

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2011

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Charles Comstock II, Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Edward Duff, Mike Esser, Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Ronald Hack, Todd Mayfield, Teri Miller, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, James Trout, Erwin Switzer, Robert Wallace

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Karen Benson, Mary Ann Harter, Derek Smith

Department Liaisons:

Gena Ahlers	Department of Revenue – DOR
Sara Dick	Attorney General's Office - AGO
Bobbi Jo Garber	Department of Health and Senior Services/Division of Senior and Disability Services – DHSS/DSDS
Rudolph Nickens	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Dorothy Parks	Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education/Vocational Rehabilitation – DESE/VR
Walter Pearson	Office of Administration – OA
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Courts Administrator – OSCA
Robin Rust	Department of Mental Health – DMH
Theresa Valdes	Department of Social Services – DSS (for Julie Juergens)

Guests: Linda Bohrer, Dept. of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration (DIFP); Leanne Peace, Missouri Kidney Program; Jeffrey Warder, Social Security Administration; Melissa White

Staff: Linda Baker, Claudia Browner, Belle Dobelbower, Laura Mueth

Real Time Captioner: Debbie Reithmeyer

Council member Erwin Switzer chaired the meeting in Karen Benson's absence. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. With thirteen (13) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting.

Erwin Switzer informed the attendees about Council member Greg Greven's death on February 10, 2011 and asked for a moment of silence to honor Mr. Greven.

Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda and minutes:

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes for November 8, 2010 and January 19, 2011 and the agenda for the day.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

Linda Baker introduced the new GCD staff member Laura Mueth and then summarized her ED report.

Budget Update:

To date, GCD has spent 31% of its E&E budget. Upcoming expenditures include costs for the office move from the 2nd to the 8th floor of the Truman building and remote captioning for the webcasts.

Legislation:

The letter of support for the Disability History bill has been sent to Representative Grisamore.

Legislative Education Project:

GCD has conducted two LEP webinars. LEP webinars and training in Jefferson City continue until April.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF):

GCD has received donations from Edward Jones and Missouri Bar Association which will help sustain the MYLF program for 2011.

Inclusion Awards:

Aimee Wehmeier, Executive Director of Services for Independent Living is the 2010 winner. Rebecca Herwick of Global Products, Inc. St. Louis is the recipient of the Honorable Mention. The awards will be presented at the 2011 Power Up conference in Columbia in April.

Department Liaison Information:

Robin Rust (DMH) – Provided handouts about the Partnership for Hope Waiver. Currently, Missouri is approved to serve 470 people on this waiver. An amendment was submitted to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in December, 2010 to add 37 additional counties and 500 slots. Approval is currently pending.

Bobbi Jo Garber (DHSS/DSDS) – Indiana based SynCare, LLC was awarded a one-year contract as the Assessment Administrator for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver program for DHSS/DSDS.

Theresa Valdes (DSS) – Update on Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant: To date, 574 individuals have been referred, 307 have transitioned into the community, and 48 cases are pending. Missouri has applied for calendar year 2012 funds in the amount of \$11.6 million to continue the grant. The projected number of individuals who will transition into the community has increased from 250 to 1,264.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – OSCA continues to provide certification testing for foreign language translators. Twenty-five (25) individuals have signed up for the next orientation.

Dorothy Parks (DESE/VR) – Target date for the installation of a new computer program is April 1, 2011. Currently there are 20 individuals on the waitlist for services from the division. The new name for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is “Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services”.

Sara Dick (AGO) – AGO is working on improving accessibility in the State of Missouri in cooperation with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. Focus group discussions have been scheduled around the state to discuss accessibility issues.

Walter Pearson (OA) – Invited Council to attend a demonstration of the TelePresence videoconferencing technology following the meeting at 3:30 p.m. in room 510 of the Truman building. State departments are encouraged to take advantage of this new technology to save on meeting costs. TelePresence is available to GCD at no cost.

