

VT LASEC Work Group – September 27, 2024

Attendance: Laura Siegell, Eric Forand, Wendy Mays, Jay Baron, Brett LaRose, Amber Leventry, Mark Bosma, Jay Greene, Alison Segar

Review of

- Jay Greene reviewed AI Memo from Office of Racial Equity.
 - o AI does not understand cultural nuances
 - o needs to be fact checked
 - o may save cost but at what price. May put people out of work
 - o Bias info in gets bias info out
 - o Bias against black individuals
 - o Laura said it is not good at ASL translation

Eric outline proposed structure of report

I - Best practices

- this section will outline the development of an emergency communications manual. This will be used for disaster communications including press conferences, website and social media.

II - identify Geographic areas with needs - the report will propose to conduct 5 focus groups around the state starting next January. These working groups will be of the agency organizations and potentially community leaders of communities that need translation services to work out communication protocols to all those affected by the disaster are getting the messaging.

III. make recommendation on CART and PIP. Eric envisions that broadcasters will develop this section.

Recommendations for next meeting:

- Develop time line for delivery
- Decide if we need to set date for annual meeting of Annually, the Vermont Emergency Management Division shall hold a public meeting with members of the Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Advisory Council; the Office of Racial Equity; the Vermont Association of Broadcasters; and other relevant stakeholders to review the adequacy and efficacy of the provision and distribution of language assistance services of emergency communications over mass communication platforms to individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind as well as individuals with limited English language proficiency.

- Start to define section one of the report - operations manual. We will use the excel spreadsheet that defines specific ways to adjust comms to ensure that all person in the state are provided information on a form they understand.