

**Governor's Council on Disability  
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2023**

**Council Members Present/Participating:**

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Wayne Crawford, Betty Davidson, Ronald Hack, Chip Hailey, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Elijah Mayfield, Sue Orton, Traci Ritter, Andrew Sartorius, Lesia Shelton, James Trout, Bob Wallace

**Council Members Absent/Not Participating:**

Kim Lackey

**Department Liaisons:**

Kara Cahill	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Else Davenport	Department of Social Services (DSS/MFP)
Kindra Delp	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE/SpED)
Louis Gatewood	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE/VR)
Adam Hoffman	Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS/FSD)
Forrest Luck	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Matt Medley	Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR)
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS/DSDS)

**Staff:** Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth, Rachel Rackers, Jenn Pettit

**Guests:** Vicki Davidson – MO Developmental Disabilities Council, Becky Davis – Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Christian Hill – Thrive Homes, Logan Forbis – Thrive Homes, Travis Rash – RESP

Council Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting with 15 Council members in attendance. The meeting was held in Jefferson City and by WebEx. Ron welcomed the new state liaisons to the meeting. Introductions followed.

**Approval of agenda:** The agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

**Approval of meeting minutes:** The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for November 18, 2022. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

**Public Comment:**

Vicki Davidson passed around information regarding the Emergency Management Access and Functional Needs Disability Awareness Trainings in Missouri. The training has received funding from the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council to educate anyone involved in emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery. It identifies the responsibilities of both emergency management personnel and disability advocates during an emergency. This program will introduce the four modules necessary for proper response that include Disability Awareness Training, the Americans with Disabilities Act specific to Emergency management, emergency plan content and Inclusive Planning and Active Participation. There will be trainings scheduled throughout Missouri in each of the regions. Trainings in Springfield, Independence, Columbia and St. Louis are open for registration now.

**Report from Council Chair – Ron Hack:**

Ron welcomed the new state liaisons to the meeting. He stated that he is waiting to be confirmed by the Senate as the appointed Council Chair.

**Report from GCD Team:** Council members received the full report by email prior to the meeting. Each team member provided highlights of their report.

**Claudia Browner:**

- Committee meetings: Advocacy Committee Meeting – January 20, 2023, Employment Subcommittee Meeting – January 27, 2023, Education Subcommittee Meeting – February 10, 2023
- Model Employer initiative/Executive Order 19-16 – Meeting with Division of Personnel and Office of Equal Opportunity – February 6
- Participated in Let’s Talk Information Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility panel discussion on implementing ICT policies – November 30
- Presented at OA Town Hall on Accessibility Guide – December 1
- Presented at OA Diversity & Inclusion Council meeting on Accessibility Guide – December 6
- Presented to State of Missouri HR directors and managers about Accessibility Guide, LinkedIn MO Learning path, and annual self-disclosure survey results & follow up – December 15 and January 19
- Provided presentations about GCD Youth Programs at 11 VR Summer Kickoff events (virtually) in January and February
- Presented GCD Overview and Programs at MOSILC quarterly meeting – February 10
- Updated, revised the [Capitol Access Guide](#) and posted on website
- Created and submitted GCD Annual Report for 2022
- GCD Budget: Attended budget committee hearings in the House and Senate for FY24. In FY23, to date, we have spent/encumbered 54% of our total E&E operational budget.

**Laura Mueth:**

- Met with a subcommittee of the Missouri Disability Health Collaborative to discuss bills that might be of interest to the work of the Collaborative.
- Attended the weekly Missouri Budget Project legislative calls to hear what other bills and activities other statewide groups are working on.
- The 2022 Legislative Priorities Poll Report was sent to all legislators and elected officials except the Auditor.
- Disability Rights Legislative Day is scheduled for March 1. I have been attending all the committee meetings and leading a few of them. The planning committee has been meeting weekly since January.
- Laura met with Katie Jones in December to increase her understanding of the various tax bills as they relate to people with disabilities.
- Laura provided three Legislative Education Project webinars. Between the three, 42 people have participated. The last two are scheduled for March 16 at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

