

Pierce County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities, 6315 S 19th St, Tacoma, Washington 98466

May 13, 2011

Christine Seymour called the meeting to order at 12:29 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Christine Seymour, Ron Stone, Robert Wardell, Wayne Terry, Leah Thomas, and Anthony Bonura.

Voting Members Absent (regrets sent): Dan Eberle, Penny Condoll and David Rand.

Voting Members Absent: Lynn Stagg.

Non-voting Members Present: Ken Gibson, Trina Forest, Patt Buff, Julie Anderson, Mike Rooney, and Cindy Hartman.

Approval of March 11, 2011 Minutes

A motion was requested to approve the minutes. Wayne moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2011. Ron seconded. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared approved.

The question of the committee's official name was asked. Mike Rooney replied that the HAVA grants are awarded to the "Pierce County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee" or PCVAAC.

Alternate Format PSA Video Status

Christine got permission and a script from Minnesota. Mike spoke to Tom Allman at the Secretary of State's Office. Tom referred the request to Lori Guerro to partner for a State website PSA video with links to the 39 counties. Thurston County offered to let us use their video camera. They used 101Multi-Media out of Olympia and produced seven generic, 30 second PSA video spots for \$9,000. **Hunter George will help get in touch with PCTV at Pierce College. Once we get scripts, Mike will push it out there.**

Christine mentioned that it took three months to finish the Emergency Management video she helped with. We'll need to make sure the script isn't area specific and promotes the term "You Decide". It will require more expertise and equipment than a video camera to get the full affect of having the Capitol Building in the background. Distribution will be discussed after the video is produced and all distribution will need to point to the website for air times.

Mike stated that our goal is completion for the General Election, for sure, and possibly as early as the Primary. The sub-committee will be asked to attend when he meets with PCTV.

Committee Membership Guidelines – Dan & David

Neither Dan or David were able to attend this meeting. This topic was tabled.

Voters’ Forum Recap Letter

Trina offered regrets that the file with the information had not been unpacked due to CFI’s relocation. This topic was tabled.

Voting Center Training Update

Christine advocates having deaf poll workers at the TACID voting center, since it’s the home of the deaf community in Pierce County. She stated the deaf culture is a community within itself. Typically, election workers work 15-16 hour days and serve all voters. Staffing would require two workers the first half of the day, and two for the second half to alleviate isolation. An ASL interpreter would only be required during training. HSDC plans to publicize the deaf accommodations.

Committee members support this idea. Trina suggested using one or two elections as a pilot to gage turnout. Using HAVA funds for the expense of additional personnel may be an option. HSDC could be a resource for deaf workers on Election Day. **Christine will try to find four people to work.**

Committee Makeup Discussion

Questions were raised regarding original grant requirements for membership. Mike reported that State law requires each county to maintain a committee with members either *having* diverse disabilities or expertise *in* disabilities.

Christine recapped that in the past TACID and CFI were not voting members because they got financial reimbursement through the grant. The fact that HAVA will contract with HSDC on the ASL video raised the question of whether Anthony and Christine can remain voting members. It was suggested that all members should be able to vote except on items they stand to profit from.

This topic should be blended into member guidelines. **Dan, Ken, and David**, as our membership guideline sub-committee, **are tasked with incorporating the following topics:**

What constitutes membership for recruitment?

Does advocating for say, senior citizens, qualify an individual for membership if being a senior, in itself, isn’t considered a disability?

Does *expertise* for disabilities vs. *being* disabled qualify individuals for membership?

Who qualifies as voting and non-voting members?

General conflict of interest policy for voting.

Voting Centers

Legislation passed closing polling places in 2011, sooner than expected. By law, each county must provide voting centers. The committee continues to play a vital role for direction on outreach, education, and voting centers. There are currently six voting center venues being researched. Those include:

Gig Harbor City Hall
Pierce County Election Center
Puyallup Library
Pierce County Central Maintenance Facility
McGavick Center
TACID

Pictures of venue meeting rooms were distributed with a list of services the voting centers will provide. The plan is to have them open Election Day only in 2011 and possibly extend the days in 2012. CFI was not chosen as a venue due to lack of parking and room size. In 2008, 52,000 people voted at polling places. If only 10% turn out in 2012, each venue may need to accommodate 1,000 voters in eleven hours.

Drop Box Update

The box at CFI is being relocated to the Lakewood City Hall due to lack of communication by the property owner. Due to the short timeframe for the box installation, the committee needed to authorize installation without a sub-committee site preview. Anthony made a motion to accept Lakewood City Hall as an alternate to the CFI site. Wayne seconded. Voice vote was taken and carried. Motion passed.

Future Agenda Topics

- Outreach for voting centers
- Update on grants
- Fundraising if grant isn't authorized

Good of the Order

Mike reported the Disability Rights Washington recommendations. Recommendations either have been, or are being, addressed. **The committee was interested in a follow up report.**

Mike handed out Candidate Workshop fliers. Trina distributed fliers for the CFI Open House in June and the 5-Day Workshop in August.

Meeting Date

The next committee meeting will be July 8, 2011 from 12-2 p.m. at TACID. Lunch will be provided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.