

# **Governor's Council on Disability**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 9, 2009**

#### **Council Members Present/Participating:**

Karen Benson, Joe Colagiovanni, Ed Duff, Mike Esser, Gregory Greven, Todd Mayfield, Sue Orton, Renee Powell

#### **Council Members Not Present/Participating:**

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Mary Ellen Jenison, Joe Sartorius, Molly Tallarico

#### **Unexcused Absences:**

Matt Hughes, Sarah Olson, Dr. Hani Soudah

#### **Department Liaisons:**

Kristin Funk (Dept. of Economic Development – DED/DWD), Walter Johannpeter (Office of Administration – Facility Management, Design and Construction – OA/FMDC), Chris Larsen (Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS), Phyllis Launius (Office of the State Court Administrator - OSCA), Brenda Treadwell-Martin (Missouri Department of Transportation – MODOT)

#### **Staff:**

Linda Baker, Donna Borgmeyer, Claudia Browner, Isabelle Harris

#### **Real Time Captioner:** Debbie Reithmeyer

Interim Chair Karen Benson called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. A quorum was only available for part of the meeting. Therefore, all decision items will be presented to the Council for electronic vote via e-mail correspondence.

#### **Department Liaison Information:**

The department liaisons introduced themselves and gave an update about their departments.

Chris Larsen (DHSS) reported that DHSS is working with DMH to expand the oral health program. The CERT (Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism) program has expanded their program relating to in-home service providers. A new “Ready in 3” brochure is available for in-home service providers to distribute to their clients.

The “Elder Justice Act” legislation (federal) continues to be important to DHSS; has been filed several years in a row to bring emphasis to the focus on investigations regarding elder abuse and neglect.

Brenda Treadwell-Martin (MODOT) reported that MODOT continues to provide training on ADA and disability services within the department. Ms. Treadwell-Martin announced that she is retiring April 30, 2009 and that she would make sure another MODOT department liaison will be named to replace her.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) reported that nine of the ten disability navigator positions around the state have been filled with one remaining vacancy in the Joplin area. Currently, the disability navigator positions are funded through June 30, 2009.

Walter Johannpeter (OA/FMDC) reported about his departments' preparations for the Governor's inauguration on January 12.

Phyllis Launius (OSCA) reported that she continues to provide information to county courts relating to assistive listening devices in the courtrooms for people with hearing loss. Ms. Launius set up a program for sign language interpreters to go to the University of Missouri Law School's mock trials to practice interpreting in court hearings. This provides a good learning opportunity for the interpreters as well as the law students, which will be made available each semester.

Phyllis Launius presented an update on the ADA Amendment Act (ADAAA) which was passed September 25, 2008 and went into effect January 1, 2009. The ADAAA has new rules for the definition of disability which allow a broader coverage to the maximum extent permitted. The changes mostly affect the employers by shifting the focus away from the person's disability and focusing on making the employees the most successful in their jobs by providing the necessary accommodations.

Robin Rust (DMH) was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written update for DMH which was e-mailed to the Council members and state liaisons.

#### **Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:**

Linda Baker summarized her ED report.

All participating Council members and state liaisons received a notebook containing information about the GCD, its programs, policies, etc. This notebook will from now on be provided to all new Council members and state liaisons.

Linda Baker reported that she had to submit budget scenarios to the Office of Administration for possible budget cuts between 15-25% for fiscal year 2010.

#### Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF):

- GCD has established an account with ILRC to provide 501(C)3 tax deduction for sponsors
- 25-30 students will be accepted for 2009 MYLF
- Other states have legislation to make disability history education part of high school curriculum

#### Business Leadership Network (BLN):

- The Greater Kansas City BLN has hired a part-time executive director to get this program off the ground. Linda will be serving on the Greater KCBLN Board of Directors.
- The St. Louis BLN is currently undergoing reorganization to create a Board of Directors in collaboration with Illinois.
- Explore option of BLN in Springfield/Branson area.

Legislative Education Project (LEP):

- The LEP and the customized one-day training will be held from February through April.
- New for 2009 is the initiative with Missouri State University to provide college credits for students who attend LEP

Inclusion Awards:

Presentations of the Inclusion Awards will be held over the next few months. The Bob Aldridge Award and Excellence in Universal Design and Technology Award will be presented at the Power Up conference in Columbia in April.

Poster & Journalism contest:

The theme for the 2009 Poster & Journalism contest is “Inclusion: Expanding Opportunities”. Contest announcements have been sent to Missouri schools and deadline for submission of entries is February 27, 2009. Linda asked for volunteers to judge contest entries.

