

**Governor's Council on Disability  
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes  
August 19, 2022**

**Council Members Present/Participating:**

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

**Council Members Absent/Not Participating:**

Traci Ritter

**Department Liaisons:**

Joe Amberger	Attorney General's Office (AGO)
Kara Cahill	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Rena Cox	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)
Elise Davenport	Department of Social Services (DSS)
Kelly Cramer	Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
Raylene Douglas	Department of Corrections (DOC)
Louis Gatewood	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE/VR)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS)
Cathy Lucia	Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
Jessica Owen	Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR)
Andrew Ragsdale	Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT)

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

**Guests:** Lori Becker, Starkloff Disability Institute

Council Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 April 29, 2022. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

**Public Comment:** None

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

- Ron stated that he is very pleased to be the new appointed Council Chair.
- At the November meeting, the Council will elect new committee chairs. Ron's stated his goal as Council Chair is to get state liaisons more involved, and encouraged the liaisons to think about volunteering for a committee. He asked Council members and liaisons to notify him on which committees they would like to serve. Claudia will provide his contact information for responses.

**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:**

- Congratulations on Ron Hack's appointment as Council Chair.

- Attended the Healthcare Subcommittee meeting on June 7.
- Attended the Employment Subcommittee meeting on July 25.
- Outreach from ITSD regarding Business Case for web accessibility training/accessible documents.
- Outreach to Division of Personnel regarding the annual self-disclosure survey in October.
- Attended the OA Inclusion & Diversity Committee meeting on August 3. Serves as the chair of the Accessible Meeting Subcommittee, which met on June 9.
- Followed up with OA/Facilities Management Design & Construction (FMDC) to discuss building safety and emergency egress and on June 15 we had a successful evacuation.
- Hired Jennifer Pettit as the new administrative assistant for GCD effective August 1.
- Requested Governor's proclamations for Disability History Month and National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October.
- Announced annual GCD poster contest for NDEAM and have extended the deadline to September 15.
- Started working on the FY 24 budget.
- We have spent/encumbered \$4,165.08 approximately 17% of our total E&E budget for FY 23.

**Laura Mueth:**

- Co-trained 9-1-1 telecommunicators and EMS personnel in the St. Louis area with the First Responder Disability Awareness Training curriculum during the last two weeks of May. The EMS personnel training included two people from Australia.
- Coordinated and led the Youth Leadership Forum legislative day. A mock House Hearing was held with the assistance of Representatives Basye, Toalson-Reisch, Proudie, and Walsh Moore. Senator Bernskoetter, his Legislative Assistant Penny Mueller, and the Sgt.-at-Arms Marty Drewel assisted with the mock debate in the Senate Chamber. Greg Sandbothe, the House ADA Coordinator, arranged for staff to open the House Gallery and operate the lift so delegates could view the House Chamber despite renovations.
- Finished this year's Legislative Priorities Poll. It will be going live on Monday, August 22.

**Rachel Rackers:**

- Provided a presentation at IL Summit in Branson about GCD Youth Programs – May 24
- Presented at TTI about MO-YLF and had panel with two alumni to share their experience at the program. They also shared their post-secondary transition experience and what would have helped them in high school to have a smoother process all together -- June 29
- Coordinated the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual MO-YLF from July 12-16.
  - We had 15 delegates from 11 counties participate this year, bringing the total number of alumni to 359 from 72 Missouri counties plus St. Louis City. Rachel's goal is to continue the outreach to have each county represented.
  - All of Saturday's activities were canceled after receiving information about a possible close contact who tested positive for COVID. Instead, a virtual closing ceremony was held on Saturday, August 13.
  - Delegates collected an overwhelming amount of items for the Community Service Project.
  - The dates for next year will be July 18-22, 2023.
- Participated in the planning meetings for the Leadership Development Program for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (LDP) that will be held November 4-6 at MSD in Fulton. The application is on our website and the deadline application deadline is September 30.

