

Interpreting for Special Education

Medical interpreting in the school setting



UMTIA Workshop
Saturday, October 6, 2018
Minnesota Department of Education

Panelists' bios:

Elizabeth Watkins is a consultant in the area of multilingual learners with disabilities at the Minnesota Department of Education. She develops materials and provides training to help schools throughout the state distinguish between disabilities and language or cultural differences. Interpreters and cultural liaisons have a key role in this process and she has created professional development workshops for interpreters and liaisons working in public schools. In addition, she collaborates with the University of Minnesota Program on Translation and Interpreting to offer two university courses in special education interpreting and worked with the University to create the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Educational Interpreters of Spoken Languages. Ms. Watkins also works with the Interpreting Stakeholder Group and the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association to present an annual collaborative training for interpreters and speech-language clinicians.

Jesús M. Villaseñor PACER Center Parent Advocate. Jesús assists Latino/Hispanic families in obtaining services in educational, medical, social, and recreational programs for their children from the city, county and state. He conducts workshops in Spanish for Latino families about educational rights and how to advocate for their children with disabilities. Jesus presents to teachers, administrators, and government officials on the specific needs of Hispanic children and helps identify cultural barriers for family involvement in schools. He advocates for parents of children who receive special education services. He attends Special Education meetings with parents. Jesús has translated new and existing materials on PACER programs and information about special education/ disabilities. He served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, Special Education Diversity Advisory Committee, MDE; Special Education Advisory Committee; Board of Directors Hispanic/Latino Leadership; and a National Field Reviewer for CLAS— Cultural and Linguistic Appropriate Services Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mr. Villaseñor is also a licensed Attorney in Mexico.

Deeqaifrah Hussein is District Wide Autism and Emotional Behavior Disability (EBD) Itinerant Teacher with Minneapolis Public Schools. Deeqaifrah supports special education teachers with evidence-based interventions for children with autism and EBD. Deeqaifrah has received her Master's in Autism from the University of St. Thomas. Currently, Deeqaifrah is pursuing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership with focus on Autism as she is also getting her Behavior Analysis Certification through Florida Institute of Technology online Certification Program.

Sandy Tapia-Sayed is a School Psychologist with Minneapolis Public Schools currently assigned to Green Central Park Elementary School and Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center. As a school psychologist, her primary duties include conducting educational evaluations and social-emotional assessments for students identified or suspected of a disability and overseeing the pre-referral intervention process. Sandy received her Bachelor's in General Studies from the University of Southern California and Master's in Educational Psychology from Azusa Pacific University. Before moving to Minnesota, she worked as a Bilingual School Psychologist in California and Hawaii. Sandy is pursuing her National Certification in School Psychology.

Kassim Osman is a Licensed Social Worker and a Cultural Facilitator who works for Minneapolis Public Schools in the Special Education Department. He is a Somali Interpreter and Interpreter Trainer who has been interpreting for Special Education since 2010. He holds a degree from the University of Minnesota in Family and Social Science. Kassim Osman is also a Certified Support Planner for consumer directed community support services (CDCS) for people with disabilities. He is also a Mental Health Practitioner providing therapy and skills to individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Scott Homler is director of the Program in Translation and Interpreting at the University of Minnesota. He is a certified legal interpreter for the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. An experienced teacher and trainer of interpreting, he is also qualified to translate at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague and interpreter for International Visiting Leadership program at the United States Department of State.