

**Governor's Council on Disability
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2021**

Council Members Present/Participating:

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

Department Liaisons:

Anita Baker	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – DESE/VR
Tom Green	Missouri Housing Development Commission – MHDC
Katy Plaster	Department of Natural Resources - DNR
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS/DSDS
Kris Sweeten	Department of Corrections – DOC
Mara Woody	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development – DHEWD

Staff: Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth, Rachel Rackers

Guests: Andrés Gallegos, Chair, National Council on Disability

Interim Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting with all 16 of the Council members in attendance. The meeting was held by WebEx.

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

Approval of meeting minutes: The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for April 30, 2021. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

Public Comment: None

Report from Interim Chair – Ron Hack: None

Ron asked Claudia to follow up with the director of Boards and Commissions on the appointment of a Council Chair.

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:

- Claudia thanked Laura and Rachel for their initiative on updating the GCD website and Disability Web Portal and taking care of the day-to-day operations of the agency during her absence.
- Claudia met with staff from the OA/Division of Personnel and Office of Equal Opportunity on July 21 to discuss carrying out the directives of the Executive Order relating to the Missouri as a Model Employer Initiative. The next meeting is scheduled for August 24.
- Provided presentation at OA Town Hall on July 7 with an overview of GCD, disability awareness training and the NDEAM Poster Contest; 775 OA employees attended. Because of the presentation, the disability awareness training will become a recommended training for all OA employees.

- Met with DNR (July 14) to discuss upcoming presentation on employment inclusion at DNR Talks event on October 14
- Attended the National ADA Symposium in Phoenix – July 26-28
- GCD received 17 entries for the [Poster Contest for National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) (NDEAM). Claudia will send an email to the Council members with a slideshow of the top six entries to determine the winning entry, which will be featured in our NDEAM poster for the month of October.
- The GCD team has been working from the office since May 17 per Governor’s directive. Claudia drafted GCD’s Distributed Teams Policy/Plan for approval and submitted it to OA/DOP on May 6. OA submitted consolidated plan to the Governor’s Office for review/approval on July 9.
- Budget update – FY22 started July 1. As of August 18, GCD has spent/ encumbered \$2,007.68 (approx. 8%) of our total E&E operational budget of \$24,558. Claudia will start working on the budget request for FY23 next week.

Laura Mueth:

- Laura trained two classes of Highway Patrol drivers’ examiners in June and July, and provided a training on how to advocate with legislators at Services for Independent Living on July 12. She is preparing for the MO Court Administration training in September.
- Representative Rasheen Aldridge is interested in meeting with GCD staff during the next legislative session to learn about the agency and discuss opportunities for collaboration, particularly on health care access issues.
- Laura thanked Katie and Ron for their input on the [Legislative Priorities Poll](#). The poll will open on August 23 through November 5.

Rachel Rackers:

- Rachel has accepted an invitation to serve another term on the MIPSAs (Midwest Inclusive Post-Secondary Alliance) Board, and joined the Self-Determination Network. Rachel serves on the Central MO Youth Connection group that is planning a Regional Transition Network event in Jefferson City on October 20.
- Participated in the planning meetings for the Leadership Development Program for Deaf/Hard of Hearing students, planned for November 1-4, 2021 at Missouri School for the Deaf.
- GCD is planning to host the next Virtual Leadership Summit on February 26, 2022 and the tentative date for the [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) has been set for July 11-16, 2022.

State Liaisons Reports

Anita Baker (VR) summarized VR’s mission and 2021 priorities that guide all 23 of the district offices in providing employment services for people with disabilities.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS/DSDS) shared a quick guide on the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program with the Council and liaisons. To date, the Money Follows the Person program has transitioned 57 individuals to community living in 2021. This lower number is mainly due to safety concerns and restricted access to nursing home clients during the pandemic.

The rollout of the Level of Care transformation project was pushed back to October 31, 2021, at which time all in-home care and consumer directed care assessments will be mandated to be done in person again, and assessments in nursing homes will be conducted in person or in accordance with current nursing home policies at that time.

The Structured Family Caregiver Waiver has received funding. It provides a comprehensive and cost-effective Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) option for individuals ages 21 and older diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related disorder who wish to live at home in the community and would otherwise require institutionalization in a nursing facility. The waiver funds and provides respite relief to the fulltime caregivers who live with the individuals.

Kris Sweeten (DOC) has developed a Disability 101 training for supervisors to assist their employees, which she is excited to provide in the near future.

Presentation

Andrés Gallegos, Esq., Chair of the National Council on Disability, presented on Accessible Healthcare for Persons with Disabilities. The presentation provided background information on the history of disability rights legislation and health equity, concerns about the barriers to accessible healthcare and inequitable treatment of persons with disabilities during the pandemic, and the steps the National Council on Disability (NCD) is taking to promote health equity. To support the work of the NCD, disability organizations and agencies are encouraged to provide open letters to medical and dental schools, requesting the adoption of disability cultural competency training as part of the curricula for medical and dental students, along with providing education and raising awareness about the need for health equity for persons with disabilities.

