

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2018

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Betty Davidson, Ron Hack, Chip Hailey, Mary Ann Harter, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Elijah Mayfield, Todd Mayfield, Sue Orton, Opeoluwa Sotonwa, James Trout, Bob Wallace

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Chuck Comstock, DeAnna Noriega, Yvonne Wright

Department Liaisons:

Elise Davenport	Department of Social Services – DSS
Brooke Dawson	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
JoAnn Hanley	Department of Conservation – MDC
Justin Moore	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Elizabeth Reed	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Melody Reichel	Department of Revenue – DOR
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Court Administrator – OSCA
Doug Roach	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE/VR
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS

Staff: Claudia Browner, Wendy Molitor, Laura Mueth

Guests: Adonis Brown, Clementine Brown, Bob Collier, Patricia Ritchie, Lisa Wehmeyer
Interpreters: Kathleen Alexander, AJ Housewright

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. With thirteen (13) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Ron Hack led the Council meeting for Yvonne Wright who was absent due to a work commitment. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda:

The Council members unanimously approved the agenda for the day.

Approval of meeting minutes:

The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for February 5.

Public Comment:

Patricia Ritchie with the National Association of Injured and Disabled Workers stated that #MillionsMissing is a global campaign for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) health equality and that May 12 is (ME) and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome awareness day.

Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:

Ron Hack read Yvonne Wright's report in which she welcomed the two new Council members, Elijah Mayfield and Opeoluwa Sotonwa to the meeting, and officially welcomed and congratulated Claudia Browner as the new executive director effective April 2, 2018. Yvonne thanked the hiring

committee for their involvement and support to the Council. In February, Yvonne attended the House and Senate budget hearings. GCD is slated to be funded at the same level as last year. Yvonne and Claudia will meet with Courtney Stalter (OA budget office) in the near future to discuss funding options for the future.

GCD Update from staff:

- Claudia Browner thanked the hiring committee members for selecting her as the executive director and their support during the transition. GCD will be hiring a fourth staff member to complete the team.
- Claudia welcomed the new Council members and presented them with the GCD lapel pin.
- GCD presented the annual awards at the Power Up conference in Columbia on April 17. The 2017 award winners were, Inclusion Award – Talent Connect, UCP Heartland, and Honorable Mention – Kate Hannon, St. Louis ARC, Youth Leadership Award – Andrew Tollefson, Website Award – DEAF, Inc.
- Claudia provided a budget update.
- Laura Mueth provided presentations on Disability 101 and the legislative process in February and March to the Secretary of State’s Office, Adair County SB 40 Board, and People First of Missouri, as well as disability awareness training to the Highway Patrol drivers’ examiners.
- Laura co-presented with a project director from Niagara University to firefighters and EMS personnel from across the state about GCD, physical disabilities, and service animals. For more information on Niagara University’s First Responder Disability Awareness Training, visit the website at <https://frdat.niagara.edu>.
- The Associate Director of the Great Plains ADA Center would like GCD, along with the Attorney General’s Office, to assist with revising the current statute language regarding “van accessible only” parking signs. Ron Hack asked Justin Moore with the Attorney General’s Office to find out if AG’s office is involved in writing state regulations. GCD will work with DOR (Melody Reichel) to discuss possible comments on CSR (Code of State Regulation) 10-23.450 which addresses van accessible parking. Ron Hack asked to put this issue on the agenda for the August Council meeting.
- Wendy Molitor stated that 24 delegates have been accepted to participate in the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum held July 10-14 at the University of Missouri in Columbia.
- Wendy has been collaborating with the Lake Transition Network, Cole County Youth Connections, and the Warrensburg Regional Transition Network groups to put on transition fairs for high school students with disabilities in mid Missouri. Wendy also participated in the Missouri Interagency Transition Team, and DESE Transition Institute and AccessAbility planning committees.

Department Liaison information:

Elise Davenport (DSS) – The budget of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program has been submitted to CMS. The 2018 goal for transitions of individuals from nursing homes into communities is 219; currently 58 individuals have transitioned. MFP is working on creating success story videos to show the positive outcomes of the program. Federal legislation has been filed to continue the program for four more years ([SB 2227](#)).

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) – Last year, the Level of Care (LOC) required to be eligible for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) or nursing facility care was raised from 21 to 24. The cost cap maximum for the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) program was reduced from 100% of the average cost of nursing facility care to 60% of the average cost of nursing facility care. HCBS provider reimbursement rates were reduced by 3%. This year, the CDS cost cap was not restored and remains at 60%. The LOC reduction was not restored and remains at 24 to be eligible for HCBS. Funding to restore 1.5% of the original 3% cut has been added for FY 2019.

Melody Reichel (DOR) provided an update on [HB 2277](#), which would require individuals with disabilities to provide a physician’s statement every eight years to renew disabled license plate or placard.

