



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Office of Administration

Governor's Council on Disability

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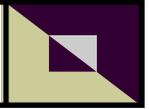


TABLE OF CONTENTS

History	4
Mission / Vision / Goals	4
Council Membership	5
Organizational Structure	6
Council Events 2015 / Programs	7
Finances	8
Accomplishments	9
Technical Assistance	9
Presentations and Exhibits	10
Publications / Resources	11
Awards Programs	11
Legislative Education Project	13
Missouri Youth Leadership Forum	14
Employment Initiatives	15
Hands Around the Capitol	16
Outreach Activities	18
Boards and Commissions	19
Upcoming Events / 2016 Meeting Dates	20

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

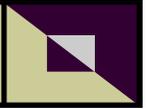
The Missouri Governor's Council on Disability will be recognized, statewide as the primary organization providing leadership to improve the lives of Missouri citizens with disabilities.

GOALS

The Missouri Governor's Council on Disability's Strategic and Operational Plan was reviewed and updated for 2014-16 on September 19, 2014. 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 Plan, please visit our website at <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd> and click on Strategic 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 eight U.S. Congressional Districts.
- The majority of members are people with disabilities.
- The Governor's Council on Disability is comprised of the following committees: Executive, Advocacy, and Programs.
- The Council conducts quarterly meetings.

Yvonne Wright

Council Chair
First Appointed: 7/21/15

Joan Bergstrom

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

Betty Davidson

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

Charles Comstock II

6th Congressional District
Kirksville
First Appointed: 7/29/10

Rep. Jeff Grisamore

5th Congressional District
Lee's Summit
First Appointed: 5/10/10

Ronald Hack

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

Mary Ann Harter

Member 3
Crestwood
First Appointed: 11/16/09

Todd Mayfield

3rd Congressional District
Jefferson City
First Appointed: 10/9/01

DeAnna Noriega

Member 7
Fulton
First Appointed: 10/2/09

Susan Orton

Member 8
Creve Coeur
First Appointed: 7/19/05

Derek Smith

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

James Trout

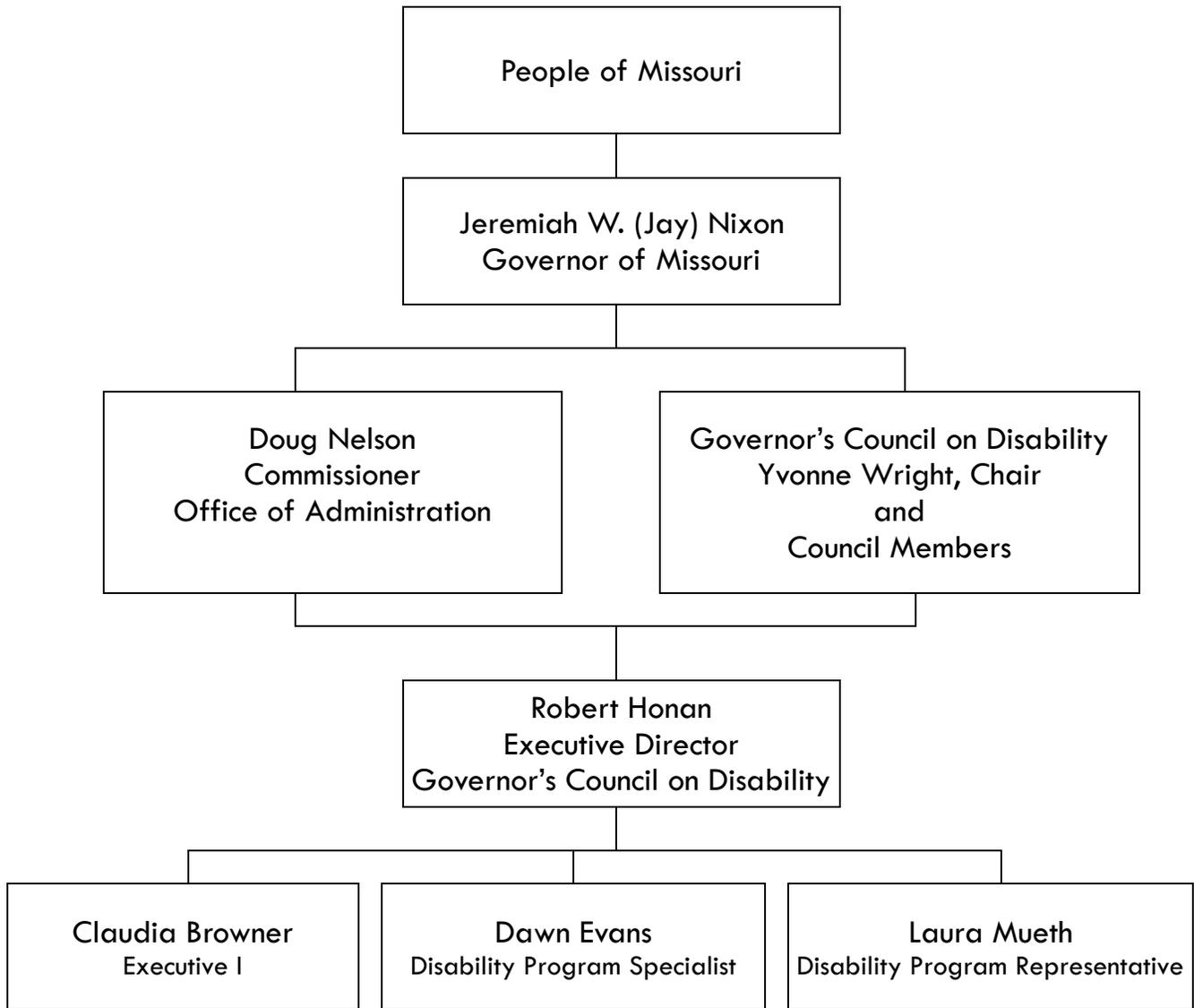
1st Congressional District
Webster Groves
First Appointed: 3/4/09

