



Governor's Commission on Disabilities Election Assistance Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 8th, 2014 @ 2pm

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Meeting Attendees: Rory Carmody (Chairperson); Casey Gartland (Vice Chair.); Kate Bowden, Grace Pires, Arthur Plitt, Robert Rapoza, Steve Taylor, Miguel Nunez, Lorna Ricci

Guests:

Staff:

Christine Rancourt Bruzzi, Christopher DeGrave



Clock graphic

2:00 Call to Order, Welcoming & Approval of Minutes, Rory Carmody, Committee Chair

Chair calls the meeting to order at 2:02pm
Introductions of Commissioners and Guests



voting check off graphic

Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as *presented*. Making note that the funding for HAVA equipment purchase was not utilized due to budget/purchasing issues.

Motion by: Grace Pires

Seconded: Lorna Ricci

Vote Unanimous for Approval

- Discussion by the committee concerning future grant awards received and timely processing due to monetary spending constraints.
- Suggestion made to have the RIGCD staff approve/ deny all requests for funding totaling \$2500.00 or less. Staff will update committee upon decision.

Motion to have the RIGCD staff approve/ deny all HAVA grant requests for funding totaling \$2500.00 or less.

Motion by: Casey Gartland

Seconded by: Lorna Ricci

Vote Unanimous for Approval

Action Items:

2:05 Election Assistance Plan & General Program Updates

Purpose/Goal: To discuss, revise and approve the current plan for committee involvement and priorities prior to the primary of September and November general election.

Discussion:

Protecting the Voting Rights of Individuals with Disabilities

The Commission is the state's sole designated recipient of the US Department of Human Services - Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities State Grants. These funds may only be used for the following activities:

- o "Making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities;
- o Providing the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, to individuals with the full range of disabilities as for other voters;
- o Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with the full range of disabilities in elections for Federal office; and
- o Providing individuals with the full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places."

Program Goals prior to September Primary & November Election

- Education on the voter ID requirements for 2014
- Expanding voter outreach and registration to young adults with disabilities- discussion about school and special needs program outreach.
- Removing any remaining physical barriers at polling places (Grant Opportunities)
- Encouraging adults with disabilities to become candidates
- Advertisement/ Publishing Discussed
 - o Advertising collaboration with RI Disability Law Center
 - o Newspaper seemingly less effective than in the past... limited readership.
 - o Other media? Facebook use? Twitter Outreach?
 - o RIPTA Bus/ Ride Program Media Campaign Suggestion- Committee to research options
 - o RIDMV Mailing discussion- Feasibility? Cost?
 - o BHDDH/ DHS Outreach possibility w/ Voting Rights Message
 - o RIPIN/ Dare to Dream Event- Chris & Alyssa from RIGCD attending- possibility to bring equal access & voter rights information to the event.

MOTION: To approve the committee operational plan for the upcoming election cycle.



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Motion by: Lorna Ricci
Seconded: Casey Gartland
Vote Unanimous

2:35 Polling Place Inspections & Grant Application Review

Purpose/Goal: (1) - To discuss and review the polling place inspection results thru April 2014.

(2) - Discuss, review & approve/ edit/reject municipal grant proposals for HAVA funding reimbursement for polling place modifications.

Discussion: #1

- Major Issues @ polling locations- Parking, Signage, Exterior Maintenance, Door Hardware, Space Issues (NON-ADA)
- Improvements needed to:
 - Increase PERMANENT disability parking availability
 - Increase accessibility & less door monitors with accessible hardware/ door openers
 - Limit confusion of “finding the way”
 - Increase exterior & interior voting instructions & directions
 - Consistent voting signage at every poll
 - Increased visibility from the street/ main entrance
- Grant application submittal date of May 30th, 2014.
- Approximately \$76,114 to be utilized by June 30th, 2014 and approximately the same the following two fiscal years.
- Twenty-four (24) communities surveyed specifically by RIGCD staff- Over 300 issues/ fixes proposed.
- Large communities with limited funding have MOST of the issues.

