

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2011

Council Members Present/Participating:

Karen Benson, Charles Comstock II, Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Edward Duff, Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Ronald Hack, Mary Ann Harter, Teri Miller, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, Derek Smith, Erwin Switzer, James Trout, Robert Wallace

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Mike Esser, Todd Mayfield

Department Liaisons:

Gena Ahlers	Department of Revenue – DOR
Sara Dick	Attorney General's Office - AGO
Bobbi Jo Garber	Department of Health and Senior Services/Division of Senior and Disability Services – DHSS/DSDS
Julie Juergens	Department of Social Services – DSS
Ida Mitchell	Department of Transportation – MODOT (for Rudolph Nickens)
Vicki Myers	Department of Corrections – DOC
Dorothy Parks	Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education/Vocational Rehabilitation – DESE/VR
Michele Radney	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Kathy Schafer	Department of Mental Health – DMH (for Robin Rust)

Guests:

Heidi Dee and Adrienne Muralidharan, Allsup, Inc.
David Newburger

Staff:

Linda Baker, Claudia Browner, Belle Dobelbower, Laura Mueth

Real Time Captioner: Debbie Reithmeyer

Karen Benson called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. With fourteen (14) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda and minutes:

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes for February 14, 2011. The agenda for the day was amended to include the election of a Vice Chair for the Executive and Strategic Planning Committee and was approved as amended.

Report from Karen Benson:

Karen Benson announced her resignation from her position of Council Chair due to her job commitments as Director of Global Disaster Response for Convoy of Hope. She will continue to be involved in the Fast Functional Needs Assessment Train the Trainer activities for disaster response. The Council members thanked Karen for her service as Council Chair.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

Linda Baker thanked Karen Benson for her service as Council Chair and Council member and then gave a summary of her ED report.

GCD has moved its offices from the 2nd floor to the 8th floor of the Truman Building, Room 840. GCD's website and Disability Web Portal have been redesigned and updated. The web addresses are www.mo.gov/disability and www.mo.gov/disability/gcd.

Budget Update:

To date, GCD has spent 83% of its E&E budget. FY12 funding will be reduced by \$557 from FY11 with a total budget amount of \$188,831.

Legislation:

HB/SB 555 – Disability Omnibus Bill has passed and was sent to the Governor for his signature.

Legislative Education Project:

GCD held 5 webcasts for a total of 61 participants. In 2012, GCD plans to incorporate an advanced LEP track based on requests from this year's participants.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF):

GCD has accepted 24 delegates for this year's MYLF.

The MOU between GCD and Services for Independent Living (SIL) has been drafted and will be sent to the Programs Committee for review.

National ADA Symposium:

Linda attended the National ADA Symposium in Las Vegas to learn about new Title II and III regulations and EEOC updates.

Election of Officers:

James Trout was elected by unanimous vote to serve as Vice Chair of Programs.

Public Comment:

David Newburger with the Commission on the Disabled for the City of St. Louis commented on HB 555 as it relates to parking provisions for accessible parking. His concern is that the newly required parking spaces for lift accessible vans only will limit or leave no other accessible parking spaces. He stated that additional accessible parking spaces need to be required to ensure sufficient accessible parking. Representative Grismore responded that he would work on modifying the bill language. Mr. Newburger offered his assistance.

Department Liaison Information:

Bobbi Jo Garber (DHSS/DSDS) – Indiana based SynCare, LLC was awarded a one-year contract as the Assessment Administrator for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver program for DHSS/DSDS for more than 50,000 clients. The contract was implemented May 19 and it will take approximately one year to get all individuals into the new system.

Ms. Garber stated that the *Missouri's Guide to Housing Assistance Programs* brochure needs to be updated. Linda Baker offered to set up a meeting to work together on this project.

Gena Ahlers (DOR) – The Dept. of Revenue is providing an audio version of the New Driver's Manual online and on CD. Necessary accommodations to individuals with visual impairments will be made upon request.

Kathy Schafer (DMH) gave an update on DMH's waiver programs:

- The Home and Community Based Waiver renewal application was submitted to CMS in March and is pending approval
- The Partnership for Hope Waiver, which was first implemented in 37 counties in October and expanded to 74 counties last winter, has over 800 participants enrolled. The state is preparing to submit an amendment request to CMS this summer to expand the waiver into 9 more counties and add 800 slots.
- The waiver for children with autism spectrum disorders is due for renewal by June, 2012. The state will be obtaining stakeholder input on the waiver in late summer.

The Mental Health consumer, family and youth leadership conference will be August 21-23, 2011 at Tan Tar A.

