



Interpreter Certification Board (ICB)

March 2nd, 2022 From: 3:00-5:00 PM, Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

Meeting Minutes

Interpreter Certification Board Members:

In attendance:

Anthony Bonny, Jessica Callahan, David Davenport, Paul DeGraw, Michelle Draper, Stephen Ehrlich, Allyson Hamilton, Teresa Judd, Duane Kinner, Amelia Williams **Absence:**

Tom Robertson

Guests:

Amie Santiago, Gray Burton, Jake Hogan, Marcela Lopez, Mary Izatt, Seth Jenkins, Tiffany Harding

Utah Interpreter Program Admin:

Trenton Marsh, Jason Mauray, Karen Rama

Voice Interpretation and CART were provided during this meeting

Agenda Items	Announcements/Discussion	Actions/Recommendations
Discussion: BEI Interpreter Certification Recognition Trenton Marsh and Marcela Lopez (Guest)	 Meeting Began at 3:16 Anthony welcomed everyone to the meeting. Anthony and Trenton both introduced Marcela Lopez to the board members. Trenton is happy to have Marcela here to present and share information on BEI Marcela introduced herself as a certified professional ASL (American Sign Language) interpreter who also speaks Spanish at home. Texas is the only state that provide trilingual certification through BEI 	Trenton will look into how incorporating BEI or other certifications will impact Utah's laws and policies Marcela will investigate on if BEIs offer trilingual exams for Certified Deaf Interpreters

 The reason why this is important and why the state of Utah should consider BEI is because: 	
 According to the Gardener Center for Development and Economic Growth, Utah is behind by about 30-40 years 	
 According to University of Utah, their research shows that in about 20 to 40 years, the state of Utah will continue to grow in terms of diversity so the state has some catching up to do 	
 Because there are individuals who are part of 2 to 3 different cultures or languages, the needs for trilingual certifications will become more and more common 	
Karen shared the PowerPoint prepared by Marcela.	
Title of the presentation is "Exploring Credential Options for Multilingual and Non-English/ASL Interpreters"	
• BEI = Board for Evaluation of Interpreters.	
They do analytics and testing	
 The testing program was developed to follow Texas' Human Resource code, Chapter 81 	
 The code focused on wanting to ensure there are qualified interpreters in the state of Texas 	
 The BEI test was developed in 2001 with help from the group who developed the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Exam at the University of Arizona back in year 1979 	
 There is various type of modes in terms of testing, ranging from written translation, English to Spanish, Spanish to English, and more 	
• The testing and certifications allow for different areas of expertise and specializations, ranging from medical services, case management, social work, social security, legal interpreting, and more	

 BEI has three levels of certifications while Utah currently has two. BEI offers: 	
Basic certification	
Advanced certification	
and Master certification	
 The minimum requirement to become certified are: 	
Must be 18 or older	
 have no criminal record 	
 and have a college degree 	
 The type of degree does not matter 	
 Associate degree allows one to take the English exam 	
 If someone wish to take the signing performance exam, they must have earned a bachelor degree beforehand 	
 If a person is interested in having a trilingual certification (in this case, ASL and Spanish), they must meet the following requirements to be eligible: 	
Certifications:	
 Have any of the BEI certifications 	
 Have one of these eligible RID certifications: 	
CSC, CI, CT	
 Or NAD-RID NIC or higher certifications 	
 Take and pass Spanish proficiency test 	

 Once both certification and proficiency test has been met, they must take and pass the Trilingual Performance Exam 	
 The exam will incorporate all three languages; English, American Sign Language, and Spanish 	
 Once a person has obtained trilingual certification, he or she must earn 100 hours of continuing education for BEI General certificate and Trilingual 	
 50 hours of interpreting related topics 	
 30 hours of trilingual related topics 	
 And 20 hours of ethics related topics 	
 As for those with RID/NIC and trilingual certification: 	
 30 hours of trilingual related topics 	
 And maintain RID/NIC certification requirements (8.0 Continuing Education Units) 	
 Suppose someone wants to be tested for something other than ASL or Spanish, BEI does not offer any test or certifications for those. Instead, there are several options; 	
ACTFL	
 Stands for American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language 	
 Offers several exams for many different languages 	
 Exams are skill-based and evaluated separately 	
 Each exam is independent from one another 	