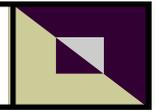
Robert Wallace

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

There currently are eight
Council member vacancies.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





COUNCIL EVENTS 2015

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- Yvonne Wright was appointed as Council Chair on July 21, 2015. James Trout had served as the Acting Chair for the Council from June 2011 - July 2015 and continues to serve on the Council as a member.
- Ed Duff resigned his Council membership on September 26, 2015 and Mike Esser resigned on October 30, 2015.
- There are currently eight vacancies for Council members.

STAFF

- Linda Baker retired March 1, 2015 after being with the Governor's Council on Disability for 19 years, including eight years as Executive Director.
- Robert Honan was hired as the Executive Director on April 7, 2015.

PROGRAMS

- 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.
- GCD staff participated as exhibitors at various conferences throughout the State of Missouri to raise disability awareness and provide information on disability related programs and resources.
- Provided presentations on the topics of employment of people with disabilities, disability awareness, self-determination, service animals, and the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum to agencies and employers.
- Collaborated with MPACT to host the annual Tools for Life Transition Summit.
- Served on Missouri Interagency Transition Team (MITT) and participated on several transition councils/committees across the state (St. Louis Transition Council, Cole County Youth Connections (CCYC), Lake Area Transition Team, St. Louis Area Transition Team (SLATT)).
- Participated on the Kansas City Disability Mentoring Day planning committee.
- GCD collaborated with the MO-YLF Advisory Committee in the planning for the 2015 Missouri Youth Leadership Forum.
- GCD and Paraquad entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish Paraquad as the fiscal agent for the 2015 Missouri Youth Leadership Forum.
- GCD staff chairs the Association of Youth Leadership Forums.
- GCD introduced a quarterly newsletter covering disability-related topics and GCD activities.
- GCD, Centers for Independent Living, and the Missouri Mental Health Foundation collaborated to host the "Hands Around the Capitol" event to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Disability Awareness Month on October 6, 2015. Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon issued a proclamation declaring October as Disability Employment Awareness Month.
- The GCD continued its annual programs
 - Legislative Education Project
 - Missouri Youth Leadership Forum
 - Inclusion Award
 - Youth Leadership Award

FINANCES

The Governor's Council on Disability's programs are primarily financed through General Revenue. This funding covers personnel costs for most Council activities. The Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) budget is listed below:

Personnel (4 FTE):	\$170,219.00
Operating Expenses:	\$ 19,029.00
Total:	\$189,248.00

At the time of publication, the Council has spent \$8,836.88 in operating expenses, 46% of the FY16 budget. Expenses include supplies, travel, Council meeting expenses, professional development, accommodations, and expenses for GCD programs.

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (Forum) is a program that is **not** funded through General Revenue funds. This program is funded through a combination of private donations and grants.

Beginning in 2015, Paraquad, a Center for Independent Living in St. Louis, signed an MOU as the 501(C)3 fiscal agent for the Forum account.

The following is a synopsis of the 2015 Forum budget.

