

**Governor's Council on Disability**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 23, 2019**

**Council Members Present/Participating:**

Joan Bergstrom, Betty Davidson, Ronald Hack, Chip Hailey, Mary Ann Harter, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Elijah Mayfield, Susan Orton, Andrew Sartorius, Lesia Shelton, Opeoluwa Sotonwa, James Trout, Yvonne Wright

**Council Members Not Present/Participating:**

Charles Comstock, Kim Lackey, DeAnna Noriega, Robert Wallace

**Department Liaisons:**

Bianca Farr	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
Rocky Martin	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Christina Predmore	Department of Revenue – DOR
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Courts Administrator - OSCA
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS
Kris Sweeten	Department of Corrections – DOC
Lisa Wehmeyer	Department of Conservation– MDC
Joyce Wilson	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE

**Staff:** Christina Brazell, Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth, Rachel Rackers

**Guests:** Adonis Brown, Clementine Brown, Bob Collier, Morgan Corder, Piper Earhart, Todd Mayfield, Zamira McConnell, Wyatt Suling

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. With fourteen (14) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. 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 May 3rd.

**Public Comment:** Morgan Corder, Special Assistant with the Attorney General's Office, addressed the Council to obtain more information on how their office can be more accessible. Claudia Browner informed him about the various trainings GCD can provide and shared that a Disability Awareness and Etiquette training has been developed as part of the Governor's Missouri as a Model Employer Initiative.

Joan Bergstrom inquired about a public service announcement relating to accessible parking that a previous state liaison from the Attorney General's Office had reported about in the past. Opeoluwa Sotonwa shared that deaf individuals need assistance finding a private lawyer. He stated that deaf individuals get shut down once the attorney knows they need an interpreter. He recommended that the Attorney General's office write an opinion piece on the situation to inform that those accommodations are mandatory.

**Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:**

Yvonne introduced the three new appointed council members:

- **Kim Lackey** – Member 12 - Director of Public Policy for Paraquad – she serves on Missouri as a Model Employer as well as assisted with the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum.
- **Andrew Sartorius** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional slot – Attorney at Sartorius Kirsch – Missouri Youth Leadership Forum Alum
- **Lesia Shelton** – 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional slot – Preferred Employment Services

Yvonne reported that the council now has 17 members, with only three vacant slots. Claudia Browner will be following up with Kyle Aubuchon to check on any pending applications.

Former Council member Todd Mayfield was presented with a plaque in recognition of his 18 years of service on the council.

Yvonne welcomed DMH/Behavioral Health's new liaison Bianca Farr who replaces Brooke Dawson who recently retired. Former Division of Workforce Development liaison Kristin Funk took a position with the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Effective August 28, the Department of Higher Education and the Division of Workforce Development will be combined into the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) - Angelette Pritchett serves as the liaison for higher education and Yvonne will report on behalf of Workforce Development.

One of the strategic plan requirements for the Council Chair is to do a yearly performance appraisal on the executive director. Yvonne reached out to members of Council to provide feedback and then met with Claudia to go over her appraisal in July.

**GCD Update from staff:**

**Claudia Browner** shared about the Governor's Missouri as a Model Employer initiative she is part of and the disability awareness training for state employees her group has been working on. She contacted Justin Alferman (G.O.), and Adriane Crouse (Senate Secretary) to offer disability training to general assembly, house & senate staff and legislative aides.

GCD received a request from House staff (Kristal Hall) for ADA training on workplace accommodations. Claudia will be working with Julie Brinkhoff (Great Plains ADA Center) on a presentation for September 24<sup>th</sup>. Claudia shared about the different conferences, committees and meetings she attended and upcoming events.

**Budget Update:** GCD: FY20 – The legislature and Governor approved our FY20 budget request as submitted. FY21 budget preparations have started. Claudia met with OA budget officer Amanda Rule to discuss GCD's budget request on August 13. Budget forms have to be submitted to OA by early September.

MO-YLF: Final invoices for 2019 MO-YLF are still pending. We had budgeted about \$53,000 for this year's event and will likely come in below or right at budget.

