

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2014

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Ron Hack, Todd Mayfield, Teri Miller, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, Derek Smith, James Trout, Bob Wallace

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Ed Duff, Mike Esser, Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Mary Ann Harter

Department Liaisons:

Bonnie Aaron	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE
Cari Collins	Department of Corrections – DOC
Kristin Funk	Department of Economic Development – DED/DWD
Bobbi Jo Garber	Department of Health & Senior Services – DHSS/DSDS
Darla Gjesvold	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Julie Juergens	Department of Social Services – DSS
Dana Muessig	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Dorothy Parks	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE/VR
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Court Administrator – OSCA
Shelly Summers	Department of Mental Health – DMH/DDD (for Robin Rust)
Jennifer Terry	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Melissa Wilding	Missouri Veterans Commission – MVC

Guests:

Stephanie Brady, Director of Programs, The Independent Living Center, Joplin
Patricia Ritchie, National Association of Injured & Disabled Workers
Christopher Ludvigsen, Missouri Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Staff:

Claudia Browner, Dawn Evans, Laura Mueth

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. With eleven (11) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda and minutes:

The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for November 21 and the amended agenda for the day.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

- Claudia summarized Linda's ED report. GCD has spent about 50% of its FY14 budget.
- The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum has received a sizable donation on behalf of Council member Mike Esser's retirement from Edward Jones. The total donation is \$10,900. GCD and SIL continue to work on funding proposals and have started recruiting delegates for the 2014 Forum.
- The Disability Web Portal has been updated and 150 new submissions have been added to the directory.
- GCD has held its first Legislative Education Project (LEP) webcast for 2014. The first LEP training at the capitol is scheduled for February 11.

- The winner of the 2013 Inclusion Award is UMSL's SUCCEED program, led by Deborah Baldini, Ph.D. and the Honorable Mention goes to Melaina's Magical Playland in Cape Girardeau. The first annual Youth Leadership Award goes to Aaron Likens. All award recipients will be honored at the Power Up conference in April.

Department Liaison Information:

Shelly Summers (DMH) – The Partnership for Hope waiver now serves 100 counties. The annual Mental Health Champions banquet will be held June 3 in Jefferson City.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – Missouri career center staff have attended disability awareness training in all 31 career centers. Approximately ten career centers have been closed due to federal budget cuts.

Dorothy Parks (DESE-VR) – The disability awareness training has been completed at the Jefferson City Career Center. The agency's annual report has been completed and is available on the VR website.

Bonnie Aaron (DESE) – The State Board of Education has approved the final set of changes to regulations governing the administration of Sheltered Workshops. The rules must be reviewed/ approved by JCAR prior to being forwarded to the Secretary of State's office for publishing. Dynamic Learning Maps is the new MAP-A for students with severe cognitive disabilities beginning with the 2014-15 school year, which will be field tested in several school districts from February through May of 2014. The test uses computer adapted assessments. Missouri School for the Deaf is looking for a new Superintendent.

Julie Juergens (DSS) – Under the Money Follows the Person grant, 164 individuals have transitioned into the community in 2013. The goal for 2013 was 218. Total number of individuals who have transitioned into the community under the grant is 838. HB 1156 (Rep. Lair) looks at the sustainability of the Money Follows the Person program after the grant ends in 2015. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) will conduct an on-site visit in Missouri in August 2014. The national conference will take place in September in Washington, DC.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – OSCA has purchased 39 additional assistive listening devices for the courts. The presiding judge of the 26th judicial circuit has requested an accessibility assessment of its court houses in Camden, Laclede, Miller, Moniteau, and Morgan counties.

Dana Muessig (DNR) – DNR continues to renovate its office buildings in Jefferson City to make them ADA accessible. The Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center in Kansas City is scheduled to be renovated in March to make it more accessible. A listing of accessible trails in Missouri has been added to the Disability Web Portal. DNR continues to update playgrounds in state parks to make them accessible.