Beginning balance Forum account (with Paraquad) January 1, 2015: \$ 21,888.76

2015 Forum event costs:	
Supplies & Material	\$ 2,732.61
Presenter Fees and Travel Expenses	\$ 4,826.08
Staff and Alumni Travel	\$ 358.29
Accommodations (PCAs, ASL Interpreters)	\$ 7,556.75
Transportation ¹	\$ 0.00
Meals (separate from MU billing)	\$ 1,245.98
University of Missouri – Columbia ²	\$ <u>20,772.79</u>
Total Spent:	\$ 37,492.50

Donations/sponsorships/deposits received in 2015:	\$ 56,188.00
Post Forum alumni activities/professional development ³	\$ 891.09

Balance in Forum account (December 1, 2015) \$ 39,693.17

- 1- Transportation provided free of charge as an in-kind donation from Services for Independent Living in Columbia.
- 2 - Includes: Lodging, meals, banquet facilities, meeting rooms, conference center fees.
- 3 - Expenses include: Travel expenses for Forum alumnus to attend Hands Around the Capitol as a speaker, and travel expenses for Forum alumna to attend National APRIL and AYLIF conference.

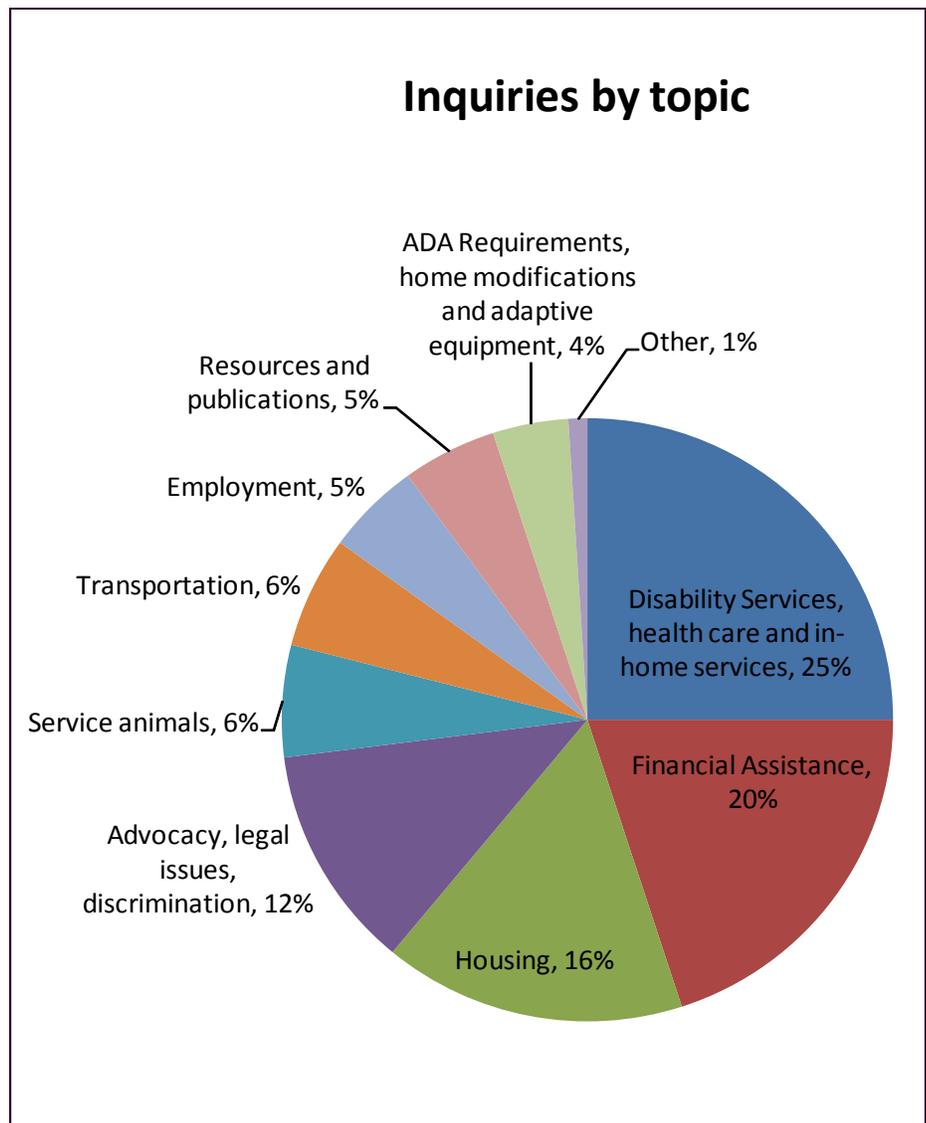
The average cost of the 2015 Forum was about \$1,389 per student delegate.

