

**Governor's Council on Disability
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2022**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Wayne Crawford, Betty Davidson, Ronald Hack, Chip Hailey, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey, Sue Orton, Traci Ritter, Andrew Sartorius, Lesia Shelton, James Trout, Bob Wallace

Council Members Absent/Not Participating:

Chuck Comstock, Rosemary Hendon, Elijah Mayfield

Department Liaisons:

Rosie Anderson-Harper	Department of Mental Health (DMH/BH)
Brice Beal	Attorney General's Office (AGO)
Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services (DSS/MFP)
Kara Cahill	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Kindra Delp	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE/SpED)
Raylene Douglas	Department of Corrections (DOC)
Louis Gatewood	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE/VR)
Tom Green	Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS/FSD)
Cathy Lucia	Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
Forrest Luck	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Jessica Owen	Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR)
Andrew Ragsdale	Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT)
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS/DSDS)

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

Guests: Suchi Rajendran, University of Missouri - Columbia

Council Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting with 13 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 August 19, 2022. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

Public Comment:

Dr. Suchi Rajendran asked the Council to submit a letter of support for the project titled iTrans: An Intelligent Transportation Management System for Efficient and Equitable Paratransit Services. Public transit agencies across the US are struggling to meet the constantly increasing demand for *paratransit services* that connect disabled/aged passengers with their communities. Current paratransit service operates under several restrictions, such as 24-hour advance booking requirements, limited operating hours, wide pickup time windows, and a lack of real-time communication with the riders. With the recent evolution of intelligent technologies, traditional dial-a-ride paratransit service could be transformed to on-demand services using a smart application interface. The proposed application will optimize the usage of existing lift-equipped vehicles to offer smart, on-demand ride-sharing transportation connectivity for both paratransit and traditional passengers.

Claudia will e-mail the document outlining the project and the proposed letter of support from Dr. Suchi to Council Members to read the proposal and submit their vote by November 30, 2022 on whether or not they approve sending the letter of support.

Report from Council Chair – Ron Hack:

Ron stated that he is awaiting 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:

- October was a busy month with NDEAM Activities.
 - Announced annual GCD poster contest winner and shared poster statewide.
 - Worked with Division of Personnel and the Commissioner’s Office on the annual self-disclosure survey for state employees to share if they have a disability or not.
- Serves on the Office of Administration Inclusion and Diversity Committee. One of the priorities this year was putting together an accessibility guide for state employees to make sure events and communications are accessible to all. She will be presenting this guide at the next Town Hall meeting on December 1st.
- Attended Missouri Council of the Blind convention in St. Louis to accept Mike H. Keller Award on behalf of GCD on October 8.
- Consulted with DSS, MODOT, DOLIR, and DCI employees on their Leadership Academy capstone project about Recruit and Employment of People with Disabilities.
- Provided article about NDEAM for OA Newsletter, submitted 9/12/22 and published in October issue
- Shared information about NDEAM with DOR’s diversity and inclusion council
- Received invitation from Missouri Assistive Technology to participate in panel discussion on accessible Information Communication Technology (ICT) in November
- Announced 2022 GCD Awards for Inclusion and Youth Leadership – deadline for nominations January 31
- GCD: FY24 budget request – submitted to OA August 29 as approved by Executive & Finance committees.
- FY23 budget – To date, GCD has spent/encumbered \$10,021 (approx. 40%) of our total E&E operational budget of \$24,898.

Laura Mueth:

- The Missouri Disability & Health Collaborative (MDHC) just launched disability related training for MO doctors and nurses. The flyer was shared by email and we brought some to today’s meeting. A group of MDHC members will be getting together periodically throughout the legislative session to discuss various pieces of legislation and efforts. The group is being spearheaded by the Missouri Alliance of State YMCAs, which is also a part of the MDHC.
- Disability Rights Legislative Day is scheduled for March 1.
- Met with Travis Rash from Kansas City Realty to hear about their efforts around real estate with a social purpose.
- The 2022 Legislative Priorities Poll closed on November 4. Four hundred fifty-two people completed it. Laura has been working on the report over the last several days. The 2023 priorities are:
 - Plans for public emergencies and disasters ensuring needs of people with disabilities are met
 - All public buildings having evacuation plans for all people with disabilities
 - The State of Missouri should update websites to include more language that is direct and easy to understand for those with reading or writing difficulties.

