

State of Missouri  
Office of Administration  
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITY



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## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Office of Administration

**Governor's Council on Disability**

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## HISTORY

The Governor's Council on Disability traces its roots to the World War II era. In 1947, President Harry S Truman issued an Executive Order establishing the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. This Committee was created to assist disabled WW II veterans with reentry into the civilian workforce. In 1949, Missouri established the state Governor's Committee to share information about work related problems facing people with disabilities. In 1994, our statute was updated to broaden our mission beyond employment, enabling the Governor's Council on Disability to become a voice for more than one million Missourians with disabilities in all facets of life, including state government.

## MISSION

To provide leadership and support so people with disabilities achieve inclusion and independence.

## VISION

The Missouri Governor's Council on Disability will be recognized, statewide as the primary organization providing leadership to improve the lives of Missouri citizens with disabilities.

## GOALS

The Missouri Governor's Council on Disability's Strategic and Operational Plan was reviewed and updated for 2010-12 on September 24, 2010. The Goals are:

- Goal I: Advise all state agencies and advocate for policies and practices that impact Missouri citizens with disabilities.
- Goal II: Encourage system changes and public policies that eliminate barriers to people with disabilities.
- Goal III: Expand opportunities and independence for people with disabilities in all aspects of their lives.
- Goal IV: Gather input from the public on disabilities-related issues and report the results of this information.
- Goal V: Develop, explore, and implement strategies to increase resources for and the operating efficiency of the Council.

For the complete Strategic/Operational Plan, please visit our website at [www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov) and click on Governor's Council on Disability, Strategic/Operational Plan.



## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- 20 members and a chairperson comprise the Council.
- Council members are appointed by the Governor.
- The appointment of the chairperson requires the advice and consent of the Missouri Senate.
- Members represent each of the nine U.S Congressional Districts.
- The majority of members are people with disabilities.
- The Governor's Council is comprised of the following committees: Executive and Strategic Planning, Finance and Development, Personnel, Advocacy, Legislative, Programs, and Website committees

**Karen Benson**  
**Chair**

First Appointed: 4/6/09

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**Gregory Greven**

Member 7  
Springfield

First Appointed: 5/16/08

**DeAnna Noriega**

9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Fulton

First Appointed: 10/2/09

**Joan Bergstrom**

Member 1  
Lee's Summit  
First Appointed: 7/15/08

**Rep. Jeff Grisamore**

Member 4  
Lee's Summit  
First Appointed: 5/10/10

**Susan Orton**

1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
Creve Coeur  
First Appointed: 7/19/05

**Betty Davidson**

Member 5  
St. Louis  
First Appointed: 11/16/09

**Ronald Hack**

Member 10  
Sunset Hills  
First Appointed: 10/2/09

**Derek Smith**

Member 11  
Osage Beach  
First Appointed: 3/25/10

**Charles Comstock II**

Member 6  
Kirksville  
First Appointed: 7/29/10

**Mary Ann Harter**

3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
Crestwood  
First Appointed: 11/16/09

**Erwin Switzer**

Member 8  
St. Louis  
First appointed: 10/2/09

**Edward Duff**

7th Congressional District  
Joplin  
First Appointed: 7/19/05

**Todd Mayfield**

4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Jefferson City  
First Appointed: 10/9/01

**James Trout**

Member 3  
Webster Groves  
First Appointed: 3/4/09

**Michael Esser**

2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District  
Chesterfield  
First Appointed: 10/14/05

