

Governor's Council on Disability Meeting Minutes April 21, 2017

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Ron Hack, Chip Hailey, Mary Ann Harter, Rosemary Hendon, Todd Mayfield, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, James Trout, Bob Wallace, Yvonne Wright

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Derek Smith

Department Liaisons:

Bonnie Aaron	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE
Rosie Anderson-Harper	Department of Mental Health – DMH
Kristin Funk	Department of Economic Development – DED/DWD
Julie Lamons	Department of Social Services – DSS
Steven Milburn	Department of Social Services – DSS
Melody Reichel	Department of Revenue – DOR
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Court Administrator – OSCA
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health – DMH/DD

Staff: Amy Bledsoe, Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth

Guests: Rep. Sarah Unsicker, Chris Wray, Drew Dziedzic, Bob Collier, Katie Jones, Elijah Mayfield, Patricia Ritchie

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. With thirteen (13) Council members (12 members plus chair) in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda and minutes:

The Council members unanimously approved the amended meeting minutes for February 6, 2017 and the agenda for the day.

Public Comment:

Council member Mary Ann Harter spoke on behalf of her son who has applied to the naval academy. Her son has an eye condition (limited peripheral vision) that may prevent him from being accepted. Ms. Harter asked if RSMo 167.194 is still in effect, which requires children enrolled in public elementary school to receive a comprehensive eye examination in Kindergarten or first grade. Paragraph 7 of this statute states that this provision automatically sunsets unless it is reauthorized. Ms. Harter recommended that the reauthorization requirement be removed from the statute due to the importance of early intervention in the prevention of vision loss.

Presentation:

Representative [Sarah Unsicker](#) (D, Webster Groves) spoke to the Council about several house and senate bills that would affect people with disabilities.

[SB 43](#) (Romine) – Modifies the law relating to unlawful discrimination. This bill would require victims of discrimination to prove that the protected trait (e.g. disability) was a “motivating factor” instead of “contributing factor”.

[SB 313](#) (Koenig) – Modifies provisions relating to elementary and secondary education. The act would require parents of children with disabilities to sign an agreement to enroll their child in a public school in order to qualify for funds from the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Fund. The voucher could be used for home schooling, but not for charter/private schools.

[HCB 3](#) (Fitzpatrick) – Modifies provisions relating to funds for vulnerable senior citizens. The act would reduce the circuit breaker tax credit for renters.

[SB 203](#) (Sifton) and [HB 769](#) (Walker) – Creates the MO HealthNet buy in for workers with disabilities. The act would raise the asset limits and reduce spenddown amounts.

[SB 477](#) (Riddle) - Modifies the Statewide Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program to provide financial assistance for hearing aids as well as support service providers for deaf-blind children and adults.

[HB 1011](#) (Basye) – Changes laws regarding health care for people with disabilities. This act would allow an increase in physical therapy visits and cover other types of therapy.

[HCR 28](#) (Rowland) - Reaffirms Missouri's support of the services of the sheltered workshops of our state.

[HB 1052](#) (Unsicker) - Requires state agencies to support competitive employment in integrated settings for persons with disabilities.

Rep. Unsicker stated that the proposed budget cuts would reduce HCBS waiver services and funding for Centers for Independent Living.

The Council members thanked Rep. Unsicker for her presentation and invited her to attend another Council meeting during the 2018 legislative session.

Report from Chair Yvonne Wright:

Yvonne officially welcomed Amy Bledsoe as the new Executive Director for GCD.

Report from Executive Director Amy Bledsoe:

Amy referred to her written Executive Director report that was sent out prior to the meeting and then presented a slide show entitled “Who I Am” to introduce herself.

Presentation:

Deputy State Treasurer Chris Wray presented information about the MO ABLE program, which allows people with disabilities and their families to open an account to save for disability related expenses. The program will be available effective April 26, 2017. More information about MO ABLE eligibility, benefits, and qualified expenses is available online at www.moable.com.

Department Liaison Information:

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) – DHSS is concerned with and trying to find the cause of the spreading bed bug infestation, particularly in the southeastern area of Missouri.

The adult protective service grant to improve and expand protective services ends in December 2018. Live testing of the new reporting system will begin the end of May.

Duane Shumate (DMH/DD) – The division’s Autism waiver will be discontinued after June 30, 2017. Individuals currently served under this waiver will be covered by the Community Support waiver. The Divisions of Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health Office continue to collaborate with Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Workforce Development, MO HealthNet, and Rehab Services for the Blind on the Disability Employment Policy’s Employment First grant. The number of individuals who are accessing employment waivers has increased by 66% or about 34 individuals per month.