- The Direct Support Professional workforce providing critical services
- Ban on drivers' texting while driving
- Has been working on Legislative Education Project (LEP) preparations for 2023. The GCD will offer scheduled webinars for the upcoming session. Announcements will go out in early December.
- Presented to a support group from an orthotics and prosthetics company in Branson about how to contact their legislators and other topics.
- Trained new drivers' examiners in disability awareness and etiquette.
- Served as one of the trainers for the virtual First Responder Disability Awareness Training Law Enforcement Train the Trainer.
- The Disability Portal is now 100% compliant with Level A and AA for web accessibility. As a reminder, OA is not looking at AAA or higher compliance.

Rachel Rackers:

- Planning for the 2023 TTI (Transition Training Institute) have begun. The dates are June 26-28 in Columbia, MO
- Participates in Supporting Young People committee comprised of several different state agencies to support transition age youth in Missouri.
- Attended the Show Me Excellence Summit, the College is Possible webinar and a 5 week long webinar series called Transition University.
- Met with Karyn Houston from Starkloff and Amy Wells from Pre-ETS to discuss ways that we can collaborate and support each other's programs. Karyn recently joined Starkloff in a brand new position, as the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach Coordinator.
- Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF)
Dates for MO-YLF are set for July 18-22, 2023 and staff members will arrive on the July 17th
Delegate and staff applications are available on our website. Application deadline for delegates is April 15th and May 1st for staff.
- Virtual Leadership Summit
- We will host our third Virtual Leadership Summit on March 4, 2023. Now accepting applications until January 15th
- Leadership Development Program (LDP) was canceled due to not having enough applications and the planning team will meet again in December to discuss what the plan is moving forward.

Jenn Pettit:

Stated that she has been working on organizing the MO-YLF database and the GCD Awards Programs database to make it easier to find the information.

State Liaison Reports:

Rosie Anderson-Harper (DMH/MFP) the MO DB101 website has been updated. MO DB101 is a comprehensive, state-specific resource that enables individuals with disabilities and their circles of support to make informed decisions about employment. MO DB101 provides the ability to get accurate information about Social Security benefits, healthcare, and financial planning. The redesigned website can be found at <https://mo.db101.org>.

988 became the national three-digit phone number for all mental health, substance use, and suicide crises. 988 calls will be routed to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline centers in each state. 988 offers rapid access to behavioral health support through connection with trained crisis specialists. 988 promotional materials

available to order (posters, wallet cards, magnets, and crisis safety plan pads). Requests for materials can be made by emailing Alexandria.Withers@dmh.mo.gov.

Kara Cahill (DHEWD) reported the annual Equity Summit was held virtually on October 25-26, with a focus on inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education. There will be a video recording available on the DHEWD YouTube channel at a later date.

Raylene Douglas (DOC) reported they are planning a training session for the ADA coordinators in January to update them on disability awareness for offenders and the employees.

Louis Gatewood (DESE/VR) reported an increase in the number of applicants. VR is updating its website to add a self-referral portal to help assist with interacting with the agency. VR is offering the Summer Work Experience Program that is offered to individuals that are 16-21 within their final 2 years of school. Students are given six weeks of paid work experience. Louis shared statistics from the US Department of Education about VR's performance in comparison to other states.

Lane Lakey (DSS/FSD) reported that open enrollment for MO HealthNet has started on November 1st and will end on January 15, 2023. Due to Medicaid Expansion, DSS has enrolled over 265,000 people since August 2021. The website to apply is <https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply>.

Cathy Lucia (MDC) reported that an Inclusion and Diversity Director has been hired and a committee of 50 individuals has been selected from existing MDC employees to meet, discuss, and create recommendations on ways MDC can address and improve Inclusion and Diversity within MDC.

Electric bicycles are now allowed at conservation-area service roads and multi-use trails for greater access to the area. This could be a possible option for some individuals with physical disabilities to enjoy MDC trails and conservation areas.

Jessica Owen (DOR) reported that DOR is forwarding a proposal to the legislature to allow automatic renewals every single year for the permanent disabled placards.