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 and the Governor's Office on Constituent Affairs to provide solutions to individuals' problems and issues.

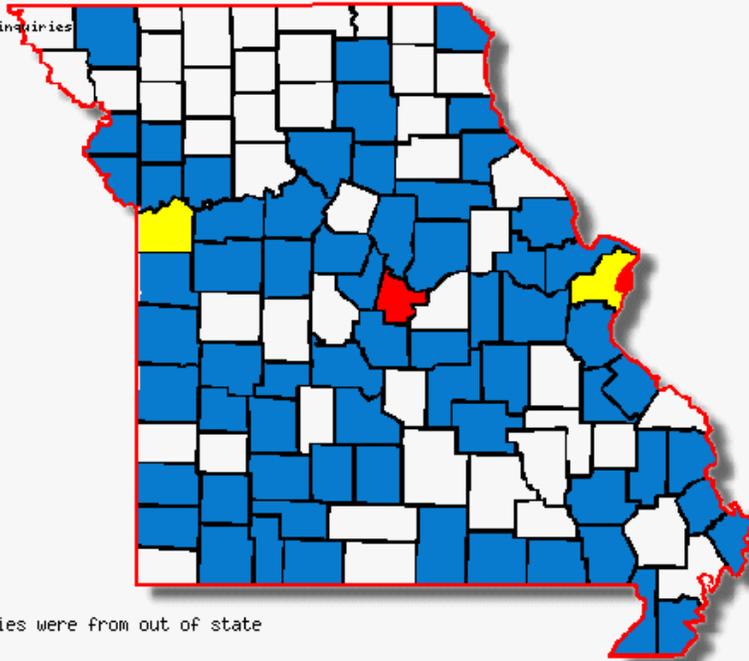
In this past year, the Council received a substantial number of calls and e-mail inquiries concerning disability services, financial assistance, housing, and legal/advocacy issues. Other common inquiries included information about service animals, employment, transportation, disability statistics, ADA guidelines and regulations, Universal Design standards, accessible parking, FMLA issues, 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 585 different individuals with their inquiries. Additionally, the Council responded to 291 e-mail inquiries and requests. The number of callers has increased by 51% compared to 2014, and the number of e-mail inquiries has increased by 35%.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2015 Phone Inquiries by County

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



NOTES:
6% of inquiries were from out of state

Source: diymaps.net (c)

The counties displayed on the map include the following:

Group I (<5% of inquiries):
Adair, Audrain, Barry, Bates, Bollinger, Boone, Buchanan, Butler, Callaway, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Cass, Cedar, Chariton, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cooper, Crawford, Dent, Dunklin, Franklin, Gasconade, Greene, Hickory, Howell, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Laclède, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lincoln, Macon, Maries, Marion, Miller, Mississippi, Moniteau, Newton, Nodaway, Oregon, Pemiscot, Pettis, Phelps, Platte, Polk, Ralls, Randolph, Ray, Ripley, Saline, Scott, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Taney, Vernon, Warren, Wayne, Webster, Wright

Group II (5-10% of inquiries):
Cole and St. Louis City

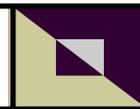
Group III (>10% of inquiries): Jackson and St. Louis County

Total number of counties listed: 68 and the city of St. Louis

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 each quarterly public Council meeting, a presentation is provided on different disability-related topics.

During calendar year 2015, GCD staff developed and presented 24 programs and 18 conference and transition fair exhibits to more than 4,900 individuals around the state (see Page 18 —Outreach Activities for more details).



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 *Resource Directory for Missourians with Disabilities*. The online Directory allows each user to search for disability-related resources by category or location.

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 1,000 individuals received the publication via email and the regular mail system in addition to the website.

GCD NEWSLETTER

In July 2015, the GCD published the first issue of its quarterly newsletter about disability-related topics and GCD activities. The newsletter is sent out by email and posted on the website.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The Governor's Council on Disability also disseminated a variety of other publications including the *Service Animals* booklet, and *accessible parking info "Tickets"*.

AWARDS PROGRAMS

ANNUAL INCLUSION AWARD

The Governor's Council on Disability's annual Inclusion Award program recognizes and honors a Missouri resident, organization or business that illustrates excellence in leadership for best inclusion practices. Innovative universal design and assistive technology concepts that incorporate people with disabilities also may be submitted. The Council's Programs Committee selects the winners of the Inclusion Awards, who are nominated by individuals or organizations in their communities.