**Jenn Pettit:**

- Stated that she is grateful to be at GCD and is working on all of the required trainings for new employees.
- Received access to all the programs needed to do my job.

**State Liaison Reports:**

**Elise Davenport** (DSS) provided an update on the Show Me Home (MFP) program. So far, 45 people have transitioned from nursing homes to the community this year. They have been working with Missouri Housing Development Commission to earmark some of the 811 waiver slots for the program participants to help more people find affordable housing. The program has been reaching out to the individuals who have transitioned to offer various kinds of technology via laptops or tablets to help people who are already transitioning to community feel more connected, receive some of their services electronically, and to reduce social isolation which is difficulty for people that have lived in a nursing home.

**Kara Cahill** (DHEWD) reported the annual Equity Summit will be held virtually on October 25-26, with a focus on inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education. Free registration will open up sometime after September 5 at <https://eduvents.dhewd.mo.gov> .

**Kelly Cramer** (OSCA) reported that they have had a couple of questions from the local courts about ADA accommodations and with the help of Claudia and the Great Plains ADA Center they were able to provide some options to the courts on how to address those requests.

**Louis Gatewood** (DESE/VR) reported that there have been several changes in leadership positions throughout the agency. Dr. Chris Clause was appointed as the new assistant commissioner for VR after Tim Gaines retired in July. In 2021, they assisted 3,843 individuals with successful employment outcomes by sustaining and maintaining employment for greater than 90 days. They served 2,377 employers throughout the state of Missouri and offered over 16,000 services to individuals with disabilities out in the community to help them gain employment.

**Cathy Lucia** (MDC) reported MDC has hired an Inclusion and Diversity Director and he has created a Diversity & Inclusion Council. Vocational Rehabilitation provided a presentation on summer employment for high school students with disabilities. While it was too late to participate in the program this year, MDC is planning to participate in the program in 2023.

**Jessica Owen** (DOR) reported that DOR moved forward in automatically renewing the permanent disabled placards for about 96,000 eligible individuals this year. DOR is looking at proposals to allow automatic renewals every single year.

**Rena Cox** (DHSS) announced that the public health emergency order for DHSS has been extended to October 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff has returned to doing home visits and assessments within the homes since August 1. DHSS received an increase in positions in the budget and is attempting to fill them while dealing with some turnover, which is slowing down some of the functions. Providers received a large increase for rate reimbursement and the nursing homes received a slight increase. Therefore, participants who have state plans only and do not have options for any waivers will experience decreases in their care plans while people who are eligible for waivers will be able to adjust their care plan. DHSS hopes that next year there will be a rebound in nursing home cost so that this will not be an issue anymore.

**Andrew Ragsdale** (MODOT) stated that he is available to provide trainings on Inclusion and Diversity.

**Lane Lakey** (DSS/FSD) reported that on Medicaid Expansion DSS has enrolled over 200,000 people since August 2021. They are experiencing some backlog due to the large volume of applications.

**Presentation:**

Tiffany Dill and Gretchen Kingma with Inclusive Design Alliance gave a presentation titled Get Ahead: With Universal Design, providing the business case for, and examples of simple modifications to make homes more accessible to owners and visitors with disabilities, as well as allowing homeowners to remain in their homes as they age or develop disabilities. They shared and asked the Council to support the Universal Design (UD)-Ready criteria for new construction. Ron Hack asked the Housing subcommittee to review and discuss the UD-Ready criteria.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Claudia recommended that the GCD’s strategic plan cover the next 5 years. The GCD team worked on a draft strategic plan for 2023-2027 and the draft will be emailed to the Council and Liaisons for review and comments. It will be voted on at the November meeting. Ron asked the committee chairs to look at the strategic plan as it affects their committees. Ron will be calling an Executive Committee meeting 3 weeks prior to the November meeting to discuss and review the plan.
- Claudia asked the Council members and state liaisons to share the Legislative Poll to get a broad reach across the state and get lots of responses from the disability community.
- Claudia proposed dates for next year’s Council Meetings. The Council approved going to a regular meeting schedule of the third Friday of February, May, August and November. The dates for the 2023 meetings are:
  - Friday, February 17
  - Friday, May 19
  - Friday, August 18
  - Friday, November 17

