

**Governor's Council on Disability  
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 2023**

**Council Members Present/Participating:**

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

**Council Members Absent/Not Participating:**

Joan Bergstrom, Katie Jones

**Department Liaisons:**

Rosie Anderson-Harper	Department of Mental Health (DMH/BH)
Kara Cahill	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Elise Davenport	Department of Social Services (DSS/MFP)
Becky Davis	Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)
Luke Hawley	Attorney General Office (AGO)
Julie Kerr	Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS/FSD)
Forrest Luck	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Tammy Lupardus	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE/MSSD)
Matt Medley	Department of Revenue (DOR)
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS/DSDS)
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health (DMH/DD)
Chiquita Small	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE/MSSD)
Venice Wood	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS/DSDS)

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

**Guests:** Megan Rooney-Kron – University of Missouri St. Louis

Council Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting with 14 Council members in attendance. The meeting was held in Jefferson City and by WebEx. Ron welcomed the new state liaison 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 May 19, 2023. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

**Public Comment:** None

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

Ron stated he attended the closing ceremony of the Youth Leadership Forum on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. He saw so much enthusiasm, joy, friendships and overwhelming empowering confidence in the delegates. He heard they were shy at the beginning and now they have sense of belonging and self-worth and advocate for themselves and others. He is extremely proud of the staff, volunteers and alumni that participate to make this happen every year.

**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 held: Executive Committee – August 8
- Participated in Advisory Council for the Master Plan on Aging – Housing Subcommittee meetings and Universal Design subcommittee workgroup meetings
- Reached out to Division of Personnel and Office of Equal Opportunity to discuss annual self-disclosure survey and report to General Assembly
- Presented GCD Overview to OA Interns – June 20
- Presented GCD Overview with Q&A session with St. Louis ARC as a Facebook live event – August 8
- Outreach on LinkedIn and Social Media – Information about Disability Portal, GCD, and Accessibility Guide
- Participated in OA Budget Checkpoint Meetings – June 20, August 15
- Participated in Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) – July 17-22 and planning/debriefing meetings
- Published GCD Newsletter, June and August issues
- Provided outreach and marketing for GCD Poster Contest for NDEAM
- Updated Disability Portal and GCD websites
- FY25 budget – working on budget request for FY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)  
FY24 budget – To date, we have spent/encumbered \$2,260 (9%) of the total E&E operational budget of \$25,283.

**Laura Mueth:**

- The final issue of the Legislative Update went out July 7.
- Listened to a Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Taskforce hearing, and attended a meeting discussing the MO HealthNet annual renewals and Senate Bill 190 issues.
- Has been preparing a service animal training for the Missouri Kansas Hotel Owners Association on August 24.
- Presented a legislative overview to People First of MO priority work groups on August 1.
- Coordinated the legislative day for the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum. Representatives Toalson Reisch, Walsh Moore, and Proudie assisted again this year. Representative Stinnett was a new addition to the group. Senator Black facilitated the debate on the Senate floor.
- Thank you to the Council members who provided input for this year’s Legislative Priorities Poll. Participated in the Executive Committee meeting to discuss the poll format and questions. The poll will be sent on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Please assist by sharing it with others. The deadline will be November 3.

**Jenn Pettit:**

- Participates in monthly OA Support Squad and OA MO Appreciation Ambassadors meetings.
- Helped in the preparation for and attended the MO-YLF.

**Rachel Rackers:**

Rachel provided a presentation on the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF), which was held on July 18-22. She summarized the activities and events from each day and shared statistics and outcomes: 32 delegates attended this year, representing 17 counties throughout Missouri. The first MO-YLF was held in 2001 and after this year, we have 394 delegates that have graduated from the program. Ten returning alumni served as team leaders and mentors. Rachel shared a link to video testimonials from the delegates, who provided presentations about their experiences at the closing graduation.

**State Liaison Reports:**

**Rosie Anderson-Harper** (DMH/BH) The Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health, wants to get the word out about the 988 Crisis Line. 988 is a three-digit number that offers 24/7 and statewide access to crisis services via call, text, or chat. Trained crisis specialists are available and can help individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, substance use, and/or mental health crisis or any other kind of emotional distress. Additional information is available online at [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline | dmh.mo.gov](https://www.dmh.mo.gov/988).

Missouri follows national best practices to provide crisis services in three ways:

- Someone to talk to: 988 crisis line workers accept all calls, texts, and chats. They help with the immediate need and can connect people to resources for ongoing help;
- Someone to respond: If help from the crisis line is not enough, a mobile team can respond to meet the person where they are in the community and provide in-person help;
- Somewhere to go: If a person needs more help than a mobile team can provide, they can go to a crisis center. Crisis centers provide more intense help for up to 23 hours and can usually help the person not need to be hospitalized.

Additional information online at: [Crisis Services | dmh.mo.gov](https://www.dmh.mo.gov/crisis-services).

DBH also provided an update on the number of individuals with living experience of recovery working in the public behavioral health system. There are currently 1,517 active Certified Peer Specialists working in a wide array of prevention, treatment, recovery, and physical healthcare locations throughout the state. They bring crucial enhancements to services. Family Support Providers provide supports and services for parents of children and youth up to age 25 with serious emotional disorders that increase protective factors. They connect with the family member in a way that ignites the spark of hope that things can and will get better because they have experienced a similar journey.

