

**Policy Committee**  
600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111  
January 7, 2020  
11:00 AM -12:30 PM  
**Minutes**

**Attended:** Naomi Goldberg, Inez Canada, Sarah Wiles, James Carnazza, Kevin Goodwin, Sheryl Cruz, and Bill Noone. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

**Procurement**

The group discussed how the Committee can specifically work on the procurement recommendation noting that the way in which the recommendation is written primarily focuses on learning about procurement. Presumably, the Committee will eventually have learned the basics of procurement and have further recommendations to offer. The group found the overview from December's meeting very informative and recognizes that the Committee has more to learn and has additional questions.

- How involved are VRCs in providing feedback on procurement needs and deficits? Do they attend meetings of Business Improvement Partners? If so, are VRCs from different parts of the state involved?
- Can RFRs specifically require that vendors purchase translation/interpreter services if they do not have staff that is capable of interpreting?
- Is the Statewide Bi-lingual Group involved with the Business Improvement Partners when planning for services for consumers with specific language needs?
- How are one-off/one-time services approved?
- Are results of consumer needs surveys considered when looking at needs relative to procurement?

The Policy Committee will request that Adam Garber attend a future meeting where we can ask additional questions.

**Fair Hearing Decisions**

MRC has agreed to share fair hearing decisions with the SRC, but we have not yet determined the way in which they will be shared. MRC has offered to summarize decisions rather than forward redacted originals due to concerns about confidentiality. The group discussed whether a summarized version of a decision would be sufficient or if it would lack sufficient detail. The group maintains that it would be possible to ensure confidentiality if there was a standard format for writing decision and suggested that perhaps this format could be required in the contract language.

Naomi will check with the Social Law Library to inquire as to what is done with the other agencies that publish their decision.

**The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.**