SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

Elections Division | 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel 916.657.2166 | Fax 916.653.3214 | www.sos.ca.gov

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)

Monday, December 12, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum**

   Meeting called to order at 1:32 p.m.

   VAAC members present:
   - Dianne Russell
   - Fred Nisen
   - Jan Bell
   - Larry Smith

   Quorum not met at this time.

   Members of SOS:
   - NaKesha Robinson - OVSTA
   - Mike Somers – Election Security Manager
   - Daneka Huynh – Language Access Coordinator
   - Ruben Vasquez – Election Cybersecurity Analyst

   Members of the public:
   - Karie Lew – Disability Rights CA
   - Brittany Stonesifer – ACLU Northern CA

2. **VAAC Members Community Outreach Updates**

   - Dianne Russell – visited Galt and Wilton to check signage during the November Election. Although you could see the sign, the placement was not desirable. Light pink on white is difficult to see. Not as easy as the standard blue and white. Has pictures if anyone would like to see.
   - Fred Nisen – Karie helped to explain what Fred Nisen was communicating to the VAAC -How the hotline for Disability Rights did during the election; helped assist 130 calls for recent election and helped 50 people with disabilities. Acknowledging how helpful it is to have election officials help assist on the hotline. Making a formal

announcement of award recipients later this week.

- DRC did poll monitoring in 4 counties: Alameda, San Diego, San Benito, and one other; will send counties report of observation once completed. Too bad VCA staff isn't there – DRC drafted sample for implementation of VCA.

3. **SOS Updates**
   - Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment (OVSTA) NaKesha Robinson communicated the following updates:
     - Team completed accessibility testing on ES&S system.
     - Will continue planning efforts for Hart system testing after the new year.
     - October 29 – received application from Dominion's Democracy Suite system and it is currently under review.

   - Voter's Choice Act (VCA)
     - Unable to attend today's meeting.

4. **VAAC Working Groups**
   - Resource Tool for Voting Machines

   - Petitions/Signature Verification
     - Larry Smith has no updates to provide currently.

   - County Local VAACs
     - Jan Bell – Larry Smith, Marie and Jan Bell are working on a project to have all the county VAAC and LAAC information on one place on the SOS website. They should be able to complete this within the next couple of weeks and then would need assistance from SOS to put it on the website.
       - Fred Nisen – would like to see the spreadsheet to review before it is posted onto the website.
     - Jan Bell – who would they be working with at the SOS to get this up on the website?
       - Ryan can provide updates.

   - VAAC Toolkit
     - Dianne Russell – Working on making it as accessible as possible. She will send to Ryan to send to all the VAAC members for feedback. Anticipates it should be ready around the beginning of the new year.

   - Deaf or Hard of Hearing
     - Jan Bell – been working since joining the VAAC. Send slides that have been updated based on recent discussions.
       - A high number of people do not vote who are deaf or

hard of hearing – it is very intimidating for them.
- ASL is their language.
- Provide more materials in ASL.
- Confused on political parties.
  - Would like to work with political parties to create video of their political stance to help deaf voters understand the different political parties.
- SOS has been great posting tools on their website but would like to work counties or other organizations to get this information on their websites to help deaf voters.
- Fred Nisen – where would we get the information from?
  - Jan Bell – primarily four areas where the deaf voters aggregate.
    - Organizations oriented towards deaf persons.
  - Fred Nisen – where do you find description of party?
  - Jan Bell – it is put out by the SOS as a written document, but there isn't any that have been done in ASL version.
  - Fred Nisen – who pays for it?
  - Jan Bell – expectation of political party to pay for their own videos.
- Michelle – question – who are the people involved in your group? They should be consulting with deaf communities so that political parties know what the deaf communities are interested in knowing.
  - Solano County – have a group of instructors who are all deaf or hard of hearing for the deaf studies program.
  - Michelle willing to help Jan Bell work on this project and reach out to these instructors.
- Deaf certified interpreters with knowledge of legal terminology are desired.
- Looking to work with counties for this project.
- Fred Nisen – big concern about making sure videos are non-partisan.
- Michelle and Dianne Russell may know people who can provide help and/or would be interested in joining the VAAC.
- Everyone will send information to Ryan.

5. **Registering and Voting by Mail in the Safe at Home Program**
   Will move to next agenda. Safe at Home has prior engagement.
   - Ryan – are there any questions that you would like relayed back to the Safe at Home program?
     - No questions currently.

6. **Senate Bill (SB) 1480**
   - Ted Muhlhauser – no prepared comments currently.

- Fred Nisen – would like to move this to the next VAAC meeting.
- Susan – Ted and Erric reviewing current bill and can coordinate meeting with Fred Nisen to review together.

7. **General Election Issues**
   - Fred Nisen – how many people are in this meeting?
     - Ryan – 21 total. 5 members with Michelle – met quorum now with 5 out of 9 members present.
   - This was moved to the next VAAC meeting.

8. **Public Comments and Future Agenda Items**
   - SB 1480 – Electronic Ballot Return
   - General Election Issues
   - VCA Update
   - Safe at Home
   - Voting Trucks
     - Dianne Russell – were any used during this last election and how accessible were they?

9. **Adjourned meeting at 2:26 p.m.**