

Governor's Council on Disability Meeting Minutes September 9, 2011

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Charles Comstock II, Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Ronald Hack, Mary Ann Harter, Teri Miller, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, Derek Smith, Erwin Switzer, James Trout, Robert Wallace

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Edward Duff, Mike Esser, Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Todd Mayfield

Department Liaisons:

Gena Ahlers	Department of Revenue – DOR
Kristin Funk	Department of Economic Development – DED/DWD
Julie Juergens	Department of Social Services – DSS
Ida Mitchell	Department of Transportation – MODOT (for Rudolph Nickens)
Walter Pearson	Office of Administration – OA
Angelette Prichett	Department of Higher Education – DHE
Michele Radney	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Rosie Shelton	Department of Corrections – DOC
Kathy Schafer	Department of Mental Health – DMH (for Robin Rust)

Guests:

Aimee Wehmeier and Leslie Anderson, Services for Independent Living
Kim Davis, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Bobbe Jeffers, Parent (Public Comment)
Maureen Cunningham, Brain Injury Association of Missouri

Staff:

Linda Baker, Claudia Browner, Belle Dobelbower, Laura Mueth

Real Time Captioner: Debbie Reithmeyer

ASL Interpreters: Kathleen Alexander, Heidi Spencer

Acting Chair James Trout called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. With twelve (12) 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 June 10, 2011. The agenda for the day was amended to move the vote on the MOU between SIL and GCD to the morning and was approved as amended.

Report from James Trout:

James Trout reported that the Council currently has five member vacancies. Council members are encouraged to recruit interested individuals to apply for membership.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

Linda Baker summarized her ED report.

Legislation: Linda had a phone conversation with Representative Tim Meadows regarding the wording about van accessible park spots in the recently signed disability legislation (HB 555). Rep. Meadows stated that the legislation is meant to require additional van accessible parking spots; he did not explain how the language of “lifted” was added to the statute. This is only for the entity when restriping their lots. The businesses will continue to abide by the ADA regulations for accessible parking spaces.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF):

Twenty-one delegates representing Missouri’s various demographics and disabilities participated in this year’s MYLF. This year’s highlight was the participation of six legislators in the mock legislative session.

MOU between GCD and Services for Independent Living (SIL)

GCD and SIL have drafted an MOU outlining the collaboration between the two agencies in administering the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) program. The Programs Committee and OA General Counsel Renee Slusher have reviewed the MOU. James Trout introduced Aimee Wehmeier, Executive Director, SIL, who has been involved in the MYLF program for the past five years. The Council unanimously voted to approve the MOU.

Department Liaison Information:

Kathy Schafer (DMH) – The Division of DD has renewed two of the five waivers for people with developmental disabilities (DD) as of July 1, 2011 (Comprehensive and Community Support). Assistive Technology has been added as a new service under the Comprehensive and Community-Support waivers. A new service under the Comprehensive Waiver is a Host Home, meaning a private home, licensed or certified by the Division of DD, where the family accepts the responsibility for caring for up to three individuals with DD. The Partnership for Hope has gone from 37 participating counties in 2010 to 74 counties in 2011 with an additional proposed expansion to another 11 counties.

Ida Mitchell (MODOT) – MODOT held Live able Streets Workshop with promotes ADA inclusion within their design. MODOT continues to work on making its office buildings, public intersections, and sidewalks ADA accessible throughout the State of Missouri.

Rosie Shelton (DOC) – Ms. Shelton will be the new department liaison for DOC. She is taking the place of Vicky Myers, who retired effective September 1.

Julie Juergens (DSS) – DSS developed a web-based referral system for community-based living. MFP has 378 participants who have transitioned into community living. Program will continue to run until 2020. Julie Juergens was appointed to the Governor’s Council to End Homelessness.

Angelette Prichett (DHE) – DHE received \$6.6 million in federal and matching grant funds from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to develop a project to support access to broadband for vulnerable populations (low income, unemployed adults over age 55, and underserved minority groups) around Missouri. The project, entitled Pathways to Broadband Access and Technology Education, is a partnership with six community colleges to establish or expand a total of 23 public computer centers (PCCs) in targeted areas around the state. Partner colleges include: Jefferson College, Metropolitan Community College,

Mineral Area College, Moberly Area Community College, St. Louis Community College and Three Rivers Community College. The PCCs are open to the public and offer free courses.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – Encouraged participants to check out the DWD’s website at www.missouricareersource.com, which offers new services for job seekers and employers including the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The NCRC is used for screening, hiring, and promotion, as well as for fulfilling training needs for existing employees. The Disability Navigator Program ended in July.

Michele Radney (DNR) – The Division of State Parks is working with the National Center on Accessibility to make all Missouri state parks accessible by March 2012.

Gena Ahlers (DOR) – DOR now offers the driver’s manual on CD and audio streaming to make it accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Kim Davis (MCDHH) – Annual Interpreters Conference will be held October 14-16 in Osage Beach, featuring a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Empowerment Symposium.