**Teri Miller**

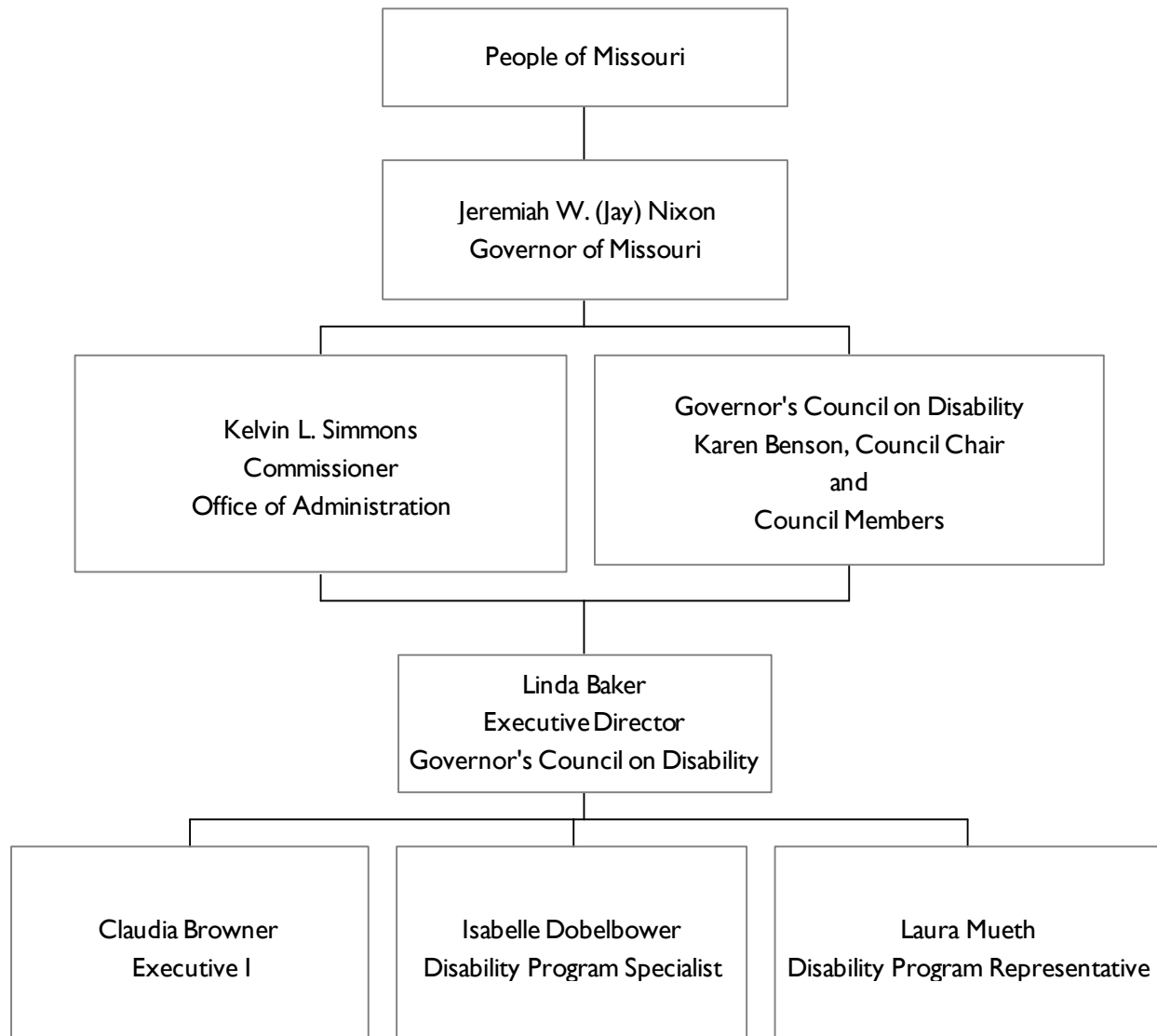
Member 9  
Chesterfield  
First Appointed: 10/2/09

**Robert Wallace**

Member 2  
St. Louis  
First Appointed: 5/10/10

There currently are three  
Council member vacancies.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





## COUNCIL EVENTS 2010

### COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- In 2010, the following new Council members were appointed by Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon:  
Charles Comstock II, Representative Jeff Grisamore, Angeline Jacobsen, Derek Smith, and Robert Wallace
- The following Council members resigned from the Council during 2010 or were replaced due to their terms being expired:  
Jacqueline Chatman, Angeline Jacobsen, Joseph Sartorius, and Dr. Hani Soudah

### STAFF

- After 34 years of service with the Governor's Council on Disability, Donna Borgmeyer retired from her Disability Program Specialist position effective September 1, 2010. Donna was honored for her service in a retirement reception on July 1, 2010 and during the September 24 Council meeting.
- Laura Mueth was hired as the new Disability Program Representative effective December 16, 2010.

### PROGRAMS

- The GCD collaborated with the Office of Administration's IT department to continually improve and update the Missouri Disability Portal website which serves as a one-stop access point for the public to obtain information on disability resources.
- The GCD developed and maintained partnerships among the state departments. The state department liaisons are encouraged to attend the quarterly Council meetings and provide input.
- Council staff participated and represented the GCD at Disability Mentoring Day events.
- The GCD received a proclamation from Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, declaring October 20 as Disability Mentoring Day.
- Council staff provided exhibit booths at various conferences throughout the State of Missouri to raise disability awareness and provide information on disability related programs and resources.
- Staff provided presentations on the topics of employment of people with disabilities, disability awareness, service animals, the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum and the Business Leadership Network as requested by agencies and employers.
- The GCD continued its annual programs
  - ⇒ Legislative Education Project
  - ⇒ Missouri Youth Leadership Forum
  - ⇒ Poster & Journalism Contests
  - ⇒ Inclusion Awards

## FINANCES

The Governor's Council on Disability's programs are primarily financed through General Revenue. This funding covers personnel costs for most Council activities. GCD's operating budget was reduced in FY11, resulting in a decrease in community outreach for programming and three quarterly meetings in 2010 being conducted electronically. The Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 –June 30, 2011) budget is listed below:

Personnel (4 FTE):	\$163,324.00
Operating Expenses:	<u>\$ 20,205.00</u>
Total:	\$183,529.00

At the time of publication, the Council has spent \$5,741.80 in operating expenses, 28.42% of the FY11 budget. Expenses include supplies, travel, Council meeting expenses, and expenses for GCD programs.

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) and the Poster and Journalism Contests (P&J) are programs that are not funded through General Revenue funds. These programs are funded through a combination of private donations and grants.

The Independent Living Resource Center in Jefferson City is the 501(C)3 fiscal agent for the MYLF and P&J accounts.

The following is a synopsis of the 2010 MYLF budget.

