

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2018

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Ron Hack, Chip Hailey, Mary Ann Harter, Katie Jones, Elijah Mayfield, Todd Mayfield, Deanna Noriega, Sue Orton, Opeoluwa Sotonwa, James Trout, Bob Wallace, Yvonne Wright

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Rosemary Hendon

Department Liaisons:

Anita Baker	Vocational Rehabilitation – DESE/VR
Brooke Dawson	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
Kristin Funk	Division of Workforce Development – DED/DWD
Rocky Martin	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Steven Milburn	Department of Social Services - DSS
Justin Moore	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Court Administrator – OSCA
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS
Kris Sweeten	Department of Corrections – DOC

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

Guests: Kyle Aubuchon, Adonis Brown, Clementine Brown, Bob Collier, Vickie Epple
Interpreters: Heidi, AJ Housewright

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. With fifteen (15) 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 April 27.

Public Comment:

Vickie Epple with Department of Mental Health provided information on an 8-hour course that is available through Mental Health First Aid Missouri to educate on dealing with individuals experiencing a mental health problem or crisis. For more information or to schedule training you can visit the website at www.MHFAMISSOURI.ORG

Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:

Yvonne welcomed the new GCD staff members Christina Brazell and Rachel Rackers, and the new Council members Opeoluwa Sotonwa and Elijah Mayfield. On June 1, Yvonne left VR and accepted a position as Director of Workforce Engagement and Innovation with the Department of Economic Development.

Claudia and Yvonne met with Kyle Aubuchon (Boards and Commissions Director from the Office of Governor Parson) to discuss Council appointments and reappointments. Kyle was a special guest at the meeting and Yvonne introduced him.

Kyle spoke about how he wants to make it a priority to reappoint Council members whose terms have expired and fill the empty positions within the Council, and he hopes to be able to do so within the next couple of months. He is also planning to appoint a Legislative Liaison to the Council per request from Yvonne and Claudia.

Yvonne resumed her report by speaking about events across the state that are changing the way they hire individuals with disabilities. Both Yvonne and Rachel Rackers attended the Accommodations for Success employment conference and Reverse Job Fair in St. Peters on August 9.

Yvonne also attended the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum's Legislative Day at the capitol and recommended that other Council members attend the event in the future.

GCD Update from staff:

- Claudia Browner introduced the new staff members (Rachel Rackers & Christina Brazell).
- Claudia requested and received two proclamations from the Governor's Office for National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Disability History Month in Missouri for the month of October.
- Claudia met with new OA budget staff regarding GCD's budget request for FY20.
- Claudia and Rachel attended MO-YLF (Missouri Youth Leadership Forum) from July 10-14. Only 17 of the 21 delegates planning to attend MO-YLF showed up. There were 14 alumni that returned to participate as staff members and two who returned as mentors.
- Laura Mueth attended MO-YLF (along with Rachel & Claudia) for Legislative Day and reported it was a success. Representatives Bryan Spencer, Rory Rowland & Cheri Toalson Reisch assisted with activities that took place in the Senate Chamber as well as Michael Riley (The Whole Person in KC) and Karen Burnell Ruff (Southwest Center for Independent Living in Springfield).
- Rachel discussed the outreach for MO-YLF through exhibits and committee meetings she has attended and plans to attend. Her upcoming goals are to build a larger network of support for MO-YLF by making more connections and providing continued training opportunities for MO-YLF Alumni and MYLIFE Alumni Association.
- Laura attended several conferences and presented on topics such as Title I of the ADAA, mobility issues for individuals with disabilities, and service animals in emergency preparedness. In September she will present on disability awareness and etiquette to VR counselors across the state as well as on employment of people with disabilities to the State Human resource Management Council.

- Laura sent out the Legislative Update for 2018 on July 17th. The 2018 Legislative Poll will be open Monday August 27th and the deadline for responses is 5:00 p.m. on November 9th.
- GCD will be part of the MPACT Transition Summit on October 9th. GCD will have an exhibit, participate in a break out session about MO-YLF and a MO-YLF Alumni will be the keynote speaker
- Christina updated the Council on her upcoming trainings and plans for her new position with GCD.

