

WASCLA Annual Report Summary—2010

W A S H I N G T O N S T A T E C O A L I T I O N F O R
L A N G U A G E A C C E S S

*“Interpreters,
Translators, and
Providers Working
Together to Ensure
Language
Access for Lim-
ited English Profi-
cient Individuals in
Washington State”*

WASCLA MISSION

To ensure the provision and delivery of effective legal, medical, social services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) residents in Washington State through the collaborative efforts of interpreters, translators, and service providers.

For more information, visit

www.wascla.org

2010 ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Directors Election:

WASCLA elected its first Board of Directors in 2010! The Board of Directors are individuals of diverse and professional backgrounds.

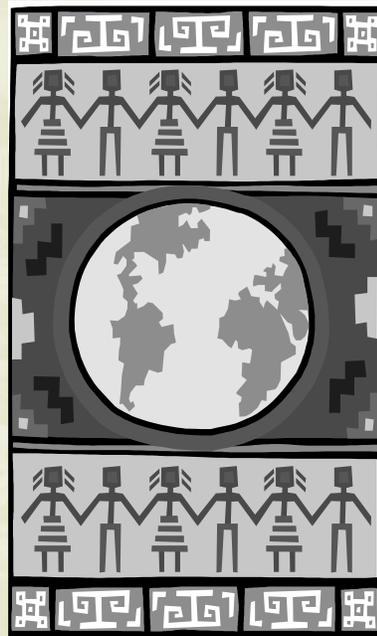
The 2010—2012 Board of Directors is:

Abukar Ali,
Ann Wennerstrom,
William Plumley,
Danielle Eidenberg-
Noppe,
Gillian Dutton,
Kristi Cruz,
Jonas Nicotra,
Magdalena Labori*,
Louise Morehead,
Nancy Leveson,
P. Diane Schneider,
and Ping Lau.

* This Board Member has since resigned.

Incorporation Process to become a 501(c) (3) Organization:

In 2010, WASCLA applied for legal assistance with the incorporation process through the Washington Non-Profit Assistance Center, and was selected for pro bono representation by Perkins and Coie. Two Perkins and Coie attorneys devoted countless hours to assist WASCLA in drafting the application for federal tax-exempt status.



2010 LANGUAGE ACCESS SUMMIT VI

Summit VI was held on October 15th and 16th in Shoreline, Washington. With 320 attendees, it was the largest conference to date. This two-day conference brought together social service providers, government agency representatives, advocates, interpreters, and translators. Summit VI was also host to the first meeting of the Washington State interagency working group on limited English proficiency, which brought together representatives from approximately 25 state agencies to discuss language access topics relevant to serving LEP individuals in social service and governmental agencies.

WASCLA Committees & Task Force Work - Highlights

Education Committee

During 2010, The Task Force on Language Access in Education (which included representation from WASCLA, OSPI, OEO, OCR, PSESD, HRC, WA School districts, community colleges, universities, and interpreters....), developed a draft model language access policy and administrative handbook, with the intention of getting feedback from various stake-holder groups in an effort to finalize the policy for distribution to WA school districts. In the effort to gather feedback, OEO coordinated a panel at the 2010 WASCLA Summit VI which included task force members from school districts, PSESD and community colleges, who discussed best practices in developing and improving language access within schools and districts. Once the initial policy/handbook draft was completed, OEO looked to WSSDA (WA School Directors Association) for guidance about the policy language as well as the procedural language in the administrative handbook. OEO has recently (October, 2011) begun discussions with WSSDA to finalize the policy and administrative handbook, and will resume work with the task force once next steps are identified with WSSDA.

Pharmacy Committee

In 2010, Pharmacy Language Access Workgroup continued to build on its work initiated in Fall 2009, bringing together for the first time, advocates, language service providers, pharmacists and the UW and WSU academic pharmacy programs. Activities included participation by workgroup members in education, training, and consultation venues, at the state and national level. Among these were case examples presented at WASCLA Summit VI on adding language access to the pharmacy curriculum, and how to build issue-focused community collaborations. In addition, workgroup members offered training on language access at the Washington State Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting. Policy issues addressed ranged from securing guidelines from DSHS on the process for pharmacists to request reimbursement for language services provided to Medicaid patients, and offering guidance to the FDA on inclusion of language access among the criteria for standardization of prescription drug labels.

Interpreter & Translator Directory Committee

In 2010, the WASCLA Directory, which had been in discussion for the prior two years, took one more step towards becoming a reality. In December 2010, a partner organization, the Northwest Justice Project, received a grant to assist WASCLA in the development of this statewide online searchable database of interpreters and translators. The WASCLA work group on this effort quickly came back together to begin discussions again about the goals, the structure and the format of the Directory. This work continued into 2011 with an anticipated go-live date for the Directory by the end of 2011. The Directory will be a free online searchable database of working interpreters and translators in Washington State. The goal of the Directory is to bring together those who are in need of interpreter services (requestors) with professional interpreters and translators

Inter-Agency LEP Work Group

In 2010, WASCLA partnered with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, with support from the Council's grant from the federal Office of Minority Health, to convene an Inter agency LEP Workgroup. The first meeting of the workgroup was held in conjunction with the WASCLA 2010 Language Access Summit on October 15. A total of 27 attendees from 19 agencies met to discuss assets and challenges facing agencies in regards to language access services, policies, and programs and to brainstorm ways the workgroup can be a resource. During the meeting, participants identified a need for basic LEP 101 training. A small group of volunteers from WASCLA and other state agency staff who are leaders in the area of language access spent the remainder of 2010 working on a curriculum for an LEP 101 training to be held in 2011 and to develop a work plan for the work group.