



Fall 2024

## CCHI News Digest

Welcome to our Fall 2024 issue of **CCHI News Digest**, where you will find a short list of **CCHI News**, **Top Headlines** from our social media posts, and **CCHI Community Happenings**. Our big event this fall was September 28, when CCHI held the first virtual **Microconferencia** for Spanish interpreters. Read on for more!

The CCHI Team

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### CCHI News



The Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) launched the **#EquityStartsLocally pledge** campaign in July 2024, marking the 15th anniversary of the national, valid, credible, and vendor-neutral certification program for healthcare interpreters in the United States.

The #EquityStartsLocally pledge campaign urges hospital and health system leaders, language companies, interpreter associations, and other stakeholder groups to develop and implement strategies to strengthen language access infrastructure in the local communities to which they provide service and to invest in building community capacity for language justice.

To accelerate progress toward eliminating health disparities, improving quality of care and advancing inclusive representation in healthcare, all hospitals, health systems, language companies, and interpreter associations are being called on to make these efforts a priority. **Please consider endorsing the pledge today**, and join us as we encourage and support local communities in strengthening local language access infrastructure for health equity. **Access the Pledge [here](#)**.

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CCHI welcomes four new Commissioners, representing different stakeholders of the medical interpreting field, to start their three-year term on our Board this year: **Amanda M. David**, MA, BEI:III, Medical, & Master; RID CI/CT; CoreCHI-P™, **William Giller**, MA, CHI™-Spanish, **Michael Paasche-Orlow**, MD, MA, MPH, and **Marisa Rueda Will**, CHI™-Spanish. Read more [here](#).

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## Top Headlines

Video Relay Service (VRS), a federally funded service that allows Deaf and hard of hearing people to make calls with the support of a sign language interpreter, is essential for communication access. Despite recent FCC rate increases, interpreters face demanding working conditions, insufficient wages, and lack of support, leading to calls for better oversight to ensure funds benefit workers—and in turn, improve access—rather than simply boosting profits for the private equity firms that dominate the market. [Read more.](#)

"Nurses would wake up Diaz, who was still recovering from surgery, and have her interpret for her mother, the mother and daughter both said." [Read more.](#)

"A Tennessee immigrant rights coalition claims a Tennessee agency is violating the Civil Rights Act of 1964 due to the lack of language access on the state's driver license test." [Read more.](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) has released its 2024-2026 Language Access Plan that "outlines strategies to advance language access in OMH policies, programs, and operations, and solidifies OHM's commitment to facilitating meaningful access to resources for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP)." [Read more.](#)

"There has been heightened focus on health disparities and their underlying causes in recent years. These disparities are not new and reflect longstanding structural and systemic inequalities rooted in contemporary and historical racism and discrimination." [Read more.](#)

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## CCHI Community Happenings



"The **Practicemos y Crezcamos** Microconferencia" took place on **September 28, 2024**. This mini-conference offered a unique combination of expert perspectives from top leaders in the interpreting field and interactive skill-building sessions. Attendees were immersed in practical exercises that enhanced their interpreting skills and engaged in discussions that enriched their professional knowledge. This dynamic format fostered a collaborative learning environment, allowing participants to connect, grow, and apply new techniques directly relevant to their work. The day's lineup included:

- *Cognates, false friends and bad companions*, by Izaskun Orkwis
- *Prepared for any eventuality: How to negotiate idiomatic expressions or sayings in interpreting and translation*, by Heidi Hobson
- *Note-taking: Aide or Distractor?*, by Agustín Servín de la Mora
- *Deliberate practice in simultaneous interpretation to improve your performance*, by Gabriela Siebach



In the latest **podcast** episode of **Subject to Interpretation**, host Maria Ceballos-Wallis dives into an insightful conversation with Natalya Mytareva, Executive Director of CCHI. They discuss the

groundbreaking [ETOE™ \(English-to-English\) exam](#), a unique assessment designed to evaluate cognitive interpreting abilities in English without requiring a second language. Natalya shares the exam's structure, its relevance for certification, and how it sets the stage for future testing. She also sheds light on how the ETOE™ exam can influence other interpreting disciplines, making it a crucial tool for the future of interpreter certification.

## Interpreting Industry Conferences

Exciting 2024 conferences are on the horizon! As always, you can visit our [Conferences page](#) for more information about upcoming conferences and CE credits.

CCHI Commissioners have been presenting and exhibiting at exciting events across the country this fall. Here are just a couple.



## Delaware Valley Translators Association (DVTA) East Coast Interpreters and Translators Summit

Our Commissioners **Yasha Saebi** and **Johanna Parker** attended the 2024 DVTA Summit which took place on September 7th in Delaware. This was an in-person event that offered a full day of educational presentations by industry experts from across the country. Johanna presented the session “Strategies for Coping with Fast Speakers in Simultaneous Interpretation.”

## Americans Against Language Barriers (AALB) Annual Conference

Our Chair **Vonessa P. Costa** presented at the AALB conference that took place on October 5 & 6 in Chicago. This was an in-person & virtual event that brought together a variety of stakeholders. The conference offered a unique platform for networking, professional development, and in-depth discussions on the future of medical interpretation.



Many thanks to the organizations that made these magnificent learning and networking opportunities possible!

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## Join us at these upcoming conferences!

Stop by and say hello! **CCHI will have a table at the [65th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association](#)**, held in person in Portland, Oregon, from October 30 to November 2. With concurrent sessions, attendees can earn up to 11 CE hours for attending all three days. Check out CCHI's [full list of accredited sessions for more details](#).

Join CCHI Chair **Vonessa Costa** at the **Presidents' Panel: Looking into the Future!** at **ATA's 2024 conference on October 31<sup>st</sup> at 11AM**. Association leaders will discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for their members. This panel discussion brings together presidents and representatives of major T&I professional associations and organizations to discuss the changing landscape of translation and interpreting.



Don't miss **Vonessa Costa** joining forces with our Vice-Chair **Johana Parker** in their presentation *Health Care Interpreting in 2040 and Beyond: Which Future Do We Want, and How Do We Get There?* on **November 2<sup>nd</sup>** at **10:15AM**.

This interactive session will engage attendees in visualizing multiple future scenarios about health care interpreting in the next 15 years. Attendees will be encouraged to dream big, with both optimism and pessimism, considering the potential impacts of emerging technologies, cultural shifts, and geopolitical changes.

In addition, check out these other sessions featuring **CCHI Commissioners**:

- 11/2 at 8:30AM: Ensuring Privacy: HIPAA Fundamentals for Interpreters presented by CCHI Secretary **Shawn M. Norris**, Ed K-12, NIC, CoreCHI-P™
- 11/2 at 2:30PM: The Reality of Medical Consents presented by CCHI Commissioner **Yasha Saebi**, CoreCHI-P™
- 11/2 at 4:00PM: Broaden Your Perspective presented by CCHI Commissioner **Yasha Saebi**, CoreCHI-P™ (with Jason Kopp, chief of the Translation Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau)

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On **November 2**, stop by our exhibit table and chat with **CCHI Commissioner Amanda M. David** at **TAHIT's Symposium in Dallas, TX**.


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A Performance-Based Mini-Conference  
for Healthcare Interpreters of All Languages



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**Join us as we soar to new heights in 2025!**

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