

VACC Meeting Notes – 10/24/06

In attendance: Kim Wyman, Ken Raske, Gwen Cornelius, Bob Walker, Denise Colle, Berl Colley, Howard Ferguson, Patty McDonald

This meeting was essentially to inform the committee of our efforts in the Primary Election, the results of those efforts, and our plans for the General Election. We also heard concerns, and discussed some of what we would like to do in the future.

Concerns

- **Publicity.** Are we getting enough information out in the newspaper, on the radio, etc. (this pertains to both the locations and functionality of the machines)
 - We should go to the area Agency on Aging, distribute to directors at DSHS, contact groups at retirement homes, etc. Kim should do a speaking tour, bringing these machines out and letting people know about them and should widen the groups we go to to include places like VFWs, Kiwanis, United Way, Rotary, etc.
 - We need to make this its own link on the website, as well, to make it easier to find.
 - Create a CD with a video with sign language or closed captioning to show how to use the AutoMARK and see if we can get it on TCTV (DIS can possibly help with this?)
 - We are printing the locations and times in the voters pamphlet now, as well – this was not done in the Primary Election.
 - Get with the Council of the Blind and get a link placed on their website
- We are not getting the word out about the alternate forms of the voters pamphlet.
 - During our speaking tour and in all advertising we should begin addressing this.
- Problem with hearing using a neck-loop which would not plug in to the machine directly.
 - I think we have this problem solved, but need to set up a time to meet with Bob and verify the adapter we have will work.
- There is some difficulty in removing the ballot from the machine, for someone with dexterity issues.
 - Unfortunately at this time, I'm not certain what we can do regarding this, other than assist the voter. If the voter is sighted, and has dexterity issues, we could ensure we have privacy folders on hand that they could place over the ballot, so someone could assist them in pulling the ballot out of the machine.
- Ads on KGY, and in other places, made it sound as though the machines are just for the blind.
 - This is a major concern that we need to find a way of addressing. We definitely need to improve our outreach to additional communities that would benefit from the machine.

- The ballot had to be placed in envelopes, signed, and mailed – we did not have a template during the primary.
 - A template has been designed for blind voters to sign their ballots, it worked wonderfully in the General Election. Additionally, we are looking in to having ballot boxes at the sites so that ballots do not have to be mailed.
- We need more training of our staff. It is frustrating for a person with a disability to have to train the person who is supposed to be there to assist them.
 - I did go out and train our board workers in the General Election, I am also developing a script to assist our workers. Training will be substantially improved in the future.

Thank you for your participation in this meeting. The next meeting will take place in January and will be a work session.