Milestone for Language Access

Recently, we marked the 50th anniversary of legislation that started the country on the path toward health equity—the Civil Rights Act.

Title VI of the Act states: "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be denied from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Bolstered by Executive Order 13166 and Office of Civil Rights Guidance, the federal right to language access for Limited English Proficient patients was clarified to include healthcare provided by federal fund recipients.

The Virginia Department of Health website provides added information and useful resources:

A recent article in the Journal for Healthcare Quality identified three common causes for medical errors attributed to insufficient patient language proficiency:
1. use of family members, friends, or non-qualified staff as interpreters;
2. clinicians with basic foreign language skills who try to communicate without qualified interpreters;
3. cultural beliefs and traditions that impact healthcare delivery.

Blue Ridge AHEC News

April Sellers has just filled the vacancy left by LeAnne Cain. Please welcome her to our interpreting office staff! April will work from 7:30 am to 11:30 am, Monday through Friday, to help handle early morning cancellations or changes as well as payroll and training support.

A new 40-hour Promotores de Salud training will begin August 23rd in Harrisonburg. The next Waynesboro offering will be later in the year.

Call Deb Foy at 540.568.5284 for details.

Futuro Latino received a small grant from Virginia ABC to help curb underage drinking. This enhances the Coalition’s work in addressing alcohol and drug abuse prevention among Latino youth. Contact Tony Fajardo 540.568.4048 to get involved.

We are offering the next 40-hour medical interpreting training course, Bridging the Gap, from October 4 through October 25 for those who have passed the language proficiency test.

The remaining dates for our Interpreting Staff Meetings are:
September 12th & November 13th from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at the Hahn Center conference room.