 This means each exam can be taken again if they weren't passed rather than having to retake all exams 	
Berlitz	
 Similar to ACTFL but only test languages that are spoken in Europe 	
• ATA	
 Stands for American Translators Association 	
They only offer written translation test	
 There are several non-English languages they test for 	
The test can be taken every year	
Marcela opened the floor for questions	
 Duane asked for clarification on if BEI offers only written exams or oral exams 	
 Marcela explains that BEI, ACTFL, and Berlitz offer both written and oral exams. However, ATA only offers written exams 	
 Jessica asked about the length BEI requires for its trilingual 100 continuing education hours 	
 Marcela believes that BEI's continuing education hour cycle is five years, which is reasonable since the standard is for 20 hours per year 	
 Jessica is wondering if Marcela recommends that the board accept or even consider all of the BEI levels and /or the trilingual certification 	
 Marcela mentioned she only wanted to provide information on several available options for the ICB to consider, but does not want to make that decision for the board 	

	 There are pros and cons in terms of BEI trilingual certifications. However, if the board were to accept the certification, then more and more trilingual interpreters will be more motivated to move to Utah. She is unable to confirm that the BEI certifications are in fact, held to the same standard that the state of Utah desires for their interpreters nor there's really a need for other languages like Arabic and so on
•	Stephen wondered if any associate and bachelor degrees are allowed or do they need to be specifically related to the languages
	 Marcela explained that any degrees are acceptable to sit for the exams. The same applies to NIC certification
	 Associate degree is required prior to taking the English written exam
	 Bachelor degree is required prior to taking the performance exam
•	Stephen also wondered if there's a way for a person from another country, such as Russia, to communicate if he or she does not know American Sign Language nor English
	 Due to technologies that has arisen due to Covid, one can easily use tools like Zoom in order to be able to get translators/interpreters from other countries if that kind of service is not available locally
	 Marcela mentioned she had experienced a team of various interpreters for a court case involving a client who had no knowledge of American Sign Language nor English. The team consisted of a Spanish/English-speaking interpreter, a Certified Deaf Interpreter who knew about 4 to 5 different sign languages, herself and one more interpreter
	 As of now, she is unaware of any certification programs (in America) that offers exams for sign languages other than ASL

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	 Michelle asked if adopting the laws and policies to accept any of those certifications will be difficult to implement for Utah Interpreter Program and their admin team Michelle also wonders if the adoption will cost the state to change the law or if the approach taken to accept EIPA and RID certifications would apply in this case While Marcela doesn't have a good answer in terms of cost, but she understands the concerns that including BEI certifications as one of the several acceptable certifications may have some impact on Utah's state-developed certification exams Trenton stated that when the Interpreter Certification exam, in addition to updating the Novice and Professional Certified Deaf Interpreter) certifications. This was because there were no laws in recognizing CDI as a need at the time However, UIP and the committee argued that CDI fits the bill as one who facilitates information from one party to another. As a result, they were able to convince the law-makers to allow UCDI as a certifications. After all, the communities in Utah are expanding, so there may be a need for recognizing something like a trilingual certification. 	

 Whether the ICB should accept all levels of BEIs, ACTFL, Berlitz, and ATA as well as any specialties, he thinks it is worth discussing since they are recognized by some of the other states However, his primary focus is on specialties and/or trilingual, since that's not something the state of Utah has or offers. Utah already recognize ASL interpretation certifications 	
 Trenton asked if Marcela has any knowledge on whether or not BEI offers trilingual exams for deaf interpreters 	
 Marcela is unaware of any trilingual exams for deaf interpreters but is happy to look into it 	
 She had the pleasure of meeting a few CDIs and Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs) that knew at least four languages; English, ASL, Spanish, and Lengua De Senas Mexicana (LSM) 	
 Duane wonder if Marcela recommend that the ICB includes those third-party (ACTFL, Berlitz, and ATA) certifications as legal certifications that the state of Utah will allow, or just BEIs 	
 Marcela believes both BEIs and the others have their own Pros and Cons. If the state were to adopt any of those, it would help Utah become more up-to-standard with the rest of the United States 	
 BEI only tests ASL and Spanish. Due to that, it's missing other languages that may be needed as a trilingual need for communities 	
• Stephen wonders if interpreters have more than 1 certification, like 2 or 3 different certifications, would their earnings/income increase to match their level in terms of skills or capabilities	

