Abstract

- This presentation offers guidance designed to assist school crisis team members in translating the psycho-educational materials used during crisis interventions from English to another language (in this case Spanish).

Introduction

- Schools play a critical role in responding to crises. Among these roles is the provision of psycho-education.
- The Southern California wildfire started October 20, 2007 through November 9th of 2007.
  - 500,000 acres were burned.
  - The fire was caused by various sources such as dry climate, high winds, accidents and some fires are under investigation as being human caused.
  - There were 14 fatalities and at least 70 injured. San Diego County had the two largest fires the Witch (Creek) Fire and the Harris Fire.
  - By day two of the fire, it is estimated 500,000 people from 346,000 homes were mandated to evacuate in a short notice.
- As of 2006, 52.3% Non-Hispanic White of the people of San Diego are white. 29.9% are Hispanic which does not include undocumented Hispanic workers. Therefore, crisis material in Spanish was and continues to be greatly needed.

Method

1. The original English version psychoeducational document (Jimerson et al., 2003) was first translated into Spanish by a fluent native Spanish speaker (Teran).
2. It was then re-translated to English by a second native Spanish speaker (Navarro) who was blind to the wording of the original English version.
3. Next, one of the original English version authors (Brock, a monolingual English speaker) reviewed the re-translated English version and (making use of the MS Word function Track Changes) offered a number of copy edits and wording changes.
4. Finally, from these copy-edits and wording suggestions, the native Spanish speakers (Teran and Navarro) made the changes to the Spanish translation and produced a final translation of the psycho-educational handout which was compared to another independent translation (developed by Marcela Muñoz, San Diego State University).

Results

1. Original English Version, 10/25/07
2. Initial Spanish Translation, 10/28/07
3. English Re-Translation, 10/30/07
4. Author Correction to Re-Translation, 10/30/07
5. Final Spanish Translation, 10/31/07
Conclusions

- Creating a careful and accurate translation is a time-consuming process.
  - Six days from initial request to a final product in this situation.
- Thus, to avoid delay in the provision of this critical information (and/or having to provide inaccurate translations) it is recommended that such translation take place in advance of a critical incident.
- Target languages should be identified and materials judged to be useful in the greatest number of situations selected for translation.

References
