

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2009

Council Members Present/Participating:

Karen Benson, Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Jacqueline Chatman, Joe Colagiovanni, Ed Duff, Mike Esser, Gregory Greven, Ronald Hack, Todd Mayfield, Teri Miller, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, Joe Sartorius, Erwin Switzer, James Trout

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Molly Tallarico

Unexcused Absences:

Dr. Hani Soudah

Department Liaisons:

Gena Ahlers (Missouri Department of Revenue – DOR), Michael Armstrong (Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS), Kristin Funk (Dept. of Economic Development – DED/DWD), Tim McDonald (Missouri State Highway Patrol), Phyllis Launius (Office of the State Court Administrator - OSCA), Rudolph Nickens (MODOT), Nancy Nickolaus (Department of Mental Health – DMH), Walter Pearson (Office of Administration – Assistant Commissioner), Dorothy Parks (Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education, VR – DESE-VR), Mary Wood (Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE)

Guests: None

Staff: Linda Baker, Donna Borgmeyer, Claudia Browner

Real Time Captioner: Debbie Reithmeyer

Chair Karen Benson called the meeting to order at 10 AM. With fifteen Council members participating, there was a quorum for the meeting. Karen Benson welcomed the five new Council members to the meeting and introductions followed.

Approval of agenda and minutes

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the September 11, 2009 meeting minutes and the amended agenda for the day.

Report from Council Chair Karen Benson:

To be in compliance with state statutes, the majority of the Council members have to be persons with disabilities. A roll call determined that seven (7) of the sixteen (16) appointed Council members are persons with disabilities. Karen Benson will inform the Governor's Boards and Commissions office of the outcome of this count.

Karen reported about attending an orientation of Governor appointed committee members at the Governor's Mansion, where Ted Ardini reminded of the importance of complying with the Sunshine Law and Linda Luebbering gave an update on the budget situation. Karen asked the Council members to make sure that all requirements of the Sunshine Law are followed when

conducting Council business. Meetings and agendas need to be posted at least 24 hours in advance.

Action item: Inform Boards and Commissions office of percentage of people with disabilities on the Council.
Follow Sunshine Law requirements when scheduling meetings and conducting Council business.

Old Business

None

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

Linda Baker summarized her ED report. She gave an update about the budgets for the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum and GCD. In October, GCD received another spending restriction of \$924 for FY10, which will become a permanent reduction in operating expenses (E&E) for FY11.

Legislative Education Project (LEP):

GCD has created an online registration form for the LEP as well as an online survey to be completed by participants after attending the LEP.

Legislative Issues:

Rep. Jeff Grisamore is planning on pre-filing HB1047 on teaching disability history as part of the regular school curriculum and declaring October as Disability History Month.

Health Policy Summit:

The proposed health reform may impact Missouri by increasing the eligibility of Medicaid (HEALTHNET) FPL to 150% resulting in an additional 300,000 Missourians being covered, many of whom will be people with disabilities.

Business Leadership Network (BLN):

In celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, several Disability Mentoring Day events took place throughout Missouri during the month of October. The Greater Kansas City BLN sponsored a presentation on the ADA Amendment Act at an event for employers.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum:

GCD is continuing to explore funding partnerships for MYLF to sustain the program.

Poster and Journalism Contest:

This year's contest theme is "20 years of ADA". Joe Colagiovanni agreed to obtain the \$1,400 to pay for the savings bonds the winners receive.

Inclusion Awards:

Linda proposed changing this program from yearly to every other year due to budget constraints and decreased numbers of nominations. For 2009, GCD received a total of 7 nominations.

Department Liaison Information:

Mary Wood (DESE) – The Division of Special Education provides a Special Education ListServe (SELS) to disseminate important information about special education issues.

Dorothy Parks (DESE-VR) – The Independent Living Centers in Missouri received a 10% budget cut. The Division of VR's general revenue funds have been cut by \$200k. ARRA funds are being used to provide services to those who have been on the wait list the longest (Category 3).

Gena Ahlers (DOR) – Legislation was passed to allow people with disabilities the option of a disability symbol on their driver's licenses by 2010. A physician's statement is required to request the symbol on the license.

Rudy Nickens (MODOT) – MODOT has provided its employees an in-service about people with disabilities.

Walter Pearson (OA) – Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) has paid for a 1-year license for the Adobe Connect webcasting software to make it available to the Council. Bill Miller has been appointed as the new director of the Division of Personnel and Douglas Young is the new Chief Information Officer of OA-ITSD.

Phyllis Launius (OSCA) – Supervisors of court clerks held a panel discussion on FMLA and ADA topics. Phyllis thanked GCD for providing technical assistance in creating Braille materials on pro se divorces.

