

Governor's Council on Disability Meeting Minutes November 8, 2010

Council Members Present/Participating:

Karen Benson, Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Charles Comstock II, Edward Duff, Mike Esser, Gregory Greven, Rep. Jeff Grisamore, DeAnna Noriega, Derek Smith, James Trout

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Betty Davidson, Ph.D.*, Ronald Hack*, Mary Ann Harter*, Teri Miller, Sue Orton, Erwin Switzer*, Robert Wallace*

*Council members were present at the video conference location in St. Louis, but unable to participate due to technical difficulties.

Unexcused Absences:

Todd Mayfield

Department Liaisons:

Gena Ahlers	Department of Revenue – DOR
Sara Dick	Attorney General's Office - AGO
Chris Larsen	Department of Health and Senior Services/Division of Senior and Disability Services – DHSS/DSDS (for Bobbi Jo Garber)
Rudolph Nickens	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Dorothy Parks	Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education/Vocational Rehabilitation – DESE/VR
Michele Radney	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Courts Administrator – OSCA
Robin Rust	Department of Mental Health – DMH

Guests: None

Staff: Linda Baker, Claudia Browner, Belle Dobelbower

Real Time Captioner: Debbie Reithmeyer

Council Chair Karen Benson called the meeting to order at 10:50 AM. With ten (10) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda and minutes:

Due to the delayed beginning of the meeting and technical difficulties, the presentation on Social Security updates was canceled and will be rescheduled for the February 14 meeting. The amended agenda was approved by the Council.

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the September 24, 2010 meeting minutes.

Report from Council Chair Karen Benson:

Karen Benson apologized for the technical difficulties and welcomed the new state liaisons to the meeting.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

Linda Baker summarized her ED report.

Budget Update:

To date, GCD has spent 24% of its E&E budget.

OA appointed Jessica Opie as the new OA budget officer. She will replace Nancy Miluski who is retiring the end of November.

Disability Program Representative position:

GCD will be conducting interviews for this position the week of November 15.

Legislation:

Rep. Jeff Grisamore will talk to the Council today about the Disability History Legislation.

Disability Mentoring Day (DMD):

October 20, 2010 was Disability Mentoring Day. DMD activities were held around the state of Missouri, including events sponsored by the Business Leadership Network groups in St. Louis and Kansas City.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF):

The Finance Committee met in October to discuss how to sustain the MYLF program and decided that Linda would meet with the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC) to discuss the possibility of ILRC taking over the MYLF as one of their programs with the support of GCD in 2012. Additionally, there is discussion about the development of an MYLF Alumni Association. Thanks to the generous donations from Edward Jones and the Missouri Bar Foundation, GCD will be able to conduct the MYLF program in 2011.

Inclusion Awards:

To date, GCD has received one nomination for the Inclusion Awards. News release and announcements have been sent out.

Department Liaison Information:

Robin Rust (DMH) – The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) implemented the County Based Prevention Waiver on October 1. As of the beginning of November, 175 individuals have enrolled in the waiver. DDD is working on a waiver amendment to add five additional counties (Lafayette, St. Francois, Jefferson, Dent, and Crawford). This amendment will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the next few weeks. The Comprehensive and Community Support Waivers are due for renewal in June 2011. Currently, public meetings are being held around the state to solicit input from stakeholders. As the Medicaid agency for Missouri, the Department of Social Services will submit the applications for the 5-year renewals to the federal government by the end of this year. Applications are due April 30, 2011.

Chris Larsen (DHSS) – Chris gave an update on the Money Follows the Person grant. As of November, DHSS has transitioned 152 individuals from institution into the community; 45 aged and 107 physically disabled. As of October 1, minimum data sets in nursing homes have been 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, the nursing facility will be required to refer the individual to a state designated contact agency for follow-up counseling sessions.

Sara Dick (AGO) – Sara introduced herself as the Assistant Attorney General in the Disability and Civil Rights Division and thanked the Council for inviting her to serve as a state liaison.

Rudolph Nickens (MODOT) – MODOT's Transition Plan was posted on the Internet for public comment from September 1 to October 31, 2010 and all comments have been replied to or referred to other agencies for response. The transition plan was developed in fulfillment of the ADA laws to implement regulation of Title II.

Human Resources and Equal Opportunity recently conducted diversity training for 1,000 MODOT employees.

The Highway Safety Division is funding "Think First" which focuses on consequences of crashes, specifically head and spinal cord injuries. The program is presented to schools and industries.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Lunch recess was taken.

GCD committee reports:

Legislative Committee (Claudia Browner reporting):

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 was sent electronically to the legislative committee.

GCD is conducting practice LEP webcasts. The information and online registration forms for the 2011 LEP will be posted on GCD's website in the next few weeks.

