



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

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GOVERNOR

STANLEY "SKIP" PRUSS
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Memorandum

DATE: 9/8/2009

TO: Community Partners & Members of Deaf Community

FROM: Sheryl D. Emery, M.A.
Director, Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

SUBJECT: New Michigan Interpreting Test – Michigan Board for Evaluators of Interpreters

The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing would like to express our appreciation with the patience that has been shown during the suspension of the QA interpreting examination.

It is my pleasure to announce as of 8/27/09 the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth signed the contract of acquisition of a new interpreter test. The new test will be named the Michigan Board for Evaluators of Interpreters (MI BEI).

The test was acquired from the state of Texas. As an added bonus we will have interpreting reciprocity with the state of Texas so that they will recognize our certification and we will recognize theirs. The test was developed by the University of Arizona. Extensive research went into the development of this test to make the test valid, reliable and legally defensible. A panel was convened in Texas to identify the knowledge, skills; ability needed to become an interpreter and an extensive job analysis was completed. It was also pilot tested on educational interpreters and interpreters in various work settings. The test has been successfully administered in Texas since 2006.

The Division **estimates** we will begin testing in late October, we are still working on logistics, involving the provision of the English proficiency test, priority testing dates, score the English test, notification to persons whom passed and have ability to move on to performance as well as scheduling, and rating of performance test. Bear with us just a bit longer. In the mean time we want people who are waiting to take the test to know to prepare. There are approximately 150 people who have priority testing status. This includes people who had their test interrupted last fall and students who graduated. I have been asked to provide additional priority testing for people who cannot work at this time and educational interpreters. I am considering it, however have not made a final decision.

Please remember that one must pass the written English portion of the MI BEI test first before they will be given the performance portion. Persons who do not pass the English portion will not be allowed to move forward. We are trying to obtain two separate fees for English test and Performance test; however this is a legislative issue. The fee was determined by the legislature and at this point DODHH cannot change or modify it.

The performance test format will include: Expressive Interpreting, Expressive Transliterating, Receptive Interpreting, Receptive Transliterating, and Sight Transliteration.

Please refer to the Texas website below. This will give you an idea as to what to expect and how to prepare yourself to pass the written portion of the test. Eventually new test preparatory information will also be posted on the DODHH website for the written and performance test as well as the application process.

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/sampletest.shtml> (sample written English test)

A word of caution! Though we have acquired our test from Texas, many of our standards and rules will be quite different. Thus we are urging people to not assume all the information on the Texas website will apply to Michigan.

Continue watching our website, www.mcdc-dodhh.org for test updated announcements and information. Again, thank you for your continued support.