

**Governor’s Council on Disability
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2023**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Chuck Comstock, Wayne Crawford, Ronald Hack, Chip Hailey, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey, Sue Orton, Traci Ritter, Lesia Shelton, James Trout

Council Members Absent/Not Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Betty Davidson, Elijah Mayfield, Andrew Sartorius, Bob Wallace

Department Liaisons Present/Participating:

Ashley Anderson	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services (DSS/MFP)
Louis Gatewood	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
Tom Green	Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC)
Luke Hawley	Attorney General Office (AGO)
Jennifer Hentges	Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Adam Hoffman	Department of Transportation (MODOT)
Chad John	Department of Conservation (MDC)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS/FSD)
Forrest Luck	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Matt Medley	Department of Revenue (DOR)
Tammy Meyer	Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health (DMH/DD)
Venice Wood	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS/DSDS)

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

Guests: Kelli Barton, Kamryn Rice, Beth Dauber, and Angela Alpert – UMKC IHD No Wrong Door Project
Tammy Lupardus and Chiquita Small, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/
Missouri School for the Severely Disabled

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 11 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 August 18, 2023. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

Public Comment: None

Report from Council Chair – Ron Hack:

Ron stated at the August meeting, he had announced that he was appointed to the 911 board. He shared feedback with the 911 board regarding the 911 response times and other issues. He was informed that the board does not deal with quality issues, and to contact the local 911 provider to make complaints. The state 911 Board’s primary function is to make sure there is good communication between all the counties sheriff’s departments and first responders, and to make sure there is enough funding from the government for the 911 services. Ron stated that it is critical that first responders are trained on how to appropriately interact with individuals with disabilities in emergency situations.

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

Council business:

- Updated GCD Boards and Commissions website
- Attended several meetings of the Advisory Council for the Master Plan on Aging’s Housing Subcommittee and Universal Design subcommittee workgroups to submit recommendations for the Master Plan on Aging
- Model Employer initiative – Collaborated with Office of Equal Opportunity on self-disclosure survey for state employees and follow up with ADA coordinators of each department.
- Attended National Association of Governor’s Committees on People with Disabilities presentation on October 27 on Alternatives to Guardianship
- Participated in the OA Show Me Excellence Summit – October 3
- Attended 2023 Mobility Summit (Missouri Transportation Task Force) – October 11
- Facilitated ADA Coordinator Network Meetings August 22 and November 7 and provided two presentations.
- Met with Missouri House Representative Burger regarding assistance animals in housing on October 25
- NEON (National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network) Technical Assistance Grant Planning Team Meetings on October 10, 16 – technical assistance grant award for Missouri was announced this week
- **NDEAM** activities in October included NDEAM website exhibit, Newsletter article for OA Insider and GCD Newsletter, GCD Poster Contest for NDEAM, annual self-disclosure survey for State of Missouri team members, providing presentation, and participating in webinars and a conference related to employment
- Launched **GCD Annual Awards** programs to recognize leaders in Inclusion and Youth Leadership. Updated websites, nomination forms, and rebranded programs with new logos and digital badges for the winners. Deadline is January 31.
Inclusion Award: <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/inclusionawards>
Youth Leadership Award: <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/youthleadershipawards>
- FY25 budget – submitted budget request for FY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) to Office of Administration
- FY24 budget – To date, we have spent/encumbered 29% of our total E&E operational budget.

Laura

- Disability Rights Legislative Day is March 13, 2024. It will be in-person at the Capitol and virtual. The planning committee has been meeting/communicating every other week to begin preparing. The deadline for the planning survey is in December.
- Has been meeting monthly with the Disability Policy Coalition. This is a newly formed group of organizations involved in disability policy in MO. One project being worked on is educating the senate on the need for accessibility at hearings and during chamber work. The Senate does not provide visual streaming of these events and does not automatically provide captions of the audio. This group was also instrumental in promoting the Legislative Priorities Poll.
- The Legislative Priorities Poll closed on November 3. Five hundred ninety-eight people from 65 of Missouri’s 115 counties completed it. The [report](#) has been completed and posted online and will be sent to the General Assembly and elected officials next week. The 2024 priorities are:
 1. The State of Missouri updating websites to include more language that is direct and easy to understand for those with reading or writing difficulties.
 2. The Personal Care Attendant/Aide/Direct Support Professional workforce providing critical services.

3. The legislature providing funding for people to renovate or build homes which would allow them to age in place.
 4. The State of Missouri ensuring Person First Language is being used on all state associated websites.
 5. A freeze on property taxes for people with disabilities
- The 2024 Legislative Education Project announcement was sent out this morning. There will be four webinars offered. One in January, one in February, and two in March. The format of each will be the same as it was this year.

Rachel

- Participated in Missouri Inter-Agency Transition Team (MITT) Strategic Planning Meeting on November 9. Planning for the 2024 TTI (Transition Training Institute) has begun. It will be held June 26-28 in the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO.
- Attended National Association of Youth Leadership Forums (AYLF) Monthly Meetings on October 19 and November 16.
- Held planning meetings for MO-YLF October 11 and November 8.
- After reasonable consideration, it has been decided that the GCD will no longer be doing the Virtual Leadership Summit (VLS). This program was started during the pandemic and held three times.
- GCD will focus its efforts on doing webinars on transition, ongoing leadership opportunities, and working on supporting MO-YLF alumni after they attend the forum.
- Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) informational webinars will be offered November 28 from 2-3 pm and December 13 from 6-7 pm. There will be additional dates after the first of the year. The flyer and link for registration are on the GCD website and social media pages.
- Spent the last several weeks revising and recreating the MO-YLF website, applications, flyer and a FAQ document, working with Cory Cooper from IT on making the website more user friendly. There will be more things added for the Alumni and Teachers/Providers soon.
- Dates for MO-YLF are set for July 16-20, 2024, and staff members will arrive on July 15. Applications for delegates and staff are available on the GCD website. Application deadlines are March 31 (delegates) and April 15 (staff).
- The 2024 MO-YLF will be Missouri's 20th program year. To celebrate this milestone, we are planning to have an alumni reunion event one day during the weekend either before or after MO-YLF.