Beginning balance OA revolving account (FY11) July 1, 2010	\$ 5,137.00
Beginning balance MYLF account (with ILRC) July 1, 2010	\$18,079.46
2010 MYLF event costs:	
Supplies & Material	\$ 1,537.18
Presenter Fees and Travel Expenses	\$ 4,359.02
Staff and Alumni Travel	\$ 374.62
Accommodations (Interpreters/PCAs)	\$ 1,352.00
Transportation/Scooter rental	\$ 120.00
Meals (separate from MU billing)	\$ 900.60
University of Missouri – Columbia *	<u>\$13,233.68</u>
Total Spent:	\$21,877.10**
Donations/sponsorships/deposits received in FY11:	\$12,841.25
Balance in OA revolving account (Dec. 10)	\$ 7,694.60
Balance in ILRC account (December 2010)	\$16,486.01

\* Includes: Lodging, meals, banquet facilities, meeting rooms, conference center fees.

\*\* \$10,000 were paid from FY10 funds

*The average cost of the 2010 MYLF was about \$1,042 per student delegate.*



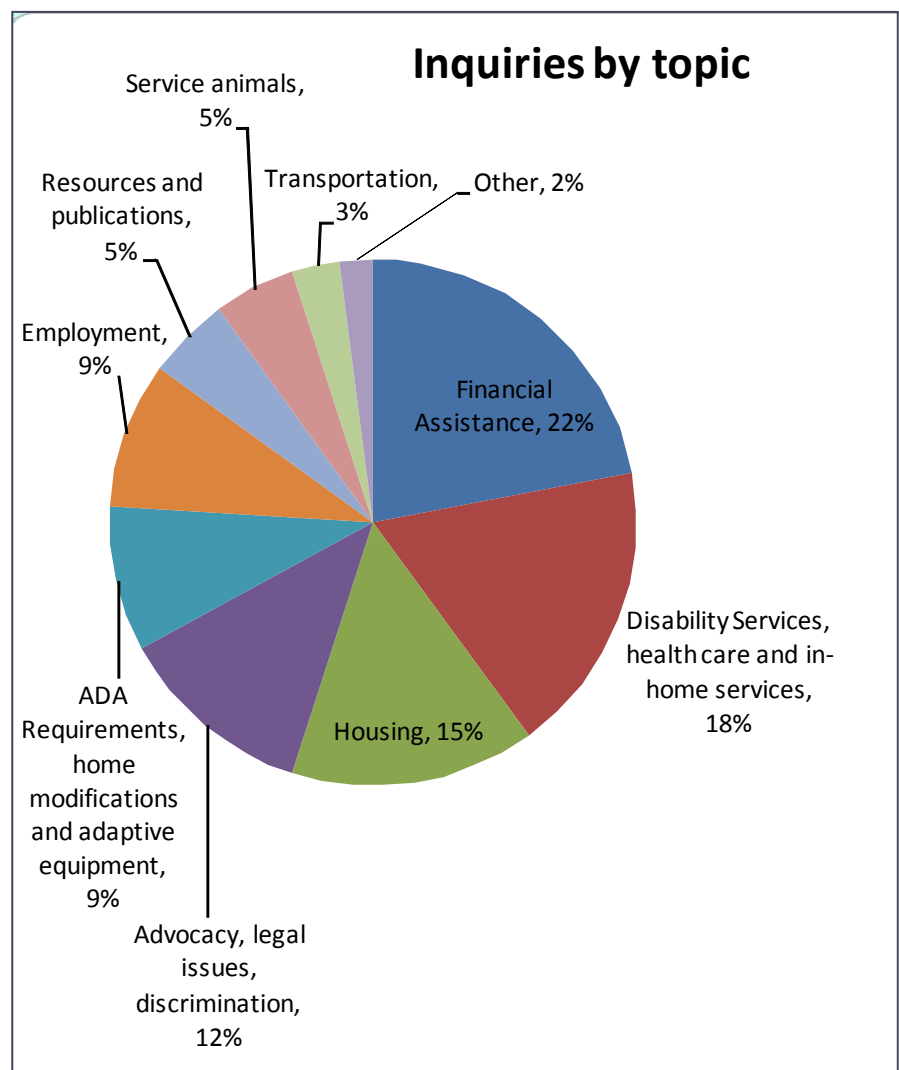


## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Governor's Council on Disability provides disability-related technical assistance to individuals, businesses, governmental and agency representatives from all over the state, and occasionally from other states, by phone, letter, or e-mail. Most contacts were from individuals in need of resources in order to live more independently. Referrals were made to Centers for Independent Living, state and federal agencies, and other non-profits, including faith-based groups and Community Action Agencies. In some instances, referrals were made to businesses or for-profit entities. The Council also worked with a number of state legislators to provide solutions to individuals' problems and issues.

