



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING
ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS
LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

December 10, 2020
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair, Hon. Manuel J. Covarrubias, Ms. Janet Hudec, Mr. David Levin, Hon. Louis Mauro, Ms. Julie Paik, and Hon. Erica Yew

Advisory Body Members Absent: N/A

Others Present: Ms. Irene Balajadia, Ms. Lisa Chavez, Mr. Matthew Clark, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Danielle McCurry, Ms. Jacquie Ring, and Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m., and staff took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The Language Access Subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 13, 2020, meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (ITEMS 1-3)

Item 1

Update from Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Chair Judge Victor Rodriguez shared that the final budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 signed by the Governor in June 2020 brings the Court Interpreter Program Fund to approximately \$131 million. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee is developing recommendations for the Judicial Council on the fund. Judge Rodriguez also shared that he presented an educational session on language access at the Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting held in July 2020.

For the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program, FY 2020-21, the application deadline was extended and ended on August 7, 2020. A total of 23 trial courts

requested grant funding for this cycle. The total requested amount in the signage category was \$738,141.95 (out of \$1M available). The total requested amount in the technology category was \$955,462.25 (out of \$1.35M available).

A small Joint Working Group was formed with members from the Language Access Subcommittee and the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) to review the grant applications and to assist staff with preliminary grant recommendations. Tentatively, staff is recommending that remaining funding be set aside as contingency funding for the awarded courts to be used in case of need, which was the approach taken in the grant program's first year. In September 2020, staff plans to bring the proposed recommendations and allocations to PAF, ITAC and the Technology Committee for approval, before the recommendations go on to the council in November 2020.

Item 2

Draft 2020 Language Access Survey

Mr. Matthew Clark, Analyst in the Language Access Implementation unit, discussed the draft annual language access survey, which for 2020 includes new questions related to the court's provision of interpreters in civil matters, implementation of Rule 1.300, and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including use of technology. The survey will launch in September 2020.

Item 3

Presentation from the National Center for State Courts

Ms. Jacquie Ring, Language Access Program Manager at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), provided an overview of two subcommittee projects that fall under a current contract between NCSC and the Judicial Council's Language Access Services Program: conduct of a public outreach campaign, and development of strategies to assist the California courts with the implementation of Rule 1.300.

The public outreach campaign will distribute multilingual educational materials that are hosted on the Language Access Toolkit to courts, court stakeholders, and ethnic media. The materials include infographics, videos and public service announcements in multiple languages to educate the public about court processes. There will also be a series of language access educational webinar sessions held in 2021. The NCSC will work with Language Access Services staff and Judge Rodriguez to develop draft agendas, a format, and possible presenters for the educational webinars.

For Rule 1.300, the NCSC will conduct a review of strategies utilized by courts both in California and nationally to provide language accessibility to court-ordered services and programs. In 2021, NCSC will produce a report that will include recommendations and implementation strategies to assist courts with the implementation of Rule 1.300, including the use of technology to assist LEP court users with access to court-ordered programs and services in their language.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Approved by the Language Access Subcommittee on October 7, 2021.