

**Governor’s Council on Disability
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2022**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Wayne Crawford, Betty Davidson, Ronald Hack, Rosemary Hendon, Chip Hailey, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey, Elijah Mayfield, Sue Orton, Traci Ritter, Andrew Sartorius, Lesia Shelton, James Trout, Bob Wallace

Department Liaisons:

Joe Amberger	Attorney General’s Office (AGO)
Rosie Anderson-Harper	Department of Mental Health (DMH)
Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services (DSS)
Kara Cahill	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Kelly Cramer	Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
Louis Gatewood	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Tom Green	Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS)
Cathy Lucia	Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
Forrest Luck	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Richelle McDowell	Department of Corrections (DOC)
Jessica Owen	Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR)
Elizabeth Reed	Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT)
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Staff: Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth, Rachel Rackers, Jessica Zimmer

Interim Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting with 16 Council members in attendance. The meeting was held in Jefferson City and by WebEx. Ron welcomed the new state liaisons to the meeting. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

Approval of meeting minutes: The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for February 18, 2022. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

Public Comment: None

Report from Interim Chair – Ron Hack: None. Ron asked about the status of the permanent appointment of a Council Chair. Claudia reported that she has reached out to the Governor’s Office/Boards and Commissions and is awaiting a response.

Report from GCD Team: Council members received the full report by email prior to the meeting. Each team member provided highlights of their report.

Claudia Browner:

- Attended the Office of Administration’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee first meeting on March 9.
- Attended Disability Rights Legislative Day at the capitol, APSE Professional Development Day, and Power Up Assistive Technology Conference

- Presented to Dept. of Higher Education and Workforce Development on April 13.
- Had an introductory meeting with the Governor's Legislative Director, Alex Tuttle on March 9.
- Launched the new Disability Web Portal, GCD website and logo in March.
- GCD Awards Programs – presented awards to winners at Power Up Conference, Blue Springs, April 5
 - Inclusion Award winner: Summit Future Foundation, Kansas City, Honorable Mention: Chill-Pak, Springfield
 - Youth Leadership Award winner: Seyoon Choi, Honorable Mention: TyReeke Garnett
- Budget Update: FY23 budget conference committee hearings are scheduled for May 3 and 4. FY22 budget – As of April 28, GCD has spent/encumbered approximately 44% of the total E&E operational budget of \$24,558.

Laura Mueth:

- Represented the GCD at the first meeting of the Missouri ADA Coordinators Coalition. This group of city and county ADA coordinators from around the state will meet quarterly.
- Attended the first meeting of the Missouri Health Equity Committee, which grew out of the Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution committee.
- Sent letter to representatives and senators to invite them to the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) legislative day. Five have already agreed to participate.
- Participated in planning and hosting the Disability Rights Legislative Day. Laura thanked Chip Hailey and Morgan Corder for their presentations and involvement.
- Trained Drivers' Examiners on disability etiquette, and co-trained St. Louis area law enforcement using the FRDAT Training Curriculum.

Rachel Rackers:

- Presented about GCD Youth Programs at conferences and hosted information booths and exhibits at the Lake Area Transition Fair, TAFY in Poplar Bluff, Union Transition Fair, Farmington Transition Fair, and the Power Up conference in Blue Springs.
- Participated in AYL monthly meetings, LDP planning meeting, and the MITT meeting.
- Hosted the 2nd annual Virtual Leadership Summit event for GCD. Sixteen students and 5 MO-YLF alumni participated.
- Preparing and hosting planning meetings for the MO-YLF, which will be held July 12-16, 2022. GCD received 36 applications for the event. VR has agreed to sponsor eligible delegates again this year. MOSILC has also provided a sponsorship for the event. The keynote speaker will be Kelsey Tainsh. Staff/volunteer applications are still open. GCD is looking for in-kind donations of personal care/medical items and items for the conference bags.
- Participated in the planning meetings for the Leadership Development Program for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (LDP) that will be held November 4-6 at MSD in Fulton.