Kristin Funk (DED-DWD) – There are 43 career centers in Missouri. DWD has eleven Disability Navigators in ten of its 14 workforce regions. DWD held National Disability Employment Awareness Month events and job fairs in October. ARRA funds were used earlier this year for Next Generation Jobs Team, a summer jobs program for youth ages 14-24. A significant percentage of youth with disabilities participated in the NGJT. DWD may again have stimulus funding for a youth summer jobs program in 2010. The Disability Navigator meeting will be held December 2-3 in Jefferson City with Linda Baker presenting.

Nancy Nickolaus (DMH) – Division of Developmental Disabilities employs Advocacy Specialists in its regional offices to provide training on abuse/neglect issues to other people with disabilities. A speakers' bureau is being created and will be available to other agencies. Prevention waiver is not moving forward due to budget cuts. Consumer, Family & Youth Leadership conference teaching about leadership and advocacy skills will be held in August 2010.

Michael Armstrong (DHSS) – Cuts in DHSS budget have resulted in the loss of 30 part-time jobs. Department is currently working on the FY10 and FY11 budgets.

Council member reports:

Ed Duff – Mental health affiliate in Rolla was recognized for its services. Karen asked Ed to provide information so GCD can send a letter of congratulation.

Sue Orton – Over 200 people attended the 5th annual Brain Injury Association conference in September in St. Louis. This year's conference featured a TBI survivor showcase and sale which was very successful.

Greg Greven – City of Springfield recently appointed Greg as a board member of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights. Polk County is working on making trails accessible to people with disabilities.

Karen Benson – Provided FEMA training on emergency response planning for special needs population in October. In February, there will be disaster training for Independent Living Centers.

Teri Miller – Was assigned two educational surrogates through DESE.

Action Item: Send information about the mental health affiliate in Rolla to GCD.

Recess was taken for lunch while the Advocacy and Legislative Committees met.

GCD committee reports:

Executive Committee (Karen Benson reporting):

- The Executive Committee met October 29 in Jefferson City to discuss the budget situation and asked the Council to vote on the following three motions:
 - Motion 1: Conduct some of the four quarterly Council meetings in 2010 (FY10) electronically. The motion carried by majority vote. It was decided to conduct the January 11 and May 3 meeting electronically. GCD staff will set up a test run for both videoconferencing and Adobe webcasting to determine how electronic meetings will be conducted.
 - Motion 2: For the remainder of FY10, GCD will not be catering lunches during Council meetings. The motion carried by majority vote.
 - Motion 3: As a cost cutting measure, limit CART services (real time captioning) to 4 hours per meeting. The motion was unanimously opposed.
- Karen asked the Council members to consider claiming the least dollar amount necessary on their expense accounts.
- GCD will explore possibility of trust fund as funding option similar to its counterpart in Florida.
- Staff asked for volunteers to judge Inclusion Awards: Greg Greven, Ronald Hack, and Teri Miller volunteered.

Advocacy Committee (Sue Orton reporting):

- The Advocacy Committee reviewed existing policies of four state departments relating to fragrance/chemical sensitivities and recommended continuing to support existing policies instead of developing a new policy or educational awareness program. Discussion followed and it was decided that the Advocacy Committee would review additional state department (DESE and VR) and IL center policies and develop an educational campaign about chemical sensitivities. Karen Benson asked Donna

Borgmeyer to request fragrance free policies and related materials of why these policies exist from the IL centers.

Legislative Committee (Ed Duff/Donna Borgmeyer reporting):

- Online registration form and survey have been developed for the 2010 Legislative Education Project.
- LEP needs to be strengthened by soliciting support of volunteers to help with the program.
- GCD received over 200 Legislative Priority polls. The results show the top four legislative priorities being: health care issues, fiscal policies, home and community based services, and transportation. The Legislative Update was rated as user friendly, valuable and useful by the majority of those who completed the survey. The survey results will be made available to the legislators.
- Rachel Storch will pre-file legislation regarding affordable universal housing.

Finance Committee (Sue Orton reporting):

- Committee met in St. Louis on November 5 and reviewed the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The Finance Committee was in agreement with the Executive Committee's recommendations.

Action Items:

Schedule test run of videoconferencing and Adobe connect webcasting to decide technology for the upcoming electronic meetings in January and May.

Review fragrance free policies of state departments and IL centers and develop an educational tool to raise awareness about chemical sensitivities.

Make legislative survey results available to legislators.

Public Comment:

None.

New Business:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held **Monday, January 11, 2010 at 9:30 AM**. The meeting will be conducted electronically through videoconferencing or webcasting (TBD).

GCD Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2009 Meeting

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Inform Governor's Boards and Commissions office of percentage of people with disabilities on the Council.	Karen Benson
Follow Sunshine Law requirements when scheduling meetings and conducting Council business.	All Council member & staff
Provide GCD staff with information on mental health affiliate in Rolla so congratulations letter can be sent.	Ed Duff
Schedule test run of videoconferencing and webcasting prior to January Council meeting.	Claudia Browner
Review fragrance free policies and develop educational tool to raise awareness about chemical sensitivities.	Advocacy Committee
Make legislative survey results available to legislators.	Donna Borgmeyer

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
November 18, 2009