Old Business: None.

Public Comment:

Bobbe Jeffers informed the Council about gaps in service for her 30-year-old son with disabilities and inquired about resources. The Council members and department liaisons provided Ms. Jeffers with several resources and referrals.

GCD committee reports:

Legislative Committee (DeAnna Noriega reporting):

The Missouri legislature is in special session this week and has been discussing the circuit breaker tax credit. Consumers and advocates are encouraged to contact their legislators to ask them not to eliminate this tax credit.

Lunch recess was taken.

Programs Committee (James Trout reporting): Worked on the MOU between GCD and SIL the Council voted on today.

Advocacy Committee (Sue Orton reporting):

The Legislative Priorities Poll has been sent to GCD’s listservs. Deadline is September 15. The results will be made available at the next Council meeting.

The Advocacy Committee also encourages individuals to contact their legislators to ask them not to cut the circuit breaker tax credit.

St. Louis County Committee on Disabilities worked with MLS real-estate services to add new online search criteria for accessible housing.

Action item: None.

Council member reports:

Betty Davidson – The Variety Club sponsors the Children’s Theater’s production of the Wizard of Oz, featuring 15 children with disabilities.

Chuck Comstock is the Chair for the 3rd annual Disability Awareness Day held October 29 at Truman State University. He reported about the changes in Medicaid benefits and income limits for people with disabilities who get married.

DeAnna Noriega is the Independent Living Specialist for Blindness and Low Vision Services at SIL. She leads the VIBES (Vision Impairment Blindness Exploring Support) support group; teaches blindness skills to The Circle of Friends, Lutheran Blind Outreach; serves on the board of the Missouri Council of the Blind, served on a program committee for the Midwest Leadership Conference for the Visually Impaired; serves the Advisory Council for Wolfner Library and the VSA Arts board of directors.

Action item: None.

Presentation:

Maureen Cunningham with the Brain Injury Association of Missouri provided an update on HB 300, 334 & 387 relating to student athlete brain injuries. If an athlete’s injury is such that a concussion cannot be ruled out, the athlete has to be removed from play/competition for at least 24 hours and is required to be evaluated by a licensed health care provider before being allowed to return. Educational training and information will be provided by the school districts to coaches, athletes, and parents. Discussion followed and Ms. Cunningham answered questions from the Council.

Council member reports, continued:

Derek Smith completed a summer internship at Disability Rights Iowa and continues at Drake Law School. He also attended the Iowa Partners in Preparedness Conference.

Teri Miller has been networking with Pony Bird Independent Living Center; attended Alliance for Retired Americans and NCIL conference; recommended Kirsten Dunham from Paraquad as a possible speaker at one of the next Council meetings.

Dr. Joan Bergstom is working with the Kansas City Regional Council on a conference next October for professionals who are working with students with disabilities.

Sue Orton announced the Brain Injury Association of Missouri conference held October 20-22 in St. Charles; has worked on transportation matrix for St. Louis County; listing of transportation services will be available on their website.

Erv Switzer attended signing of HB 555 in St. Louis, which was attended by several bi-partisan legislators.

Bob Wallace asked about resources for people with disabilities on our website. Linda Baker stated that GCD’s Missouri Disability Portal www.mo.gov/disability provides many resources and links.

James Trout is involved in St. Louis County group which is working on a new name for the St. Louis County Special School District.

New Business:

Mary Lamielle with the National Center for Environmental Health Strategies has contacted DeAnna Noriega about GCD's Policy on Indoor Air Quality and Fragrance Free Policy and asked that the Council review and expand its policies and offered her input. The Advocacy Committee will take an in-depth look at the information Ms. Lamielle sent and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

The Alliance for Full Participation had contacted GCD to ask for support in requesting a Proclamation from the Governor to declare the month of October as Missouri Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Council discussed the language of the draft proclamation and decided that Dr. Bergstrom, Teri Miller, Erv Switzer, and Linda Baker would work together to edit the draft proclamation before October 1.

Council meeting dates for 2012 were discussed and scheduled as follows:

Monday, January 23, 2012 in Jefferson City
Monday, April 23, 2012 by videoconference
Friday, September 21, 2012 in Jefferson City
Friday, November 16, 2012 by videoconference

Action items: Review information relating to Indoor Air and Fragrance Free Policies.
Edit proclamation for Missouri Disability Employment Awareness Month.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 18, 2011 at 10 AM by videoconference in Jefferson City, Lee's Summit, Kirksville, St. Louis and Springfield.**

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Send out and review information from Mary Lamielle relating to Indoor Air and Fragrance Free Policies.	Linda Baker, DeAnna Noriega, Advocacy Committee
Edit proclamation declaring October as Missouri Disability Employment Awareness Month by October 1	Dr. Joan Bergstrom, Teri Miller, Erv Switzer, Linda Baker