

July 18, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Accessible Communities Advisory Committee Event, July 18, 2017

On Tuesday, July 18, 2017 the Cowlitz County Auditor's Office and Accessible Communities Advisory Committee hosted an Abilities Expo at the McClelland Center in Longview. The Abilities Expo was held in conjunction with Washington State's Get Out the Disability Vote Week and National Disability Voter Registration Week. Individuals living with a disability, service providers, caregivers and family members were invited to participate.

The Abilities Expo featured demonstrations of the latest assistive technology by the Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP). Also present were fifteen resource tables that included: Cowlitz County Health and Human Services; Brain Injury Alliance of Washington; Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities; Cowlitz Tribe, Lower Columbia College; Developmental Disability Administration; Cowlitz County Elections; Lower Columbia CAP/SHIBA Program; CapTel-Captioned Telephone; River Cities Transit; Human Services Council; Obermeyer & Schrepel, Hearing Specialists; Life Works/ARC of Cowlitz Valley; and Hearing Loss Association of Washington.

Over 100 people viewed the demonstrations and tested the assistive technology devices – FM systems, video phones, caption phones, head pointers, eye gaze systems, and other technology that helps individuals with vision or hearing loss, mobility or other issues. The Daily News carried a picture of several attendees testing some of the latest assistive technology. Resource table participants were pleased with what they learned by meeting other participants and visiting the other resource tables. Several people registered to vote or made changes to their voting information.

Marlene White from the Secretary of State's Office participated in the event and said she was very pleased with the participation and array of assistive technology that was available for the event. Cowlitz County Auditor Kris Swanson and Carolyn Fundingsland, Elections Manager were also on hand to meet attendees and learn about the assistive technology.

Sharon Weinhold  
Cowlitz County Elections