

2nd Joint Conference Program

2026

True Language Access: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Three lenses, one through-line: the patient's right to understand and be understood.

August 15-16, 2026 at Lurie Children's Hospital - Downtown Chicago
In-person + Virtual 10+ CEU hours

YESTERDAY

Honoring those that forged the path for true language access.

TODAY

Confronting the gaps between theory, policy, and practice.

TOMORROW

Building systems to achieve true language access and equitable care.

EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS



WITH THE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OF



DAY 1

Saturday, August 15

9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

All times CDT · Lurie Children's, Chicago + Virtual

■ Session ■ Panel ■ Keynote ■ Registration ■ Networking ■ Lunch ■ Break

8:30 AM to 9:00 AM		Optional Hospital Tour (TBC) RSVP details will be sent to registrants	SESSION 30 min
9:00 AM to 9:30 AM		Coffee & Sign-In	REGISTRATION 30 min
9:30 AM to 9:40 AM		Opening Address & Introductions Master of Ceremonies	SESSION 10 min
9:45 AM to 10:45 AM		The Origins of Language Access in Their Own Words Wilma Alvarado-Little & Linda G. Coronado	PANEL 1 hr
10:50 AM to 12:00 PM		Promoting Health Equity Through Language Access: A Case Study from Harborview Medical Center Yuliya Speroff, CoreCHI-P™ · Harborview Medical Center, Seattle	SESSION 1 hr 10 min
12:05 PM to 1:05 PM		Why Hospitals Still Get Language Access Wrong: The Uncomfortable Truth Danilo Formolo, MBA, CHI™ · Affinity Language Systems	SESSION 1 hr
1:05 PM to 1:25 PM		Networking	NETWORKING 20 min
1:25 PM to 2:15 PM		Lunch	LUNCH 50 min
2:15 PM to 3:30 PM		The Standards That Protect Patients: A Joint Commission View on Language Access Elizabeth Even · Senior Director, Field Operations, The Joint Commission	KEYNOTE 1 hr 15 min
3:35 PM to 4:35 PM		Empowering Communication: Lessons from Language Access Past, Present, and Future Wilma Alvarado-Little · New York State Department of Health	SESSION 1 hr
4:40 PM to 5:10 PM		Beyond Accuracy: The Invisible Skills in Healthcare Interpreting Mercedes Martin, CHI™ & Hugo Juarez, CHI™ - Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	SESSION 30 min
5:15 PM to 5:25 PM		Break	BREAK 10 min
5:30 PM to 6:30 PM		Speak Up: Using Front-Line Experience to Shape Federal Policy Marisa Rueda Will, CHI™-Spanish · Tica Interpreter Training & Translations	SESSION 1 hr

DAY 2

Sunday, August 16

8:30 AM – 4:35 PM

All times CDT · Lurie Children's, Chicago + Virtual

■ Session ■ Registration ■ Lunch ● Break

8:00 AM to 8:30 AM		Optional Hospital Tour (TBC) RSVP details will be sent to registrants	SESSION 30 min
8:30 AM to 9:00 AM		Coffee & Check-In	REGISTRATION 30 min
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM		Advancing Language Access Through Interprofessional Collaboration: The Language Access & Care Committee Yuri Takabatake, MD · Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	SESSION 1 hr
10:05 AM to 11:05 AM		The Persistent Gap Between Policy, Practice, and Professional Medical Interpreting Patricia A. Alonzo, EdD · Equiti Health	SESSION 1 hr
11:05 AM to 11:55 AM		Lunch	LUNCH 50 min
11:55 AM to 12:55 PM		Elevating the Role of Healthcare Interpreters: Contributing to Positive Health Outcomes Tatiana González-Cestari, PhD, CHI™-Spanish & Sarah Stockler-Rex, MA, CHI™-Spanish	SESSION 1 hr
1:00 PM to 1:50 PM		The Mindful Interpreter: Building Resilience, Deep Listening, and Trauma Stewardship in Medical Interpreting Daniel Gutiérrez Mena · Rush University Medical Center	SESSION 50 min
1:50 PM to 2:05 PM		Break	BREAK 15 min
2:05 PM to 3:15 PM		Revising the National Code of Ethics for Interpreters in Health Care: What's New? Jane Crandall Kontrimas, CoreCHI™, MS · National Council on Interpreting in Health Care	SESSION 1 hr 10 min
3:20 PM to 4:20 PM		Lessons from the Department of Justice's Language Access Enforcement Michael Mulé · Civil Rights Attorney, formerly U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	SESSION 1 hr
4:20 PM to 4:35 PM		Closing Remarks	SESSION 15 min