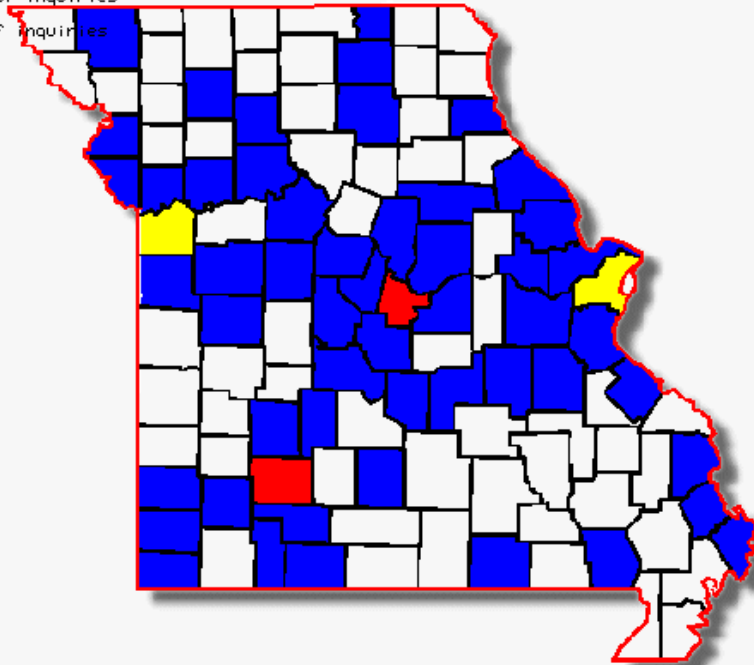
In this past year, the Council received a substantial number of calls and e-mail inquiries concerning financial assistance, housing, employment, funding for health care assistance, utility assistance, service animals, transportation, and home modifications. Other common inquiries included information on disability statistics, state statutes, ADA guidelines and regulations, FMLA issues, how to secure affordable housing, eligibility requirements for disability benefits, and questions about potential discrimination on the job, in housing or in public places. Overall, the Council assisted more than 265 different individuals with their inquiries. Additionally, the Council responded to 391 e-mail inquiries and requests. While the number of callers has decreased by 5.5% compared to 2009, the number of e-mail inquiries has increased by 50.4%.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2010 Phone and e-mail inquiries by county

- - <5% of inquiries
- - 5-10% of inquiries
- - >10% of inquiries



12-7-10

The counties displayed on the map include the following:

**Group I:** (less than 5% of inquiries) Adair, Audrain, Boone, Buchanan, Butler, Callaway, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Cass, Christian, Clay, Cooper, Crawford, Dallas, Daviess, Franklin, Henry, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Livingston, McDonald, Macon, Marion, Miller, Mississippi, Moniteau, Morgan, Newton, Nodaway, Oregon, Osage, Pettis, Phelps, Pike, Platte, Polk, Pulaski, Ray, St. Charles, Ste. Genevieve, Saline, Schuyler, Scott, Stone, Taney, Warren, Washington, Wright

**Group II:** (between 5-10% of inquiries) Cole, Greene

**Group III:** (more than 10% of inquiries) Jackson, St. Louis

Total no. of counties listed: 56

## PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE EXHIBITS

The Governor's Council on Disability provides educational programs on disability rights and disability awareness, employment of people with disabilities, service animals and other disability-related topics to any group or organization in Missouri requesting such information. Educational programs are specifically tailored to the individual or group to ensure effectiveness. At several of the quarterly public Council meetings, a presentation is provided on different disability-related topics.

During calendar year 2010, Council staff developed and presented over 20 programs and 17 conference and transition fair exhibits to more than 3,075 interested individuals around the state (see Page 18—Outreach Activities for more details).



## AWARDS

The Governor's Council on Disability sponsors the Annual Inclusion Awards and Poster and Journalism Contest each year.

### ANNUAL INCLUSION AWARDS

The Annual Inclusion Awards recognize and honor private and public employers, individuals, groups, and organizations for their successful inclusion of people with disabilities in the areas of employment, education, advocacy and community. The Council's Programs Committee selects the winners of the Inclusion Awards, who are nominated by individuals or organizations in their communities.

In 2010, the Inclusion Awards program was changed from awarding winners in four different categories to honoring one overall winner and one honorable mention. Since this program change, the number of nominations has more than doubled compared to 2009. The winners will be honored at the annual Power Up Conference at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, in April 2011.

The winner of the 2010 Inclusion Award is **Aimee Wehmeier**.

Ms. Wehmeier is employed with Services for Independent Living in Columbia. Under Ms. Wehmeier's direction, Services for Independent Living (SIL) has become a leader in advocacy and inclusive best practices. This year, the United Way commended SIL for building new partnerships, improving services, and strengthening its financial position. SIL is also engaging in rigorous self-evaluation and strategic planning to enhance its focus on inclusiveness, self-determination, and elimination of barriers to independence. Emphasizing outreach to K-12 schools and area colleges, Ms. Wehmeier developed a "Community Network" program at SIL to help ensure disability issues are in the educational forefront. She also advocates for equal participation and justice statewide through the Missouri Task Force on Aging with Disabilities, State Rehabilitation Council, Missouri Association of CILs, and the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF), helping lead the annual MYLF event. In addition, SIL is working with the Missouri Association of Social Welfare to host a Universal Design summit, and SIL hosts one of seven demonstration centers for assistive technology in the state. In summary, Ms. Wehmeier's activities demonstrate excellence in advocacy and leadership, both within the disability community and in the community at large. She is a visible and highly credible spokesperson for the cross-disability community.

Receiving the second highest score and an Honorable Mention is **Rebecca Herwick** of Global Products, Inc. in St. Peters.