The 2014 winners were honored at the annual Power Up Conference in Columbia in April 2015.

The 2014 **Inclusion Award Winner** was **Wayne Crawford**, Executive Director of the non-profit Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation. Wayne has been promoting livable environments for people with disabilities for many years. His agency's mission is to bring awareness to communities and developers concerning the need for accessibility in housing. His organization provides support to individuals with disabilities as they search for a home that meets specific needs. He has worked closely with the Department of Mental Health and the Missouri DD Council to build accessible homes throughout Missouri.

In 2013, Wayne collaborated with several partners including the Governor's Council on Disability to lead a campaign among stakeholders to identify specific universal design criteria that would serve the disability and aging community, and fit with the practical aspects of affordable housing initiatives.



Wayne Crawford (right) accepts the 2014 Inclusion Award from Rob Honan

AWARDS PROGRAMS

The **Honorable Mention for 2014** went to **Mercy Hospital's Disability Inclusion Services**

Mercy Hospital's Disability Inclusion Services is an outstanding leader in promoting an inclusive work environment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through its Supported Employment program, Mercy currently employs 60 people with developmental disabilities (with a goal of 100 by 2016) in a wide range of jobs. Supported Employment at Mercy offers individuals with disabilities competitive wages, comparable benefits, accessible transportation, and career advancement opportunities.



Rob Honan presents Mercy Hospital staff with the 2014 Honorable Mention award.

The **2015 Inclusion Award winner** is the **THRIVE** program in Warrensburg. Transformation, Health, Responsibility, Independence, Vocation, Education (THRIVE) are the goals of any college student. At the University of Central Missouri (UCM), they are the foundation of THRIVE. This two-year certificate program prepares students with disabilities for independent living, personal interaction, and employment fitting their goals and abilities. THRIVE provides improved academic abilities, interaction with age peers, computer skills, job skills, and career-focused internships. THRIVE partners with UCM's Communication Disorders, Kinesiology, Social Work, Counselor Education, and others to develop the knowledge of their own students for the benefit of the THRIVE program. Students in peer organizations of fraternities, sororities, intramurals, and other UCM groups embrace the THRIVE students and will ultimately become employers who hire persons with disabilities. THRIVE graduates have achieved results equivalent to other college students.

The **Honorable Mention for 2015** goes to **Kelsey Mack** of Blue Springs.

Kelsey's dream was to create and operate her own business, to assist other individuals with disabilities, to be more fully included and explore their talents through employment. As a result, Kelsey created The Bird's Nest in November 2014. Located in Blue Springs, The Bird's Nest is a gift shop which sells items handcrafted solely by individuals with disabilities. Kelsey's secondary goal is to hire these same individuals to work within the shop. During 2014 and 2015, Kelsey signed 27 crafters, bakers, and artists to sell their creations, and has employed an adult with a traumatic brain injury to create her logo. Kelsey has demonstrated excellence in leadership and advocacy within The Bird's Nest.

For additional information, please visit our website at <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/inclwin.htm>

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

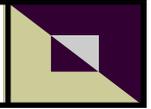
In annual Youth Leadership Award was initiated in 2013 to recognize an outstanding Missouri youth (age 18-30) with a disability that has demonstrated exemplary leadership by making a difference in their community.



Claire Solomon

The 2014 **Youth Leadership Award winner** was **Claire Solomon**.

Claire Solomon is an alumni of the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum and was selected as the winner of the 2nd Annual Youth Leadership Award. Claire takes her knowledge of leadership skills and applies them to everyday life. While she was still in high school, she provided presentations on invisible disabilities to her peers. She exemplifies the spirit of giving back to her community and demonstrates her willingness to take the initiative in being active in her community by taking part in the St. Louis Arc's Neighborhood Experiences project, the Paraquad Youth Group, and Variety's Bike for Kids Program.



Currently, she is an art student at Missouri State University and continues to go out of her way to become active on her campus.

The **2015 Youth Leadership Award winner** is **Caitlin Bartley** of Holts Summit.