**Rachel Rackers** shared with the Council the different committees she serves on as well as upcoming events. This year, the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum had the highest number of delegates in the

history of the program. There were 30 delegates and 4 on the waiting list. 344 alumni have gone through the program and 70 counties including the city of St. Louis were represented. This year 16 alumni returned in a staff or mentor role.

**Laura Mueth** reported that she and Lynette Ricks developed an ADA training to co-present at the Court Clerk College on October 10 in Jefferson City and on October 18 at the Missouri Association for Court Administration conference in Branson.

On May 21, she presented portions of the First Responder Disability Awareness Training Law Enforcement Train the Trainer in Jefferson City with a retired Buffalo, New York police officer. The attendees were from Capitol Police and the O'Fallon Police Department.

The Legislative Day at the Youth Leadership Forum was a definite success. Representatives Ian Mackey and Chuck Basye assisted with the activities in the House hearing room and House chamber and Senator Lauren Arthur, her legislative staff, Secretary of the Senate Adriane Crouse, and Sargent-at-Arms Bill Smith assisted with activities in the Senate chamber.

**Legislative Priorities Poll:** The 2019 Legislative Priorities Poll will open on Monday, August 26. The deadline for responses is 5:00 p.m. on November 8. Laura thanked the Council members who provided feedback on the draft.

**Christina Brazell** shared with the Council the various conferences and trainings she attended as well as her role at the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum as co-photographer.

**Poster Contest:** This year, GCD initiated a new poster contest. Christina created several advertisements for the contest in the form of flyers/ Facebook posts and e-mails. There were 16 total entries. Council members and state liaisons were asked to vote for their favorite artwork to determine the winning poster. To increase participation in the program and raise awareness about the importance of employment for people with disabilities, the criteria for participation in next year's poster contest will be broadened to be open to all Missouri residents of any age, with and without disabilities.

**Department Liaison information:**

Christina Predmore (DOR) – Vehicle inspection changes will be taking place – if the vehicle is 10 years old or less and has less than 150,000 miles on the odometer, it will not require a safety inspection (SB89). Title fees will be going up to \$6 for each transaction (HB499). Disabled plate renewals will be due in September.

Rocky Martin (MODOT) – MODOT provided an ADA Training in Jefferson City in May. The department continues to work toward improving safety and access routes under the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. A progress tracker is available at [www.modot.org/tracker](http://www.modot.org/tracker).

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) – **Money Follows the Person (MFP):** As of July 1, 2019 the program changed from a Single Feasible Source only utilizing Centers for Independent Living and Area Agencies on Aging to a competitive bid contract whereby any eligible Missouri Medicaid provider could become an MFP contractor. One contract was awarded to a provider for each of the five DSDS Regions who are responsible for providing MFP services in all counties within their region.

**Level of Care (LOC) Transformation Project:** The new algorithm for determining LOC is being reviewed by Mercer Consultants for recommendations before it is put into policy.

**Independent Living Waiver slots:** 200 slots were added as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Slots will be based on highest need/acuity, not first come first serve.

**Electronic Visit Verification (EVV):** Effective January 2020, all Home and Community Based waiver providers and clients must be in compliance with using this system.

Bianca Farr (DMH/BH) – DMH Housing is offering regional housing conferences in Jefferson City, Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis this fall (<https://dmh.mo.gov/housing/housingunit/>) The annual Real Voice, Real Choices conference will take place August 25-27, 2019 in Osage Beach. DMH is providing statewide capacity building for benefits planning.

Kris Sweeten (DOC) – DOC is centralizing its FMLA process to central office. Mental Health First Aid training is offered to all DOC staff. Over 300 staff members have taken online training for interacting with deaf and hard of hearing offenders.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – Lynette has been working with Laura on developing ADA training for the Court Clerk College on October 10 in Jefferson City and on October 18 at the Missouri Association for Court Administration conference in Branson. OSCA continues to provide ASL interpreters or, alternatively, Video Remote Interpreting for court proceedings. Ope' commented that in-person ASL interpretation is the preferred method of communication for most deaf/hard of hearing individuals.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Strategic Plan - 2020-2022

On June 13<sup>th</sup> the Advocacy Committee met with GCD staff to discuss updates to the existing strategic plan (2017-2019). The draft strategic plan for 2020-2022 was sent out to Council members for review and input. The Council unanimously approved the new Strategic Plan for 2020–2022.

