

Spoken Language Health Care Interpreter Work Group Charter

ADOPTION DATE: 10/14/25

Project Description/Statement of Work

[Minnesota Laws of 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 3, Article 1, section 96](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/3/)

[\(https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/3/\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/3/) **SPOKEN LANGUAGE HEALTH CARE INTERPRETER WORK GROUP**: relating to health occupations; establishing a spoken language health care interpreter work group by the Commissioner of MDH. 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.

Program Overview:

The goal of the work group is to recommend improvements to support access to health care interpreting services statewide.

The commissioner of health must provide the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health care interpreter services with recommendations, including draft legislation and any statutory changes needed to implement the recommendations, to improve and support access to health care interpreting services statewide by November 1, 2026.

Work Group Objectives:

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:

- 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;
- addressing barriers for interpreters to gain access to the roster, including barriers to interpreters of uncommon languages and interpreters in rural areas;
- reimbursing spoken language health care interpreting;
- identifying gaps in interpreter services in rural areas and recommending ways to address interpreter training and funding needs;
- training, certification, and continuing education programs;
- 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 requirement;
- conducting surveys of people receiving and providing interpreter services to understand changing needs and consumer quality care; and

- suggesting changes in requirements and qualifications on telehealth or remote interpreting.

Definitions

- Spoken Language “Common Language” refers to the 15 most frequent languages in Minnesota.
- “Registered interpreter” means interpreter listed on the [MDH Interpreter Roster \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/about/tools/licensingsearch.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/about/tools/licensingsearch.html) as stipulated in statute.

Timelines

- The commissioner must appoint members to the work group by August 15, 2025.
- The commissioner shall convene the first meeting of the work group by October 1, 2025.
- The work group expires on November 2, 2026, or upon submission of the recommendations required under subdivision 9, whichever is earlier.

Task Force Members:

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"> ▪ each must be an interpreter for a different language ▪ at least one must have a national certification credential; and ▪ 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 (uncommon)</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 proficient in a common language and ▪ one must represent LEP individuals who are proficient in a language that is not one of the common languages (uncommon) 	<p>Nijeb Ibrahim Lai Lee Tung Marc Sony Cadet</p>
<p>One member representing a health plan company.</p>	<p>Rosemond Owens</p>

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Member Seats	Member Name
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.	Marisa Rueda Will
One member who is a licensed direct care health provider.	Kathryn Freeman

Project Facilitator and Project Management Support

Alliant Consulting, Inc.

Project Team Roles & Responsibilities

For the most up-to-date list please see the [Stakeholder List](#).

Role	Name	Responsibilities
Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rick Michals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the work group in achieving their objectives Support the Health Regulation team and Alliant Consulting in supporting the work group Raising members’ concerns/questions to MDH leadership

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Role	Name	Responsibilities
Core MDH Project Team Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rick Michals ▪ Jill Freudenwald ▪ Lynn Knight ▪ Rachel Gacioch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rick and/or Rachel to participate as a member in the work group ▪ Oversee and help manage work group meetings ▪ Ensure work progresses to achieve statutory objectives ▪ Provide timely information and resources to members to assist in completion of work ▪ Partner with Alliant Consulting to ensure the project runs smoothly and that outcomes are delivered on time and to quality standards ▪ Will reach out to non-attending members after two consecutive absences without notification
Work Group Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend and actively participate in meetings ▪ Notify MDH email if unable to attend or send Delegate (cannot approve recommendations) ▪ Liaise with communities and networks related to spoken language health care interpretation and represent these perspectives in meetings and decisions ▪ Raise and discuss critical issues in spoken language interpretation and make recommendations to the MDH commissioner ▪ Abide by the Respectful Meeting Guidelines ▪ When missing a meeting, review meeting summaries prior to engaging in subsequent conversations ▪ Ensure necessary work is completed to achieve objectives within the prescribed timeline
Alliant Consulting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lea Bittner (Facilitator and Project Manager) ▪ Jessie Schuppe (Project support, documentation) ▪ Kelly Deering (Quality Assurance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help plan, facilitate and document work group meetings ▪ Support the tracking of work outcomes and work to be accomplished by the work group ▪ Support the work group in documenting ideas, input and recommendations ▪ Ensure meeting information/resources and summaries are available to members

Member Expectations

Members are expected to attend and actively participate in all bi-weekly meetings and to represent the sentiments of the communities and perspectives they represent. Members will make recommendations to MDH regarding improvements and access to health care interpreting services statewide that will enhance the Department's ability to meet its statutory obligation as defined in [Minnesota Laws of 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 3, Article 1, section 96](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/3/) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2025/1/Session+Law/Chapter/3/>).

Work Group Meetings

- The first meeting will take place by October 1, 2025.
- Prior to the first meeting, work group members must receive survey results and evidence-based research on health care interpreting services in Minnesota.
- During the first meetings, work group members must receive survey results and consult with subject matter experts, including but not limited to sign language interpreting experts, academic experts with knowledge of interpreting research, and academic health experts to address specific gaps in spoken language health care interpreting.
- The work group shall provide a minimum of two opportunities for public comment. These opportunities shall be announced with at least four weeks' notice, with publicity in the five most common languages in Minnesota.
- Interpreters for those same languages shall be provided during the public comment opportunities.

Work Group Resources

MDH is supplying work group members with a compilation of survey results and evidence-based research including but not limited to sign language interpreting experts, academic experts with knowledge of interpreting research, and academic health experts to address specific gaps in spoken language health care interpreting as support for members in their work.

Time commitment

Members will meet twice per month beginning with ninety-minute meetings.

Compensation

Compensation shall be offered to work group members not being compensated for their participation in work group activities as part of their existing job duties. Work group members shall be compensated and reimbursed for expenses for work group activities under section 15.059, subdivision 3.

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Minnesota Department of Health
Spoken Language Health Care Interpreter Roster
PO Box 64900
St. Paul, MN 55164-0900
651-201-4200
health.hci@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

05/04/2026

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4200.