• The needs for trilingual interpreters tend to fluctuate so their income will also fluctuate	
 Case in point, an interpreter may be busy for three months, then struggle to find any work during the rest of the year 	
 Also, having two or three certifications does not double their incomes. All those certifications do is prove that the interpreters have more skills and can ask for more in terms of pay, but, once again, will unlikely get double or triple their earnings 	
 Trenton asked if Marcela could clarify if BEI only measures spoken and written Spanish, not their sign language (LSM) 	
 BEI only measures an interpreter's ability to speak, listen and write Spanish. They do not evaluate one's ability to use LSM. The only place that actually tests one's ability to use LSM is in Mexico. There are no exam-providers outside of Mexico that offers such certifications 	
• Since Utah is reportedly behind by about 30 years, Jessica asked if Marcela is aware of how other states are handling potential issues in regard to diversities and their languages. Do those states have models they have developed or utilized?	
 Marcela mentioned that BEI is one of the examples as a model, which the state of Texas developed and used 	
 Typically, when there are multiple languages involved, there are four or more interpreters present to translate the various languages that has been requested 	
 Anthony agrees with the opinions that incorporating BEIs, ACTFL, Berlitz and ATA are an important discussion to have not just for the future but for today's needs. 	

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Discussion: ITP Program Approvals for Internships: Create Subcommittee for Program Evaluation Trenton Marsh	 While investigating files and policies for UIP, Trenton Discovered a requirement for the Interpreter Training Program (ITP) It appears UIP was supposed to have the program renewed by the ICB every three years. This information was never given to him when he took over as manager/director The process was last approved in 2016 and expired in 2019 There were many transitions and changes that occurred during 2019 so this probably account for the oversight The program is part of UIP's Policy and Procedure Manual (PPM) Trenton introduced Karen to the board, the new certification assistance Karen and Trenton have reached out to several organizations to renew the process Three organizations that are part of the program are Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), Utah Valley University (UVU), and Dixie State University (DSU) The UIP admin team had to create a new application following the guidelines for these organizations to fill out since the previous form and process disappeared Trenton asked the board members to become part of the committee to discuss and evaluate the program. He and Karen will serve as the subcommittee's liaison Anthony asked for clarification on what Trenton is looking for in terms of numbers of board members and what kind of representation (Deaf, hearing, etc.) he is looking for 	 Amelia, Anthony, Teresa and possibly Tom will serve as the subcommittee for ITP program evaluation Trenton and Anthony will reach out to Tom to see if he is interested. If not, Jessica will take his place Amelia, Anthony, Teresa, and Tom will serve on the ITP program evaluation subcommittee

• The policy has no guidelines on who should serve on the ITP subcommittee. However, there are some members on the board that represent the ITP program at their organizations that may serve as conflict as interest. With that in mind, who serve on the subcommittee is up to the board members	
 Anthony asked for clarification on if Trenton wants the board to nominate or volunteer during the current board meeting or if he wants everyone to do so by email after the meeting has concluded 	
 Trenton mentioned it's up to the board members to decide 	
• While David is ineligible to become part of the subcommittee since he is part of SLCC, he recommended that the rest of the board go ahead and nominate and volunteer for the ITP subcommittee	
Duane agrees	
 Stephen believes that having an interpreter on the subcommittee will benefit them due to their experience and training. This way, their insight can help improve the program 	
 Trenton mentioned that the guideline is incredibly broad. There are no requirements on who can serve on the subcommittee, but it is entirely up to the board 	
 Those who have volunteered to serve on the subcommittee are: 	
Amelia	
Anthony	
• Teresa	
● Jessica	