As the President/CEO of Global Products, Inc, Ms. Herwick embodies the principles of inclusion and has expanded her enthusiasm for equal participation within her companies. Rebecca is committed to establishing equal participation for people with disabilities, especially in the area of employment. This passion led to Global Product's collaboration with the Center for Head Injury Services (CHIS). Beyond the scope of her job description, Ms. Herwick implemented "job carving", a program that provides employment opportunities for survivors of traumatic brain injuries. Over 250 CHIS clients have participated in job carving through Global Products to assess their skills and abilities. As a result of the assessment, the clients are able to include the work experience in their resumes for future employment opportunities. Ms. Herwick believes that employment is a successful component to rehabilitation after a closed head injury. Global Products, Inc. sponsors the Annual CHIS "Gray Matters" Charity Golf Tournament and the CHIS Annual "Gray Matters" Charity Trivia Nights. Ms. Herwick formerly served as CHIS Board Member and on the board of Citizens for a Better St. Peters, working to ensure that

*(Continued on page 12)*

## AWARDS

(Continued from page 11)

people with head injuries and their families have the necessary available resources. She has sought to educate and inform her community by participating in panel discussions at the Annual Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council Conference in Jefferson City. Ms. Herwick received the Employer of the Year Award from the Center of Head Injury and a Certificate of Appreciation for her panel discussions. Ms. Herwick has made outstanding contributions to the community through her advocacy work, servicing as an inspiration to many by implementing equal participation not only in her personal life, but in all business aspects.



GCD Executive Director Linda Baker and Bob Aldridge Advocate of the Year (2009) winner at the 2010 Power Up conference

The award for the 2009 Bob Aldridge Advocate of the Year was presented to the winner during the Annual Power Up Conference at Holiday Inn Select, Columbia in April 2010.

### **Bob Aldridge Advocate of the Year — Darrell Wilson**

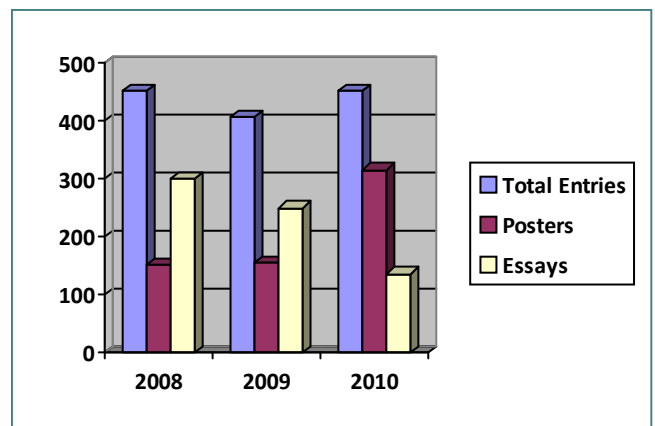
Mr. Wilson is employed at the Office of Veterans Affairs in Mount Vernon and serves on the Board of Directors of The Independent Living Center, Inc. in Joplin, Missouri.

## POSTER AND JOURNALISM CONTESTS

Each school year, the Governor's Council on Disability sponsors a Poster and Journalism Contest for middle and high school students to reward excellence in art and journalism and to increase disability awareness and promote inclusion of people with disabilities among Missouri's youth.

Both contests are open to middle and high school students grades 7 through 12 and prizes are awarded to the top three winners of both middle school and high school age groups. Information about the contests is distributed statewide to schools and local organizations.

The number of students who participated in the contests was 452 in 2010 compared to 405 in 2009, which is an 11% increase in participation. 315 posters and 137 essays were submitted in the contests in 2010.

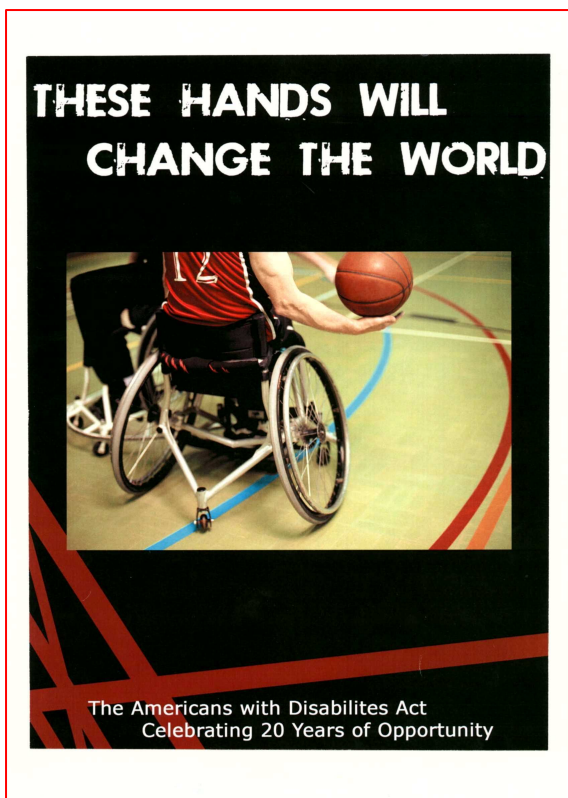




The overall, second, and third place winners in both contests were selected by the Council's Programs Committee and received savings bonds of \$500, \$250, and \$100 respectively. The overall recipients in each category were honored at the Missouri Assistive Technology's Power Up conference in Columbia in April 2010 and the second and third place winners received their awards at their schools. Several businesses donated items that were used as "door" prizes for the non-winning entrants.

The theme for the 2010 Poster and Journalism Contests was **"The Americans with Disabilities Act—Celebrating 20 Years of Opportunity"** and the winners were:

### POSTER CONTEST



**Overall Grand Prize**  
Brianna Neumann  
Eureka High School (12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Eureka, MO

Brianna Neumann, Overall Grand Prize winner of the Poster Contest was honored at the 2010 Power Up Conference in Columbia in April 2010.