Caitlin recently graduated from Lincoln University (LU) with a double major in Psychology and Social Work with Magna Cum Laude honors, and has been accepted into the Masters Program at the University of Missouri, where she will continue her quest to help others through social work. Caitlin's disability is severe, but she has never let this be an obstacle to her accomplishments. Attributes like self-awareness, proactive involvement, perseverance, goal-setting, and the use of effective support systems have led her to a successful and rewarding life. On LU campus, Caitlin initiated changes in two of the main buildings to make them accessible. Her achievements and honors include: MDA Goodwill Ambassador for central Missouri; Missouri Youth Leadership Forum graduate; Speaker for Children's Miracle Network Radiothon, Women's Rights Conference, Transition Summit, and Power Up Assistive Technology Conference; Assistant Secretary to LU's Student Government Association, and member of the Women's Leadership Academy at LU.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://disability.mo.gov/gcd/youthleadershipaward.htm>. The awards for 2015 will be presented at the 2016 Power Up Assistive Technology conference at the St. Charles Convention Center on April 19, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION PROJECT

The purpose of the Legislative Education Project (LEP) is to educate individuals about the Missouri legislative process and motivate individuals by providing opportunities to become actively involved in public policy that impacts people with disabilities. The LEP is sponsored annually during the legislative session and includes online learning tools and the *LEP at the Capitol*. New for the upcoming legislative session is the *LEP on the Road*. GCD staff already held four *LEP on the Road* sessions in December 2015, which were attended by 63 individuals.

In 2015, the Governor's Council on Disability introduced the LEP in a web based format by offering online training modules and videos to teach individuals about *How a Bill Becomes a Law*, the *Elected Officials and General Assembly*, and *How to Navigate the House and Senate Websites*. The videos educate about *Accessible Voting*, *Attending a Senate Hearing and Providing Testimony*, and *Building an Effective Relationship with Legislators*. The learning modules and videos had 418 views in 2015.

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 419 returned surveys, the Governor's Council on Disability will be following these legislative priorities during the 2016 legislative session:

- Maintaining the helmet law requirement for all riders and drivers of motorcycles
- Providing a tax credit to small businesses who employ someone with a disability
- Increasing the asset limit for individuals and couples to qualify for MO HealthNet
- Expanding MO HealthNet eligibility to 133% of the federal poverty level
- Requiring private insurance plans in Missouri to cover hearing aids
- Requiring a photo ID to obtain or continue to use food stamps

GCD will continue to advocate for people with disabilities in the 2016 legislative session. GCD staff will be examining pre-filed bills that relate to disability and analyzing their impact on the disability community.

MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM



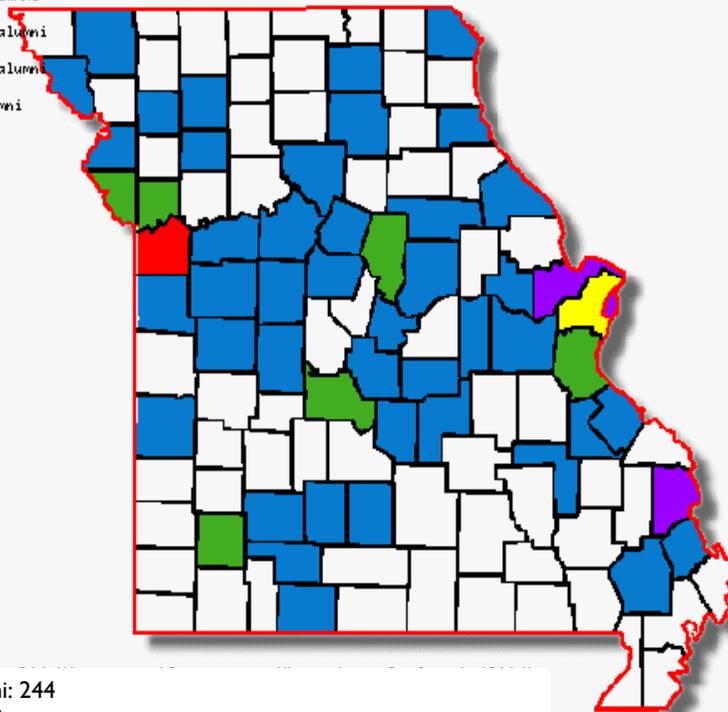
The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (Forum) was held July 26-30, 2015 at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Twenty-seven (27) youth-delegates participated in the five-day event, which is a leadership and career development skills training for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. By serving as delegates from their communities, young people with disabilities cultivated leadership, citizenship, employment and social skills.

