



Meeting Minutes
Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)
Benton County Voting Center
Thursday, June 17, 2021
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The meeting of the Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee was held in-person at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at the Benton County Voting Center. Present at the meeting were committee members Matt Nash-Chair, Amanda Hatfield-Vice-Chair (Elections Manager), Shyanne Palmus (Commissioner’s Office), Corp. Dallas Murry (Corrections), and Deidra Beck (Committee Coordinator). Gretchen Hormel joined the meeting by WebEx.

Matt Nash opened the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

As agreed by the committee, this meeting was primarily devoted to finalizing the outline for the 2021 Short-Term Goals ideas that were suggested by the members attending the May Workshop meeting.

The new 2021 Short-Term Goals, in accordance to the outline of the 2020 Long-Term Goals, were decided and established as follows:

Long-Term Goal (1) Community Outreach/Education—

Short-Term:

1. Update the 211 list
2. Upgrade of the County/ACAC Web page
 - a. In addition, posting a Facebook link with the County on which meetings will be posted (Shyanne to head this).
3. Work with Ben-Franklin Transit to shuttle voters with disabilities to and from the Benton County Voting Center during election cycles.
4. Contact the Journal of Business to post an article regarding the purposes and services of Benton County’s ACAC (Shyanne to head this).

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5. Reach out to Visit Tri-Cities and Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce to establish a coordinated working relationship with them and to raise public awareness of ACAC. (Amanda and Gretchen to head)

Long-Term Goal (2) Develop and utilize a business site evaluation program —

Short-Term:

1. Consult with other ACAC's about their method of implementing their evaluations for ADA issues within their communities.
2. Begin utilizing the Site Evaluation List at the Benton County Public Services Building on Wiser Parkway.
3. Post our Site Evaluation availability to businesses/organizations on our County Webpage.
4. Create and issue a Certificate of Participation for businesses to post on their premises once evaluated.

Long-Term Goal (3) Develop a Committee education program with guest speakers for the sake of the committee learning particular needs and ways ACAC can assist and serve its community.

Short-Term:

1. Speakers:
 - a. Access4AllSpokane/ACAC—Larry Gorton (July)
 - b. Edith Bishel Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired—Sheila Turner (August)
2. Participate in the All-County ACAC Virtual Zoom Meeting—July 21, 2021 (Matt Nash, Amanda Hatfield, and Deidra Beck to attend).

Long Term Goal (4) Identify use for state grant funding and apply for projects and partnering with other organizations/businesses in our community.

Short-Term:

1. Partner with The Arc of the Tri-Cities in a round-table meeting in the fall of 2021 addressing services currently available or additionally needed in our community for individuals with Autism and their families, plus other

- neurological disorders that mimic Autism. (Deidra to begin working with Donna Tracy/Arc of the Tri-Cities for the funding application to GCDE).
2. Work with NW ADA and Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce on the development of educational brochures regarding ADA regulations; possibly requiring funding assistance from GCDE.

Once the new 2021 Short-Term Goals were decided, the committee discussed moving forward with partnering with the Arc of the Tri-Cities to host a round-table meeting with various organizations in the community addressing the needs and services of families with Autistic children. With a quorum present, Shyanne moved that we agree to partner with the Arc of the Tri-Cities and apply for the funding necessary. Gretchen seconded the motion. This project was approved by unanimously stated yea votes of the committee members present.

Deidra reported to the committee about the request by the Bureau of Land Management for stated support of an ADA Accessibility Project at Crow Butte. This proposed project will provide critical ADA upgrades to the three camping sites and create a half-mile, wheelchair accessible trail to the park's "all abilities" playground. On behalf of the committee, Deidra sent a letter to them declaring Benton County's ACAC support. Once the project is completed, one member from our ACAC will attend the grand opening.

Matt adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. The in-person location of the next meeting on July 15, 2021, is scheduled to be at the Benton County Justice Center in the Commissioner's Conference Room. Larry Gorton, Spokane ACAC, and Elaine Stefanowicz, GCDE are scheduled to join us as guest and speakers via WebEx.