Andrew Ragsdale (MODOT) stated you can be enrolled in college and work part time with MODOT as a technician and accrue annual and sick leave. It is more elevated from your typical intern experience and come in with much higher once you graduate than as an intern. This is open to all different types of professions. You can apply through MO Careers.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) stated that the independent living waivers are being approved at a slower rate. They are getting close to their availability of 800 slots and do not want to exceed that. In August 2022 they had all of their staff return back to in person visits. In July a provider rate increase went into effect. DHSS is expecting the providers to use a percentage of that increase to raise wages and recruit more aids. The Division intends to issue incentive payments to HCBS providers who meet the following criteria: Electronic Aggregator Solution (EAS) Interface (identifying providers primarily transmitting visit data electronically) and Low Percentage of Manual Visits (manual adjustments will have a negative impact on eligibility for the incentive).

The Money Follows the Person projected goal for 2022 on transitions was 75 and they have exceeded that. They are going to raise the goal in 2023 to 90. The plan from CMS is to complete 85% of the projected goal.

Unfinished Business:

2023-2027 Strategic Plan – The Council unanimously approved the proposed strategic plan. It will be sent to the Council and posted on the GCD website.

New Business:

Council Committees/Committee Members

The Council discussed and elected the 2023 Programs and Advocacy Committee chairs. The Council re-elected all current committee chairs and executive committee members. Ron reappointed all other committee and subcommittee chairs, including Sue Orton and James Trout as co-chairs of the Housing Subcommittee. Ron Hack appointed all department liaisons to a committee. The updated 2023 roster of Council Committees will be sent out with the meeting minutes.

Committee Reports:

Finance (Bob Wallace) – No report.

Personnel (Sue Orton) – No report.

Advocacy (Katie Jones) – No report. Now that the Strategic Plan is approved the committee will be meeting.

Housing (Sue Orton) – The subcommittee met on September 29 to review the strategic plan and discuss the proposal for the Council to endorse and support the UD Ready (UDr) Criteria for existing and new construction, as requested by the UD Alliance. The Council reviewed the proposed criteria and decided to edit and rewrite the criteria. The approval will be held over until the next Council meeting to allow time for James Trout and Wayne Crawford to review and edit the criteria.

Education (Joan Bergstrom) – No report.

Employment (Katie Jones) – No report.

Transportation (Betty Davidson) – Thanked the Council for considering Dr. Rajendran’s request for a letter of support for the transportation project.

Programs (Betty Davidson) – Met with Claudia to discuss potential presentation topics for next year’s Council meetings and recommended the following topics:

- Revisit the Sunshine Law
- College is Possible/ Show Me College - educational opportunities for individuals with developmental and other disabilities
- Realty with a social purpose

Healthcare (Kim Lackey) – No report.

Council Member Reports:

Wayne Crawford stated his concerns about the impending shortage of affordable housing units in Missouri. Because of many Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties moving to market rate or being sold by the owners, many individuals will be losing their affordable housing. The Missouri Housing Development Commission is trying to use data about these properties to notify providers and reach out to property owners to address this issue.

Traci Ritter reported that the Cape Girardeau SB 40 is providing funding to a local nonprofit that will be hiring an employment specialist liaison that specifically be working with public school districts helping students transition to work. The SB40 is trying to compile local resources for their community. Traci stated that while more individuals are able to qualify for Medicaid under the expansion, they do not have providers in her region that take Medicaid.

Sue Orton reported that she serves on the St. Louis County of Commission on Disabilities. They are working on developing a universal design ordinance to replace the existing resolution. They had a meeting with Lisa Clancy who is the chair for the St. Louis County Committee on Disabilities and the Homebuilders Association.

Katie Jones reported that the lack of transportation in St. Charles County is a very big problem. Katie shared that ProPublica has recently issued a series of articles about sheltered workshops. Katie will share this information with the Council.

Jim Trout reported that he was recently appointed to the St. Louis County Clean Energy board.

Lesia Shelton reported that she has been working with professionals on trying to find resources for the deaf community. She has also been talking to Becky Davis, the new director at MCDHH about the language deprivation in the deaf and hard of hearing community.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

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

Minutes by Jenn Pettit
11/22/2022

Approved by Council
2/17/2023

Action Item	Responsible
Email iTrans project summary and proposed letter of support to Council for vote by 11/30/22	Claudia Browner
Send approved strategic plan to Council and post on website	Claudia Browner
Update and send out 2023 Council Committees roster	Claudia Browner
Share ProPublica articles on sheltered workshops with Council	Katie Jones