Activities included keynote speakers, small group discussions, a community service project, assistive technology demonstrations, career exploration, a 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 capitol, where the delegates and staff had the opportunity to visit the House and Senate Chambers, learn about the legislative process and discuss disability-related legislation with Representatives and Senators from several districts. After the mock legislative sessions with the legislators, the delegates met with Governor Jay Nixon and toured the Governor's office.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum - Alumni by Counties

- - < 5 alumni
- - 5 - 10 alumni
- - 11 - 20 alumni
- - 21 - 30 alumni
- - > 30 alumni



NOTES:

Total alumni: 244
 Average: 19 per year
 Lowest #: 9 alumni (2004) Highest #: 27 alumni (2015)

The counties displayed on the map include the following:

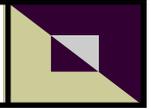
Group I (less than 5 alumni):
 Adair, Audrain, Benton, Buchanan, Caldwell, Callaway, Cass, Chariton, Christian, Clark, Cole, Cooper, Daviess, DeKalb, Franklin, Gasconade, Greene, Henry, Holt, Howard, Iron, Johnson, Lafayette, Macon, Maries, Marion, Miller, Nodaway, Pettis, Phelps, Pike, Pulaski, Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, Saline, Scott, Stoddard, Taney, Vernon, Warren, Webster, Wright

Group II (5 - 10 alumni):
 Boone, Camden, Clay, Jefferson, Lawrence, Platte

Group III (11 - 20 alumni):
 Cape Girardeau, St. Charles, St. Louis City

Group IV (21 - 30 alumni):
 Jackson County

Group V (more than 30 alumni):
 St. Louis County (66 alumni)



The total no. of counties represented since the inception of the program is **52**, plus the City of St. Louis. Total number of alumni attending the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum from 2001 – 2015: **244**

Outcomes of the Forum are:

- Twenty-seven (27) delegates attended in 2015, representing the different geographical areas in Missouri.
- Ten (10) alumni attended the 2015 Forum as facilitators and team members.
- The delegates and alumni participated in a community service project to help others in need by putting together care packages for families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House.
- Many alumni are pursuing post-secondary education with a few pursuing a graduate degree.
- Several have graduated from college and a few have received a graduate degree.
- Two alumni graduated from law school.
- One alumnus has been appointed to the Governor's Council on Disability.
- One alumnus has been appointed to the St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities.
- Several alumni have given presentations as panelists and/or keynote speakers at events throughout the state, e.g. Hands Around the Capitol, MPACT Transition Summit, etc.
- Several alumni are now presenting disability information in their schools and to their peers.
- The MYLIFE Alumni Association has held several events throughout the year to reconnect alumni and promote active involvement in planning the 2016 Missouri Youth Leadership Forum.

The 2016 Forum will be held at University of Missouri in Columbia from July 12-16, 2016.

EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

GCD continues to provide support to the Business Leadership Network (BLN) which 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 Greater St. Louis region and eight of the Southern Illinois counties; and 2) Kansas City region—Greater Kansas City BLN (GKCBLN)—which covers the western Missouri and eastern Kansas area; and 3) Springfield BLN. Springfield is the newest BLN in the state and is currently building its infrastructure.

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, GKCBLN hosted its annual Champion luncheon on October 22nd, honoring Kansas City employers who are making their workforce inclusive of people with disabilities. The featured speaker was Dr. Jennifer Arnold, MD, MSc, FAAP. Her talk focused on her medical career as a little person and the unique challenges medical school presented due to her disability.

GCD staff participated on the planning committee for the Disability Mentoring Day event in Kansas City which was attended by more than 100 jobseekers and employers. Additionally, GCD provided an exhibit booth and conducted more than 25 mock job interviews.

HANDS AROUND THE CAPITOL

Hands Around the Capitol

ADA
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT

25
1990-2015

On October 6th, “Hands Around the Capitol-Missouri,” took place on the south lawn of our state capitol. The two-hour event was billed jointly as a 25th celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act and a recognition of “October as Disability Awareness” month. There were dynamic political and personal speeches provided by many talented individuals. The crowning moment, and namesake, of the event occurred when the crowd, speakers, members of the community, and a local grade school surrounded the

Capitol holding hands while aerial photos of the spectacle took place.

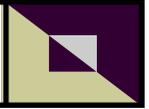


Hands Around the Capitol planning group

The lead up to and the planning of the event was probably the most cohesive process that I have ever been involved with. Members of the planning team included staff from Rural Advocates for Independent Living, Northeast Independent Living Solutions, Paraquad, West-Central Independent Living Solutions, Missouri Mental Health Foundation, and the Governor's Council on Disability. By design or luck, each member of the team gravitated to their strength and the final product reflected this. In my mind, there were FOUR distinct parts: *Facilities Management and the Flyover:* West Central Independent Living Solutions; *Media facilitation:* Missouri Mental Health Foundation and NEILS; *Speaker recruitment:* RAIL, GCD, Paraquad;

Audience Recruitment: GCD and Paraquad.

