



TxIDTF Language Barriers Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Notes | October 10, 2023 @ 10:00am

AGENDA

1. Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation – Troy Walden
 - Troy met with Michael Strawn of TDLR to discuss language barriers in Alcohol/Drug Education
 - Due to limited resources, TDLR only allows instruction in English and Spanish
 - Currently, TDLR's solution is to allow for translators to be in the class. However, these translators are not paid by TDLR and are often family members of the student.
 - Issue: No way of knowing if the information is being translated correctly to the non-English/Spanish speaking student
 - Important to note that translators are not instructors. There are many restrictive requirements that prevent the majority of people from becoming an instructor and getting proper training. Instructor requirements can be found here: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/court-ordered/drug-and-alcohol/instructor-apply.htm#edu>
 - Legislative request is needed to allow for less restrictive instructor requirements for translators
 - Texas Administrative Code – Rules and Regulations
 - Court-Ordered Education Programs – [Chapter 90](#)
 - TDLR Procedural Rules – [Chapter 60](#)
 - TDLR Administrative Rules – [Chapter 55](#)
 - Applicable Texas Laws
 - Educational Programs Regulated by TDLR – [Texas Government Code, Chapter 171](#)
 - Alcohol Education Program for Minors Law – [Texas Alcohol Beverage Code, Chapter 106, Section 106.115](#)
 - Drug Education Program Law – [Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 521, Sections 521.374 - 521.376](#)
 - DWI Education Program Law – [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 42A, Articles 42A.403 and 42A.406](#)
 - DWI Intervention Program Law – [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 42A, Articles 42A.404 and 42A.406](#)
 - TDLR Enabling Law – [Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 51](#)
2. Position Paper

- TDLR is open to recommendations about how to address the language barrier issue in Alcohol/Drug Education courses
 - The information can be used to get more funding from the legislature to address the issue
 - Potential options discussed:
 - What are hospitals and other clinics doing to translate services? Is there an option that has some qualifications to do the work we are talking about?
 - Use graduate students to translate content?
 - Would MADD's Victim Impact Panel (VIP) consider the solutions we develop for TDLR as options for VIP translations? Yes.
 - Automated AI technology
 - Language Access in the Courts: How Technology Saved the Day During a Pandemic (an interpreters perspective) <https://www.atanet.org/tools-and-technology/language-access-in-the-courts-how-technology-saved-the-day-during-a-pandemic/>
 - Subcommittee should provide TDLR with multiple recommendations
 - Need to determine the populations most in need of translation services
 - Need to determine cost for translation services
3. Assign Action Items
- Troy to pull together some thoughts on the issue before the November task force meeting. The findings will be presented to the membership.
 - Task Force will have an opportunity to provide input and identify gap areas
 - Ultimate goal: 1) Identify/describe the problem, 2) Identify possible solutions, 3) Evaluate possible solutions, 4) Make formal recommendations to TDLR
4. Determine Next Meeting Date(s)
- Christine to send out Doodle Poll in November to select next meeting date

Subcommittee Members – All in Attendance

- Charles Mathias, UT Health San Antonio
- Troy Walden, Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)
- Nicole Holt, Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth
- Debra Marable, Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Missy Williams, Texas Municipal Police Association
- Emmy Shields, TTI (TxIDTF Admin)
- Christine Adams, TTI (TxIDTF Admin)