

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2011

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Charles Comstock II, Edward Duff, Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Ronald Hack, Todd Mayfield, Teri Miller, Sue Orton, Erwin Switzer, James Trout

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Mike Esser, Mary Ann Harter, DeAnna Noriega, Derek Smith, Robert Wallace

Department Liaisons:

Gena Ahlers	Department of Revenue – DOR
Sara Dick	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Bobbi Jo Garber	Department of Health & Senior Services – DHSS/DSDS
Julie Juergens	Department of Social Services – DSS
Dr. Crystal Kroner	Department of Higher Education – DHE
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
Rosie Shelton	Department of Corrections – DOC
Glenda Verslues	Department of Conservation – MDC

Guests:

Kirsten Dunham, Paraquad
LeAnn Peace, Missouri Kidney Foundation
Social work students Chris, Jamie, Stacey

Staff:

Linda Baker, Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth

Real Time Captioner: Patti White

Acting Chair James Trout called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. With eight (8)* Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed.

(* 10 in attendance for part of the meeting, no quorum in the afternoon.)

Approval of agenda and minutes:

The Council members unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes for September 9, 2011 and the agenda for the day.

Report from James Trout:

James Trout, Linda Baker and Erv Switzer met by conference call with Missouri Housing Development Commission staff to discuss universal design in housing. A letter was drafted in which GCD is encouraging MHDC to give consideration to universal design development projects in funding competitions. The letter was unanimously approved by the Council and will be sent to MHDC.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

Linda summarized her Executive Director report. She informed the Council of upcoming changes in the 2012 LEP program and reported of her attendance at the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) conference, where the Greater Kansas City BLN and AMC Theatres, an employer in Kansas City, received awards for their inclusion efforts.

Department Liaison Information:

Dr. Crystal Kroner (DHE) – DESE and DHE are collaborating on statistics about students with disabilities who are transitioning to DHE institutions. The database should be available within the next year.

Bobbi Jo Garber (DHSS) – The third party assessor contract with Syncare has been canceled. Over 100 temporary staff have been hired by DHSS to conduct phone assessments since September; of the 4,400+ pending cases from Syncare about 800 are still pending. Over 10,000 actions have been completed for the 55,000+ clients statewide. DHSS is working with provider stakeholder groups to develop a long range plan for Missouri.

Julie Juergens (DSS) – Provided an update about the Missouri Follows the Person grant (handout) highlighting the number of referrals (769), number of individuals participating in the grant (406) and pending cases (82). DSS is looking for 6-8 self-advocates, who have transitioned from institutions to the community to participate in a stakeholder group. There are plans underway for a conference in late fall of 2012 to train and raise awareness about community living, person centered planning, employment, and housing.

Sara Dick (AGO) – Her agency sent letters to police chiefs to enforce accessible parking violations in parking lots of stores, such as Target. Ms. Dick helped coordinate the Rebuild Joplin initiative by setting up a presentation about the importance of UD requirements and ADAG guidelines to contractors and builders. AGO is working on a PSA to remind the public that it is illegal to use another individual's accessible parking hangtag.

Dorothy Parks (DESE/VR) – VR's annual report will be available by the end of December. Preliminary reports show that over 4,500 cases of VR's employment program have been closed successfully in FY11.

Rosie Shelton (DOC) – Announced her retirement effective April 1, 2012. Cari Collins, DOC's Director of the Division of Human Services, will be the new state liaison for DOC.

Robin Rust (DMH/DD) – Provided update about the Partnership of Hope waiver program. Initiated in October 2010, the program currently covers most of the state. An additional waiver amendment will add as many counties as are ready to participate. DMH is currently accepting nominations for the Mental Health Champions awards. More information is available on DMH's and GCD's websites.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – OSCA purchased 38 Ubiduos (communication device for hearing and/or speech impaired) for juvenile and other courts, funded through a juvenile court improvement grant.

Council member reports:

Rep. Jeff Grisamore announced that he is in the process of hiring a new assistant as his longtime assistant Mary Haldiman is retiring; Reported he would change the language regarding accessible parking in HB555, going back to the ADA standard. He plans to pre-file a bill with an emergency clause in December; Intends filing bills to address reimbursement rate and equity for DD providers statewide, Medicaid eligibility for hearing aids, incentives for UD providers, and disability discrimination in housing. Wants to continue Disability Services Committee past 2012 and encouraged Council members to advocate for this committee.

Lunch recess was taken.

Public Comment:

LeAnn Peace with the Missouri Kidney Program reported of treatment interruptions for dialysis and transplant population on Medicaid spend-down due to reinterpretation of spend-down expenses. An impact committee will be working on addressing the issues. Council members referred Ms. Peace to Representative Tom Flanigan.

Presentation: Kirsten Dunham gave a presentation about Medicaid and Medicare updates on the federal level. If the super committee on deficit reduction does not reach an agreement by November 23, 2011, there will be automatic cuts in 2012 which would impact Medicaid and Medicare programs. The proposed balanced budget amendment would bring severe program cuts (17%) by 2018. More information is available on the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities website at www.cbpp.org and the Missouri Budget Project website at www.mobudget.org.

Old business: None.

GCD committee reports:

Website Committee (Todd Mayfield reporting): GCD encourages state liaisons and others to share information on the Disability Web Portal.

Programs Committee (Teri Miller reporting): Teri Miller and Linda Baker intend to meet with DOC Director George Lombardi regarding the Puppies for Parole program to explore training options for people with disabilities.

Legislative Committee (Ed Duff reporting): The Missouri Lifespan Respite Coalition sent Linda Baker a request for support of the Lifespan Respite Reauthorization Act (HR3266). The Council voted to authorize sending of the letter, which is to be a revised version of the letter sent previously. The letter will be sent electronically for review/comments by the Council prior to sending.

Action item: Send letter of support regarding the Lifespan Respite Reauthorization Act.

Council member reports, continued:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D. – Special School Districts need to be made aware of impending IDEA budget cuts.

Ed Duff – Continues helping with mental health outreach in tornado aftermath. Attended acupuncture training for trauma/stress relief.

Teri Miller – Served as educational surrogate; organized transportation services for WWII veterans; encouraged Council members and advocates to be proactive in contacting management agencies about snow removal in parking lots to avoid snow accumulation in accessible parking spaces. Ery Switzer advised that if management agencies are noncompliant, MCHR needs to be informed.

Sue Orton – Brain Injury Association conference was a success with 150+ guests and over 100 families and survivors. St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities is working on changing online real-estate search criteria to include accessibility.

James Trout – Would like to add three additional committees to the Council: Housing, Employment, and Transportation.

New Business:

Election of 2012 Officers and Committees: The Council needs to elect the Vice Chairs of Programs and Operations, and Vice Chair of Finance and Development before the end of the year. GCD will schedule a conference call to elect officers in December. The review of GCD's by-laws will be rescheduled for the January meeting.

Action items: Schedule conference call to vote for 2012 Officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Monday, January 23, 2012 at 10 AM in Room 470 of the Governor's Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.**

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Send letter of support regarding Lifespan Respite Reauthorization Act	Linda Baker
Schedule conference call to vote for 2012 Officers	Linda Baker