

# **Governor's Council on Disability**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 23, 2012**

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

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Charles Comstock II, Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Ronald Hack, Mary Ann Harter, Teri Miller, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, Derek Smith, Erwin Switzer, James Trout, Robert Wallace

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

Ed Duff, Mike Esser, Todd Mayfield

#### **Department Liaisons:**

Gena Ahlers	Department of Revenue – DOR
Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services – DSS (for Julie Juergens)
Cari Collins	Department of Corrections - DOC
Sara Dick	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Kristin Funk	Department of Economic Development – DED/DWD
Tim McDonald	Missouri State Highway Patrol - MSHP
Rudy Nickens	Missouri Department of Transportation - MODOT
Dorothy Parks	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education – DESE/VR
Michele Radney	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Court Administrator – OSCA
Robin Rust	Department of Mental Health – DMH/DD
Glenda Verslues	Department of Conservation – MDC

#### **Guests:**

Mike Houlihan, HDC Homes Without Limits  
Liz deLaparouse, HDC Homes Without Limits  
Earnest Garrett, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Kim Davis, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

#### **Staff:**

Linda Baker, Claudia Browner

#### **Real Time Captioner, Interpreters:** Deb Reithmeyer, Nancy and Alicia

Acting Chair James Trout called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. With thirteen (13) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed.

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

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes for November 18 and December 5, 2011, and the agenda for the day.

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

Linda announced that January 23 is Ed Roberts Day. Linda then summarized her ED report. OA has announced budget cuts for FY13, which will affect the E&E (operating) budget. GCD currently is in the process of filling the Disability Program Specialist vacancy. GCD held its first LEP webcast January 18 and will offer two more webcasts in February and March. James Trout inquired about making the webcast available on GCD's website.

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum budget needs to be at least \$25,000 in order to be able to accept 25 delegates. The goal is to raise more funds to be able to accept more students. Edward Jones has contributed \$5,000 for this year's forum.

**Department Liaison Information:**

Shawn Brice (DSS) – Provided an update about the Money Follows the Person grant. The next stakeholder group meeting will be February 6. Plans are underway for a fall conference to train and raise awareness about community living, person centered planning, employment, and housing.

Dorothy Parks (DESE/VR) – VR is facing proposed budget cuts in FY13, with reductions of 20.5 FTE and over \$70,000 in E&E, resulting in a loss of over \$259,000 in federal funds.

Rudy Nickens (MODOT) – MODOT is currently undergoing downsizing by 1,200 employees.

Sara Dick (AGO) – AGO is planning an Accessible Parking Enforcement Day in Jackson and St. Louis County. Law enforcement agencies have been contacted to participate by issuing tickets on private property open for public use, such as store parking lots. A PSA is being developed to inform the public about this event, and regulations regarding accessible parking spaces.

Cari Collins (DOC) – Introduced herself as the new state ADA coordinator for DOC. The department is planning a training event for their ADA coordinators in September.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – Kristin is working with the State WIA EO Officer in her division to provide disability training to the fourteen regional Equal Opportunity officers. Rehab Services for the Blind staff including Jim Brinkmann, District Supervisor, provided training to the regional EO Officers in January. Kim Davis with the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provided training in October to the Missouri Career Center Functional Leaders during their meeting last October. Both of these trainings were very valuable to their staff.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – Continues to assist courts undergoing renovations and modifications with accessibility issues. Erv Switzer commented that OSCA should consider using CART services for judicial ceremonial proceedings or other judicial proceedings.

Robin Rust (DMH/DD) – Provided a handout and an update about the Partnership of Hope waiver. DD is partnering with the counties' SB40 boards to provide these waiver services, which allows the use of county funds in addition to state and federal funds. A waiver amendment has been submitted to CMS, adding seven additional counties to this home and community based waiver. This only leaves 22 Missouri counties who do not provide services under this waiver.

**GCD Committee Reports:**

Employment & Education (Rep. Jeff Grisamore reporting):

Rep. Grisamore provided an update on this session's legislative priorities, including HB1077 relating to transition plans, and a fix to the accessible parking provision under HB555. He is working on making the Disability Services Committee a permanent standing committee.

Lunch recess was taken.

**Old business:** None.

**Public comment:** Rep. Grisamore encouraged the promotion of Disability History Awareness Month in October to schools. DESE and DHE should designate a day or week to include education about disability awareness in the schools' lesson plans. Goals could be included in the Show-Me Standards.

**Presentation:** Mike Houlihan discussed the implementation of Universal Design and Energy Efficiency in new and existing homes. He stated that all newly built homes should be energy efficient and at least "visitible". "Visitability" is a step down from accessibility in that the main level of the home can be entered, the hallways are wide enough and the restroom is usable for a person in a wheelchair. Full accessibility of a home means that the entire house is accessible to a person with a disability. For more information, please visit [www.hdcstl.com](http://www.hdcstl.com). After some discussion, it was decided that the Advocacy Committee would form a Task Force for Universal Design to address:

- What is the cost for home modification over moving to a nursing home?
- Promoting tax incentives for including accessibility features in home renovations and new construction
- Setting up training program for appraisers
- Distinguishing MLS listings for accessibility
- Promoting photos of universal design features on GCD's website

**Action item:** Form Task Force for Universal Design

**GCD committee reports, continued:**

Advocacy Committee (Erv Switzer reporting):

The Advocacy Committee will take on the Universal Design issue.

The committee is following several pieces of legislation to include bills about: photo IDs for voters; increasing penalties for injuring or killing guide dogs; disability history month; due process hearing committees; and the tape recording of college lectures.

Linda Baker asked if she could provide testimony to the legislature. The Council responded that she could do so only based on invitation and following the approval of the Executive Committee or, if necessary, the entire Council.

Programs Committee (James Trout reporting):

Reminded the other committee chairs to look at their committee membership, recruit new members, and conduct committee meetings prior to the April Council meeting.

**Action item:** Conduct committee meetings.

**Council member reports:**

DeAnna Noriega has been working with senior citizens with recent vision loss; attended VSA board meeting in Kansas City; and is working on the Disability and Legislative Rights Day held April 4 at the capitol.

Chuck Comstock reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Disability Awareness Day at Truman State University was a successful event.

Dr. Joan Bergstrom reported that UMKC and the Missouri Planning Council on DD will be offering free training programs in February on starting your own business. Classes will be held in Kansas City and Columbia.

Erv Switzer explained that the proposed legislation regarding the recording of college lectures would allow recording for personal use only.

Sue Orton has been working with the Missouri Realtors Board to include accessibility categories in MLS listings.

Derek Smith will be participating in the Drake Law Diversity Day where students will be allowed to use wheelchairs around campus to experience the challenges students with disabilities face on campus.

Teri Miller met with George Lombardi (Director, DOC) to discuss allowing non-violent offenders to get a para-professional education while being incarcerated.

Mary Ann Harter recommended the Ability exhibit at St. Louis University Law School.

**New Business:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Monday, April 23, 2012 by videoconference.**

<b>Summary of Action Items:</b>	<b>Person Responsible:</b>
Form Task Force for Universal Design	Advocacy Committee
Conduct committee meetings prior to April Council meeting.	Committee Chairs