**Rachel Rackers:**

- Planning for the 2023 TTI (Transition Training Institute) have begun. The dates are June 26-28 in the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia.
- Provided VR and Pre-ETS Kick Off presentations in January and February.
- Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) will be held July 18-22, 2023. Delegate and staff applications are available on our website.
  - Application deadline for delegates is April 15
  - Application deadline for staff is May 1
  - The 2022 MO-YLF video was created by the MU Strat Comm and funded by MU Pre-ETS. It is available on our website at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm> or [YouTube](#)

- Our third Virtual Leadership Summit will be hosted on March 4, 2023. We have received 43 applications.
- Ideas for future program additions are:
  - Hosting webinars to give an overview of GCD youth programs.
  - Putting together an informative presentation/video about our different programs for teachers, providers and organizations to share with potential participants and their families.

**Jenn Pettit:**

- For MO-YLF outreach, Jenn worked on getting all the Special Ed Teachers' names and contact information for all school districts in MO.
- Started working on the GCD Annual Awards Programs.
- Updated the Resource Directory on the website, getting in contact with all the organizations and having them update their information.

**State Liaison Reports:**

**Elise Davenport (DSS/MFP)** The Show Me Home MFP has been slowly building the capacity back and last year the program was on track with transitioning 90 Missourians into community settings. They anticipate exceeding this year's goals. Shawn Brice is submitting the new budget request to CMS. The program continues to work on capacity-building projects including the University of Missouri's Aging in Place program, which provides individuals with in-home technologies that will enable them to maintain their independence for longer. Shawn oversees reducing housing application costs and issues with Habitat for Humanity and Well Housing. They have partnered with Missouri Housing Development Commission to help individuals access housing vouchers and are in the process of establishing a new web based referral mechanism which should be ready around early springtime.

**Shomari Rozier (DHSS)** stated that the US Department of Health and Human Services announced the end of the Covid 19 Public Health Emergency effective May 11. As of August 2022, the division has returned to in-person assessments and reassessments, and providers had to resume their regular duties and training responsibilities with their staff. The Family Care Safety Registry Good Cause Waivers have been rescinded. The flexibility of family being able to serve family is scheduled to end April 1, which is a concern given the shortage of direct care staff.

The number of Independent Living Waiver slots have increased from 800 to 1150 and the Traumatic Brain Injury Program waivers have increased from 20 to 26.

**Kara Cahill (DHEWD)** reported the annual Equity Summit will be November 7-8 and the topic this year will be on rural education. Their call for papers will go out in early March and she would like to have a disability session included, so if anybody has anything that they would like to present, please submit a proposal at [eduvents.dhewd.mo.gov](http://eduvents.dhewd.mo.gov)

**Louis Gatewood (DESE/VR)** reported VR has been having their Summer Kickoff meetings to inform participants about the summer programs available to transition age high school students with disabilities. The purpose of the VR Summer Work Experience Program is to provide students an opportunity for paid work experience and workplace readiness training to develop their social skills and prepare them for independent living.

**Lane Lakey (DSS/FSD)** reported that DSS just finished open enrollment for MO HealthNet.

**Matt Medley (DOR)** reported that DOR has revised and updated the disabled placard.

**Presentation:**

Travis Rash from Real Estate with a Social Purpose LLC and Christian Hill from Thrive Homes gave a presentation on Affordable & Accessible Housing. The projects their agencies are working on include:

- A universal design multi-family housing development
- Adding accessibility features as search filters on the Heartland MLS System
- Rehabilitation of abandoned housing across the KC Metro
- Repurposing of an abandoned group home building
- Accessible home modifications
- Community advocacy

They discussed the shortage of accessible and affordable housing, and encouraged disability service agencies to get more involved in housing service provision, and to continue examining funding options for replacing affordable and accessible units that are rolling off the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program.

