

# **Governor's Council on Disability Meeting Minutes November 13, 2014**

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

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Chuck Comstock, Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Ron Hack, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, James Trout, Bob Wallace

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

Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Ed Duff, Mike Esser, Mary Ann Harter, Todd Mayfield, Derek Smith

## **Department Liaisons:**

Becky Brietzke	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Cari Collins	Department of Corrections – DOC
Dee Ann Fuller	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Voc Rehab – DESE/VR
Kristin Funk	Department of Economic Development – DED/DWD
Bobbi Jo Garber	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS
Jonathan Hensley	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Angelette Prichett	Department of Higher Education – DHE
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health – DMH/DDD
Melissa Wilding	Missouri Veterans Commission – MVC

**Guest:** Patricia Ritchie, National Association of Injured & Disabled Workers

**Staff:** Linda Baker, Claudia Browner, Dawn Evans, Laura Mueth

**Real-Time Captioner:** Deb Reithmeyer

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. With eight (8) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting.

## **Approval of agenda and minutes:**

The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for September 19 and the amended agenda for the day.

## **Report from Acting Chair James Trout:**

James added two items to discuss and vote on under New Business:

- The Council committees have been restructured and new committee chairs assigned.
- The revised universal design criteria have been sent out to the Council for review and need to be sent to MHDC.

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

- Linda summarized her ED report. GCD has spent about 31% of its FY15 budget.
- A new PSA titled "Who I Am" has been posted on the Disability Web Portal (<http://disability.mo.gov>)
- GCD featured a display in the Truman Building about Disability History and Awareness for the entire month of October. GCD staff attended disability awareness event in Kansas City.

- The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) Advisory Council had its first meeting to discuss recruitment of delegates for 2015. In 2015, the MO-YLF will be extended to five days instead of four. The MOU between GCD and fiscal agent Paraquad will be voted on during new business.
- Linda attended a meeting this morning to discuss revitalization of the Missouri Business Leadership Network in St. Louis. USBLN executive director Jill Houghton attended the meeting.
- The LEP is being restructured to include videos and PowerPoint presentations as learning modules on the GCD website. The LEP program will be offered at the capitol only upon request. The videos will be posted on the LEP web page by January.
- GCD is looking for nominations for the 2014 Inclusion Awards and Youth Leadership Award.

### **New Business:**

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Governor's Council on Disability and Paraquad  
The Council unanimously voted to approve the MOU effective December 2, 2014.
2. Revised Universal Design criteria and letter to MHDC  
James provided the Council with updated universal design criteria and asked the Council to approve and send the revisions to MHDC. After some discussion, the Council unanimously voted to approve the criteria as submitted and send to MHDC, and to task the Housing Subcommittee with meeting prior to the February Council meeting to discuss presentation of the revised criteria on the Disability Web Portal.
3. Council committees and officers  
The Council voted unanimously to restructure the committees as follows:
  - The Finance and Housing committees will become subcommittees under the Executive committee.
  - Members of the Executive committee are: Vice Chairs Ron Hack and James Trout, and members at large Joan Bergstrom, Sue Orton, and Bob Wallace.
  - Housing, Education, Employment, and Transportation will be subcommittees of the Advocacy committee. Ron Hack serves as chair of the Advocacy committee.
  - Joan Bergstrom was appointed member at large of the Executive committee.
  - Bob Wallace was appointed chair of the Finance committee.
  - James Trout will continue to serve as chair of the Programs committee.State liaisons are welcome to serve on committees if interested. Please see attached committee roster for details. By-laws will need to be updated to reflect these changes and voted on at the next meeting.
4. Inclusion Award and Youth Leadership Award judges  
Joan Bergstrom, Cari Collins, Ron Hack, and Sue Orton volunteered to serve as judges for the awards.

### **Council member reports:**

Rep. Jeff Grisamore provided an update on disability-related legislation. There has been major progress for funding and services for people with disabilities with over half a billion dollars in new funding items over the last eight years. Rep. Grisamore has redrafted the 2014 disability omnibus bill for 2015 for his successor. His final legislative newsletter will go out next week.

He encouraged the Council to work with DESE and DHE to increase participation in Disability History and Awareness Month activities and integration into lesson plans.

Ron Hack made a motion to thank Rep. Grisamore for his work on and support of the Governor's Council on Disability. The Council unanimously voted to support this motion.

