- Something short, on-line, seek input in bits and pieces – surveys, for example
- Receive minutes of board meetings and committee meetings
- More updates about what's going on with the Council

Summary and conclusion

At 10:50, Cindy Roat summarized the ideas that had been shared on the call. The next call will take place on in July, date and topic to be announced.

Thanks to everyone who participated!

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