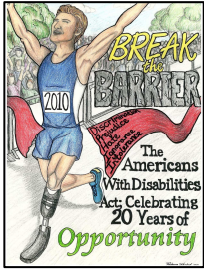
In this picture, Ms. Neumann is seen in front of GCD's display showing all five of the winning posters.



(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)



**High School**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Rebecca Heckert  
Lawson High School  
Lawson, MO



**Middle School**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Mercedes Schaffer  
Fair Play RII Schools  
Fair Play, MO



**High School**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Audrey Hasse  
Lindbergh High School  
St. Louis, MO



**Middle School**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Haiden Harlan  
Westran High School  
Huntsville, MO

## JOURNALISM CONTEST

### Overall Grand Prize

Kendra Rasco  
Camdenton High School (12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Camdenton, MO

Kendra Rasco, the Overall Grand Prize winner of the Journalism Contest, was honored at the Power Up Conference in Columbia in April 2010.

Ms. Rasco read her winning essay to the conference attendees during the annual awards luncheon.



**High School**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Jennifer Frei  
Warrenton High School  
Warrenton, MO

**High School**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Kristen Engle  
Rock Bridge High School  
Columbia, MO

**Middle School**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Darren Green  
Malden Jr. High School  
Malden, MO

**Middle School**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Lindsay Culbertson  
Summit Lakes Middle School  
Lee's Summit, MO

The winning says are available online at [www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/gcd](http://www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/gcd), click on Poster and Journalism contest.



## PUBLICATIONS / RESOURCES

### DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES FOR MISSOURIANS WITH DISABILITIES

The Governor's Council on Disability publishes a variety of information on the Disability Web Portal, including the *Directory of Resources for Missourians with Disabilities*. The Directory is available online ([www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov)) and allows each user to search for disability-related resources by category or location. In 2010, over 2,800 visitors accessed or downloaded the Directory.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

During the legislative session, a weekly update - *Legislative Update* - was distributed to keep interested individuals up-to-date on legislation that potentially impacts individuals with disabilities. Over 1,400 individuals received the publication via email and the regular mail system in addition to the website.

The Governor's Council on Disability also disseminated a variety of other publications, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines*, the *Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Questions and Answers* booklets, *Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities*, the *Service Animals* booklet, *Missouri's Guide to Home and Community Based Services*, *Missouri's Guide to Housing Assistance Programs* and *Missouri State Capitol Access Guide*.

## LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION PROJECT

The purpose of the Legislative Education Project (LEP) is to educate about the Missouri legislative process and motivate individuals by providing opportunities to become actively involved in positive public policy for people with disabilities. The LEP is sponsored annually during the legislative session.

During the 2010 legislative session, 10 individuals attended the three-day LEP training program, held weekly at the state capitol. Participants were given an overview of the legislative process and a list of bills that would have an impact on individuals with disabilities. Participants were then encouraged to visit with senators and representatives and their legislative staff to discuss their concerns and voice their opinions. Attendees were also strongly encouraged to attend any hearings that took place while they were in Jefferson City. Individuals left the capitol with a new confidence in getting their voice heard both in Jefferson City and in their home districts.

In addition to the three-day LEP, the Governor's Council on Disability offered customized one-day training sessions on the legislative process for those who were unable to commit to staying three days for the LEP. Due to budgetary and travel restrictions, many individuals and agencies chose the one-day training this year. A total of 235 participants attended the customized training.

The Governor's Council on Disability annually conducts a **Legislative Priority Survey** to determine the top legislative priorities among people with disabilities. The survey is sent out to agencies and individuals. Based on the 128 returned surveys, the 2011 legislative priorities for the Governor's Council on Disability will be:

- Health Care Issues
- Home and Community Based Services
- Fiscal Policies
- Transportation

## BUSINESS LEADERSHIP NETWORKS / EMPLOYMENT

The Business Leadership Network (BLN) is an employer driven endeavor to promote best practices in disability employment. In Missouri, there are two regional locations: 1) St. Louis region—Missouri Business Leadership Network (MOBLN)—that covers St. Louis and eight of the Southern Illinois counties; 2) Kansas City region—Greater Kansas City BLN (GKCBLN)—which covers the western Missouri and eastern Kansas area.

MOBLN's employers continue to host monthly luncheons for new employers to hear about "best disability employment practices" from other STL employers. This year's celebration of October's Disability Employment Awareness Month on October 27, 2010 featured a movie, "Right to Risk" about several people with disabilities taking a white water rafting trip and discussing their disabilities. It was shown at the AMC Esquire Theater and discussion followed after the movie. In November 2010, a program on veterans with disabilities was the topic.

Further information about the MOBLN can be found on the website at [www.mobln.org](http://www.mobln.org).

Keith Wiedenkiller, the President of Greater Kansas City BLN (GKCBLN), has provided testimony to Congress on hiring practices for people with disabilities. To recognize Disability Employment Awareness Month, the GKCBLN hosted a Disability Awards luncheon honoring local employers who implemented "best inclusion practices" on October 21, 2010. The DisAbility Campion Awards were presented to Fulfillment Plus, Grundfos Pumps Corporation and KPMG, LLP.

For more information about the GKCBLN, please visit the website at [www.bln-gkc.org](http://www.bln-gkc.org).

