



Spoken Language Health Care Interpreter Work Group

Agenda

2:00 - 2:10	Welcome and Project Background
2:10 - 2:25	Introductions
2:25 - 2:35	Work Overview and Timeline
2:35 - 2:45	Meeting Cadence
2:45 - 3:15	Draft Charter Review
3:15 - 3:30	Future Meeting Prep, Next Steps and Closing

Respectful Meeting Guidelines

- When speaking, re-introduce yourself (and member role).
- Speak slowly so everyone can clearly understand what you share.
- Stay present giving your full attention to this discussion; let us know via chat if you need to leave the discussion and when you are back.
- Stay focused on the agenda item being discussed (jot out notes for reference later).
- Share your main thoughts/key points early when speaking.
- All members have the right to share their ideas and all ideas are valuable.
- Be respectful of other participants - including privacy (avoid sharing private details).

Respectful Meeting Guidelines (continued)

- Listen to other members with an open mind.
- Assume positive intent – embracing a mindset that will lead to something good.
- Focus on the issue, not the person giving input.
- Advocate for all, not individual situations - stories are shared to inform the recommendations.
- Summarize what you heard to ensure understanding before reacting to another's comment.
- Be mindful of the distracting nature of chat messages to both presenters and other members.
- Time has been allotted throughout the meeting for questions and discussion.

Welcome and Project Background

- Legislation to establish work group – MS 144.0581 - eight specific topics for recommendations.
- Diverse workgroup members (varying roles).
- Neutral Facilitator (Alliant Consulting).

Introductions

- Preferred name and pronouns, member role, interpreting background.
- Wishes for this work group.

Member Roles

Member Seats	Member Name
<p>three members who are interpreters listed on the Department of Health's spoken language health care interpreter roster and who are Minnesota residents. Of these members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ (i) each must be an interpreter for a different language○ (ii) at least one must have a national certification credential; and○ (iii) at least one must have been listed on the roster as an interpreter in a language other than the common languages and must have completed a nationally recognized training program for health care interpreters that is, at a minimum, 40 hours in length	<p>Jama Dahir Jose Tori Maguina Daniel Monari</p>
<p>three members representing limited English proficiency (LEP) individuals. Of these members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ two must represent LEP individuals who are not proficient in a common language (uncommon) and○ one must represent LEP individuals who are proficient in a language that is not one of the common languages	<p>Nijeb Ibrahim Lai Lee Tung Marc Sony Cadet</p>
<p>one member representing a health plan company</p>	<p>Rosemond Owens</p>

Member Roles (continued)

Member Seats	Member Name
one member representing a health plan company	Rosemond Owens
one member representing a Minnesota health system who is not an interpreter	Talee Vang
two members representing interpreter agencies including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ one member representing agencies whose main office is located outside the seven-county metropolitan area and ○ one member representing agencies whose main office is located within the seven-county metropolitan area 	Michele Reither Maikhou Vang
one member representing the Department of Health	Rick Michals
one member representing the Department of Human Services	Munna Yasiri
one member representing an interpreter training program or postsecondary educational institution program providing interpreter courses or skills assessment	Rachel Herring
one member who is affiliated with a Minnesota-based or Minnesota chapter of a national or international organization representing interpreter	Marissa Rueda
one member who is a licensed direct care health provider	Kathryn Freeman

Work Overview and Recommendation Requirements (1/3)

June 2026 is a target to complete initial recommendations.

The work group must compile a list of recommendations to support and improve access to the critical health care interpreting services provided across the state, including but not limited to:

(1) changing requirements for registered and certified interpreters to reflect **changing needs** of the Minnesota health care community and emerging **national standards of training, competency, and testing**

(2) addressing **barriers** for interpreters to gain access to the roster, including barriers to interpreters of uncommon languages and interpreters in rural areas

Recommendation Requirements (2/3)

- (3) **reimbursing** spoken language health care interpreting
- (4) identifying **gaps** in interpreter services **in rural areas** and recommending ways to address **interpreter training and funding needs**
- (5) **training, certification, and continuing education** programs
- (6) convening a meeting of public and private sector representatives of the spoken language health care interpreters community to **identify ongoing sources of financial assistance** to aid individual interpreters in meeting interpreter training and testing registry requirements

Recommendation Requirements (3/3)

(7) conducting surveys of people receiving and providing interpreter services to **understand changing needs** and consumer quality care

(8) **suggesting changes in requirements and qualifications** on telehealth or remote interpreting

At least two public comment periods will be offered, with four week's notice of the events and interpretation provided for those events.

After the public comment period, the work group will meet again to finalize the recommendations in August.

MDH requires time to review and prepare recommendations.

Draft Timeline



Meeting Cadence

- Twice monthly
- Starting with 90-minute meetings
- Tuesday – Thursday
- Poll to be sent – need timely responses to plan invites for week of Oct 13th

Draft Charter Review

- Review of charter for confirmation in next meeting.

Future Meeting Prep/Next Steps

- Respond to poll for future meeting days/times
- Review research articles sent; consider others to add
- Consult with subject matter experts on topic(s)
- Be prepared to review the Charter for adoption
- Prep for next meeting:
 - Confirm charter
 - Research overview
 - Determine work group meeting schedule

Thank You!

SLWG Email:

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