Presentation:

Duane Shumate, Coordinator of Employment and Community Engagement for the Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities gave a presentation on the Missouri Talent Pathways registered apprenticeship program designed in response to the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce crisis. The program provides strategies to stabilize the workforce for direct support professionals to minimize turnover, keep higher retention rates, create a talent pipeline, and improve efficiencies. This allows businesses to have access to a pool of qualified candidates. The trained employees earn a paycheck from the first day and have

opportunities for growth and advancement. More information about this program can be found on the DMH website at <https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/service-providers/talent-pathways>

State Liaison Reports:

Kara Cahill (DHEWD) reported that the adult learner network is setting up student journey mapping with 12 institutions. The program looks at how adult learners get through the admissions process and general education programs. The network is seeking ways to improve this process through workshops and by having institutions review the pathways. Kara is assisting with setting up the annual Equity Summit that will be held virtually in October, with a focus on inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education. She invited Claudia to provide a breakout session.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) announced that the public health emergency order for DHSS has been extended to July 15, after which staff will return to in home visits and work in person. Shomari distributed a map of the five regions of the state for Options Counseling/Transition Coordination Contractors under the Show-Me Home (Money Follows the Person) program. The program has received additional funding from CMS which allowed for the maximum cap amount for each individual to be removed, and the agency may now provide funding for transitions according to each individual's needs.

Shawn Brice (DSS) shared the new logo of the Show-Me Home program. The program website has been updated and TV commercials launched on MeTV and social media sites. Transitions are starting to pick up, and the program is expecting to reach the goal number of transitions for the year.

Rosie Anderson-Harper (DMH/BH) - The Division of Behavioral Health and other stakeholders received a grant to promote Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFWs), which foster a workplace culture that promotes employee safety, health, and well-being through strategies that provide support for managers and employees, including reducing stigma and providing recovery resources related to the challenges surrounding substance use disorders.

The division has contracted with community behavioral health treatment providers to hire 47 Housing Liaisons throughout Missouri. The mission of the Housing Liaison is to assist Missourians with behavioral health disabilities in obtaining and maintaining safe, decent, and affordable housing that meets their individual and family needs.

Duane Shumate (DMH/DD) reported that the Division of DD is continuing its Technology First training efforts to provide remote supports to individuals using iPads and technology. The division is working on expanding virtual delivery of services post pandemic, and expanding their benefits planning in collaboration with Cornell University. The division has requested a budget increase to establish a \$15 minimum wage for provider staff.

Old Business: Chip Hailey recommended renaming this agenda item to "unfinished business".

New Business: Claudia reported that the GCD's current strategic plan ends in 2022. The GCD team will be working on a draft strategic plan for 2023-2025 and submit it to the Council at the August meeting.

Committee Reports:

Finance (Bob Wallace) – No report.

Advocacy (Katie Jones) – No report.

Housing (Sue Orton) – No report.

Employment (Katie Jones) – No report.

Transportation (Betty Davidson) – Betty will be attending the metro transportation council meeting on May 4.

Programs (Betty Davidson) – A presentation of the Inclusive Design Alliance is scheduled for August meeting. There will be no presentation at the November meeting. The time will be used to review and approve the strategic plan.

Healthcare (Kim Lackey) – Kim will schedule a healthcare subcommittee meeting prior to the next Council meeting.

Council Member Reports:

Lesia Shelton is working on issues surrounding the lack of interpreters in rural schools and at centers for independent living, and is asking state agencies for support in raising awareness about these issues in order to bridge gaps.

Sue Orton serves on St. Louis County’s Older Adults Commission. She reported that the St. Louis Library received \$2 million funding to expand the “grand-pads” program for the elderly who may not have access to internet.

Betty Davidson – The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) international conference will be held July 20-24 at Union Station in St. Louis.

Chip Hailey presented at the Disability Rights Legislative Day about his voting experiences as a sight-impaired person. A former legislator has invited Chip to test the new accessible voting equipment that Jasper County has purchased. The Missouri Council of the Blind has been following HB 1654. If passed, this bill would remove the certified mail requirement, which would remove barriers for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Wayne Crawford reported that 8,200 subsidized affordable housing units will move into a different rate category. Stakeholders are working with HUD and LITEC to address concerns of rent rates going up to market rate and possibly resulting in homelessness for individuals who will no longer be able to afford these units.

Chuck Comstock presented a session on engaging with individuals with disabilities titled “Let’s Talk” at the Community Engagement Conference at Truman State University on March 15th. Chuck will share this information in a short presentation at the August Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, August 19, 2022** at 10 AM at the Missouri Behavioral Health Council – Kathy Carter Building, CEO Room, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101 or by WebEx/conference call.

Minutes by Jessica Zimmer
05/02/2022

Approved by Council
8/19/2022