The Governor's Council on Disability partners with the statewide employment initiative called *Employment First*. *Employment First* addresses the low employment rate among people with disabilities and encourages state entities to be a model in hiring people with disabilities. Presentations on how to include people with disabilities in the labor market have continued to various entities.

## MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) was held July 25-28, 2010 at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Twenty-one (21) youth-delegates participated in the four-day event, which is a unique career leadership training for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. By serving as delegates from their communities, young people with disabilities cultivated leadership, citizenship, and social skills. Activities included speakers, small group discussions, assistive technology demonstrations, career exploration, mentoring luncheon, and a day at the State Capitol in Jefferson City to meet with legislators.



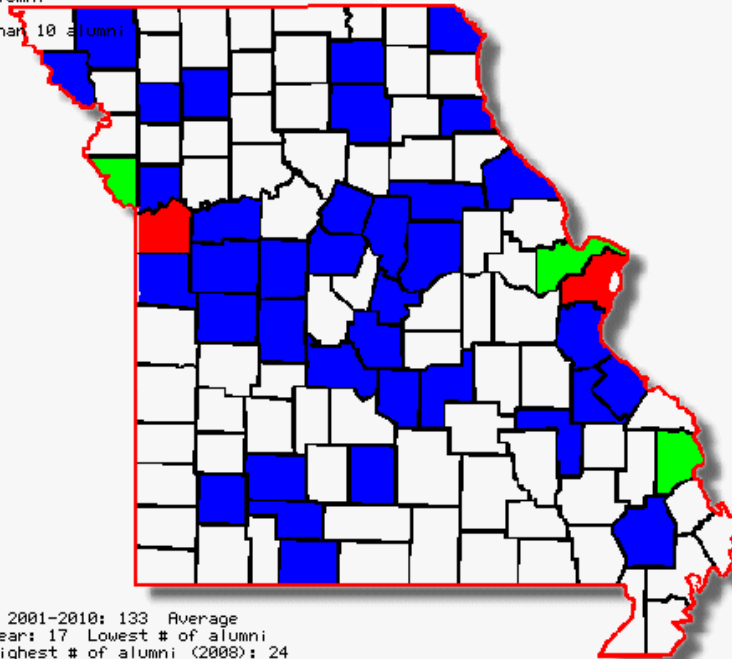
As part of the training, students participated in a mock legislative session at the state capitol in Jefferson City where the delegates and staff had the opportunity to tour Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon's office. Also pictured is Representative Jeff Grisamore, who led the mock legislative session.





## Missouri Youth Leadership Forum - Alumni by Counties

- - less than 5 alumni
- - 5-10 alumni
- - more than 10 alumni



## NOTES:

Total alumni 2001-2010: 133 Average  
 alumni per year: 17 Lowest # of alumni  
 (2004): 9 Highest # of alumni (2008): 24

8-9-10

The counties displayed on the map include the following:

**Group I:**

Adair, Audrain, Benton, Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cass, Christian, Clark, Clay, Cole, Cooper, Daviess, DeKalb, Greene, Henry, Holt, Howard, Iron, Jefferson, Johnson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Macon, Marion, Miller, Nodaway, Pettis, Phelps, Pike, Pulaski, Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, Stoddard, Taney, Wright

**Group II:**

Cape Girardeau, Jackson, Platte, St. Charles

**Group III:**

St. Louis

Total no. of counties listed: 41

Total number of alumni attending the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum between 2001-2010: **133**

Outcomes from the MYLF are:

- Eleven (11) alumni attended the 2010 MYLF as facilitators and team members
- The national youth leadership survey revealed that over 80% of the alumni reported that the MYLF increased their knowledge about career possibilities, disability laws, disability culture, and had a positive impact on their overall life experience
- The majority of the alumni are obtaining their high school diploma and are employed at least part-time
- Several alumni are attending graduate school and one alumna is studying abroad
- One alumnus was elected Vice President of the Student Council
- One alumnus was appointed as a Council member to the Governor's Council on Disability in 2010

The 2011 MYLF will be held at the University of Missouri in Columbia from July 24-27, 2011.

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Governor's Council on Disability participated in numerous outreach activities throughout the year to promote disability awareness and inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. Some of the highlights were:

- The Governor's Council on Disability continuously updated the Missouri Disability Portal to serve as a one-stop access point for the public to obtain information on disability resources. The homepage of this portal offers links to other entities and state agencies that provide services to people with disabilities. Resources are listed in different categories such as Employment, Housing, Education, and Transportation to make it easier for individuals to find the information they are looking for. Our office received inquiries regarding our website content from individuals nationwide. In an average month, our website receives about 107,043 hits or 3,532 hits per day. The average number of visitors to our website is 9,835 per month or 324 per day with an average of over 815 page views per day. The Missouri Disability Portal can be accessed at [www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov)
- GCD's Disability Program Specialist Isabelle Dobelbower serves as the state coordinator for National Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) events in Missouri. Several DMD events were held across the state during the month of October. October is the National Disability Employment Month and October 20 was Disability Mentoring Day. Council staff presented the Governor's proclamation declaring October 20 as Disability Mentoring Day in Missouri.

On October 19, Ameren Corporation and Ameren Network for Disabled Employees hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Disability Mentoring Day in partnership with the St. Louis Public School District. Seven students with disabilities attended the event which included a tour, career planning, job shadowing, and job empowerment skills for the future.

