Language Access Plan Presentation BOC

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Presented by

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MEET TEAM BUNCOMBE
CONOZCA AL EQUIPO DE BUNCOMBE

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With special appreciation for our Team members who have moved on to other endeavors! / ¡Con especial agradecimiento a los miembros de nuestro equipo que han pasado a otros proyectos!

Thank you / Gracias Rasheeda, Carolina y Andrea
Where It Began

The Pandemic brought to light the fact that Language Services efforts needed improvement nationwide.
Where It Began

“Meaningful Access” as defined by the U.S. Department of Justice is language assistance that results in accurate, timely, and effective communication at no cost to the individual with LEP needing assistance.
In early 2023, in partnership with Poder Emma, CAPE applied for and received a $25,000 grant offered through the Institute for the Study of the Americas (ISA) and the Building Integrated Communities Initiative (BIC) at UNC Chapel Hill.

The Language Access Collaborative was launched.
How We Evolved

During our year+ long commitment to the Collaborative, our team participated in in-person language access summits and monthly virtual workshops and completed regularly assigned activities.
Where It Is Now...

The ultimate objective of the Collaborative was to produce and implement a Language Access Plan for the County.

Our goal now is to implement the County’s first Language Access Plan.

This will serve as the process document behind the Language Services Policy that was published in May of 2023.
Our Community Partners

The partnership that the Buncombe team formed with members of Poder Emma bolstered our understanding that Community must come first and that, to move forward, we must work together.
Survey/Interviews

Poder Emma participants suggested that we survey departments in person.

When possible, interpreters were included in these meetings to provide a “real life” experience.
Getting Started and Moving Ahead…

March 2024
- Present the Plan to County Management in March for final approval.
- Work with CAPE on point of service materials (posters, I Speak cards, etc.) to be distributed Countywide.

April 2024
- Design introductory communications to announce the Plan.
- Meet with Equity Office leadership to discuss data collection and roles and responsibilities.

May 2024
- Schedule a meeting with Language Liaisons as a group.
- Meet with individual departments to identify vital documents.