



Section 6: Interpreters Network



INTERPRETERS NETWORK

THE NEED AND VALUE OF THE NETWORK

Very commonly, Maya leave the clinic uncertain and confused about their illness and about the medications prescribed. Spanish interpreters are sometimes available, but not adequate, as Maya who speak Spanish have trouble with interpreters from other nationalities who speak fast, use a different vocabulary, and treat the Maya as if they are native speakers rather than secondary speakers. Often the Maya use their children as interpreters, which can be problematic for families in many ways. Maya language interpreters have limited training, if any. The interpreters network helps preserve the Maya languages and promote respect and dignity for the Maya, as they see their native language accepted as worthy of equal treatment.

Case example: A Maya woman had a Cesarean section. The nurse insisted that the Maya woman take a shower, but the woman did not know how to operate the shower controls. She mistakenly turned on the cold water and jumped violently, causing her surgical incision to split, leading to recurrent infections with related problems and pain—now twelve years later.

Case example: A two year old girl being treated for cancer would constantly call out what sounded like the Spanish “ya”; meaning already or now. Hospital staff looked surprised when told that the girl spoke Q’anjobal Maya; and her constant cry was “iya” which means “pain” or “ouch”.

THE INTERPRETER NETWORK STRUCTURE

- *We will screen and train Maya interpreters based on the information contained in the Toolkit, thus going beyond traditional methods or mere training in medical terminology.*
- *Network interpreters will be screened for and trained in:*
 - *Native fluidity in the Mayan language*
 - *Knowledge of patient rights and obligations*
 - *Cultural competency*
 - *Ethics*
 - *Knowledge of basic hospital and clinic procedures*
- *Handbook for Maya Interpreters.*
- *After successful training, interpreters will be certified by Pastoral Maya.*
- *A National Interpreter's Website is available to access the Pastoral Maya Network of Approved Interpreters.*
- *Calls come into a main call center, which then send the call to one of the regional centers.*
- *Online training will be established; and follow up will occur at the National Pastoral Maya meetings.*
- *Patients, care providers, and interpretation agencies will be asked for feedback.*
- *The Network will ensure fair pay and will employ Maya people.*

Maya Interpreters National Network Locations



Network interpreters will be screened for and trained in:

- ! *Native fluidity in the mayan language*
- ! *Knowledge of patient rights and obligations*
- ! *Cultural competency*
- ! *Ethics*
- ! *Knowledge of basic hospital and clinic procedures*

CONTACT

For information on the Maya Health Toolkit for Medical Providers
or for the Maya Interpreters Network contact:

The Maya Heritage Community Project

Kennesaw State University

Phone: 770-423 6589

alebaron@kennesaw.edu

or

Pastoral Maya Inc

Info@pastoralmayausa.org