**Action Items:** Contact Donna Borgmeyer to volunteer for judging the Poster and/or Journalism contest entries.

**Report from Interim Council Chair Karen Benson:**

Karen Benson thanked Renee Powell for her work on the transition report for the new administration. Karen recommended using the 2008 GCD Annual Report as the transition report for the new administration.

**GCD committees:**

The Council members and state liaisons discussed the structure and membership of the Council committees in order to align the committees with the strategic plan. Some of the discussion topics were:

- Align the Council committees with the strategic plan
  - Goal I – Legislative Committee
  - Goal II – Programs Committee
  - Goal III – Advocacy Committee (Strategy B – Legislative Committee)
  - Goal IV – Executive Committee
  - Goal V – Executive Committee (Strategy A – Finance & Development Committee; Strategy C, Action Items 1 and 3 – Personnel Committee)
- Add Council member update to each meeting agenda so that Council members can report about their activities on behalf of the Council
- Council committees meet during quarterly meetings as well as in between meetings
- Ask non-participating Council members to resign from the Council (Matthew Hughes, Sarah Olson, Dr. Hani Soudah). According to the by-laws, the Council can vote at the next meeting on recommending removal of non-participating Council members.

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Following is the proposed committee structure for 2009, which will be sent to Council members electronically for vote:

Committee	Chair	Members *	Responsibilities relating to Strategic Plan
Executive and Strategic Planning Committee	Karen Benson, Chair Mike Esser, Vice Chair for Finance & Development Joe Sartorius, Vice Chair for Programs & Operations	Greg Greven Sue Orton Renee Powell	Goals IV and V
Finance and Development Committee	Joe Colagiovanni	Mike Esser Sue Orton	Goal V, Strategy A
Personnel Committee	Todd Mayfield	Joe Colagiovanni Kristin Funk	Goal V, Strategy C, Action Items 1 and 3
Advocacy Committee	Sue Orton	Linda Baker Renee Powell Brenda Treadwell-Martin	Goal III
Legislative Committee	Ed Duff, Co-Chair Molly Tallarico, Co-Chair	Donna Borgmeyer Greg Greven Sue Orton Renee Powell	Goal I Goal III, Strategy B
Programs Committee	Joe Sartorius	Joe Colagiovanni Belle Harris Chris Larsen Phyllis Launius Todd Mayfield	Goal II
Ad-hoc Committee for Website Review and Revision	Todd Mayfield	Claudia Browner	

\* Linda Baker is an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Personnel Committee.

**Decision Items for electronic Council vote:**

- Approval of meeting minutes from the November 14, 2008 meeting and the agenda for January 9, 2009
- Approval for using the 2008 Annual Report as a transition report for the new administration.
- New Committee Structure and Committee Chairs/Members

**Action Item:** Send decision items for electronic Council vote to Council members via e-mail and provide results at the April Council meeting.  
Add "Council member update" to meeting agenda.

**Old Business:**

As a follow up on action items of the November 14 meeting, Karen Benson asked Claudia Browner to send an e-mail to Joe Colagiovanni regarding the status of the research of Proposition B language and letter of support to sustain department programs.

**New Business:**

Greg Greven reported about the development of a new website of the Missouri Home of Your Own for accessible homes in Missouri. More information can be found at HOYO\_Website\_Regional\_Meetings[1].pdf

**Public Comment**

Ed Duff voiced his concerns about the high percentage of people with mental illness who die at an early age due to metabolic syndrome. He is also concerned about the high rate of people with mental illnesses who get arrested and/or incarcerated. He proposed including mental health care under primary health care.

Mike Esser asked Ed Duff to e-mail the information regarding these statistics to the Council.

**Action items:** Send e-mail to Joe Colagiovanni as follow up on Action Items from November 14 meeting  
E-mail information relating to mental illness to Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held **Friday, April 3, 2009 at 9:30 AM** at the Governor's Office Building in Jefferson City, Room **470**.

<b>Summary of Action Items:</b>	<b>Person Responsible:</b>
Contact Donna Borgmeyer to volunteer as a judge for the Poster& Journalism contest	Council members and state liaisons
Send e-mail to Council members for vote on decision items	Karen Benson
Add Council member update to meeting agenda	Claudia Browner
Send e-mail to Joe Colagiovanni to follow up on action items from November 14 meeting	Claudia Browner
E-mail information relating to mental illness statistics to Council	Ed Duff