Joann Hanley (MDC) announced her retirement effective June 1 and introduced Lisa Wehmeyer as the new liaison for the Department of Conservation.

Brooke Dawson (DMH/BH) - Missouri received a Federal Grant for \$10 million in May 2017 to address MO Opioid Crisis Response. This was the first of two awards for this two-year grant. Since its inception, the State Targeted Response (STR) efforts have worked on both treatment of and education concerning Opioid use disorders. To date Opioid treatment providers contracted through the STR have enrolled 1,672 individuals and have 1,225 active participants in treatment. Through the STR Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution efforts, 3,739 individuals were trained. Groups participating in training concerning use of the Naloxone kits include; criminal justice groups and justice-involved individuals, pharmacy management and front line technicians, recovery housing providers, and recovery support group members. 3,067 two dose naloxone kits and been distributed to prevent overdose deaths.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) continues to handle requests from Missouri courts for ASL interpreters. OSCA has created a new position for a Diversity and Inclusion Manager, whom Lynette will invite to the next Council meeting.

Kris Sweeten (DOC) was not able to attend the meeting and submitted her report by email. Kris has developed a new training for ADA site coordinators, wardens, and Probation and Parole district administrators and regional administrators, starting at the end of June through the month of July. The training is called, “Reasonable Accommodations for Applications and Interviews.”

Adonis Brown (MO-SILC) handed out the agenda for the quarterly public SILC meeting on May 18 in Jefferson City.

Old Business:

The Council reviewed and discussed the draft policy on Custodian of Records and changed the term “Sunshine Law” to Missouri Revised Statute 610.010 et al. The Council unanimously voted to approve the corrected policy.

New Business: None.

Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee: James Trout introduced the following motion: The Governor's Council asks the GCD Executive Director to prepare an article for our newsletter and website that illustrates the cost in human and economic terms of recent budget cuts and changes to client qualifications for personal assistance services. This article should also demonstrate the positive economic and human impact of restoring previous standards.

The Council discussed this motion and decided that the executive director and DHSS policy staff shall work together to write the article for the next GCD newsletter and include links to fact sheets and information provided by the centers for independent living (The Whole Person and Paraquad). Claudia will send the article to Yvonne Wright and the full Council for review prior to publishing. The Council voted unanimously to pass the motion.

Programs Committee:

Ron Hack asked to schedule a committee meeting prior to the August Council meeting. GCD staff will prepare overview of agency programs for the August meeting. Ron recommended inviting a legislator to the November meeting if no legislator or policy staff member is appointed to the Council by then.

Transportation Subcommittee:

Betty Davidson asked if another Council member could attend the Disability Transportation Resource Network Meeting in St. Louis in her place. James Trout stated he would attend the meeting.

Lunch recess was taken.

Hiring/Transition Committee:

Katie Jones reported that the hiring committee for the GCD executive director has met with Claudia to assist during the transition and assess the Council's programs and tasks.

Council member reports:

Chip Hailey – [HB 2171](#) (introduced by Rep. Wood) has passed in the house. The bill modifies provisions relating to the blind pension fund by increasing asset limits and income levels of sighted spouses from 300% to 500% of the federal poverty level.

James Trout – Indoor air quality has grown as a health issue. James is working with Mercy Hospital, Women's and Children's Hospital, and United Healthcare. Medicaid pays for in-home environmental assessments. Insurance currently does not cover remediation costs.

Betty Davidson – The Starkloff Disability Institute is offering summer internships and training on interview and resume writing to youth with disabilities through their Dream Big program.

<https://starkloff.org/for-candidates/#dreambig>

Laura Liebermann will provide a presentation to St. Louis Special School District middle schools on May 21 on how to include students with disabilities in PE programs.

Opeoluwa Sotonwa – The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) is following several bills affecting people with hearing impairments. [HB 1572/SB 814](#) would change the drivers’ license code for deaf and hard of hearing individuals from J-88 to DHH. [HB 1868](#) would establish a hearing aid distribution program for low-income individuals and veterans.

Sue Orton – Serves on the St. Louis Realtors Inclusion Advisory Group to advocate for universal design in housing. Accessibility features will be included in MARIS as search criteria and on property listing sheets. Sue reported that the St. Louis County Council agreed to fund a part time ADA coordinator position, who will attend the St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, August 24, 2018** at 10 AM at the **Runge Conservation Nature Center, Fish and Wildlife Room**, 330 Commerce Drive, Jefferson City.

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Discuss statute language relating to van accessible parking at August Council meeting. Meet with Melody Reichel (DOR) RE: van accessible parking CSR.	Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth
Correct Policy on Custodian of Records	Claudia Browner
Write article on impact of recent budget cuts and changes to client qualifications for personal assistance services for June newsletter	Claudia Browner, DHSS policy staff Jake Luebbering
Schedule Programs Committee meeting	Ron Hack, Claudia Browner
Prepare presentation about GCD programs for August meeting	GCD staff

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive Director
 May 9, 2018