Programs Committee (Joan Bergstrom reporting):

The committee asked Rep. Grisamore to give a presentation on the disability history legislation during today's meeting. The other scheduled presentation on Social Security updates will be rescheduled for the February meeting.

Finance/Development Committee (James Trout reporting):

The committee met on October 25 to discuss the financial sustainability of the MYLF program. Program funds are currently administered through an OA revolving account and a 501(c)3 account at the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC) in Jefferson City. ILRC has informed GCD that 10% administrative fees per year would be charged on the account. The committee looked at ways to reduce the costs and presented the following recommendations:

- Schedule meeting between GCD and the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC) to discuss the possibility of ILRC taking over the MYLF as one of their programs with the support of GCD in 2012.
- Create an MYLF Alumni Association as a 501(c)3 to administer the program. A Letter was sent soliciting input from MYLF alumni and responses so far have been positive.
- Look at short and long term funding solutions for MYLF. Funding for 2011 has been secured.

Derek Smith gave testimony on the importance of the MYLF based on his experiences as an alumnus during his high school years and a MYLF volunteer staff member for four additional years. MYLF has taught him about the disability community and history, how to become a self advocate, and showed him that people with disabilities can be successful in college and accomplish their goals.

Action item: Schedule meeting between GCD and ILRC to discuss MYLF program.

Presentation:

Representative Jeff Grisamore informed the Council that he intends to re-file the disability history bill early in January. The legislation originally filed as HB1879 bill did not pass in the 2010 legislative session. The basic component of the bill is to establish the month of October as Disability History and Awareness Month in all public schools, K-12.

Rep. Grisamore plans to revise and amend the language to encourage the integration of disability history education in higher education and continuing education settings. The goal is to increase understanding and awareness of individuals with disabilities by integrating disability history education into the curriculum and classes as well as holding special events, initiatives, or assemblies highlighting notable Americans with disabilities throughout history who have excelled. Rep. Grisamore asked the Council for input on the bill language. Rep. Grisamore also asked the Advocacy Committee to identify target groups for continuing education that might benefit from disability history and awareness education.

Discussion followed. It was decided that the bill would be sent to the Council for review and comments. The comments will be forwarded to the Advocacy Committee, which will then draft a letter of support for this legislation on behalf of the GCD to be discussed by the full Council during an emergency Council meeting (videoconference) in January.

Action item: Send bill to Council members for review/comments. Draft letter of support to be discussed by the full Council in January 2011.

Council member reports:

DeAnna Noriega – Serves on a committee that held a candidates forum prior to the November elections, which was attended by about 50 individuals; Organized two focus groups for Services for Independent Living (SIL) – one for visually impaired and one for deaf and hard of hearing, who worked on needs assessments; Was elected Vice President of the Missouri Council for the Blind and appointed to work on the 10th annual Disability Legislative Rights Day, which will be held March 9, 2011 at the capitol.

GCD Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2010 Meeting

Rep. Jeff Grisamore – Plans to re-file disability related bills in the next legislative session; Attended Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism; May be appointed as the Chairman of Appropriations for DMH, DHSS and DSS.

Dr. Joan Bergstrom – Continues to contact the Veterans Administration to encourage referrals of returning soldiers with TBI and other disabilities to get involved in Longview's ABLE program. Karen Benson and Linda Baker offered to provide Joan with contact information of VA employees.

Ed Duff – Attends monthly meetings of the Mental Health Advocates; Had concerns about the health care for people with mental illness who are incarcerated and received good feedback from the Department of Corrections regarding his questions; Continues to be involved in the Money Follows the Person grant activities.

Greg Greven – Serves as Chair of the Mayor's Commission in Springfield; Attended Universal Design conference in Springfield; Handled advocacy calls and voters' complaints; Plans to run for City Council for the City of Springfield for the next term.

Charles (Chuck) Comstock II – Gave presentation about self-directed support at the Self-Advocates conference in Kansas City in September; Helped organize the 2nd annual Disability Awareness Day at Truman State University in Kirksville on November 5.

Karen Benson – Attended town hall meeting organized by Paraquad; Completed Missouri Rehabilitation Center's Annual Accessibility Survey Report; Finished Train the Trainer for 12 individuals in Missouri on the Pathfinders Task Force, which is a technology application in Emergency Situations.

Old business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Monday, February 14, 2011 at 10 AM in Room 470 of the Governor's Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.**

Attachments: Updated committee list

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Schedule meeting between GCD and ILRC to discuss MYLF program.	Linda Baker
E-mail disability history bill to Council for review and comments. Draft letter of support for discussion by the Council.	Linda Baker/ Advocacy Committee

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
November 19, 2010