

Committee on Limited English Proficiency
January 8, 2016
225 Spring Street, Wethersfield

Members Present: The Hon. Maria A. Kahn, Co-Chair; Ms. Alejandra Donath, Co-Chair; Atty. Katharine Casaubon, Ms. Karen Chorney, Atty. Richard Loffredo
Guest: Atty. Susan Garcia Nofi, New Haven Legal Assistance
Staff: Ms. Melanie Kerr

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

1. 2015 LEP Report

Rich Loffredo will draft the report, which will include accomplishments during 2015 and recommendations for 2016. The Committee agreed that projects for 2016 will include: development of a method to issue court orders in both English and other language (a pilot program involving protective orders at a location to be determined); development of a brochure for members of the public and attorneys on how to work with interpreters; and the launching of the on-line LEP training program.

2. Provider Survey

Rich Loffredo provided an update on the Judicial Branch provider survey. To date about 50% of providers have responded. A reminder notice was recently sent to providers who have not responded to the survey.

3. Advisement of Rights Project

The Committee discussed updating the advisement of rights script and video. It was agreed that support enforcement Magistrates and staff will be surveyed to identify areas for improvement.

4. Translation of Vital Documents

Alejandra Donath provided an update on the status of the translation of documents previously identified as vital documents by all branch divisions. Most of the documents have been translated or are in the process of being completed. The Committee will send a letter to Judicial Branch Executive Directors updating them on the status of the translated documents; ask them to access online and review those documents; and identify any additional documents their division would deem a vital document in need of translation.

5. ITS Update

Three new Lead Court Interpreters have been hired as supervisors at the Judicial District level. The state has been divided into three regions so that direct supervision of interpreters is provided in all Districts.

6. LEP Website

Judge Kahn asked that everyone take a look at the LEP Website and share suggestions that would make the site more user-friendly. Suggestions will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held toward the end of February, 2016. The actual date is still to be determined.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.