

# **Governor's Council on Disability**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 11, 2010**

#### **Council Members Present/Participating:**

Karen Benson, Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Ed Duff, Ronald Hack, Mary Ann Harter, Todd Mayfield, Teri Miller, DeAnna Noriega, Erwin Switzer, James Trout

#### **Council Members Not Present/Participating:**

Jacqueline Chatman, Gregory Greven, Sue Orton, Joe Sartorius

#### **Unexcused Absences:**

Mike Esser, Dr. Hani Soudah

#### **Department Liaisons:**

Phyllis Launius (Office of the State Court Administrator - OSCA), Nancy Nickolaus (Department of Mental Health – DMH), Mary Wood (Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE)

**Guests:** None

**Staff:** Linda Baker, Donna Borgmeyer, Claudia Browner, Isabelle Harris

**Real Time Captioner:** Debbie Reithmeyer

Chair Karen Benson called the meeting to order at 10 AM. With 9 (nine) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Karen Benson welcomed the two new Council members to the meeting and introductions followed. Two additional Council members joined the meeting later.

#### **Approval of agenda and minutes:**

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the November 13, 2009 meeting minutes and the agenda for the day.

#### **Report from Council Chair Karen Benson:**

Karen thanked the Council members for their willingness to meet by videoconference and reminded the new Council members to sign up for one or more of the committees by the end of the week.

**Action item:** Sign up for Council committee(s)  
Update and disseminate committee list

#### **Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:**

Linda Baker summarized her ED report.

#### **Budget Update:**

GCD may be receiving another budget cut/spending restriction after the State of the State Address. Linda will keep the Council informed of any new developments.

Legislative Education Project (LEP):

To date, GCD has received four registrations for the 3-day LEP and eight registrations for the customized training.

Legislative Issues:

Linda encouraged the Council members to contact their legislators to get support for the disability history bill Representative Grisamore is going to file. This bill would require all Missouri schools to teach disability history as part of their regular curriculum and declare the month of October as Disability History Month.

Business Leadership Network (BLN):

Unigroup is the new lead employer for the eastern chapter of the BLN in St. Louis (MOBLN). MOBLN will be offering a scholarship program for a college student with a disability in May 2010.

The Greater Kansas City BLN (GKCBLN) will have a strategic planning meeting on January 14, 2010 in Kansas City.

Dr. Bergstrom noted that she would like to assist if Kansas City is considering a scholarship program for students with disabilities.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum:

GCD is continuing to explore funding partnerships for MYLF to sustain the program.

Poster and Journalism Contest:

GCD is beginning to receive 2010 entries. Former Council member Joe Colagiovanni committed to providing the money for the savings bonds that are awarded to the winners.

Inclusion Awards:

Sue Orton and Teri Miller will present the award to Chris Holmes, Educator of the Year, at Hazelwood West High School in Hazelwood on January 20, 2010.

The award presentation to Friendship Village of South County, St. Louis as the Employer of the Year will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

The winner of the Bob Aldridge Advocate of the Year award is Darrell Wilson with the Office of Veterans Affairs in Mt. Vernon. Mr. Wilson will receive his award at the 2010 Power Up conference on April 27 in Columbia.

Technical Assistance:

For future ED reports, Karen Benson requested TA numbers to be listed in comparison to the previous report to indicate the change in numbers.

**Action item:**            Modify ED report to reflect changes in technical assistance numbers.

**Department Liaison Information:**

Phyllis Launius (OSCA) – Continues to provide technical assistance support by phone.

Mary Wood (DESE) – DESE is developing Community Resource Mapping and Transition Teams (CTTs) in eight Missouri regions to address the high school completion rate of students with disabilities as well as the number of those who are competitively employed and/or enrolled in a postsecondary school within one year of leaving high school. During the 2008-09 school year, the CTTs were trained on transition planning, services and practices as well as implementing a strategic plan for transition in their communities. More information can be found on the website at [www.missouritransition.org](http://www.missouritransition.org), click on Missouri Community of Practice.

Nancy Nickolaus (DMH) – The 2010 Consumer, Family & Youth Leadership conference teaching leadership and advocacy skills will be held in August at Tan-Tar-A; The third annual Mental Health Champions have been selected and will be honored at the April 7 Mental Health Champion Banquet in Jefferson City. More information can be found on the DMH website at [www.dmh.mo.gov](http://www.dmh.mo.gov).

**Council member reports:**

Todd Mayfield – The Albert Pujols Family Foundation in St. Louis is reaching out to children and adults with Down syndrome by organizing social events, volunteer and employment opportunities.