**Elise Davenport** (DSS/MFP) stated that they have adjusted and reduced their transition goal for the Show Me Home (Money Follows the Person) program to 108 for 2023 and they are already at 91 so far, with seven more upcoming moves in the month of August. They are working on their semiannual report for CMS, which requires them to work closely with their partner agency DHSS. Shawn and Elise will be participating in the Home and Community Based Services conference in Baltimore later this month.

**Lane Lakey** (DSS/FSD) stated they continue to work through their annual review process for the MO Health Net and this is the third month they have done that. They review about 10% of the population each month and this will continue until May of 2024. If they cannot verify the contact information electronically, they will mail out paper forms, and participants have 60 days to return them. If they miss that deadline, they have an additional 90 days to return the forms.

**Forrest Luck** (DNR) stated DNR is continuing efforts in encouraging mental health training/awareness. DNR is working with Workplace Possibilities through MOSERS to provide accommodations that require a purchase. Their new Culture & Engagement Advisor, Tyrone Davidson, will be helping in Diversity and Inclusion efforts. Missouri State Parks has announced their [Action Track Chair program](#). Right now, there are three parks that have these chairs available and we hope to continue growing in number for offering access to our guests within the parks.

**Shomari Rozier** (DHSS) stated that their current Region 2 contractor that covers the southeast part of the state will continue providing SMH/MFP services until 12/31/23, but they do not intend on renewing their contract for 2024. The department will be putting that area out for bid sometime in the near future, in hopes to have a new contractor in place by January 2024.

**Becky Davis** (MCDHH) stated that there would be a conference in the Kansas City area in 2025 regarding the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Senior Citizens Community. MCDHH is also participating in Emergency Planning,

and programs that are tailored to work with the Deaf and Blind Community. Becky shared that legislation was passed this year, and signed by the Governor in regards to the language development of children who are deaf/HH that are entering kindergarten.

**Tammy Lupardus (DESE/MSSD)** – Dr. Tammy Lupardus introduced herself as the new assistant superintendent for the Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled (MSSD). MSSD has recently concluded its extended school year with 700 students at 34 different schools throughout the state. In preparation for the new school year starting on August 21, central office staff has been holding professional development events with staff members and will be traveling to schools to welcome students. Council chair Ron Hack asked Tammy to provide a presentation about Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled at the November Council meeting.

**Presentation:**

Magen Rooney-Kron, from University of Missouri St. Louis presented an overview on College is Possible and the Show Me College website. Inclusive college programs provide support and services with students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They provide students opportunities to gain skills to improve their employment, independent living and education options through a certificate program, available at four different inclusive universities in the State of Missouri. There are about 300 programs across the country with approximately about 4,000 students who have attended an inclusive college. More information is available at <https://showmecollege.com/>

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

Claudia proposed dates for next year’s Council Meetings. The Council approved the dates for the 2024 meetings: February 16, May 3, August 16, and November 15

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive (Ron Hack)** – The Executive committee met on August 8 to discuss the Legislative Poll. Laura stated that everyone should have received a copy. The committee discussed and organized questions under several different topic headings.

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

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

**Advocacy (Katie Jones)** – No report.

**Housing (Sue Orton/Jim Trout)** – No report

**Education (Joan Bergstrom)** – No report

**Employment (Katie Jones)** – No report

**Transportation (Betty Davidson)** – Betty has been attending the Disability Transportation Resource Network meetings in St. Louis. The group is trying to get an app for call-a-ride. There are major issues with transportation in St. Louis, due to a shortage of drivers and safety concerns.

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

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

**Council Member Reports:**

**Ron Hack** reported he was appointed to the 911 Board and has been to two virtual meetings so far. He asked that Council members and liaisons please let him know if individuals, especially those in the disability community, are having problems with 911 issues, so he can report those back to the board. Ron shared that he and his son are volunteering at the Missouri Historical Society twice a month starting with four-hour shifts. Ron would like to make a list of public places that sponsor people with disability as volunteers in their places of business.

**Jim Trout** asked Betty if she could look into having a presentation from the Niagara University on their training for First Responders.

**Chuck Comstock** shared that he enjoys being a substitute teacher to raise disability awareness and promote community integration in the school system.

**Wayne Crawford** attends the quarterly meetings of the Access and Functional Needs Committee and leads the Master Plan on Aging Advisory Council’s Housing subcommittee.

**Lesia Shelton** stated her concerns about fake and incorrect sign language being used in videos, for instance on TikTok and YouTube channels. A major concern is that some schools and educators are using those videos in their classrooms. Lesia shared that she participated in the Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training (EMDAT) two-day training event.

**Traci Ritter** reported that their inclusive coffee shop/café was partially funded by Cape Girardeau County Senate Bill 40. It has been a huge success so far; the community is supporting it and she hopes to see more small businesses open, specifically with the idea of hiring those with disabilities along with those without disabilities.

**Bob Wallace** reported that after 25 years of being the president of Giant Steps of St. Louis he has stepped aside and they elected Mike Godsey to be the new president. He will stay involved with the disability community by participation in the GCD Council Meetings and as chair of the Senate Board Bill 40 Productive Living Board in St. Louis County.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 17, 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  
8/22/2023

Approved by Council  
11/17/2023