**Unfinished Business:**

Universal Design ready (UDr) criteria is tabled until Council Meeting in May.

**New Business:** None

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance (Bob Wallace)** – No report.

**Personnel (Sue Orton)** – No report.

**Advocacy (Katie Jones)** – The Advocacy committee met on January 20 and the Employment subcommittee met on January 27 to talk about the strategic plan objectives in regards to advocacy and employment. They also discussed GCD programs and initiatives in regards to those objectives. The committees discussed collecting information about all the organizations, committees and boards council members and state liaisons serve on to support people with disabilities in the State of Missouri. A form will be sent to all Council members and liaisons to provide that information. They proposed updating and expanding the Resource Directory on the GCD website and asked council members to reach out to organizations in their area of the state and ask them to update or add their information to it.

**Housing (Sue Orton/Jim Trout)** – The subcommittee will meet prior to the May Council meeting to discuss the proposed UD Ready (UDr) Criteria. Sue stated that she would be meeting with Maris about cleaning up the accessibility features that are currently on the search criteria for agents.

**Education (Joan Bergstrom)** – The subcommittee met on February 10<sup>th</sup> to talk about the strategic plan on how it is implemented and the activities of the council with regards to education. They reviewed the education position paper and decided to revise it, and will present the ideas to the council for approval. Three members of the public, Jennifer Mason, Clark Corogenes and Becky Davis, attended the meeting and discussed HB 106 and Senate Bill 340, stating that there is a big service gap on the provision of education and services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**Employment (Katie Jones)** – Combined with the Advocacy Committee report.

**Transportation (Betty Davidson)** – No report

**Programs (Betty Davidson)** – No report

**Healthcare (Kim Lackey)** – No report.

**Council Member Reports:**

**Joan Bergstrom** reported there are a lot of education bills that she is following and could have dramatic effects on how IEP meetings are held and how schools run student success meetings.

**Wayne Crawford** reported that Governor Parson issued Executive Order 23-01 commissioning the Missourians Aging with Dignity Initiative. The executive order directs DHSS along with other state agencies and stakeholders to form an Advisory Council and develop a comprehensive Master Plan on Aging by December 31, 2025. There will be subcommittees under the Advisory Council and Wayne was asked to chair the housing subcommittee.

**Betty Davidson** reported that she is working with Inclusive Media on giving scholarships and fiscal responsibility to people with disabilities so they can be represented in movies and performances. They introduced Senate Bill 94 to allow incentives in Missouri to help with people with disabilities pursue an acting career.

**Katie Jones** reported she has an update from the Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers. Some of the workshops that provide employment for people with disabilities service the rest areas in Missouri. They have been doing this for over 30 years. They are dealing with a reduction of employment opportunities due to the rest areas being converted to truck park facilities so this is financially impacting the individuals.

**Traci Ritter** reported that people with disabilities are often not aware of the services that are available to them and proposed better information and resource sharing. She recently came across the Missouri Family to Family organization through University of Missouri, Kansas City. They have lots of information and really work hard to getting information directly to families across the State of Missouri and are great at resource sharing, mentoring for families and/or individuals with disabilities. They have a program called Charting Life Course, which is a great resource for case managers, school personnel or families to utilize to help with individuals with disabilities to help with goals and future plans for their lives.

**Lesia Shelton** reported that she has been working with professionals on trying to find resources for the deaf community. She is trying to support all those involved with HB 106 and Senate Bill 340 to help with the language deprivation in the deaf and hard of hearing community.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, May 19, 2023** at 10 AM at the Missouri Behavioral Health Council – Kathy Carter Building, CEO Room, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101 or by WebEx/conference call.

Action Item	Responsible
Provide information about involvement on boards, committees and organizations that support individuals with disabilities	Council members, state liaisons and GCD team

Minutes by Jenn Pettit  
3/1/2023

Minutes approved by Council  
5/19/23