DeAnna Noriega continues to serve on the American Council for the Blind and Missouri Council for the Blind. She works as a peer mentor on a blog for persons with visual impairments and has been revising guide dog guidelines. She also works on a project for accessible phones for people with disabilities, which are provided by the Missouri Assistive Technology Council.

Chuck Comstock reported that Kirksville's Disability Awareness conference in October was attended by more than 300 individuals and 29 vendors, including Truman State University students who minor in Disability Studies.

**GCD Committee Reports:**

Advocacy Committee: Ron Hack will schedule a committee meeting prior to the next Council meeting.

Housing Subcommittee: Sue Orton will be meeting next week with Paul Prince of Mid America Regional Information Systems (MARIS) to discuss including UD features in real estate listings. No other committee reports.

**Public Comment:**

Patty Ritchie, Volunteer Public Policy Director with the National Association of Injured and Disabled Workers (NAIDW) addressed the Council regarding a Sample Accommodation Policy that was previously listed on OA's website. Ms. Ritchie made the following requests/statements:

- Mention the response letter NAIDW received from EEOC in the minutes.
- Request names of individuals who attended the OA Training where the Sample Accommodation Policy was used / provided to participants.
- NAIDW will respond to Linda Baker's letter dated October 8.
- Ms. Ritchie feels her comments at previous Council meetings have been "included but not welcomed."

Advocacy Committee Chair Ron Hack informed Ms. Ritchie that the Council cannot advocate by going to another state agency and telling them what to do. The Council further cannot tell OA or another agency to add or remove documents, or to track who viewed certain documents.

The State of Missouri has a decentralized HR system and each department has its own ADA coordinators and accommodation policies. Ms. Ritchie was advised to contact OA's personnel department or OA's general counsel with any further requests or concerns.

Rep. Grisamore asked Ms. Ritchie to send him an electronic copy of the Sample Accommodation Policy and EEOC letter.

**Department Liaison Information:**

Cari Collins (DOC) – HR director Jennifer Zamkus will serve as the new state liaison for DOC.

Bobbi Jo Garber (DHSS) – DHSS is working on the transition plan for Home and Community Based Services. There has been an increase in referrals through the Division of Senior and Disability Services.

Melissa Wilding (MVC) – MVC is collaborating with DMH on the Missouri Military Community Report to show which mental health services veterans have problems accessing and to increase access for military personnel and their families. Discussion followed on how veterans, especially those with TBI, are being referred to higher education institutions. Rep. Grisamore recommended contacting the chair of the Veterans Committee to draft an omnibus bill relating to comprehensive services for disabled veterans.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – Attended the Disability Mentoring Day event in Kansas City in October and would like to see this type of event replicated throughout the state.

Jonathon Hensley (AGO) – The Accessible Parking PSA has been completed and aired on TV. The Council asked Mr. Hensley to send the PSA to GCD for dissemination and posting on the Disability Web Portal.

Duane Shumate (DMH) – The transition plan for Home and Community Based Services will be posted for comment in the next few weeks on the DMH and MoHealthNet website. DMH co-sponsored a Transition Capacity Building Institute along with DESE, UMKC and Centers for Independent Living for school districts and local support teams on developing regional plans to enhance the post-school outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

DeAnn Fuller (DESE/VR) – Ms. Fuller introduced herself as the new state liaison for VR. This year, the division has served 4,800 individuals with disabilities, which is 300 more than last year.

Julie Juergens (DSS) – Under the Money Follows the Person grant, 978 individuals have transitioned into the community. There are currently 170 cases pending, mostly due to lack of accessible, affordable housing. The MFP budget will fund a housing specialist position to work on contracts with housing developers and service organizations to increase housing options. A new video is being created featuring three individuals who have transitioned under the MFP. The legislative group is working on filing a bill to sustain the program after the grant ends.

**Old Business:** None.

Joan Bergstrom announced that real time captioner Deb Reithmeyer will be retiring at the end of 2014 and thanked her for her service to the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Monday, February 9, 2015** at 10 AM in room 315 of the Governor's Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Draft letter and send revised UD criteria to MHDC	Linda Baker/James Trout
Meet to discuss UD criteria presentation on Disability Web Portal.	Housing subcommittee