**Questions: Licensure Forum, June 2014**

1. **Question:** Does the licensure law allow for reciprocity with other states that require interpreting licensure?

**Answer**: Yes. The Interpreter and Transliterator Licensure Act specifies at G.S. 90D-9(a) that, “The Board may issue a license to a qualified applicant who resides in this State and holds an interpreter or transliterator license in another state if that state has standards of competency that are substantially equivalent to those provided in this [Act].” Rule 21 NCAC 25 .0206 describes how the Board will implement licensure by reciprocity. The Board will determine on a case-by-case basis whether another state’s licensing law “has standards of competency that are substantially equivalent” to those provided by North Carolina’s licensure law and rules.

1. **Question:** How many other states require interpreters to hold an interpreting license?

**Answer**: Approximately 15-18 states

1. **Question:** Is it possible to have the licensure renewal period of Oct 1 – Sept 30 be modified so that CEUs earned from the national conferences of RID and CIT not fall in the same renewal period?

**Answer**: Since this time period is mandated in the law, it is very doubtful that the renewal period will be changed.

1. **Question:** Will NCITLB pursue requirements for VRI and VRS interpreters who provide services in NC?

**Answer**: The Interpreter and Transliterator Licensure Act and the rules promulgated by the Board apply to any interpreter or transliterator who provides interpreter and transliterator services at or from locations within the State of North Carolina, including VRI and VRS interpreters and transliterators. Conversely, the law and rules do not apply to interpreters and transliterators who provide interpreter and transliterator services at or from locations outside the State of North Carolina. The Board does not currently have any plans to adopt any rules specifically for interpreters and transliterators who provide VRI and VRS services.

1. **Question:** If a licensee participates in a CEU-bearing training near the end of the renewal cycle, how do we submit documentation of that training by deadline of Sept 30 if the CEUs have not yet been processed by RID?

**Answer**: The Board Administrator will accept an electronic copy (scanned or smart phone photo) of the certificate of completion from the training as long as it is submitted with the renewal application by the September 30 deadline.

1. **Question:** How can we raise the bar for having qualified interpreters in community colleges and universities? Shouldn’t they be required to hold a NC license?

**Answer**: Immediately before the Interpreter and Transliterator Licensure Act was enacted, the Community College System, the University of North Carolina System, and the Department of Public Instruction withdrew their support for the pending bill. In order to regain their support, the bill was amended to exempt educational interpreters and transliterators from the licensure law. Individuals who want to raise the bar for interpreters in community colleges and universities must lobby the leaders of those institutions to educate them about the benefits students and educators would receive from the use of licensed interpreters and transliterators. Only then will it be possible to amend the law to require community colleges and universities to use licensed interpreters and transliterators.

1. **Question:** What goals/plans/projects does the NCITLB currently have?

**Answer**: The two biggest goals of the NCITLB are to get the current proposed changes to the law passed in the legislature and to complete the educational video in our DSDHH partnership. The complete video will be posted on the websites of NCITLB and DSDHH.

1. **Question:** I have heard that there is a shortage of interpreters in NC. How many interpreters are needed to fill that shortage?

**Answer**: An exact number is unknown, but students in ITP programs are encouraged to graduate and be willing to move where the job opportunities are.

1. **Question:** If a licensee who holds a license and has no educational degree allows the license to lapse, can that person receive a license if applying for a new, original FULL license?

**Answer**: The individual described in this question must document that he or she has a two-year degree from a regionally accredited institution before he or she can obtain a new license. The Licensure Act specifies at G.S. 90D-7(b) that any person who applies for an initial license as an interpreter or transliterator on or after July 1, 2008 must hold at least a two-year degree from a regionally accredited institution. Furthermore, 21 NCAC 25 .0101 provides that a license issued to an applicant under G.S. 90D-7 after a lapse in licensure is an initial license. Therefore, an individual who obtained an initial license under G.S. 90D-7 before July 1, 2008 without a two-year degree who then allows that license to lapse cannot obtain another initial license under G.S. 90D-7 on or after July 1, 2008 unless the individual can document that he or she has a two-year degree from a regionally accredited institution.