Public Comment:

Linda Bohrer (DIFP) provided information and handouts about the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) known as CLAIM. CLAIM is a non-profit agency that provides free, unbiased information about Medicare to Missourians. Local counselors assist callers with information about Medicare enrollment, billing, prescription drug plans, etc. CLAIM is funded through grant monies from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). For more information, please visit www.missouricclaim.org

Old Business: None.

Council member reports:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D. – Expressed her gratitude to Governor Nixon for cutting the education budget by only 7%. Community colleges are seeing a large increase in student enrollment for Associates degree and certificate programs.

Sue Orton – Announced Brain Injury Awareness Day at the Capitol on March 9, 2011 and handed out registration forms for the event. During the current legislative session, the Missouri Brain Injury Association is closely following the legislation on sports concussions, motor cycle helmet law, and other disability-related legislation.

DeAnna Noriega – The 10th Annual Disability Rights Rally will be held March 9, 2011 at the Capitol. Aimee Wehmeier and Colleen Starkloff will be the emcees for the event. Scheduled speakers include people waiting to receive services and people who have transitioned into community based living.

Rep. Jeff Grisamore – Informed Council that he is the Chair of the new House Special Committee on Disability Issues and looks forward to working closely with GCD and its Legislative Committee on amendments to disability-related legislation. The disability history bill will be introduced and heard in the near future.

Ed Duff – Serves as a member of the Disability Vote Project and is monitoring bills on voter ID, motorcycle helmet law, and human rights/employment discrimination.

GCD committee reports:

Programs Committee (James Trout reporting):

The Programs Committee had been charged with finding a fiscal agent for the Missouri Youth Leadership Program (MYLF). James Trout and Linda Baker met with two Centers for Independent Living; Independent Living Resource Center in Jefferson City and Services for Independent Living in Columbia (SIL) to discuss possible options. As a result of these meetings, the Programs Committee recommended that SIL take over the program and fiscal administration of the MYLF program beginning in 2012. GCD and SIL will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to outline each agency's responsibilities for the program. The MOU will be reviewed by: 1. Programs Committee, 2. The Council, and 3. OA's legal counsel prior to the review and execution by GCD's Chair. The Council unanimously voted in approval of the motion to give the Council Chair the authority to execute the MOU between GCD and SIL.

Action item: Develop MOU between GCD and SIL about MYLF program.

Council member reports (continued):

Teri Miller – Has been advocating against Senate Resolution 27, sponsored by Sen. Jane Cunningham. The resolution officially asks Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster to join in a national lawsuit challenging the federal health care legislation. The lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of the federal health care act that was passed in 2010.

Teri provided a handout about an accessible playground to be developed in Florissant (North St. Louis County) by non-profit corporation Accessible Play, Inc.

DeAnna Noriega – Provided an update on HB205 and SB188 relating to the Missouri Human Rights Act and employment discrimination. A rally in opposition of this bill will be held February 15, 2011 at the Capitol. The Council discussed this proposed legislation and unanimously voted to approve a motion for "The Chair or her designee to soon contact the Governor's office for more information on the proposed legislation". Dr. Bergstrom asked for the Chair to provide feedback to the Council on the information received from the Governor's office.

Action item: Council Chair to contact Governor's office for information on human rights/employment discrimination bill.

New business:

Ed Duff expressed concern about the treatment of people with mental illness in the custody of the Department of Corrections in regards to ADA laws. The Council decided to have the Chair assign a committee to address this issue.

Action item: Council Chair to assign committee with addressing treatment of offenders with mental illness in DOC institutions.

Presentation:

Jeffrey Warder, Area Work Incentive Coordinator with the Social Security Administration gave a presentation on Social Security Disability Benefits (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) relating to employment supports for people with disabilities.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, June 10, 2011 at 10 AM via videoconference.**

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Develop MOU between GCD and SIL for MYLF program	Linda Baker, Aimee Wehmeier
Review MYLF MOU	Programs Committee, Council, OA General Counsel
Execute MOU	Karen Benson
Assign committee with addressing concerns about treatment of offenders with mental illness in DOC institutions.	Karen Benson

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
February 17, 2011