

# **Governor's Council on Disability**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **September 24, 2010**

**Council Members Present/Participating:**

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Ed Duff, Mike Esser, Greg Greven, Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Mary Ann Harter, Todd Mayfield, Teri Miller, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, Derek Smith, Erwin Switzer, James Trout, Robert Wallace

**Council Members Not Present/Participating:**

Karen Benson, Ronald Hack

**Unexcused Absences:**

Charles Comstock II

**Department Liaisons:**

Gena Ahlers	Department of Revenue – DOR
Kristin Funk	Dept. of Economic Development/Division of Workforce Development – DED/DWD
Bobbi Jo Garber	Department of Health and Senior Services/Division of Senior and Disability Services – DHSS/DSDS
Dana Kliethermes	Dept. of Agriculture – MDA
Phyllis Launius	Office of State Courts Administrator – OSCA
Vicky Myers	Dept. of Corrections – DOC
Rudolph Nickens	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Julie Ousley	Dept. of Social Services – DSS
Dorothy Parks	Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education/Vocational Rehabilitation – DESE/VR
Kathy Schafer	Department of Mental Health – DMH

**Guests:** Donna Borgmeyer, Meghan Gottlieb, Lise Nyrop, Leanne Peace, Lynette Ricks, Tish Thomas

**Staff:** Linda Baker, Claudia Browner

**Real Time Captioner:** Debbie Reithmeyer

Executive Committee Vice Chair Mike Esser chaired the Council meeting in Karen Benson's absence. He called the meeting to order at 10 AM. With fifteen (15) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed. Mike Esser welcomed the new council members to the meeting.

**Approval of agenda and minutes:**

The agenda was changed to add Letters of Support Policy under New Business. The agenda was approved as amended.

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the May 3, 2010 meeting minutes.

**Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:**

Linda Baker summarized her ED report.

Budget Update:

GCD's E&E budget was cut by \$5,585 for the FY11 budget.

Disability Program Representative position:

The Disability Program Specialist position formerly held by Donna Borgmeyer was reclassified to Disability Program Representative and will be filled later this year. GCD is currently accepting applications for this position.

Legislative Education Project (LEP):

The LEP will be restructured for 2011. As a prerequisite to the LEP at the Capitol in Jefferson City, GCD will be offering webcast training on the legislative process.

Business Leadership Network (BLN):

Greater KC BLN had a July 29, 2010 event on "Do it right – do it legal: A practical guide in hiring people with disabilities". MO BLN had a Florida BLN consultant to discuss how to develop and provide recognition to "disability friendly" businesses. Both chapters have October events planned to recognize October as Disability Employment Awareness Month. KC will present an award to honor a KC employer. This year's theme is "Talent has no boundaries". MOBLN has invited Randy Lewis, Walgreen's CEO, to come and meet other CEOs about Walgreen's commitment to hiring PWD (51% of the workforce).

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF):

GCD received a record number of 63 applications for the MYLF. Twenty-five delegates were accepted and 21 actually attended MYLF. GCD needs to continue exploring funding options to sustain the program in 2011.

The Council discussed different funding options, such as the Missouri Association of Community Task Forces, Paraquad or other 501(c)3 entities. Erwin Switzer stated that he has submitted a grant application to the Missouri Bar Foundation for \$5,000 to fund the legislative track. The Finance Committee will take on the responsibility of finding a fiscal agent.

Poster and Journalism Contest:

The Programs Committee recommended suspending this program in 2011 due to budget restraints and reduced staff. Discussion followed under agenda item Strategic Plan.

Inclusion Awards:

The Programs Committee recommended changing the program to only one award with one honorable mention due to budget restraints and reduced number of nominations. Discussion followed under agenda item Strategic Plan.

**Department Liaison Information:**

Gena Ahlers (DOR) – DOR has developed an updated physician’s statement form for individuals with disabilities who apply for disabled placards. Beginning July 1, 2010, people with disabilities have a choice of adding a notation on their driver’s license about being a person with a disability. This service requires a physician statement and is provided free of charge.

Bobbi Jo Garber (DHSS) – DHSS is contracting for assessment services for seniors with disabilities with a third party assessor agency. Medicaid Transformation grant funds are being utilized for the development of the Home and Community Based Services Web Tool. Mike Esser offered to post information about this program change on GCD’s website.

Julie Ousley (DSS) – Ms. Ousley provided a handout showing the number of individuals that have transitioned from institutions to the community. The original goal was to move 250 people out of institutions, which was raised to 367 due to the grant extension. To date, 258 people have made the transition to community living and 43 cases are pending. CMS is working with HUD to issue 1,000 Section 8 vouchers for people with disabilities transitioning out of institutions. The application is pending. As of October 1, minimum data sets in nursing homes will be changed so that the individual/guardian or someone they choose rather than nursing facility staff will answer the question regarding community living. If a yes response is given (8,000 statewide to date), the nursing facility will be required to refer the individual to a state designated contact agency for follow-up. Self-advocates are needed to help with this project.

Phyllis Launius (OSCA) announced her retirement effective October 29, 2010 and introduced Lise Nyrop and Lynette Ricks as the new state liaisons to the Council. Mike Esser thanked Ms. Launius for her work with the Council.

Representative Jeff Grisamore issued a motion for the Executive Director to pursue getting a state liaison from the Attorney General’s Office. The Council unanimously voted in favor of the motion. Rep. Grisamore will provide Linda with contact information for this request.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – DWD is part of a statewide committee for the Alliance for Full Participation. DWD participated in the APSE-MO conference where the Employment First program was discussed. Funding for the disability navigator program ended. Two navigators remain in the Kansas City area. Questions regarding career centers can be directed to Kristin. Linda Baker requested Rep. Grisamore’s assistance in encouraging the Governor to sign an Executive Order to support the employment first initiative. Employers can receive tax credits for hiring people with disabilities under the work opportunity tax credit program.

