



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

www.courts.ca.gov/LAP.htm
LAP@jud.ca.gov

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

December 17, 2018

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting, via Conference Call

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar; Chair; Hon. Manuel Covarrubias, Vice-Chair; Ms. Naomi Adelson; Hon. Steven Austin; Mr. Kevin Baker; Ms. Angie Birchfield; Hon. Terence Bruiniers; Ms. Tracy Clark; Hon. Jonathan Conklin; Hon. Michelle Williams Court; Hon. Dennis Hayashi; Ms. Janet Hudec; Ms. Joann Lee; Ms. Ivette Peña; Hon. Rosendo Peña; Hon. Jonathan Renner; Hon. Victor Rodriguez; Mr. José Varela; Hon. Brian Walsh; Mr. David Yamasaki; and Hon. Laurie Zelon

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Janet Gaard; Ms. Ana Maria Garcia; Ms. Susan Marie Gonzalez; Mr. Michael Roddy; and Dr. Guadalupe Valdés,

Others Present: Mr. Douglas Denton; Ms. Diana Glick; Mr. Bob Lowney; Ms. Jenny Phu; Ms. Laura Speed; and Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Task Force Chair, Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Language Access Plan (LAP) Implementation Task Force (ITF or Task Force), including individuals from the public listening in. Roll was taken.

Approval of Minutes

The Task Force unanimously approved the October 17, 2018 meeting minutes.

Updates from the Chair

Justice Cuéllar and staff shared a few announcements regarding language access updates and events, including:

1. Justice Cuéllar will provide an LAP implementation update to the council at its meeting in January 2019.

2. Recent publication and circulation of the *Language Access Reporting Form: Summary Report* (December 2018), which contains great information about language access services, the status of civil expansion and needs across the state.
3. The Video Remote Interpreting Pilot (VRI) Workstream met on December 14 to review the draft March 2019 council report, evaluation of findings from the VRI Pilot Project, and revised recommended VRI guidelines and recommended minimum technology requirements for VRI.
4. The 2018 Budget includes ongoing annual funding of \$1 million for signage and \$1.35 million for court's non-VRI technology needs. Staff is currently working to set up the program to disburse this funding in the current fiscal year to courts.
5. Draft rule 1.300 and related forms were approved by the Rules and Projects Committee on December 10 and are currently out for public comment until February 12, 2019. The proposed draft rule 1.300 was developed by the Task Force, with review by the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, and provides clear guidance on the provision of language assistance in court-ordered, court-operated programs and services.

To date, 39 of the 75 LAP recommendations have been completed. Justice Cuéllar praised the Task Force members for their focused effort on implementation over the past four years and thanked the members and staff for working so diligently and comprehensively towards implementing the LAP recommendations. The Subcommittee Chairs will work closely with their subcommittees and staff to finish as many current projects as possible.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Transition Plans: Proposed Language Access Subcommittee (Action Item)

With the Task Force scheduled to sunset on March 1, 2019, Justice Cuéllar shared there are several LAP recommendations that will either be only partially implemented or will need to be implemented after March 1. The in-progress and remaining LAP recommendations include civil expansion, data collection, funding needs, language access technology (long-term plans for VRI following the pilot); legislation; changes to rules and statutes; translation; implementation of rule 1.300; and education.

The Chief Justice and Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director of the Judicial Council, worked with Justice Cuéllar to develop a plan for a standing body to help finalize pending LAP recommendations and ensure the continuation of ongoing language access work in the branch. It was determined that this standing body will be a new Language Access Subcommittee under the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness.

Justice Cuéllar explained that this new subcommittee is a good fit for the work of the Task Force and the most logical for addressing language access issues going forward, as the Access and Fairness committee has strong leadership in the form of co-chair Justice Laurie Zelon. He thanked the Chief Justice and Martin for helping to advise and support this new transition and he will be working with Justice Zelon and Judicial Council leadership to identify members for the new subcommittee. He hopes the membership will include some members from the Task Force to help ensure continuity and expertise.

Several Task Force members expressed their support of the new structure and a willingness to continue to collaborate in these efforts. Justice Cuéllar also shared that the new Language Access Subcommittee will partner with the Court Interpreter Advisory Committee (CIAP) in their mutual responsibilities to expand language access services. The CIAP is responsible for promoting access to court interpreters. The new subcommittee will coordinate language access efforts across the branch and with CIAP and other advisory bodies and staff. The Access and Fairness committee will report to the council on LAP implementation progress and language access items as needed.

Action Taken: The Task Force voted unanimously (21–0) in favor of the new Language Access Subcommittee, under the Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness.

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

Justice Cuéllar plans to propose the new structure to the council at its January 2019 meeting, along with the LAP implementation update. He will work with the Task Force Subcommittee Chairs to go over remaining Task Force work and to help establish some priorities moving forward.

He thanked Justice Terence Bruiniers for his service on the Task Force and wished him well in his retirement. He announced that Mr. David Yamasaki will take over as Chair of the Task Force's Technological Solutions Subcommittee between now and March 1, 2019.

Justice Cuéllar shared the Task Force will meet in January 2019 by conference call to review and approve the draft report on VRI, prior to submission of the report to the council for its March 2019 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on [insert date]