



Request for ASL interpretation and CART services for MCOTA Meetings

March 23, 2022

I have very much enjoyed seeing MCOTA's commitment to communication access at the Leadership Meeting in October and throughout the Volunteer Driver Forum Series. Providing ASL interpretation and CART services as a rule rather than only following accommodation requests sends a message to the disability community that they are included.

The Minnesota Council on Disability provides ASL interpretation and CART for every public facing event. This makes what we do more accessible to everyone regardless of whether or not they made an accommodation request. It sends the message that, no matter what, everyone will be able to participate.

Given that the population MCOTA focuses on are folks with disabilities, may I propose that MCOTA provides ASL interpreters and CART at every meeting. This will give Minnesotans the opportunity to make last minute decisions about attending. It also says to participants, both government and community members, that going above and beyond the ADA, which is a bare legal minimum, is a best practice. It signals to the Deaf community that they are welcome; it also sets an example for government accessibility to the general public.

David Fenley (he/him)
ADA Director
Minnesota Council on Disability