



THE NATIONAL BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR MEDICAL INTERPRETERS

December 27, 2009

Dear CCHI Board Members,

The National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters would like to extend its hand to CCHI as fellow workers in the desire to ensure patient safety and serve the LEP population across the country, in the hope of having an open and productive dialogue about the future of the certification process. We would like to propose a meeting between the two groups to forge a relationship, regardless of what has happened in the past.

National Board members were selected through a blind, non-biased and national process and many of us had little knowledge of the past history between IMIA, NCIHC, NCC and other organizations and their members. Others on our Board have been active participants in both the IMIA and NCIHC. None of us wish to see a division between the National Board and the CCHI become a setback for certification, interpreters, or most importantly, patient safety.

The National Board is seeking NCCA accreditation and has hired a consultant to help ensure that we follow every recommendation in order to achieve it; we have completed a detailed and independent job analysis based on over 1,500 respondents that guided both our oral and written exams; and our process has always been open, transparent and for and by interpreters. Our written and oral tests, for which registration opened in October of this year, are based on these steps and principles, and were designed by subject matter experts specifically for the National Board.

We believe that patients and providers who are in dire need of national professional, verified, and standardized credentials for medical interpreters, are disheartened by the appearance of disunity among our camps and would like for the leaders to show true leadership and put aside their differences for the common good of the interpreter.

With that goal in mind, we would like to propose a meeting between the two groups, or their designated representatives, to forge a relationship regardless of what has happened in the past. We propose a conference call by February 14th 2010 and a face to face meeting by May 1st 2010. Please contact our chair at 678-458-1671 or at nlee@certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org.

Yours Truly,

The National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters

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Cc. IMIA List serve