Teri Miller – Attended Metro meeting about transportation issues for people with disabilities in the St. Louis area.

Mary Ann Harter –The St. Louis Aspergers group facilitates social opportunities for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. The group provides information, training and education and promotes inclusive education.

Dr. Joan Bergstrom – Met with Rep. Jeff Grisamore at Longview College in December to look for legislative ways to get support and funding for social skills training for students with ASD in schools and colleges.

Ed Duff – Met with the director of the Kansas City VA hospital to discuss reasonable accommodations for refills of medications to treat mental illness; Advocated for a change in van accessible parking at Wal-Mart in Nevada; Attended Federation of Missouri Advocates monthly meeting in Jefferson City and was asked to chair the group but declined.

DeAnna Noriega – Attended Centralia Access Committee meeting addressing the increase in accessibility of businesses and traffic for people with disabilities and was asked to review their by-laws.

Karen Benson – Assisted with five technical assistance issues regarding accessibility of businesses and written information regarding food drive outreach efforts.

**Old Business:**

The Council members reviewed the action items from the November meeting. Karen Benson will follow up with the Governor's office regarding Council membership issues.

**GCD committee reports:**

Advocacy Committee (James Trout reporting):

- Linda Baker, Dr. Joan Bergstrom, Sue Orton, and James Trout worked together to develop a new policy statement for the Governor's Council on Disability relating to Multiple Chemical Sensitivities. The Council voted unanimously in favor of adopting this new policy. It was decided to post the new policy and additional informational links on our website.

Legislative Committee (Ed Duff/Donna Borgmeyer reporting):

- Legislative survey results have been sent to the list serves.
- Donna Borgmeyer will make the legislative survey results available to legislators.
- Some volunteers have come forward to help with facilitating the LEP. Due to budget issues, sign up of participants is slow.
- Ed Duff will attend Legislative Advocacy Training next week where he'll encourage people to participate in the LEP.

Finance/Development Committee:

- The committee needs a new chair. Karen Benson asked for volunteers. If no volunteers come forward, Karen will appoint a new chair.
- Donna Borgmeyer needs to follow up with former Council member Joe Colagiovanni regarding his commitment to provide \$1,400 for the savings bonds that will be awarded to the Poster & Journalism contest winners.

**Action Items:**

Post new Multiple Chemical Sensitivities policy on web.

Make legislative survey results available to legislators.

Follow-up with Joe Colagiovanni regarding money for savings bonds

**New Business:**

- Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) has been providing informational parking placards to people with disabilities. These placards can be placed on windshields of vehicles that are illegally parked in accessible spaces to remind ineligible drivers that those parking spaces are reserved for people with disabilities. The Council decided to:
  - Ask Commissioner's office for approval to continue the use of these placards
  - Upon approval: Post the information on our website, have the placards available for Council members and department liaisons at the next Council meeting, and share the information with the Centers for Independent Living.
- The Council decided to change the agenda for future Council meetings to have Public Comments earlier to make sure the Council meeting does not get adjourned before the posted public comment time.
- Karen Benson reminded the Council members to schedule committee meetings by phone in between Council meetings and to inform her and Linda Baker of scheduled meetings
- The Council discussed the feasibility of speakers during Council meetings conducted by videoconference. It was decided that the Programs Committee would continue to schedule speakers for the regular quarterly Council meetings. Speakers will be given the

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option of presenting during a face-to-face or videoconference meeting based on their preference.

- The agenda will be updated to include meeting locations for Council meetings held by videoconference.

**Action items:** See table of action items below.

**Public Comment:**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held **Monday, March 1, 2010 at 10 AM** in room 470 of the Governor's Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.

Attachments: Updated Committee List  
Policy on Air Quality/Multiple Chemical Sensitivities

<b>Summary of Action Items:</b>	<b>Person Responsible:</b>
Sign up for Council committee(s)	Council members
Update and disseminate committee list	Claudia Browner
Modify ED report to reflect changes in TA numbers	Linda Baker
Follow up with Governor's Boards and Commissions office regarding Council membership	Karen Benson
Post new Multiple Chemical Sensitivities policy on web	Claudia Browner
Make legislative survey results available to legislators.	Donna Borgmeyer
Follow-up with Joe Colagiovanni regarding money for savings bonds for P&J winners	Donna Borgmeyer
Get approval for use of "parking placards", post information on web and share with CILs	Claudia Browner
Change public comment time on Council meeting agenda and include meeting locations for meetings held by videoconference	Linda Baker/Claudia Browner
Schedule committee meetings between Council meetings	Committee chairs

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I  
January 19, 2010