Life Skills in St. Louis collaborated with Sam's Club for their Project SEARCH by holding a DMD event for high school students with disabilities, where managers and team leaders reported on their departments and discussed jobs and skills sets,

More than 445 high school and college students with disabilities throughout the state had the opportunity to meet mentors in their local communities.

- During the month of October, GCD provided an informational display about Disability Employment Awareness Month and Disability Mentoring Day in the Truman Building in Jefferson City.
- GCD provided exhibit booths at the following conferences throughout the year:
  - ⇒ 2010 Real Voices—Real Choices Consumer Conference, Osage Beach
  - ⇒ Autism Conference, St. Joseph
  - ⇒ Boomers in the Workplace, Lee's Summit
  - ⇒ Children's Vision Summit, Jefferson City
  - ⇒ Disability Awareness Conference, Lee's Summit
  - ⇒ Down Syndrome Association, St. Louis



- ⇒ Family Partnership Annual Parent and Caregiver Retreat, Osage Beach
- ⇒ High School Transition Fairs in Marshall, Pleasant Valley, Riverside, Warrensburg
- ⇒ Inclusion & Diversity in the Workplace, Jefferson City
- ⇒ Missouri Rehabilitation Association, Osage Beach
- ⇒ Missouri Community Transition Team's Poster Session Conference (sponsored by DESE), Osage Beach
- ⇒ National Self-Advocacy Conference (SABE), Kansas City
- ⇒ People First of Missouri, Osage Beach
- ⇒ Power Up, Columbia
- ⇒ Special Education Administrator's Conference, Osage Beach

## BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

As part of the Governor's Council on Disability's advisory capacity function, staff and Council members serve on a variety of boards and commissions to promote opportunities in all aspects of life, including employment, transportation, recreation, and housing. The following is a list of those boards and commissions in which staff and Council members served in calendar year 2010.

Alliance for Full Participation, Columbia  
 American Association of People with Disabilities, Kansas City  
 Blind Literacy Task Force, Jefferson City  
 Brain Injury Association of Missouri, St. Louis  
 Disability Mentoring Day Planning Committee, Statewide  
 Disability Policy Congress, Jefferson City  
 Down Syndrome Association of St. Louis  
 East-West Gateway Council of Governments, St. Louis  
 Greater Kansas City Provider Leadership Network, Kansas City  
 Independent Living Resource Center, Jefferson City  
 Interagency Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, Statewide  
 Kansas City Coalition Emergency and Disaster Response Board of Directors, Kansas City  
 Mayor's Commission on Human Rights, Springfield  
 Metropolitan Council on Developmental Disabilities, Kansas City  
 Missouri Council of the Blind, St. Louis  
 Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Blind Task Force, St. Louis  
 Missouri Disability Vote Coalition, Jefferson City  
 Missouri Parent's Act, Jefferson City  
 Money Follows the Person Stakeholders Group, Jefferson City  
 MYLF Planning Committee, Jefferson City  
 NAMI National Consumer Council, Statewide  
 National Association of Governors' Committees on People with Disabilities  
 National Council on Independent Living, Mt. Vernon  
 National Council on Rehabilitation Education, Columbia  
 National Disability Mentoring Day Local Committee, Kansas City

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Pettis County Inter-Agency Group, Sedalia  
Rehabilitation Services Administration, Columbia  
Southwest Regional Advisory Council for the MO Department of Mental Health  
Special Needs Population Task Force, Mt. Vernon  
St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities, St. Louis  
St. Louis Transitional Council, St. Louis  
State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind, Jefferson City  
State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, Columbia  
Statewide Emergency Management Planning Teams, Statewide  
Statewide Independent Living Council, Jefferson City  
Statewide Navigator Task Force, Jefferson City  
Variety Club of Women, St. Louis  
VSA, St. Louis  
Youth Leadership Council, Kansas City

## LEGISLATION

The Governor's Council on Disability will continue to advocate for people with disabilities in the 2010 legislative session.

- The Legislative Committee is examining pre-filed bills that relate to disability and is analyzing their impact on the disability community.
- The Council is using the results of the 2010 legislative survey as a basis for pursuing legislative issues in the upcoming 2011 session. Please refer to page 15 of the annual report for a listing of the legislative priorities.
- The Governor's Council on Disability, the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and Missouri Centers for Independent Living (MOCIL) will continue to co-sponsor the Legislative Education Project (LEP) (see page 15).

## PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE COMMISSION

The Personal Independence Commission (PIC) was established by Executive Order 01-08 in 2001. The function of the PIC was to help ensure Missourians of all ages and disabilities have access to a range of community support services.

On January 15, 2010, Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon issued Executive Order 10-10, rescinding Executive Order 01-08 and terminating the PIC, recognizing that the functions of the PIC would be performed by the Governor's Council on Disability.



## **2011 MEETING AND EVENT DATES**

### **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

February 14, 2011\*

June 10, 2011\*\*

September 9, 2011\*

November 18, 2011\*\*

The Council meetings are scheduled to begin at 10 AM.

\* Face-to-face meetings will be held at the  
Governor's Office Building

200 Madison Street, Room 470

\*\* Electronic meetings will be held via videoconference

The Council meetings are open to the public. If you would like to attend or request additional information, please contact our office at [gcd@oa.mo.gov](mailto:gcd@oa.mo.gov) or 573-751-2600.

### **MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - COLUMBIA**

July 24-27, 2011