

LTC Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

01/31/2025

Attendees

- Monique Anderson
- Natalie Lavinsky
- Cristy Miller
- Kathy Templet
- Quan Tran
- Yvonne M. Simpson
- Milena Calderari-Waldron
- Helen Henera

Introduction of new members

- Monique Anderson – Health Care Authority (HCA)
- Natalie Lavinsky – Department of Enterprise Services (DES)
- Cristy Miller – Department of Labor and Industries (LNI)

LTC Update:

- Pilot – Computer-based interpreter and translator written tests
 - A new online platform was created in the existing LTC Gateway system to transition the DSHS language certification written tests to a computer-based method. This new method replaces paper and pencil written tests.
 - LTC conducted the first pilot of the computer-based Social Service interpreter written test and Document Translator test on January 15, 2025, at the Olympia test location. The pilot will run through June 2025. Additional test dates will be released soon.
 - Milena congratulated LTC on this improvement and said that it's been long overdue. Asked if DSHS will consider expanding the availability of the computer-based tests to more locations similar to the multiple testing centers used by Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for their court interpreter certification program and the American Translators Association (ATA) translator exams.
 - LTC replied that there are currently no plans to expand. AOC uses the exams developed by the National Center for State Courts and do not have the challenge of having the test administered at testing centers. DSHS owns its interpreter certification tests and the computer-based written tests were built in the existing LTC Gateway system. This design limits the option to integrate the Gateway tests into a third-party testing center platform.
 - LTC will continue to research on the possibility of using testing centers in the future.
- The committee was informed that LTC is currently short-staffed with the separation of Rebecca Talbot, Administrative Assistant, from DSHS.



Discussion topics:

- Process to enroll newly “recognized” interpreters
 - Quan Tran clarified that this issue is more related to HCA process not related to LTC.
 - Monique Anderson of HCA requested more information from Quan to verify the issue. Quan will provide feedback after checking with concerned interpreters.

- Recording of Annual Ethics credit
 - This topic was discussed in the February 2024 committee meeting. Completion of ethics credit has been changed and is now based on calendar year for interpreters and translators with different credential dates.

- Suggestion to remove CE credits after renewal of credential
 - Request to show only CE credits submitted for the current four-year credential cycle. CE credits earned for previous cycles that are still in the Renewals tab of Gateway cause confusion for some interpreters.
 - LTC will review the business requirement in retaining CE credits from previous credential cycle in the Renewals tab and coordinate with the IT Gateway system team to look into this issue.

- Milena mentioned RCW 74.04.025 Section 4 - requiring the completion of oral and written tests. In addition, she wanted to document the complaint on LTC’s non-compliance with the RCW by issuing credentials based only on written tests from the two (2) national certifying bodies.
 - Kathy Templet clarified that per the 12/19/2024 letter of DSHS to WFSE, LTC will require all new Medical Interpreter-Recognized credential applicants to submit proof of passed oral and written tests from CCHI and NBCMI effective February 1, 2025.
 - LTC will update the website to provide information on the updated requirements for Medical Interpreter-Recognized credential applicants.
 - Milena also requested to distinguish the recognized credentials already issued based on written tests only from the recognized credentials based on the new requirements for oral and written tests per RCW 74.04.025.
 - LTC will discuss this with the managing director and coordinate with the IT Gateway system team for possible updates that may be needed.

- Date of next meeting will be determined and scheduled soon.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.