Discussion: #2

- 2014 HAVA Grant Requests
 - **City of Woonsocket (2013-2014 Election Repairs) ***:** Pro-Active repairs made prior to special elections this past winter. Requested reimbursement total of : ***\$1379.00***
 - **City of Cranston:** Requested reimbursement total of: ***\$17,989.00*** for the modification and accessibility improvement of five (5) polling locations.
 - **Town of Hopkinton/ Chariho School Dept:** Requested reimbursement total of: ***\$35,150.00*** for the modification and accessibility improvement of two (2) polling locations.
 - **City of Central Falls:** Requested reimbursement total of ***\$36,331.46*** for the modification and accessibility improvement of six (6) polling locations.
 - **Town of Middletown:** Requested reimbursement total of ***\$201.34*** for the installation of permanent disability parking at a polling location.
 - **City of Pawtucket:** Requested reimbursement total of: ***\$4,249.00*** for the modification and accessibility improvement of the Pawtucket Boat House polling location.

***** See attached pdf documents for grant submittals.**

Woonsocket

Motion to approve the City of Woonsocket (2013-2014 Election Repairs) ***: HAVA grant request for repairs made prior to special elections this past winter. Requested reimbursement total not to exceed: *\$1379.00*

Motion by: Casey Gartland
Seconded by: Grace Pires
Vote Unanimous for Approval

Middletown

Motion to approve the Town of Middletown 2014 HAVA grant request for polling place repairs and disability parking modifications. Requested reimbursement total not to exceed \$201.34.

Motion by: Casey Gartland
Seconded by: Grace Pires
Vote Unanimous for Approval



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Pawtucket

Motion to approve the City of Pawtucket 2014 HAVA grant request for polling place accessibility modification at the Slater Park Boat House. Requested reimbursement amount not to exceed the total amount of \$4,249.00.

Motion by: Lorna Ricci
Seconded by: Grace Pires
(1) Abstention: Arthur Plitt
Vote Unanimous for Approval

Cranston

Motion to approve the City of Cranston 2014 HAVA request for polling place repairs and accessibility modifications. Requested reimbursement total to not exceed: *\$17,989.00*.

Motion by: Lorna Ricci
Seconded by: Arthur Plitt
Vote Unanimous for Approval

Town of Hopkinton/ Chariho School Department

- Discussion concerning the overall high project requested totals for two polling place locations and limited total HAVA grant funding available for polling places statewide.
- Ashaway School- Crack repair, disability parking signage and striping request discussed
- Hope Valley Elementary School- Paving, ramp, door, disability parking and signage discussed.

Motion to approve the Town of Hopkinton/ Chariho School Department 2014 HAVA grant reimbursement request for the Ashaway School ONLY for a total not to exceed \$1000.00.

***The Hope Valley Elementary section of the grant will be considered at the EAC Committee meeting in June.

Motion by: Lorna Ricci
Seconded by: Grace Pires
(1) Abstention: Robert Rapoza
Vote Unanimous for Approval

Central Falls

- Limited discussion concerning the overall need for automatic door openers at polling places. They are not required under Federal Law.

Motion to approve the City of Central Falls 2014 HAVA grant request for polling place repair and accessibility modification subtracting the total for automatic door opener devices. Reviewed, Edited and Approved reimbursement amount not to exceed the total amount of \$12,406.01.

Motion by: Lorna Ricci
Seconded by: Grace Pires
Vote Unanimous for Approval

Proactive purchases discussion: Committee discussed making pro-active equipment purchases to utilize remaining HAVA funds for the upcoming grant cycle ending Sept. 2014.

Motion to approve the purchase of up to \$4900.00 of disability parking and van accessible signage to increase accessible parking availability at polling places.

Motion by: Lorna Ricci
Seconded by: Arthur Plitt
Vote Unanimous for Approval

 <p>calendar graphic</p>	<p>2:55 Agenda and Scheduling the Next Meeting, Rory Carmody, Committee Chair</p> <p>Items to be placed on the next meeting's agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Applicant Review • Advertisement/ Publishing Cost \$\$ <p><i>Next meeting will be on: Thursday, June 12th @ 2pm</i></p>
 <p>alarm clock graphic</p>	<p>3:15 Adjournment, Rory Carmody, Committee Chair</p>
 <p>voting check off graphic</p>	<p>Motion by: Lorna Ricci Seconded by: Arthur Plitt Vote Unanimous for Approval</p>