 Trenton mentioned that Tom, who is not present in the meeting, would provide good insight as a subcommittee member due to his experience of being in the ITP Anthony said he can reach out to Tom and see if he is interested. If Tom is not interested. If Tom is not interested. If Tom is not diverselved, the They can bring in Jessica instead All board members agreed to the list of subcommittee members and their plan of action David asked if UIP has been in touch with these organizations, or if they were supposed to reach out to UIP. Students often face issues in getting internships since the space of available internship positions are small and oftentimes, students end up competing for the same intern opportunities. He wonders what UIP's role is, if any, with internships for interpreting students Paul said UIP's staff interpreters often receive interpreting internship requests from schools. It is his understanding that the schools that are part of the ITP are responsible for their students UIP has a high standard of expectation for anyone who is interpreting student meet those expectations. After screening, the staff interpreters can determine who is eligible. Sometimes, if the intern struggled to thrive, they become stuck and are unable to improve and learn Thenton reminded the board that UIP has multiple functions. One of them is to provide interpretation services. Like Paul mentioned earlier, they can accept students if they feel theric capabilities matches what's needed at the deal center 		
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	 The students must contact UIP and submit their permit fees and applications. Once that's done, the admin team will evaluate the applications, and once approved, send them their student permits With those roles aside, Trenton said that his team is more than happy to reach out to interns and find solutions to provide more opportunities 	
Discussion: Secretary's Automatic Message Stephen Ehrlich	 Three months ago, Stephen recommended that UIP add glossaries on their website. Unfortunately, his time ran out. Also, he wanted to take the time to talk to Trenton, Jason, and Karen about the secretary's automatic message. He acknowledged that the admin team are busy with various projects, and wanted to provide some feedbacks on how they can streamline the information-sharing process to save time He feels that providing glossaries on the website will benefit the community so anyone who may not be familiar with any of the terms or abbreviations have a place to find the information. This will help the admin team save time in the long run With that in mind, the secretaries should also develop automatic messages that will explain specific information (such as BEI) to those who contacted UIP for additional information Trenton clarified with Stephen on if he meant that UIP should have an FAQ page. However, he does agree that UIP should offer glossaries. The interpreter world can be rather confusing for those who just entered the field or are in the general community. There are many acronyms, such as CPC, BEI, etc He believes there's value in doing that and will work on figuring out the logistics to get it done 	Trenton will work on getting glossaries and FAQs added to UIP's website

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	 He noticed that sometimes, the admin team isn't reachable due to being out of office. He reminded them that when they're out of office, they should have an away message informing people that they're not available at the moment Trenton agrees that all of UIP's staff need to remember to include away messages for when they're out of office. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence, even for him himself. However, he will work on addressing that He suggested that Stephen consider emailing the whole team or their admin email address (UIP@Utah.Gov) rather than communicating directly with one staff member. This way, the others can help pick up the slack when one is out of office Stephen stated he does CC Trenton and UIP@Utah.Gov. However, Jason is often the only one who may have the information that's requested. With that in mind, he feels Jason should have communicated better While understandable, this is why Trenton emailed him to inform him that Jason is out of office and will answer as soon as he's back Stephen states it doesn't take too much time for one to write down one to three sentences for their away 	
<u>Announcement</u> : UIP 30-year anniversary	messages Karen announced that UIP is hosting a 30-year anniversary event on May 6th, from 7:00 Pm till 9:00 PM	Karen will send out the UIP 30 Years Anniversary flyers to
Karen Rama	• The event will be held at the Sanderson center	the ICB members

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	 Everyone is invited to attend the event. Not just the board members or interpreters, but the interpreter and deaf community Trenton thanked Jodi Kenner for creating and maintaining Utah deaf history website. He suggested people check it out, as it also includes UIP history as well Mitch Jensen helped founded UIP back in the year 1992 The ICB also had a huge role in the development of UIP and their policies and operations UIP staff interpreters, admin and raters all played important roles in UIP's history Trenton believes the 30-year anniversary will show appreciation for their contributions to UIP and Utah's deaf and interpreter communities Stephen acknowledged that he may have missed the information, but wanted to check on where the event is being held Trenton replied that the event will be held at the Sanderson Deaf Center Due to Allyson's dismay, Trenton mentioned that maybe the deaf center in Saint George could host a party as well Since Allyson will be in town that weekend so she's available to go to the Sanderson Center instead Trenton announced that the St. George center just offered 10 mock exams. Amie and Kelly Bunting got everything running smoothly. This accomplishment is a milestone for UIP and their operation in Saint George's office 	
<u>Discussion</u> : Determining the Next ICB Meeting Date Trenton Marsh	Since there's only 10 minutes left on the clock, Anthony wanted to check with the board to see if there's enough time for the remaining topics to discuss or if the board should adjourn and hold the rest till the next meeting	Trenton will meet with Anthony and Jessica (the Chairs of the board) and discuss which agenda can be shared by emails or recording, and which agenda can be kept for board meetings

