



Governor's Commission on Disabilities Election Assistance Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 9, 2012 @ 2 pm

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Attendees: Rory Carmody (Chair.); Casey Gartland (Vice Chair.), Regina Connor, Arthur Plitt

Staff:

Bob Cooper, Christine Rancourt Bruzzi, Christopher DeGrave



Clock graphic

2:00 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Rory Carmody, Chair

- Chair calls the meeting to order at 2:05pm
- Introduction of Committee Members and Guests



voting check off graphic

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented as follows.

Motion by: Arthur Plitt, Seconded: Regina Connor passed unanimously

Action Items:



money graphic

2:05 HAVA Grant: October Budget Update, Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary

Purpose/Goal: To discuss expenditure of the remaining HAVA grant cycle funding for utilization prior to election day.

Discussion: Bob Cooper updated the committee on remaining funding for publications, outreach, print-ads, mailings, accessibility modifications, signage, transportation, ect.

- Forward movement/ progress made on RIDMV mailing- Waiting for callback from DMV contact.
- (2) Students fellowships currently at the GCD for Elections: Poll-Worker Training & Election Accessibility
- Voting Awareness Flyer/ Ad Publishing for General Election underway
- Spreadsheet below indicates funding with spending soft-deadlines

HAVA Activities

Items	July - September		October - Nov 7th		Post Election		Total
Staff Time	84 hrs	\$4,107	119 hrs	\$5,607	141 hrs	\$4,472	\$14,187
Interpreters/CART				\$133		\$398	\$531
Media Campaign				\$3,000			\$3,000
CRM Software				\$400			\$400
Print Advertising		\$6,293		\$10,000			\$16,293
Voting Rights Flyers				\$12,598			\$12,598
Mileage/Tolls		\$233		\$467		\$233	\$933
Out of State - Training						\$1,235	\$1,235
Auditor General Fee						\$75	\$75

HAVA Activities

Items	July - September	October - Nov 7th	Post Election	Total
Fellowship Stipends	\$3,450	\$3,450		\$6,900
Voter Education & Registration mini-grants		\$20,000		\$20,000
Polling Place Access Renovations		\$6,680	\$13,320	\$20,000
Ride trips to polling places & distribution of Voting Rights Flyer		\$3,000		\$3,000
Election Day polling place surveyors	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$10,000
Voter Outreach Mailing DMV		\$50,000		\$50,000
Total	168 hrs \$19,083	238 hrs \$120,335	282 hrs \$19,734	\$159,152



2:15 Polling Place Accessibility Update, Christopher DeGrave, Asst. ADA Coordinator

Purpose/Goal: To update committee on EAC action plan/ discuss the various polling place accessibility issues (& proposed solutions).

Discussion & Updates:

- Letters drafted and sent to each Board of Canvassers highlighting issues and ensuring community obligation understanding under law.
 - Calls for repairs, modifications and grant funding now coming in from local communities
- GCD fellow will be conducting polling place physical site inspections for the next 4 weeks.
- Inspection Reviews:
 - **Jewish Community Center:** Long Distance to Polling Area from Street Drop-off, No accessible front entrance, elevator access slow for all patrons to utilize, parking lot full during regular business hours
 - **Nathan Bishop School:** Limited Parking (No Lot), Long distance from street to cafeteria (polling area), Temporary Disability Parking Signage Required on street. Building is fully accessible and newly renovated.
 - Inspection results discussed/ weighed- committee consensus is that we would rather get complaints about long distance than inadequate accessibility.
 - Inquiry into wheelchair rental/ use during election for interior route distance travel



voting check off graphic

MOTION: To recommend termination of the Jewish Community Center as a polling place due to several accessibility concerns and voter complaints. Recommend the use of Nathan Bishop School as an alternative location.

Motion by: Arthur Plitt, Seconded: Casey Gartland passed unanimously



poll worker graphic

2:35 Poll-Worker Training, Christopher DeGrave, Asst. ADA Coordinator

Purpose/Goal: To discuss updates to the EAC action plan concerning poll-worker training.

Discussion:

- Action Plan:
 - Fellow developing an accessibility guideline/ checklist for polling place wardens and moderators (to ensure/ double check accessibility prior to

opening)

- C.Degrave to work with BOE to update the AutoMark startup checklist (adding placement for privacy and standard error procedures)
- C.Degrave to work with BOE to update/ increase clarity of polling place setup schematic (aiding to eliminate setup/ privacy issues)
- GCD fellow developing a 2-3 PowerPoint slides highlighting frequent accessibility concerns @ polling places. (***) request to have added to poll worker training module at BOE)
- GCD fellow developing a training packet/ handout to be distributed to poll-workers for increased accessibility awareness.
- Meeting w/ RI Board of Elections this week to discuss election surveys and solutions.
- Discussion to recruit volunteer surveyors/monitors statewide to ensure polling accessibility on Election Day.



voting check off graphic

MOTION: To recruit volunteer polling-place monitors/ surveyors w/ a paid stipend of \$60 (no additional mileage reimbursement).

Motion by: Regina Connor, **Seconded:** Casey Gartland, **passed unanimous.**



money graphic

2:45 Voter Education Mini-Grant RFP, Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary

Purpose/Goal: To review the RFP's as submitted, discuss and award voter education grants.

Discussion:

Voter Education Mini-Grant RFP

Total Funding Available: \$20,000

Individual mini-grant awards of \$1,000 - \$3,000

Purpose of Mini-Grants is to provide:

The same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, to individuals with the full range of disabilities as for other voters and individuals with the full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.

Allowable Grant Activities:

- 1) Teaching voters with disabilities what to expect when they arrive at the polling place:
The new Voter ID requirements - what to bring and show the poll workers, and How to fill out the ballot (either paper or Automark)*;
- 2) Explaining to voters with disabilities and their families their voting rights including:
The right to an accessible polling place;
The right to assistance;
The right to use the Automark (computer voting machine);
The right to vote without interference; and
The right to file an administrative complaint.
- 3) Assisting voters with disabilities, locate their polling place (with redistricting many polling places have been changed).
- 4) Transporting voters with disabilities to their polling place on election day; or
- 5) Any other non-partisan activity to ensure voters with disabilities has the same opportunity to participant in elections.

Grant Activities may commence immediately upon notice of grant award and must be completed by 10 PM, November 9, 2012 Election Day.

Grant Proposal Submission Revisions:

- **Re-Focus Inc:** Addition to grant proposal--- AutoMark Voting Machine Training:

Procure AutoMark voting machine from RI Board of Elections for use during in-house/ seminar trainings.

- **Bridges Inc:** Addition to grant proposal--- Voter I.D. Training & Ballot Referendum Questions (Questions & Answers). Elimination from Grant Proposal: Removal of *refreshment, lunch* and *election party* expenditures.
- **West Bay Residential:** Addition to grant proposal--- Voter I.D. Training & Ballot Referendum Questions (Questions & Answers).



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MOTION: To approve and award all submitted mini-grant RFP's as revised.

Motion by: Casey Gartland, Seconded: Regina Connor, passed unanimous.



calendar graphic

2:55 Announcements, Agenda and Scheduling the Next Meeting, Rory Carmody, Chairperson

Items to be placed on the next meeting's agenda:

- *Post- Election Survey Review*
- *Post- Election Plan*

Next meeting will be on: **Thursday, November 15th, 2012 @ 2pm**



alarm clock graphic

3:00 Adjournment, Rory Carmody, Chairperson



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MOTION: To adjourn.

Motion by: Regina Connor, Seconded: Casey Gartland, passed unanimous.