Dorothy Parks (DESE/VR) – The new computer program Aware was implemented in mid-April. Currently there are no individuals on the waitlist for services from the division.

Sara Dick (AGO) – AGO is working on improving accessibility in the State of Missouri in cooperation with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. Recently, Ms. Dick gave a presentation at the MOCIL meeting and will be presenting at the upcoming IL Summit in July.

Ida Mitchell (MODOT) – MODOT employees attended a conference sponsored by MERIL in St. Joseph. In Hannibal, MODOT participated in a high school Transition Fair. MODOT in Kansas City sponsored the Summer Transportation Institute that targets high school kids with disabilities and urban youth. In St. Louis, MODOT improved 223 curb ramps in FY11 to make them ADA compliant.

Vicky Myers (DOC) – DOC has been making efforts to make institutions more accessible to wheelchairs and scooters, and ADA compliant for visitors with service animals.

Julie Juergens (DSS) – Update on Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant: 664 individuals have been referred from nursing homes and habilitation centers, 311 of which are people with physical disabilities, 194 with developmental disabilities, 135 are aged population and 24 with dual diagnoses. A total of 350 individuals have transitioned at a rate of 22 per month, up from previously 11 per month. DSS is developing training on the Section Q dataset for nursing staff and is working on an RFP to hire transition coordinators who will work with the individuals during their transition period. Another component of the MFP grant is the development of a web based referral system that will enable progress monitoring for an entire year after the transition.

Karen Benson thanked the state liaisons for their involvement in the Council and encouraged the Council to continue this practice in the future.

Old Business:

The Council discussed the driver's manual issue. There have been requests from individuals with visual impairments for alternate formats of the manual. DOR is offering an audio version of the manual and Braille copies are available upon request. DeAnna Noriega recommended that DOR provide a Braille-ready version on their website for individuals to download and print/emboss on their Braille printers. Wolfner Library or Rehab Services for the Blind can help provide the Braille-ready file.

Lunch recess was taken.

GCD committee reports:

Advocacy Committee (Sue Orton reporting): Sue Orton thanked Rep. Grisamore for the information on HB/SB 555 and the GCD staff for providing the weekly Legislative Updates. She also reported that HB 300 relating to sports concussion education was passed and delivered to the Governor for his signature.

Programs Committee (James Trout reporting): The MOU between Services for Independent Living (SIL) and GCD for collaboration on the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum has been drafted and will be sent to the Programs Committee for review and approval.

Action item: Send MOU between SIL and GCD to Programs Committee.

Council member reports:

Teri Miller – Attended DisAbility Project performance, Brain Injury Awareness Day, and Community Science and Technology Fair. Teri also acted as an educational surrogate for a student with disabilities through DESE.

Ed Duff attended Brain Injury Awareness Day and was featured in a short You Tube video. He is involved in the Joplin tornado recovery efforts.

Derek Smith has completed his first year of law school and is currently working as a Disability Rights Law Clerk at a law firm in Iowa.

DeAnna Noriega is no longer the legislative liaison for SIL and will be less involved in legislative issues. She will be working on low vision/blindness services and the committee on environmental health barriers, as well as a women's issues group. She will continue to be involved in the planning of Disability Rights Day and the Disability Vote Project. DeAnna stated that VSA Arts would like to give a presentation to the Council.

Bob Wallace – Giant Steps School for Autism will move to a new location with the help and support of the St. Louis Rams who built a playground and provided 500 man hours of labor to update the building before the move.

The Council decided to send a letter of appreciation to Molly Higgins, VP of Corporate Affairs with the St. Louis Rams.

Chuck Comstock reported that his agency is planning its 3rd Annual Disability Awareness Day on October 29, 2011 at Truman State University.

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Karen Benson provided resources to two families of individuals with brain injuries and is working on the Pathfinders program which will help reach people faster after disasters.

Rep. Jeff Grisamore reported about his appointment as Chair of the Disability Committee and gave an update on the details of HB 555. The bill was truly agreed to and finally passed and has been delivered to the Governor for his signature.

Action item: Send letter of appreciation to St. Louis Rams.

Presentation:

Heidi Dee and Adrienne Muralidharan from Allsup, Inc. provided a presentation about the services their agency provides for people with disabilities.

New Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, September 9, 2011 at 10 AM in the Governor's Office Building, Room 470, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.**

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Send MYLF MOU between SIL and GCD to Program Committee	Linda Baker
Send letter of appreciation to St. Louis Rams	Linda Baker

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
June 22, 2011