VENUE

**Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital of Chicago**
225 E Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

GETTING THERE

A short walk from the CTA Red Line, with direct access from Michigan Avenue. Streeterville parking garages within two blocks.

GOOD TO KNOW

Business casual; on Day 2, traditional or cultural clothing is warmly invited.
Accommodations and questions:
contact@aalb.org

Voices shaping the field

August 15–16, 2026

Lurie Children's, Chicago + Virtual

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Elizabeth Even

Senior Director, Field Operations · The Joint Commission

*The Standards That Protect Patients:**A Joint Commission View on Language Access*

Patricia A. Alonzo, EdD

Director of Strategic Partnerships
Equiti Health*The Persistent Gap Between Policy, Practice, and Professional Medical Interpreting*

Linda G. Coronado

Pioneer of Hospital Interpreter Services
Stroger Hospital of Cook County*Moderated Panel Discussion · Day One*

Tatiana González-Cestari, PhD, CHI™-Spanish

Director of Language Service Advocacy
Martti, an Equiti Solution*Elevating the Role of Healthcare Interpreters:
Contributing to Positive Health Outcomes*

Hugo Juarez, CHI™-Spanish

Certified Medical Interpreter (Spanish)
Pediatric & Adult Level 1 Trauma Centers*Beyond Accuracy:
The Invisible Skills in Healthcare Interpreting*

Mercedes Martin, CHI™-Spanish

Certified Medical Interpreter (Spanish)
Nationally Ranked Pediatric Hospital, Chicago*Beyond Accuracy:
The Invisible Skills in Healthcare Interpreting*

Marisa Rueda Will, CHI™-Spanish

Founder & Lead Trainer
Tica Interpreter Training & Translations*Speak Up:
Using Front-Line Experience to Shape Federal Policy*

Sarah Stockler-Rex, MA, CHI™-Spanish

Director of Curriculum Development & Testing Administration
Equiti Health*Elevating the Role of Healthcare Interpreters:
Contributing to Positive Health Outcomes*

Wilma Alvarado-Little

Associate Commissioner
New York State Department of Health*Empowering Communication:
Lessons from Language Access Past, Present, and Future*

Danilo Formolo, MBA, CHI™

CEO & Founder
Affinity Language Systems*Why Hospitals Still Get Language Access Wrong:
The Uncomfortable Truth*

Daniel Gutiérrez Mena

Medical Interpreter & Health Educator
Rush University Medical Center*The Mindful Interpreter:
Resilience, Deep Listening, and Trauma Stewardship*

Jane Crandall Kontrimas, CoreCHI™, MS

National Ethics & Standards Work Group Chair
National Council on Interpreting in Health Care*Revising the National Code of Ethics for Interpreters in
Health Care: What's New?*

Michael Mulé

Civil Rights Attorney
Formerly U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division*Lessons from the Department of Justice's
Language Access Enforcement*

Yuliya Speroff, CoreCHI-P™

Medical Interpreter Supervisor
Harborview Medical Center, Seattle*Promoting Health Equity Through Language Access: A
Harborview Case Study*

Yuri Takabatake, MD

Attending Physician
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago*Advancing Language Access Through Interprofessional
Collaboration: The Language Access & Care Committee*Full speaker bios are available at conference.aalb.org.