

Alternative Pathways Task Force Meeting - #7

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Time: 7:30PM

Topic: Alternative Pathways – Performance Based Evaluation

Attendance

Members Present

Jimmy Beldon
Marylourdes Gayles
Jacob Leffler, SBSLI Chair (Taskforce Lead)
Jadalynn Orr
Jerry Seremeth
Sarah Yates
Thomas Horejes
James Skjeveland, SBSLI Member
Caitlin Comstock
Joshua Finkle

GODDBHH Staff Support

Usherla DeBerry
Tanéa Brown

Members Absent

Tisha Bera
April Jackson-Woodard

Task Force members and invited participants includes the following overall in the meeting:

Maryland State Board of Sign Language Interpreters
Deaf Interpreters
Hearing Interpreters
Interpreter Educators
Interpreter Agency Owners
Deaf Consumers

RID Board Experience
Interpreter Training Programs (ITPs)

Purpose

The meeting focused on developing recommendations for the Alternative Pathways Licensure Program, specifically discussing:

- Performance Based Evaluation

Discussion Summary

2. Review of Previous Meeting Discussion

- Review key discussion points and outstanding items
- Confirm previous agreements regarding the knowledge examination
- Review proposed alternative pathway criteria and point system

3. Performance Assessment / Screening Process

- Review the proposed performance assessment
- Discuss whether the process should be called a performance exam, assessment, or screening
- Determine how interpreting performance will be measured
- Discuss use of video submissions
- Review proposed performance criteria and scoring methodology
- Identify any additional information needed before submitting the proposal to the Board

4. Prerequisites for the Performance Assessment

- Review proposed prerequisites for applicants
- Discuss college credits, interpreting experience, CEUs, and other qualifying activities
- Discuss the point-based system modeled on the RID alternative pathway
- Determine whether different combinations of education, experience, and professional development should be accepted

5. ASL Proficiency Screening

- Discuss the potential use of the ASLPI as a screening tool
- Clarify that ASLPI measures ASL proficiency and does not replace an interpreter performance assessment
- Discuss whether an ASLPI score should be required before moving forward to the performance assessment

- Discuss possible minimum score requirements

The group previously discussed ASLPI as a possible screening component while recognizing that it would not replace the interpreter performance assessment.

6. Raters / Evaluators

- Determine the number of raters
 - Three or five raters
 - Consideration of an odd number of raters
- Discuss Deaf and hearing rater representation
- Discuss qualifications and selection of raters
- Discuss rater training and standardization
- Discuss consistency and reliability of scoring

The previous discussion favored three or five raters and specifically considered having a majority of Deaf raters.

7. Legal, Validity, and Reliability Considerations

- Review concerns regarding validity and reliability of the assessment
- Identify documentation or research needed to support the assessment process
- Discuss legal review and compliance considerations
- Identify questions that should be referred to the appropriate State legal counsel

The task force emphasized that the process should be measurable, objective, and sufficiently reliable to withstand legal challenges.

8. Scope of Alternative Pathway

- Clarify community interpreting versus educational interpreting
- Discuss whether EIPA should apply only to educational interpreting
- Clarify limitations for legal, medical, mental health, and other specialized settings
- Identify any settings where additional certification may be required

Topics Requiring Additional Discussion

Final CEU distribution and required hours.

Whether to create a Maryland Board-developed knowledge examination.

Final performance evaluation model.

Reviewer qualifications and training.

Documentation requirements for applicants.

Implementation timeline.

Action Items

- Identify revisions needed to the alternative pathway proposal
- Assign responsibility for outstanding research and documents
- Determine what should be submitted to the State Board for review
- Establish target date for completing the proposal
- Confirm topics for the next Task Force meeting

Adjournment - 9:30AM