**Presentation:** Rachel Rackers gave a presentation on the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum, providing an overview of the program goals, participation requirements, schedule and activities. Testimonials were given by MO-YLF Alumni - Andrew Sartorius, Zamira Mconnell, and Piper Earhart, which conveyed the significant impact the program has had on those who have had the opportunity to participate. More information about the program can be found on GCD's website at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm>

#### **New Business:**

Last week, Claudia attended the Statewide Independent Living Council meeting where a presentation was given on Medical Marijuana. She presented the idea to the council for having that presentation at the GCD Council Meeting in November. It was decided a 25 minute presentation would be good. Claudia will invite Erica Ziegler (Patient Services Director, DHSS) to present. Setting dates for the 2020 quarterly Council meetings will be added to the November agenda.

#### **Committee Reports:**

The Personnel Subcommittee chair position is currently vacant. Jim Trout announced that he is stepping down from his position as chair of the Advocacy Committee and would like to volunteer for the Personnel Subcommittee chair position. Andrew Sartorius volunteered to be considered for the

Advocacy Committee Chair position. Sue Orton nominated Katie Jones for the position. Yvonne asked that Claudia send out an email to all Council members to provide an opportunity for additional nominations for these vacant positions as well as participation on committees. The appointment (Personnel Subcommittee chair) and election (Advocacy Committee chair) will be added to the November meeting agenda.

**Council member reports:**

James Trout – The Inclusive Design Alliance has adopted universal design guidelines. James attended the bi-state Regional Transportation Network meeting, and the disability transportation conference in Columbia in August that showcased models for inclusive transportation systems for individuals with disabilities. Idaho had great model. Efforts are underway to develop a database to cross track different transportation options and how they are paid for, as well as options for rural areas, such as Call-A-Ride or transportation providers similar to Uber.

Opeoluwa Sotonwa – Ope thanked everyone who reached out while he was in surgery.  
Senate Bill 101 – Hearing Aid Distribution Program – passed and was signed into law July 11<sup>th</sup>.  
The annual Interpreters Conference is coming up October 11-13 at Margaretville at Lake of the Ozarks. The First Lady, Theresa Parson, will be a guest speaker.  
911 Service Board is looking for a new executive director. The board recently received \$3.2 million in federal funding to implement text to 911 statewide and allow for development of video to 911.  
Legislation has passed amendment to 911 Bill – some counties opted out and could not benefit from 911 funding. The new Bill allows for them to opt back in. Katie Jones asked Ope to e-mail a list of all counties that opted out.

Betty Davidson – The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) is hosting the “Gateway to Community” international conference July 22-26, 2020 at Union Station in St. Louis. Information is available online at <https://aerbvi.org>.  
The Variety Children’s Charity, a theater production for children with disabilities, is performing Mary Poppins – October 18-27. Visit <https://varietystl.org> for more information.

Sue Orton – The 15<sup>th</sup> [Annual Brain Injury Association Conference](https://www.biamo.org) will be held October 3-5, 2019 in St. Louis ([www.biamo.org](https://www.biamo.org)). Sue thanked all who supported maintaining the Motorcycle Helmet Law. St. Louis County has hired a full time ADA coordinator.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 15, 2019** at 10 AM at the **Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, CFO Room, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City**

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Post Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022 on website and email to Council and state liaison	GCD staff

GCD Meeting Minutes  
August 23, 2019 Meeting

Follow up with Boards and Commissions Office on pending council member applications	Claudia Browner
Invite Erica Ziegler (DHSS) to provide presentation about medical marijuana at November Council meeting	Claudia Browner
Email Council committee roster to Council members	Claudia Browner

Minutes by Christina Brazell  
September 3, 2019  
Approved by Council: 11/15/19