 Trenton and Jason were concerned with the number of topics that could be crammed into one meeting. There were quite a few discussions that had to be postponed till the next meeting due to the two-hour-every-3-month time constraint One such topic was Mental Health Interpreting Qualifications Due to the time constraint, could the ICB accomplish what's needed to discuss in order to serve the communities and their needs? With that in consideration, are the board members willing to meet bimonthly instead? Do they have something else in mind to make the meetings more effective? 	 topics that could be crammed into one meeting. There were quite a few discussions that had to be postponed till the next meeting due to the two-hour-every-3-month time constraint One such topic was Mental Health Interpreting Qualifications Due to the time constraint, could the ICB accomplish what's needed to discuss in order to serve the communities and their needs? With that in consideration, are the board members willing to meet bimonthly instead? Do they have something else in mind to make the meetings more effective? Allyson mentioned she cannot
 meet more than 4 times a year Stephen agrees with meeting bimonthly instead. However, he cannot ensure more than two hours for each session Anthony wonders if important topics can be kept for actual board meetings, but smaller topics can be shared through emails instead He's aware most people aren't a fan of reading emails, but topics that have less impact or can be shared quickly can be shared and discussed through emails. This way, important topics will have more time during meetings 	 Stephen agrees with meeting bimonthly instead. However, he cannot ensure more than two hours for each session Anthony wonders if important topics can be kept for actual board meetings, but smaller topics can be shared through emails instead He's aware most people aren't a fan of reading emails, but topics that have less impact or can be shared quickly can be shared and discussed through emails. This way, important topics will have more time during

 Utilizing emails to share or discuss smaller topics may not be effective. Some of the members may struggle to read the emails or just don't have the time 	
 In-person discussions may be effective with that in consideration 	
 David feels quarterly meetings work for him. He understands that temporality adopting bimonthly will benefit if the number of topics is large, but still feels meeting every three month works 	
 As for emails, those can be reserved for update and other smaller topics, like Testing and Detailed Reports Form 	
 Instead of just emailing the content, the person providing the information can record him/herself sharing the information 	
 This way, the members can watch during their own time. Afterward, they can bring the discussion to the meeting 	

 Amelia loves David's suggestion and suggest UIP and ICB take that approach Regarding that, she suggested Trenton and Anthony work together to decide which topics should be reserved for the meetings and which should be shared prior to the meetings The three suggested formats are: 	
• In-person discussion	
 Email discussion Video recording of information 	
updates Amelia is willing to 	
meeting bimonthlys if the meetings are held virtually. However, if the meetings took place at Sanderson's deaf center, it will be hard to attend	
• Trenton thanked everyone for their feedback. He's more than happy to adjust and improve how things are done. However, he values communities' involvements and providing awareness	
 If the ICB were to adjust how some topics are covered, the communities may miss out of those discussions as well as information 	
 To make up for that, maybe the UIP team can figure out a way to share that information if it's not done through the board meeting 	

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	 As of now, the ICB quarterly sessions will remain, with the next meeting being held in June. Trenton will meet with Anthony and hash out the details on what can be covered ahead of time and what can be covered during June's session Trenton imagine that the Mental Health Interpreting Qualification Discussion will be held during the next session 	
Future Agenda Items:	Allyson announced that Dixie State University (DSU) will become Utah Tech University (UTU) in July	Anthony motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 PM
<u>Update</u> : Workshops for Interpreters and the Communities	 While the university already offers Bachelor of Art (BA) degrees in ASL (American Sign Language) interpreting, they will also start offering Associate of Science (AS) in ASL 	 Allyson and Ameila seconded and the session concluded at 5:07 PM
Trenton Marsh Update: Posting of Names of Lapsed Interpreters Trenton Marsh Update: Testing and Detailed Results Form Amie Santiago Discussion: Mental Health Interpreting Qualifications Annette Stewart and Brad Godfrey	 Science (AS) in ASL Everyone cheered for Allyson's accomplishment Allyson is hoping they will start interviewing for facility members next week Stephen asked when DTU will change their name to UTU July 1st Allyson thanked Tiffany Harding for helping her develop the 4-year program at DSU (soon to become UTU) David thinks it's great that there's a program for the south. He reminded everyone not to forget about Utah Valley University (UVU) and their 4-year program as well. Also, Salt Lake 	5:07 PM