Julie Lamons (DSS) – Provided a summary of the [Money Follows the Person](#) grant program. The grant was awarded in 2007 and will end in 2018. The initial goal was to transition 250 individuals back into the community. Over the duration of the grant, 1,531 individuals have transitioned. The goal for the remaining two years is 257 individuals in 2017 and 251 in 2018. Success stories of individuals participating in the MFP program are available online at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/general/pages/mfp.htm>. Julie announced that she is retiring effective May 1. The Council thanked her for her contributions to the Governor’s Council on Disability over the last several years.

Kristin Funk (DWD) – There are 34 job centers statewide in Missouri that serve customers of all ages and abilities with employment and training needs. The 3rd annual Accommodation for Success job fair will be held August 10 at Forest Park Community College.

Melody Reichel (DOR) – [HB 130](#) was passed, which allows statewide transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft to contract with DOR to operate and provide services in Missouri.

Rosie Anderson-Harper (DMH) – The Division of Behavioral Health is following [HB 90](#) which would initiate a prescription drug monitoring program in Missouri. The division is receiving \$10 million in one-time federal funds to provide more services to people with substance abuse disorders. The 29 local community mental health centers are working with local law enforcement agencies to provide a 2-hour training, and staff to ride along with law enforcement officers on emergency calls.

Steve Milburn (DSS) – The Family Support Division offers an online portal to apply for DSS benefits such as health care, food stamps, childcare, child support, etc. More information is available at <https://mydss.mo.gov>. Rehab Services for the Blind assisted 1,555 clients in gaining successful employment.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – After this fiscal year, OSCA will have purchased assistive listening devices for all courts in Missouri. The office continues to assist courts with securing ASL interpreters for court proceedings.

New Business: None.

GCD Committee Reports:

Programs Committee: Ron Hack asked the Council members to submit ideas for speakers for future Council meetings to Claudia. The committee will schedule a meeting by conference call prior to the September Council meeting.

Council Member Reports:

Joan Bergstrom has had the opportunity to work with The Whole Person, Inc. center for independent living and will share information from the Council meeting with their staff.

Chuck Comstock reported that 87 artists exhibited more than 150 pieces of artwork at the Circle of Friends Art Show for people with disabilities on March 30 at the Kirksville Art Center. Planning is underway for the September 14 Dash for Disabilities 5k, and the October 17 DisAbility Awareness events in Kirksville.

James Trout is working with Missouri Inclusive Housing (Wayne Crawford) on the Missouri Universal Design initiative. Missouri's 19 Community Action Agencies are working on getting vetted to provide home modification services to make homes accessible for individuals who qualify for their services.

Betty Davidson is working for the St. Louis Special School District on a pilot project with the Starkloff Disability Institute to host an employment event for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities on June 12, 2017. Employers such as Boeing, Monsanto, Nestle Purina, etc. will meet with 20 students to discuss employment opportunities.

DeAnna Noriega stated that Rehab Services for the Blind is having difficulties hiring and retaining counselors. The Missouri Council of the Blind attended the Disability Rights Legislative Day at the capitol in March and met with legislators to discuss bills affecting people with visual impairments.

Chip Hailey attended Disability Rights Legislative Day at the capitol in March to advocate for keeping the level of care at 21 points and increasing the cost cap back to 100%. Blind pensions are scheduled to increase to \$738 by July 1.

Todd Mayfield introduced his son Elijah, who was the National Down Syndrome Society's Advocate of the Year in 2016. Elijah was recently invited to escort Governor Eric Greitens and his family on the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Governor's Mansion, and was hired as a courier for the office of Governor Greitens.

Sue Orton serves on the St. Louis County Commission on Disability. The commission is working on strengthening the Missouri UD initiative. The UD Summit is scheduled for November 17 in St. Louis. The Brain Injury Association of Missouri is urging legislators not to repeal the motorcycle helmet law. [HB 576](#) would exempt motorcyclists 21 years of age or older from wearing a helmet when operating a motorcycle or motor tricycle if they have the appropriate health insurance coverage.

Old Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, September 15, 2017** at 10 AM at the **Department of Natural Resources, Bennett Springs Room, 1738 East Elm St., Jefferson City.**

GCD Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2017 Meeting

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Schedule Committee meetings prior to September Council meeting	Committee chairs & GCD staff
Send ideas for speakers/programs for upcoming Council meetings to Claudia.	Council members & state liaisons

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
April 27, 2017

Minutes approved by Council: 9/15/17