**Committee Reports:**

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

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

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

**Housing (Sue Orton)** – No report. The committee will meet to discuss the UD Ready criteria.

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

**Employment (Katie Jones)** – Katie reported that the committee met on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the current and upcoming strategic plan goals relating to employment. Traci shared that her local SB40 board approved funding for a community coffee shop, which will provide employment for people with disabilities. The committee also discussed the DSP crisis and how to best direct companies and individuals to resources.

**Transportation (Betty Davidson)** – Betty reported that the Transportation Network canceled the August meeting, the next one is set for September 7.

**Programs (Betty Davidson)** – The committee will work with Claudia to schedule presentations for the 2023 Council meetings. Claudia reported that she recently attended the MOSILC meeting where Casey Lawrence from the Attorney General’s Office provided an update on the Sunshine Law. Claudia recommended her as a presenter next year because there have been some changes in the Sunshine Law. Ron asked that anyone who

has suggestions for a program please share it with the Programs Committee.

**Healthcare (Kim Lackey)** – Kim stated that the committee met on June 7 and discussed some ideas on priorities and topics of focus on for the committee, and they have settled on the impact and effects of long COVID. The members have been gathering resources and information from various organizations. Claudia has compiled and posted the information on the disability portal, and will share it with the Council. The committee will have another meeting to look at the strategic plan and how it impacts healthcare.

**Council Member Reports:**

**Chuck Comstock** will start working as a substitute teacher this fall.

**Wayne Crawford** had the opportunity to meet with seven federal government agencies to talk about the difficulties individuals are having with the completing the HUD housing voucher application. The HUD agencies are going review the process to address these issues.

**Chip Hailey** participated in the American Council of the Blind National Conference and Convention in Omaha, Nebraska in July. He also attended the MOKA (Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas) conference in Bentonville Arkansas. He participated in a booth for the Missouri Council of the Blind at the Missouri State Fair. Chip will serve on a panel for the State Clerks at a conference in Springfield from August 30-September 2 to talk about accessible voting issues for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

**Rosemary Hendon** reported that the new local hospital's disabled parking is far away from the entrance. She is advocating for an accessible shuttle/valet service, since it is not accessible for individuals who use wheelchairs. Some of the senior housing in her area is inaccessible to people who use wheelchairs, so she is advocating for accessible housing for low income and senior housing in her community.

**Lesia Shelton** addressed concerns that resources for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community are hard to find, and application documents for state provided services are difficult to understand and complete for individuals who are deaf due to language/communication barriers. Ron asked Lesia to provide additional information at the November meeting to determine if an ad hoc subcommittee is needed to address these issues.

**Katie Jones** reported that there are two major issues in her area. First, is the staffing shortage and second, is the lack of transportation in St. Charles County, which is affecting people getting to work and day services.

**Kim Lackey** reported that Paraquad received a 3 year grant from the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council to provide sexual health education classes to people with developmental disabilities. On August 27, Paraquad is hosting an Adaptive Sports and Wellness Extravaganza in collaboration with Disabled Athlete Sports Association (DASA) at Paraquad center. More information about the event is available at <https://www.orthweincenter.org>. On a personal note, she will be leaving Paraquad on September 9 and going to Wells Fargo as a Lead Compliance Officer but she intends on staying on the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 18, 2022** 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  
8/23/2022

Approved by Council 11/18/2022

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Volunteer for Council committees	Council members & state liaisons
Review proposed UD-Ready criteria	Housing subcommittee
Send draft GCD Strategic Plan to Council members and liaisons for review/comments	Claudia Browner
Schedule committee meetings	Committee chairs
Share Healthcare subcommittee's Long COVID resources with Council	Claudia Browner
Submit recommendations for presentation topics	Council members & state liaisons