

October 16, 2024

ASL/PT/Trilingual Interpreter Shortage

Workgroup Overview

Objective

The primary objective of the workgroup is to address the American Sign Language, ProTactile, and Trilingual interpreter shortage occurring in the State of Washington. The workgroup is to develop actionable items or recommendations. The workgroup aims to leverage the diverse skills and expertise of its members to ensure comprehensive analysis, efficient decision-making, and effective implementation of strategies.

Scope

The workgroup will be meeting two times a month for 2 hours. Please see the document “ODHH Workgroup Meeting Schedule” attached to your email of the days and time for these meetings. This schedule should remain the same but may change with the workgroup’s input when time comes. Each meeting will have a specific topic that will be discussed. This topic will be communicated one week in advance.

There will be 1 or 2 in-person meetings, which will be discussed thoroughly in our November meeting. More information will be available by then.

Timeline and Deliverables

The first workgroup meeting will be taking place on October 16th, effectively starting the project duration. There will be 2 meetings a month until June 2025. The final English report will be submitted to the state 45 days before the actual due date of June 30, 2025. The ASL videos will be disseminated approximately the same month, depending on the production of the videos. The final date for ASL video dissemination of the findings will be on August 30, 2025.

This workgroup will use the innovative approach to finding solutions and on how to implement it. We will ask you to think outside of the box to create new solutions. The workgroup meetings will have a structured approach to problem solving on this matter.

Workgroup Participants

After careful consideration with the application process, the representative from the HB 2221 bill is shown below. This information guided us to conduct the selection process.



Despite the HB 2221 not passing legislation, ODHH still received proviso funding to support this special project. Provisos provide flexibility and modifications to the scope of the project as needed. Although strictly following the list of selecting representatives is not required, ODHH remains committed to having this project be community-based with the list of representatives from around the state of Washington. Here is the list of what the bill stated for selections of representatives below:

- Two deaf or hard of hearing users of American sign language from **King, Pierce, or Snohomish counties** with lived experience using sign language interpreters.
- One deaf or hard of hearing person from **southwest Washington** with lived experience using sign language interpreters.
- One deaf or hard of hearing person from **central Washington** with lived experience using sign language interpreters.
- One deaf or hard of hearing person from **eastern Washington** with lived experience using sign language interpreters.
- Two deafblind users of **protactile** who state residents with lived experience in using sign language interpreters.
- Two representatives from **community-based organizations** in the state that represent deaf and hard of hearing users of American sign language.
- Two representatives from **community-based organizations** in the state that represent the **deafblind community**, at least one of which must be from an organization that serves a culturally diverse population.
- One representative from a **business or organization** in the state that provides American sign language or protactile interpreters to organizations.
- One American sign language interpreter certified by the **Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf** who is a state resident with at least 10 years of experience as a professional certified interpreter.
- One American sign language or protactile **interpreter** who is deaf or hard of hearing, a state resident, and has at least 10 years of experience as a deaf interpreter and a history of high-quality interpreting.
- One **teacher** of American sign language interpreting or protactile interpreting who is deaf or hard of hearing from a neighboring state or Washington.
- Two representatives of **higher education institutions**, one from a four-year state university and one from a community or technical college.

We made necessary adjustments to ensure a variety of representation is at the table with ODHH to make these important changes. We are still looking for one more DeafBlind representation. Please see the name of members on the next page.

We will be publishing your names on the ODHH website page about the workgroup project. If you do not want your name published on the website, please contact Morgan Jericho at morgan.jericho@dshs.wa.gov

Here is who will be involved in the workgroup project.

1. Erika Teasley
2. Dan Mathis
3. Ashanti Monts-Treviska
4. Socorro "Coyo" Garcia
5. Phelan Conheady
6. Cori Jones
7. Katherine Taylor
8. Shawn Broderick
9. Sarah Hafer
10. Joseiah Morrow
11. Gabrielle Hopkinson
12. Taralynn Petrites
13. Melissa Klindtworth
14. Olivia Wood
15. Angela Theriault
16. Ariele Belo
17. Ellie Savidge
18. Zachary DeLoya