

WASHINGTON STATE COALITION FOR LANGUAGE ACCESS

*“Interpreters and Providers Working Together to Ensure
Language Access
For Limited English Proficient Individuals in Washington
State”*

WASCLA SUMMIT III

September 7-8, 2007

INTRODUCTION:



Welcome to WASCLA Summit III

Interpreters
Courts and Administrative Office of the Courts
American Red Cross
Medical Providers and Clinics
Domestic Violence Advocates
Department of Health
Department of Corrections
Office of Administrative Hearings
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Law Enforcement
Department of Social and Health Services
Law Schools and Colleges
Northwest Women's Law Center
Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society
Civil Legal Aid Providers and Pro Bono Clinics
Social Security Administration
United States Department of Justice
Washington State Human Rights Commission
Washington Legal Foundation
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Washington State Court Interpreter and Translator Society and others . . .



HISTORY

- WASCLA (Washington State Coalition for Language Access)
- The Department of Justice allocated funds to create a Northwest Regional Six-State Summit in May 2005.
- Purpose of the May 2005 summit was to develop plans to improve access and delivery of services to immigrant victims in their states.



HISTORY (cont'd)

- WA representatives identified an action plan to improve interpreter/translation services for immigrant survivors accessing legal services, medical care, and other community services.
- Some of the original participants: *Chaya; Department of Social and Health Services; Northwest Justice Project; Northwest Immigrant Rights Project; King County Superior Court Interpreter Services; Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division; Columbia Legal Services; King County Sheriff's Office; KC Protection Order Advocacy Program; Consejo; Seattle University Access to Justice Institute; Seattle Police Department; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*



Demographics: Immigrant Population in Washington State

 90% of recent immigrants coming from non-English speaking countries

 Over 631,500 immigrants in Washington State (2005)

 10.3% of the state population (2005)

 Immigrant pop. Age (1999)

7%	0 to 17
22%	18 to 24
46%	25 to 44
13%	45 to 64
11%	65+



School District Statistics (2002)

- 181 Languages spoken statewide
- 62% Spanish speaking
- Additional 24% concentrated in seven other languages
- Seven other languages spoken by at least 1000 students (Russian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Korean, Cambodian, Somali and Tagalog)
- 21 districts served over 1000 LEP students
- 22 districts had at least 25% LEP students



Changing Immigrant Population

- Steady growth of Spanish speaking residents
- Bosnian, Somali (and other East African languages) and Ukrainian are growing
- Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao continue to decline
- Spread of multiple languages out of western part of the state, e.g. Spokane, Richland, Central Kitsap, Kennewick serve more than 20 languages



WASCLA LONG TERM GOALS

- ❏ Educate groups about legal requirements to provide interpreters
- ❏ Develop quality control standards and requirements for ongoing training
- ❏ Secure funding to support interpreter services and training
- ❏ Increase the pool of qualified interpreters and develop a centralized database
- ❏ Develop a model curriculum for interpretation services and cultural sensitivity training
- ❏ Develop a model curriculum for training for service providers



Brief Overview of Summit I

June 16, 2006

- Held at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington
- Almost 100 participants
- General overview on working with interpreters
- General overview on cultural competency
- Presentation of sample LEP policies for courts, law enforcement, agencies and advocates
- Description of certification and testing in WA State



Brief Overview of Summit II

October 12, 2006

- Interpreter perspective on special situations in providing access to LEP
- Overview of work at the Administrative Office of the Courts and in King County Superior Court
- Description of BJA proposal to increase interpreter funding for courts
- Discussion of funding in health care and other areas



Since the last Summit:

- Groups working on draft LEP policies
- Additional 2 million for language access in the courts
- Translation of family law forms
- Model LEP policy for courts is published
- ABA's Interpreter Institute held in Seattle because of the work by WASCLA



IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

- Improving Technology and Efficiency
- Increasing Interpreter and Translator Reimbursement to Insure Adequate Quality and Quantity
- Determining and Tracking Language Needs
- Training and Competency Protocols
- Monitoring and Evaluating Language Needs



Access for LEP individuals is still an issue

- LEP individuals pay taxes that fund these services
- LEP individual's inability to access law enforcement, courts, health care affects both LEP and non LEP individuals
- Difficulty in learning English means that LEP individuals may take more than two years just to learn basic English, longer if they have no previous education or if ESL classes are filled
- Some individuals, because of war trauma, age or other health problems may never be able to learn English, no matter how hard they try.



Where is WASCLA now?

- Washington State has an active group of interpreters/translators and providers working to solve access issues
- Washington courts are in the process of developing Language Assistance Plans to help them improve services and access funding.
- Interpreters and Translators are involved in the Interpreter Commission and in work on developing the plans.
- WASCLA members are working on increasing interpreter certification and training opportunities.
- The third summit brings together an even greater number of participants to address resource needs and share best practices



TODAY'S SCHEDULE.....



HOUSEKEEPING

- CEU – Washington State AOC
- CE – Oregon Judicial Department (OJD)
- CEU – American Translators Association (pending)
- CEU- California State (pending)
- CLE – Washington State Bar Association (pending)



HOUSEKEEPING CON'T...

 EVALUATIONS – Mandatory for credits

 MEALS

 CWU Student Union