Jenn

- Attended the new Microsoft 365 Office Suite Business Pilot Orientation and has been testing the new program to make sure that it does what we need before it goes to the rest of the state employees.
- Has been working on contacting the MO-YLF Alumni to complete a survey so we can update the database and stay in contact with program alumni.

Presentations:

Kelli Barton and Beth Dauber from UMKC Institute for Human Development presented about the Missouri No Wrong Door (NWD) grant project. The No Wrong Door System is a powerful network built to support individuals needing long-term care. The NWD project's goal is to establish a coordinated statewide system where multiple agencies at the state and local level align to create a simplified process through which individuals and family caregivers can access unbiased information and one-on-one counseling on the options available in their communities. More information is available at <https://nwd.acl.gov/>.

Tammy Lupardus, interim superintendent with the Missouri School for the Severely Disabled (MSSD) presented an overview of the history, locations, and services of Missouri's schools for the severely disabled, followed by a

Q&A session and discussion about future developments in the MSSD school system. MSSD currently has 34 school buildings across the state that serve students with the most severe cognitive disabilities whose needs cannot be met by the local school districts. More information is available at <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/missouri-schools-severely-disabled>.

New Business:

Election of Council vice chairs and committee chairs

Ron entertained a motion to have all the Chairs and Vice Chairs continue to serve on the committees they are currently serving on. James Trout asked to be removed as the Housing subcommittee co-chair. Wayne Crawford made the motion, Lesia Shelton seconded. The motion carried.

State Liaison Reports:

Ashley Anderson (DHWED) introduced herself as the new state liaison for the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Shawn Brice (DSS/MFP) stated that the Show Me Home Program with Mo Health Net had anticipated to transition 108 individuals this year. As of today, the program is pleased to report that they have transitioned 121 individuals, and 5 additional transitions are pending. Contractors are doing a very good job. Region 2 in the Southeast part of the state lost the contractor and is looking for a new one. They are also looking for an additional contractor in the St. Louis region.

Louis Gatewood (DESE/VR) stated they ended their program year 2022 with having 3,720 individuals with successful employment outcomes with medium earnings for these individuals being \$14.00 an hour. VR has partnered with high schools and served over 1,794 potentially eligible students. VR also provided over 3,075 services to employers. Louis shared some national statistics regarding job retention rates, where Missouri received first in its region in several categories.

Chad John (MDC) introduced himself as the new state liaison for the Department of Conservation.

Lane Lakey (DSS/FSD) stated they continue to work through their annual review process for the MO Health Net and this will continue until April of 2024.

Duane Shumate (DMH/DD) stated that the State of Missouri was awarded the National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) technical assistance grant to assist Missouri state agencies in implementing the requirements of the Employment First and Model Employer [legislation](#) that was passed last session.

The Division of DD continues its empowering through employment initiative and has served 1,481 individuals who were pursuing a pathway towards employment in the community, 50% of which 725 became employed, while the remaining individuals are continuing other programs and services.

Duane announced his retirement effective February 29, 2024. Claudia thanked him for his work as a state liaison on the Council over the last several years.

Venice Wood (DHSS) serves as the division's work lead on the No Wrong Door (NWD) initiative and thanked the Council for providing the opportunity for the NWD project update. The National Court Indicators Aging and Disability (NCIAD) consumer survey kicked off in October and will be open until June 2024 to identify gaps and customer service satisfaction of Medicaid waiver participants. DSDS is also building a new case management system and the primary goal is to increase staff efficiency by combing five different systems into one and to enhance data reporting capabilities. DSDS is establishing a direct service worker panel and a direct service worker provider work group to address the shortage of direct service workers shortage. The division is working on renewing the Independent Living waiver with CMS, which is up for renewal next spring.

Unfinished Business: None

Committee Reports: None

Council Member Reports:

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

Wayne Crawford leads the Master Plan on Aging Advisory Council's Housing subcommittee and will be submitting the final report to the Advisory Committee by the end of the month. At the beginning of 2024, public meetings will take place to gain feedback and comments on the reports of all of the subcommittees.

Rosemary Hendon shared that the housing project for seniors, low income individuals, and people with disabilities, has been approved but they have not broken ground for the project yet.

Katie Jones shared that transportation is the biggest concern in her area. MACDDS is working on their legislative priorities. Their focus is on the personal property tax legislation and how it affects the Senate Bill 40 Boards as well as the targeted case management.

Sue Orton reported the St. Louis County Older Adult Commission has been very active with the Missouri Planning for the Disabled and Aging. They are involved in Senate Bill 190 legislation allowing counties to freeze property taxes for seniors. The St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities has been working on producing a universal design ordinance and has been meeting with the Home Builders Association. They are looking at Prince George's County in Maryland's UD ordinance to see how they can adapt it for St. Louis County.

Traci Ritter reported that she is the treasurer of the Cape Girardeau County Senate Bill 40 and they have quite a bit of money available to provide services that are needed in the area by providing funding for an employment specialist, home modifications, and recreational options. The board is exploring the option of hiring an executive director.

Lesia Shelton shared that she left Preferred Employment Services after 22 years and has been transitioning to a position with Mizzou as a Pre-Employment Transition Services specialist. She is working now with high school students in all areas of the state who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, February 16, 2024**, 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.

Minutes by Jenn Pettit
11/21/2023

Approved by Council
2/16/2024