Melissa Wilding (MVC) – Melissa is the MVC's new state liaison to GCD and a member of the Missouri Behavioral Health Alliance (MOBHA). MOBHA is trying to increase awareness of and access to available services for veterans. Missouri has over 500,000 veterans, 74,312 of which have service-connected disabilities. MOBHA is hosting a symposium for clergy, "Becoming a Military and Veteran Friendly Ministry" on April 10 in Jefferson City.

Darla Gjesvold (MODOT) – Darla serves on the ADA inter-disciplinary team to work on the department's transition plan.

Cari Collins (DOC) – Cari met with Ernest Garrett, Director of Missouri Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, regarding offenders who are deaf or hard of hearing. They will tour the Jefferson City Correctional Center this Friday.

Old Business:

By unanimous vote, the Council confirmed James Trout as Acting Chair for the Council for the current year. Linda Baker and members of the Council are continuing to work with the Governor's Office on getting new Council members appointed.

Public Comment:

Patty Ritchie, Volunteer Public Policy Director with the National Association of Injured and Disabled Workers (NAIDW) commented on a sample disability accommodations policy that was posted on the OA website. The document has been removed from OA's website. Ms. Ritchie asked the Council to review the public Administrative Hearing Commission's website. James Trout asked the Advocacy Committee to review the information provided by Ms. Ritchie prior to the next Council meeting.

GCD Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: The executive director's evaluation has been completed.

Programs Committee: James attended a presentation on chemical sensitivities. Research of the affects of indoor air quality on health issues is being conducted as part of the Affordable Care Act.

Council member reports:

Teri Miller has received a proclamation from the legislature for her work with the Veterans History Project. She continues to work with the Eastern Missouri Transportation Coordinating Council (EMTCC).

Sue Orton – Brain Injury Awareness Day at the capitol will be on March 25. Rep. Sommer has filed HB 1309 which changes the laws regarding the Brain Injury Funds.

Chuck Comstock announced the 6th Annual Circle of Friends Art Show of the 14 counties served by the Kirksville Regional Office. The 7th Annual disAbility Awareness Day will be held October 7.

Derek Smith participated in a wheelchair basketball tournament in Iowa and is in the process of building a universally designed home to be completed by March.

Todd Mayfield asked the Council members to sign a petition for the ABLE Act. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act (S. 313/H.R. 647) is a bill that would help individuals with disabilities to save for their futures. The ABLE Act would amend Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 to create tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. The bill aims to ease financial strains faced by individuals with disabilities by making tax-free savings accounts available to cover qualified expenses such as education, housing, and transportation.

Todd and his son Elijah will be participating in the National Down Syndrome Society's Buddy Walk on Washington on February 26.

Bob Wallace announced the 20th Anniversary of Giant Steps in St. Louis on April 26. Giant Steps is a nonprofit organization that offers a therapeutic school and a specialized summer camp for children and teens with autism spectrum disorder and serves seven school districts in St. Louis. More information is available at www.giantsteps-stlouis.org.

DeAnna Noriega – As Vice President of the Missouri Council for the Blind, DeAnna will visit with legislators in Washington DC on February 25th to discuss HR 3749 which deals with Medicare coverage for low-vision devices. The 2014 Disability Rights Legislative Day in Missouri is planned for April 2.

New Business:

The Council discussed and unanimously approved the Universal Design letter to MHDC.

Lunch recess was taken.

Presentation:

Stephany Brady, Director of Programs with The Independent Living Center, Inc., in Joplin gave a presentation about “Universal Design in the Rebuilding of Joplin”. The presentation highlighted the collaboration of agencies and stakeholders to create accessible buildings, including schools, commercial buildings, and medical facilities, affordable housing with universal design features, accessible parks, and storm shelters and safe rooms in commercial properties and throughout the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, April 25, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. by videoconference in Jefferson City, Kirksville, and St. Louis.**

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Send Universal Design letter to MHDC	Claudia Browner

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
February 13, 2014