

Members:

Benjamin McMillan
Bill Hershon
Craig McCulloh
Fred Nisen
Michael Levinson
Randall Jones
Wilhelmina Riley



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SAN MATEO COUNTY
VOTING ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VAAC)

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2017

10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

(Meeting held at 555 County Center Plaza, 3rd Floor, Redwood City, CA)

Members Present

Craig McCulloh, Chair
Mike Levinson
Wilhelmina (Sammi) Riley
Bill Hershon, Disability Rights California
Fred Nisen, Disability Rights California

Staff Present

Anthony Suber, Secretary
Jim Irizarry

Guests Present

Ben McMullan, Center for Independence for Individuals with Disabilities

Items Discussed

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Announcements
 - All members in attendance were recorded.
 - Randy Jones may be leaving the VAAC.

ACTION ITEM: A. Suber will discuss identifying a replacement from his organization with him.

- Larry Riegler may be interested in joining

ACTION ITEM: Identify the next BVH meeting and possibly have a VAAC member attend to introduce the VAAC and recruit for members.

- Next Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Commission Meeting is September 6, 2017 at Health Services Building, 225 W. 37h Ave, Room 100, San Mateo, CA from 3:00 – 5:00 pm

ACTION ITEM: Invite State VAAC to participate in our meetings.

ACTION ITEM: Find a partnership with other Counties VAAC's.

2. Review and approved Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2017 Agenda
 - S. Riley made a motion to approve, 2nd by 2nd by M. Levinson, motion carried.
3. Applicant Recommendation's for Membership to Mr. Church
 - Riley made a motion to approve, 2nd by 2nd by M. Levinson, motion carried
4. Elections Staff Report
 - A. Suber reviewed the elections that have taken place and are scheduled for 2017 year. These included:
 - March 7, 2017, Menlo Park City Elementary School District Special Election – Results available on www.shapethefuture.com
 - March 28, 2017, San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District Special Mail Ballot Election - Results available on www.shapethefuture.com
 - April 4, 2017, Woodside Elementary School District Special Mail Ballot Election - Results available on www.shapethefuture.com
 - June 6, 2017 Town of Atherton Special Mail Ballot Election.
 - November 7, 2017 Election – Uniform District Election Law, Consolidates municipal, school and special district elections.

ACTION ITEM: A. Suber will resend the list of Universal Polling Places used from November 2015.

5. Review VAAC Charter and Application
 - C. McCulloh read the proposed Charter amendments aloud for the group, which was emailed out to everyone on the distribution list.
 - J. Irizarry clarified some of the details related to membership appointments for the committee and the group agreed to make some changes to ensure it falls within the purview of the committee.
 - Language shared are as follows: *“The Chief Elections Officer reserves the right to make membership appointments with exclusivity and sole discretion to approve appointments.”*

ACTION ITEM: M. Levinson and C. McCulloh will revise the Charter to incorporate this language and present at the next VAAC meeting for review.

- F. Nisen who worked on the LA County Charter for over a year advised we proceed with caution regarding our Charter revisions. He counseled that we don't let semantics and terminology prevent us from making headway toward our goals and mission.
- M. Levinson shared some best practices from Alameda, Santa Cruz, and LA County.

ACTION ITEMS: Ensure “Review of VAAC Charter” appears on the next meeting's agenda.

6. Vote Center Selection – November 7, 2017 UDEL Election
 - Discussed the well documented issues related to a few locations. Any surveys that are scheduled will be shared with VAAC for an opportunity to join the survey.

- Restroom access needs to be a component of the review, elections staff workers with won't be able to be a person with disabilities if the location isn't accessible.
- Sites are reviewed 60 days prior to election day.

7. Possible Partner agencies for a Voter Accessibility video

- A discussion took place regarding a possible consolidation of our LAAC (Language Accessibility Advisory Committee) and VAAC groups.
- S. Riley is shared that she would be in favor of combing issues related to accessibility to provide resources and information to a larger pool of voters.
- C. McCulloh raised some concerns. He posited that combining the messages may have the unintended impact of minimizing or diminish the message of the disability community. Fred Nisen agreed with this concern
- J. Lui suggested that the Elections Division ensure a voter has the opportunity to request voting materials in their preferred language. She offered an opinion suggesting that any messages or videos prepared on the behalf of the VAAC in order to increase awareness helps the public at large place themselves in the position of a person with disabilities.
- Possible partner agencies include; CID, ACLU of Norther California Disabilities Rights CA.

ACTION ITEMS: Ensure VAAC Video appears on the next meeting's agenda.

8. VAAC Letter to Board of Supervisors

- C. McCulloh will draft a letter to the BOS and have it reviewed by the VAAC at the next meeting.
- The letter may also be shared with local media outlets

ACTION ITEM: A. Suber will send draft of SB 450 Plan to VAAC members for review.

9. Summary of Action Items for Next Meeting

- VAAC may host an SB 450 meeting in compliance with the SB 450 plan for public hearings.

ACTION ITEMS: VAAC intends to make a recommendation to The Chief Elections Officer and Elections Division to appoint Fred Nisen, Bill Hershon, Ben McMullan to the San Mateo County Elections VAAC

Meeting Adjourned at 12:12 PM