

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2010

Council Members Present/Participating:

Karen Benson, Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Mike Esser, Greg Greven, Ronald Hack (by phone), Mary Ann Harter, Todd Mayfield, Teri Miller, Sue Orton, Joe Sartorius, Erwin Switzer, James Trout

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Jacqueline Chatman, Ed Duff, DeAnna Noriega

Unexcused Absences:

Dr. Hani Soudah

Department Liaisons:

Kristin Funk (Department of Economic Development/Division of Workforce Development – DED/DWD), Rudolph Nickens (Department of Transportation), Walter Pearson (Office of Administration – OA), Robin Rust (Department of Mental Health – DMH)

Guests: Representative Rachel Storch with interns Sarina and Amanda

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 13 (thirteen) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda and minutes:

The agenda was approved as amended after moving the “Fragrance Free policy” topic from Old Business to New Business.

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the January 11, 2010 meeting minutes.

Report from Council Chair Karen Benson:

Karen asked the Council members for comments about the January 11 meeting, which was the first meeting held by videoconference. The overall feedback was very positive.

Dr. Joan Bergstrom thanked Karen Benson for her leadership.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

Linda Baker summarized her ED report.

Budget Update:

GCD received another budget cut/spending restriction in February. Linda asked the Council members to consider canceling one of the scheduled meetings that were added to the mandatory quarterly meetings in 2010.

Legislative Education Project (LEP):

Enrollment for the 3-day LEP has decreased while participation in the 1-day customized LEP has increased. Linda recommended offering LEP training by webcast to reach a broader audience.

Business Leadership Network (BLN):

MOBLN will be awarding a scholarship to three college students with a disability. GKCBLN will be presenting a panel of employer's best practices on March 5, 2010, highlighting the RISE program at St. John's Mercy Children's Hospital.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum:

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

Poster and Journalism Contest:

GCD has received 290 entries (197 posters and 93 essays) to date. Linda asked the Council members to volunteer as judges.

Inclusion Awards:

Sue Orton and Teri Miller presented the award to Chris Holmes, Educator of the Year, at Hazelwood West High School in Hazelwood on January 20, 2010. The Employer of the Year award was presented on February 5, 2010 at Friendship Village of South County by a Special District administrator.

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.

Action item: Volunteers are needed to judge the Poster & Journalism contest entries.

Department Liaison Information:

Mary Wood (DESE) provided a written report for the meeting. DESE is offering partial scholarships to qualified graduate students entering Missouri State University's Communication Sciences and Disorders Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing master's program in fall 2010. These scholarships are intended to fill the demand for qualified teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Robin Rust (DMH) – DMH is co-sponsoring a statewide respite summit on March 24 at the Truman Hotel in Jefferson City. This free summit is for up to 100 individuals and by invitation only.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has been hosting a series of four lectures via webinar/videoconference on the topic of psychotropic medications. This technology allowed people to attend at various locations around the state with the speakers broadcasting from North Carolina and New Hampshire.

Robin Rust handed out reminders about the upcoming Mental Health Champions' Banquet on April 7 and the Missouri Consumer, Family & Youth conference August 22-24, 2010.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – DED/DWD is partnering with the Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks to offer youth ages 17-24 the opportunity to work in a

variety of jobs in the State Parks Youth Corp. The program will run from May 1 – September 30, during which youth can work up to 240 hours in Missouri's 85 state parks and state historic sites and at the state park central and district offices. Funding for the State Park Youth Corps is made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Workforce Investment Act.

New business:

Fragrance free/Multiple Chemical Sensitivities Policy

The Advocacy Committee raised the question why the new policy on Multiple Chemical Sensitivities had not been posted after being voted on at the January 11 meeting. Karen Benson informed the Council that this decision was based on a request from Jeanne Hunt (Advocate) to further review and change the policy. After discussing the issue, the Council unanimously voted to change the name of the policy to "Policy on Indoor Air Quality", divide the text into three paragraphs, and post the policy on our website. The Advocacy Committee further decided to conduct a conference call with Ms. Hunt to learn about and discuss possible Internet links relating to chemical sensitivity/neurotoxic substances.

Action Items: Post Policy on Indoor Air Quality on website and conduct conference call to discuss Internet links relating to the topic.

GCD committee reports:

Advocacy Committee (Sue Orton reporting):

- The conference call relating to Indoor Air Quality as discussed under New Business will be held in early April.

Legislative Committee (Linda Baker/Greg Greven/Karen Benson reporting):

- Existing LEP PowerPoint presentations will be revised to create LEP webcast training.
- The Legislative Committee urged Council members to contact the house speaker's office to have the disability history bill (HB1879) put on the hearing calendar.
- SB991 officially moves GCD under the Office of Administration.
- The Council decided not to send out action alerts relating to legislation.

Programs Committee (Joe Sartorius reporting):

- There are several options for presentations for the September meeting:
 - Accessibility in state parks
 - EEOC
 - Long-term care
 - Update on legislative issues and bills
- The Council decided on the update on legislative issues and bills, specifically:
 - What services are available to people with disabilities
 - Legislative changes at the state level

Action item: The Programs Committee will invite speakers from an independent living center, MO Health Net, and possibly the Social Security Administration to address these issues.

Finance/Development Committee:

- Karen Benson asked for volunteers for the chair position of this committee.
- Joe Sartorius was appointed as chair of the Finance/Development Committee.
- James Trout volunteered to chair the Programs Committee.

Old business: None.

New business:

Council members discussed ways to cut costs of the Council meetings scheduled for 2010. The Council unanimously voted to cancel the meeting scheduled for July 12, move the September meeting from September 13 to September 24 and conduct the November 8 meeting by videoconference. The revised meeting schedule for the remainder of 2010 is:

May 3 -	Videoconference
September 24 -	Face to face
November 8 -	Videoconference

Representative Rachel Storch joined the meeting to speak about HBI737. This bill introduces the Universal Design in Affordable Housing Act which specifies the design standards and requirements for the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing units.

Council member reports:

Teri Miller spoke to Albert Pujols about visiting the Albert Pujols Wellness Center for Adults with Down Syndrome at St. Louis hospital later this month and received contact information to set up a visit.

Sue Orton – March 16 is Brain Injury Awareness Day at the capitol. The Center for Citizen Leadership is cooperating with the Go St. Louis Family Fitness Weekend in April to hold a marathon, half marathon, walk and run.

Greg Greven – Bolivar will have a bus system in place beginning May 8. Greg is a member of the Mayor's Commission on Global Perspective in Springfield.

Dr. Joan Bergstrom – March 31 is the 2nd Annual Disability Awareness Day at Longview College. Linda Baker offered to give a presentation on disability awareness and have an exhibit booth at the event.

James Trout – The Williams Syndrome Association is holding its national convention in St. Louis from July 7-10.

Karen Benson – Continues to work on long-term care and advocacy for 2008 disaster victims.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held by videoconference **Monday, May 3, 2010 at 10 AM.**

Attachments: Updated Committee List

GCD Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2010 Meeting

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Volunteer to judge Poster & Journalism entries	Council members/state liaisons
Post new Multiple Chemical Sensitivities policy on web	Claudia Browner
Schedule conference call on Indoor Air Quality	Advocacy Committee
Invite speakers for September Council meeting	Programs Committee

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
March 10, 2010