**Report from Council Chair Karen Benson:**

Karen phoned in to give an update about the Functional Needs Support System (FNSS). The Department of Justice and FEMA will no longer segregate people with disabilities in emergency response planning. The Special Needs Steering Committee will be disbanded. Planning for people with disabilities is now integrated in regular emergency response planning. For Missouri, the Department of Social Services will be the lead agency.

Karen formally thanked Donna Borgmeyer for her 34 years of service with GCD and congratulated her on her retirement.

**Department Liaison Information (continued):**

Kathy Schafer (DMH/DD) – Ms. Schafer provided two handouts and summarized the updates on the Prevention Waiver and the Division of Developmental Disabilities' Transformation Initiative.

*Lunch recess was taken.*

Dorothy Parks (DESE/VR) – DESE has undergone reorganization. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation was renamed Adult Learning Rehab Services. Currently, the division has no wait list for their clients.

**GCD committee reports:**

Finance/Development Committee (Sue Orton reporting):

The committee will schedule a conference call to discuss the MYLF account and funding.

Legislative Committee (Sue Orton/Claudia Browner reporting):

The Legislative Updates will be continued by GCD during the legislative session. The 2011 Legislative Priorities survey was sent out and GCD received 128 responses indicating the following topics as the top legislative priorities for 2011:

1. Health Care Issues (including access to affordable health care and prescription drug coverage)
2. Home and Community Based Services (includes Consumer Directed Supports, MO Health Net, Money Follows the Person and Non-Medicaid Eligible Program)
3. Fiscal Policies
4. Transportation

The summary of survey results will be sent electronically to the legislative committee.

Programs Committee (Joan Bergstrom reporting):

The committee recommended suspending the Poster & Journalism contest for 2011 and reducing the Inclusion Awards program to one overall awards category, with one honorable mention. The recommendations were voted on during discussion of the Strategic Plan.

**Action item:** Schedule Finance Committee meeting to discuss MYLF account & funding.

**Strategic Plan:**

Council members reviewed and discussed the proposed 2010-2012 Strategic Plan.

- The Council unanimously passed the motion for suspension of the Poster & Journalism contest in 2011 and reinvention by the programs committee for 2012.
- The Council unanimously passed the motion to reduce the Inclusion Award categories to one category with an overall winner and an honorable mention.
- Linda Baker asked the state liaisons to submit the names of their department's ADA coordinator so GCD can create a listing for callers.
- The Strategic Plan was accepted as amended and approved by unanimous vote of the Council.

**Action item:** Send contact information of department ADA coordinator to GCD.

**Council member reports:**

Teri Miller – and Sue Orton attended an APSE/MO sponsored meeting with state department entities committed to the Employment First Initiative, which was a great learning experience. Teri also attended the St. Louis signing of the autism bill.

Ed Duff – has been involved with Money Follows the Person grant work for three years. He stated that there is a noticeable decline in the participation of people with disabilities due to the length of the process.

Derek Smith – served as a panel speaker at a DESE conference on self-advocacy for students.

DeAnna Noriega – has been involved in the hiring process for VSA Arts' new Executive Director. Attended International Festival on Disability Arts in Washington, DC. Attended NCIL conference in Washington DC and met with Senator McCaskill and Representative Luetkemeyer to discuss legislative priorities of the CILs. Attended American Council of the Blind National Conference in Arizona. Gave readings of poetry to children in a library. Is participating in two focus groups for the deaf, and the visually impaired/blind.

**New business:**

Council members reviewed and discussed the revised policy on letters of support proposed by Council member Erwin Switzer. The wording was changed for the first bullet under number 2 to read "It is solicited from an agency or a tax-exempt organization known to the GCD". The Council members voted to adopt the amended Council Policy for Letters of Support.

Sue Orton announced the Brain Injury Association conference in St. Charles on October 20-23, 2010.

The Council discussed the possibility of establishing a scholarship from designated parking fines. These funds are designated to school districts by state statute and constitutional requirements. The Council voted to abandon the issue of "Establishing a scholarship from designated parking fines".

The Council members unanimously voted to set the meeting dates for 2011 as follows:

- February 14, 2011 – in person
- June 10, 2011 – by videoconference
- September 9, 2011 – in person
- November 18, 2011 – by videoconference

**Public Comment:**

Leanne Peace with the University of Missouri Health Care's Missouri Kidney Program introduced herself to the Council. Currently there are 7,000 Missourians on dialysis.

**Old Business:** None.

**Presentation from the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (MPCDD)**

A video was shown about Molly's transition from the Marshall Habilitation Center to community living. Molly's sister, Tish Thomas, attended the meeting to answer questions from the Council members. The Council commended Tish on supporting her sister in this transition. Susan Pritchard-Green (Director of MPCDD) phoned in give background information about the MPCDD and asked Council members to individually support the petition that people with disabilities should live at home in their communities with the supports they need. More information and the petition can be found on MPCDD's website at <http://www.mpcdd.com/petition.php>.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 8, 2010 at 10 AM by videoconference**. Please refer to the attached list of videoconference locations for the location nearest you.

Attachments:           Approved Strategic Plan 2010-12  
                                  Council Policy for Letters of Support  
                                  List of videoconference locations  
                                  Meeting schedule for 2011  
                                  Updated committee list

<b>Summary of Action Items:</b>	<b>Person Responsible:</b>
Schedule Finance Committee meeting to discuss MYLF account and program funding.	Finance Committee
Send name and contact information of department ADA Coordinator to GCD.	State Liaisons

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I  
September 30, 2010