

March 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Disability Advisory Committee, Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2010

The Disability Advisory Committee had a virtual meeting to discuss the proposed EAID grant application, titled: Ad Campaign for Accessibility Equipment/Options.

Persons contacted were:

Kristina Swanson, Cowlitz County Auditor  
Carolyn Myers, Elections Supervisor  
Maurine Coon, AARP/Disability Resources  
Sunnie Smith, Victims Advocate  
Audrey Jolley, DisAbility Resources  
Anita Hopkins, CAP  
Bernie Altman, Mental Health Ombudsman  
Karla Black, DisAbility Resources  
Judy Chamberlin, DisAbility Resources  
Linda Jaques, LCCB  
Diane Tischer, Wahkiakum County Auditor  
Linda Ross, VFW  
Linda Wilson, DAV Transportation  
Pam Howe, Residential Resources  
Heather Ferguson, Emergency Shelter  
Sharon Weinhold, Disability Outreach Advocate

Each committee member was contacted and given a copy or summary of the grant application for review. Several days later, the members had an opportunity to discuss the grant application, provide suggestions and comments, or concur with the grant application as written.

The grant funding would allow Cowlitz County to purchase a professional public service announcement for the local newspaper, radio, and television station to let people know about our accessible voting equipment and other accessibility options for voters with disabilities. The grant funding also would allow us to purchase posters and other informational media, and permit us to participate in events that would help us get the word out about our accessible voting equipment and accessibility options. The local media is supportive and willing to work with us to reach the local community.

The members were excited about this new opportunity to get the word out about our accessible voting options to members of the disability community. The members thought this was particularly important as we transition from the AutoMARK to the eSlate.

A member asked if we planned to use this public service announcement for only the 2010 elections or for future elections as well. We responded that the intent is to be able to use the public service announcement for more than the 2010 elections.

One member said we have tried many different approaches, and this is another significant way to reach the community. The member was particularly impressed with the response from the local media. Another member suggested that we place the public service announcement on-line, so voters can get the message through the local media and also access it from our website.

Disability Advisory Committee members were very supportive and enthusiastic about the grant application, and are looking forward to participating and giving their suggestions on the content and approach for the public service announcement. A member summarized the overall response of the members by saying, “This is a wonderful idea – an excellent way to spread the word about the voting possibilities for those with disabilities.”

The members unanimously agreed that the grant funding is definitely needed and would be put to good use. The funding would help us tremendously to disseminate information about our accessible voting equipment and accessibility options to voters with disabilities in Cowlitz County and increasing their use.

Sharon Weinhold  
Cowlitz County Elections  
Disability Outreach Advocate  
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