The event itself began at noon with a fiery pep talk by Chris Worth of Paraquad. He spoke passionately about the need to see the disability community as “family” and “community.” His talk set the tone for the rest of the event. After his talk, master of ceremonies Rob Honan, introduced Mike Nietzel from the Governor's Office who proceeded to read a proclamation from the Governor. After the proclamation was read, there were speeches about the ABLE ACT, employment, the ADA and youth involvement from: State Treasure Clint Zweifel, Former State Senator Chuck Graham, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing executive director Opeoluwa Sotonwa, Suzan Weller of Disability Resource Association, Representative John McCaherty, and youth speakers Matthew Pearl and Daniel Andersen. Rachel Baskerville assisted the festivities by introducing our two youth speakers.



As a precursor to the event, members of the planning team and Daniel Anderson were interviewed by KWOS and KBIA radio and KRCG TV. The media assistance was instrumental in making the local community aware of the event as well as showcase talent in our community.

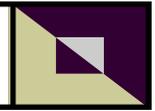
The event was attended by more than 400 members of the public, including 20 of the 22 Centers of Independent Living in Missouri, 40 members from the Missouri School for the Deaf, and over 350 school children from neighboring St. Peter's School. The event was a true success!



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:

- GCD continues to update the Missouri Disability Web Portal, which serves 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 2015, the Disability Web Portal had over 74,000 page views. The Missouri Disability Web Portal can be accessed at <http://disability.mo.gov>.
- GCD has a Facebook page reaching a growing fan base with 400+ Likes.
- Over 1,200 individuals are subscribed to GCD listservs to receive disability-related information.
- During Disability History Month in October, GCD featured disability history month events, resources and information on the Disability Web Portal, and an informational display in the Truman Building in Jefferson City about Disability History Month and National Disability Employment Awareness Month.
- GCD provided exhibit booths at the following conferences throughout the year:
 - ⇒ Children's Vision Summit, Columbia
 - ⇒ Community Resource Fair, Jefferson City
 - ⇒ Hands Around the Capitol event, Jefferson City
 - ⇒ High School Transition Fairs in:
 - ⇒ Eldon (for Camden, Morgan, and Miller Counties)
 - ⇒ Jefferson City
 - ⇒ Lake Area Transition Network, Osage Beach
 - ⇒ Marshfield
 - ⇒ Monett (for Barry and Lawrence Counties)
 - ⇒ St. Charles
 - ⇒ St. Louis Special School District
 - ⇒ Warrensburg
 - ⇒ KC Ability Expo, Kansas City
 - ⇒ Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services (MACDDS), Lake Ozark
 - ⇒ Missouri Rehab Association conference, Lake Ozark
 - ⇒ Power Up, Columbia
 - ⇒ Real Voices, Real Choices Consumer Conference, Osage Beach



BOARDS 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 2015.

Aging and Disability Coalition, St. Joseph
Alliance for Full Participation, Columbia
American Association of People with Disabilities, Kansas City
AYLF (Association of Youth Leadership Associations), Nationwide
Brain Injury Association of Missouri, St. Louis
Community Transition Teams, Statewide
Disability Mentoring Day Planning Committee, Statewide
Disability Rights Legislative Day Steering Committee, Statewide
DMH's Healthy Living Transition Initiative, Statewide
Down Syndrome Association of St. Louis
East-West Gateway Council of Governments, St. Louis
Employment First Initiative, Statewide
Giant Steps of St. Louis
Interagency Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, Statewide
Jefferson City Accessibility Group
Lake Transition Network, Lake Ozark
Missouri Interagency Transition Team, Statewide
Missouri Lifespan Respite Coalition
Missouri UD Initiative
Money Follows the Person Stakeholders Group, Jefferson City
MO Youth Leadership Forum Advisory Council, Jefferson City
MYLIFE Alumni Association
National Association of Governors' Committees on People with Disabilities
Rehabilitation Services Administration, Columbia
Show Me Careers Management Team, Statewide
State Rehabilitation Council, Statewide
St. Louis City Advisory Council, St. Louis
St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities, St. Louis
St. Louis Transitional Council, St. Louis
State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, Columbia
Statewide Emergency Management Planning Teams, Statewide
Statewide Independent Living Council, Jefferson City
VSA, Statewide

2016 MEETING AND EVENT DATES

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

February 8, 2016*

April 22, 2016**

September 16, 2016*

November 18, 2016**

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 315

** Electronic meetings will be held by videoconference in different locations across Missouri.

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 or 573-751-2600.

MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM University of Missouri COLUMBIA

July 12 - 16, 2016