**Accessibility Advisory Committee Winter 2021 Meeting**

**Thursday, February 25, 9am-12pm**

**Minutes/Notes**

**Attendees: Barbara Beckert, Brian Peters, Denise Jess, Janet Zander, Ben Dallin, Wendy Heyn, Brian Peters, Jennifer Neugart,**

**WEC Staff: Brianna Hanson, Richard Rydecki, Tony Bridges, Greg Grube, Ann Oberle, Jim Witecha**

1. Public Comment
2. Introductions
3. WEC Update
	1. November and February elections

*Barbara Beckert – February difficulty reaching out on low turnout election not as many calls because of COVID and low interest, November thank Brianna and Richard on support and guidance. Poll worker training on accessibility for new poll workers although not specifically required. Thanks for Accessibility program and providing supplies. And information and awareness of curbside voting. Education on curbside voting laws. Barriers and care facilities and would like to share recommendations for care facility voting.*

*Denise Jess – echo concerns about smaller elections and lack of the accessible absentee ballot and it becomes too hard to vote – availability of braille ballot and large print and suggest on the best solution*

*Barbara Beckert – Disability Vote Coalition nominated Brianna and Richard for Clearie award.*

*Ben Dallin – appreciate WEC support, poll workers not familiar with the machines, most times people able to use machines, expand training and accessibility of absentee and accessibility options limited there.*

*Barbara Beckert – thought the absentee mailer was great. Older adults and people with disabilities not connected to internet, hope that option will continue, truly public service. Indefinitely Confined option important to them, but opportunity for improvement “term indefinitely confined” confusing and most people want to the honest, clarification and education.*

* + 1. Committee member observations from the two elections

*Brianna – complaint form great use for Brianna to hear about issues – concern form, helpful to hear on election day to track in real time. Face Coverings*

*Richard – Misinformation, explaining absentee totals from central count. Can send around our responses to some misinformation about the election. Numbers for the election great, good job of getting information out so low rejection rate., education of voters*

*Denise – gratitude for work on clarifying disinformation. Call out the importance of the good tools the state has in place for absentee including drop box. Because they put their ballot out ant mail carrier did not pick up and take them. Used our system to get the drop box information .*

*Wendy – also echoes positive on drop box option uncomfortable with USPS or late and the good information about communicating drop box location important.*

*Tony –asks for committee to provide information on channels of communication and does the disability community have unique issues on how to get information and get debunking info*

*Barbara – social media good but misses people but work with the resource centers and the accessibility coalitions and groups community partners and faith community, food pantries*

*Janet – really helpful single page fliers to hand out at senior centers to hand out at meals or classes. Proactive on one sheet of debunk and who they can trust – make copies easy to do*

*Brianna – getting poll workers and help recruiting*

*Barbara – DVC had a plan to help promote poll worker recruitment and video but put on hold during COVID*

1. WEC staff report

*Brianna – shares high points.*

*Richard – we will go more in depth on Indefinitely Confined. And ERIC movers in report*

* 1. Indefinitely confined voters
		1. Data

*Brianna – increase from past elections.*

*Barbara – comment on number of voters that have photo ID and ability to get photo ID and expand list of acceptable voter IDs and automatic voter registration. Indefinitely confined is essential and some people would be disenfranchised.*

*Janet – data shows that indefinitely confined is important and did in fact what we wanted during the pandemic. Looking at ways to make it easy for those that need it most. People – older people could access and reached groups trying to serve. N*

*Jim – Update on litigation*

*Jim – comments on complaint in T Hudson and will bring up later on overarching theories*

* + 1. Litigation review
	1. April 2021 preparations

*Brianna – Braille ballot guidance – took a while to secure a vendor, issue small number to print challenge, did find 2 vendors and take 2-3 weeks to print. Maybe add to MyVote as a choice, Large print easier, both could have some privacy issues. Vendor prints name right on to the ballot not a label or sticker. Release accessibility memos on snow removal and equipment.*

*Denise – Sample Braille Ballots – What is possibility for April*

1. Litigation Updates *Jim*
	1. Ongoing lawsuits
	2. Complaints
	3. Other

*Complaints about virtual Caucus and at least 6 munis mentioned as running virtual Caucus. T Hudson and restricted on not decided. Alleged made caucus electors wear mask and violation that electors not wear mask. Voters exempt from mask mandate but caucus unique.*

*Barbara – Indefinitely Conf and complaints a concern also complaints about care facility workers*

1. Training
	1. Upcoming trainings
	2. Curbside voting trainings
	3. Other

*Barbara – What is the best way to increase awareness.*

*Denise – training issue to emphasize to clerks treat it like reserved like bathroom stall. Promoting use you normalize machine for everyone part of her liberation. Some direct communication about that.*

*Tony – privacy and security issues of the machine not being used by more people*

1. Special Voting Deputies
	1. Update
	2. Training
	3. Discussion

*Brianna – SVD voting stats*

*Richard – SVD on pause due to COVID visitation restricted COVID19 rates commission issued guidance for 2020 elections and Feb 2021.*

*Brian – SVD visitors meeting with one person or multiple because that increases risk.*

*Richard – normally communal area – facility needs to set up standards for SVD and even observers up for negotiating with clerk – complicated facility by facility basis different across the State of Wisconsin
Barbara –Facility staff restricted from assisting?*

*Richard – clarification if SVDs facility cannot assist in those situations and care facility staff ineligible to serve as SVD for 2 years*

1. Accessibility Program Overview
	1. Supply program update
	2. Accessibility concern form responses
	3. April Polling Place Accessibility Reviews
	4. February 2020 reviews update
	5. Upcoming Report on Impediments to Voting
	6. Access Elections website update
	7. Discussion

*Brianna – plan on continuing to replenish supplies, Brianna is going to stock up so we can fulfil all orders. Safety cones and door bells.*

*April no polling place reviews focus on curbside and outreach education*

*Updates to AccessElections Website.*

*Impediments to Voting Report. Get out prior to June 30th data not big or representative focus on training*

*Barbara – Highlight supply program and training and new clerks and poll workers*

*Brian – Ballot drop box and drop box accessible, accessible parking for accessible drop boxes*

1. Next Steps/Meeting Date

*NEXT MEETING OPEN – decide early June if summer meeting \*\*\* maybe send out survey about meeting needs and update on Commission decisions.*