Old Business:

Ron Hack entertained a motion to transfer the Healthcare Subcommittee from a special committee to a standing committee. Andrew Sartorius made the motion, Katie Jones seconded. The Council voted in favor of the motion. Ron asked Council members to send an email to Claudia if they are interested in serving as the subcommittee chair, and reminded state liaisons that they are welcome to serve on committees of interest. Betty Davidson stated she would like to be involved with the Healthcare Subcommittee. Ron asked that Joan Bergstrom, Betty Davidson, and Katie Jones meet prior to the November meeting to discuss the duties of the healthcare subcommittee. Ron will appoint the chair of the subcommittee at the November meeting.

New Business: None

Committee Reports:

Finance (Bob Wallace) – no report. Claudia stated that she would send the FY23 budget request to the Finance and Executive Committee for review prior to submitting it to the OA Budget Officer.

Advocacy (Katie Jones) – Katie thanked Laura for her work on the Legislative Priorities Poll.

Housing (Sue Orton) – St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities' Universal Design Task Force is finalizing a proposal on universal design guidelines for review and approval by the county council government by September 6. The virtual [Universal Design Summit](#) will be held September 29 – October 1.

Employment (Katie Jones) – The State of Missouri has put together a 14-C Task Force consisting of members of MACDDS, DMH, VR, DWD and other stakeholders who meet monthly to collect data, provide resources and create employment opportunities should 14-C (subminimum wages) get eliminated in Missouri. Currently, nearly 6,000 Missourians employed in sheltered workshops would be affected by the elimination of 14-C.

Transportation (Betty Davidson) – The Transportation Network Committee met August 4 to discuss the urgent need for drivers to provide transportation for people with disabilities and others who utilize public transportation. Transportation providers are offering hiring and referral incentives for drivers.

Programs (Betty Davidson) – Betty and Claudia had a meeting to discuss presentations for the August and November Council meetings. Claudia will invite Jessica Bloch from VR to provide a presentation on the Summer Work Experience Program at the November meeting.

Council member reports

Ron Hack – The inclusive playground at Watson Trail Park in Sunset Hills was dedicated on August 15. For a video about the playground, visit YouTube at <https://youtu.be/vDhGpad6ei8>

Wayne Crawford – The Park Board of Marshall and the Saline County SB40 Board provided \$500,000 funding for the universally designed Sweet Springs Fun For All Playground in Marshall.

James Trout – Serves on the Inclusive Design Alliance with a variety of stakeholders. The alliance has developed a seven point criteria for new construction in collaboration with MHDC, as well as UD Ready criteria for the remaining housing stock to facilitate aging in place. UD Ready requires a main floor bedroom, bathroom and kitchen as long as these modification cost less than 20% of the appraised value.

Sue Orton – The Missouri Brain Injury Association’s annual conference will be held October 7-9, 2022, offering both virtual and in-person sessions in St. Louis. More info at <https://www.biamo.org/bia-mo-17th-annual-statewide-conference/>

Kim Lackey – Paraquad is hosting its annual gala on September 24 as a hybrid event. Paraquad is hosting an art show for artists with disabilities in November. Paraquad has received a Medicaid Expansion Education and Outreach grant to educate and inform individuals about eligibility and assist with enrollment. For more information, contact Kim at klackey@paraquad.org
Missouri Centers for Independent Living (MOCIL) has launched its new website at <https://mocil.org>.

Katie Jones – SB40 Board of St. Charles County collaborated with the Department of Health to provide a second supply of PPE for individuals with disabilities.

Chuck Comstock – SB40 Board of Adair County and the Chamber of Commerce funded an accessible playground in Kirksville. Chuck continues to serve on the Advisory Board at A.T. Still University in Kirksville with a program to help educate student doctors about how to interact with individuals with disabilities.

Lesia Shelton is working with deaf and hard of hearing population in Springfield to address concerns of language deprivation due to the lack of interpreters in schools, and parents having to serve as interpreters.

Traci Ritter has recently been appointed to the SB40 Board of Cape Girardeau County. She is interested in getting guidance on how SB40 Board funding can be spent on items other than sheltered workshop employment.

Chip Hailey attended the American Council of the Blind National Convention in July. Chip had several opportunities to be interviewed about his experiences with accessible voting, with Uppity Theatre Company and the Four State Home Magazine. The Missouri Council for the Blind (MCB) and National Federation of the Blind of Missouri are putting together stories from members about their voting experiences to send to the Department of Justice to address issues with accessible voting in Missouri. They also contacted the Secretary of State’s Directors of Elections to advocate for accessible voting by mail for people with disabilities. MCB also advocated and got approval for Accessible Pharmacy for the Blind to be able to provide services for the blind/visually impaired in Missouri.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

GCD Council Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2021

Action Item	Responsible
Follow up with Boards & Commissions on appointment of Council Chair	Claudia Browner
Send GCD Poster Contest entries to Council members to vote for winning entry	Claudia Browner
Send By-laws and Strategic Plan to Council for review of committee roles and duties	Claudia Browner
Set up meeting of Advocacy and Programs Committee Chairs to discuss committee duties	Betty Davidson, Katie Jones, Joan Bergstrom, Claudia Browner
Schedule employment presentation (VR Summer Work Experience Program) for November Council meeting	Claudia Browner

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 12, 2021** at 10 AM at the **Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, CFO Room, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City** or by WebEx/conference call.

Minutes by Claudia Browner
08/20/21

Approved by Council
11/12/21