Department Liaison information:

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) – The last date that a transition can be paid for under the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Grant will be December 31, 2018. The decision on continuation of the grant still sits with the Senate Finance Committee. It is expected that a decision on the budget for continuing MFP as a grant will be made prior to December 31st. The Division of Senior and Disability Services is looking at how to best to determine the level of care for persons requiring long-term services and supports. In 2017, the DHSS launched a Bed Bug Task Force in the Bootheel area of the state. The task force is comprised of local stakeholders who provide bed bug education, prevention, and remediation in an effort to address this statewide epidemic. Shomari provided brochures and posters about Bed Bugs. For more information, visit www.health.mo.gov/bedbugs

Brooke Dawson (DMH/BH) – The PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) grant was award for another year. Project Homeless Connect is a program that assists homeless in becoming more self-sufficient. There were 227 participants at the Project Homeless held in Columbia. The next one in Jefferson City will be on October 19th. For more information or to sign up to volunteer please visit www.icprojecthomelessconnect.weebly.com

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – Kim Taylor Riley was hired in April as the Diversity and Inclusion Manager. Lynette has been working towards getting new assistive listening devices (ALD's) for the courtrooms in all of Missouri's counties and continues to provide sign language interpreters for courts upon request.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – Kristin was one of a number of presenters on disability and employment topics during the Missouri Association for Workforce Development (MAWD) conference which had about 400 attendees. Four Workforce Development Boards in Missouri helped to coordinate the Fourth Annual Accommodation for Success event with Reverse Job Fair in St. Peters on August 9. Other Workforce Development Boards have recently held disability awareness events for business and more are planned. The Ozark Region recently provided a series of Lunch and Learns on Autism for their business customers. In July, Kristin provided an exhibit booth at the MO-YLF resource fair and enjoyed meeting and providing employment resources to the delegates and their parents.

Kris Sweeten (DOC) – Spent June and July doing staff training on reasonable accommodations. In August, Laura and Opeoluwa gave presentations at a training for the department's ADA site coordinators. Another presenter was Anna Stewart from the Great Plains ADA Center who provided a presentation on Support Animals.

DOC trained 27 employees in mental health first aid. Corrections and Parole Officers will receive the training in the coming year. DOC is working on getting tablets into the prisons to assist inmates who are deaf/hard of hearing.

Anita Baker (DESE/VR) – Assistant Commissioner Jeanne Lloyd retired July 1 and Tim Gaines is the new Assistant Commissioner for VR. In partnership with DMH, VR is meeting with businesses and employers to match them up with DMH clients to provide customized employment options for the individuals.

Steven Milburn (DSS) – Provided information and brochures on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ([LIHEAP](#)) to help families with energy costs. There has been a decrease in program participation for LIHEAP as well as food banks. August is Child Support Awareness Month. Rehab Services for the Blind has two position openings for Mobility Specialists for the Visually Impaired in Cole and Scott counties.

Old Business:

Claudia and Laura met with DOR staff to discuss issues relating to parking in van only accessible spots. Per Missouri Statute 301.143, one in every four accessible spaces shall be designated “lift van accessible only”. Per ADA, the “van accessible” designation is intended to be informative, not restrictive, in identifying those spaces that are better suited for van use. This means that other vehicles with disabled plates/placards may park there without being ticketed. DOR staff is trying to determine if DOR has rulemaking authority to change the language in the rules. Otherwise, legislation may need to be filed to change the language in Missouri’s statutes. Senate Bill 811 was passed and went into effect on August 28, stating individuals only have to provide a physician’s statement every eight years instead of every four to renew their disabled placard/plate. DOR has sent letters to those individuals who are due for renewal and additional information is provided on DOR’s website.

Presentation:

GCD Staff (Claudia, Laura, Rachel & Christina) presented an overview of GCD’s mission, vision, directives, strategic goals as well as programs and activities.

New Business:

The Council set the dates for the 2019 quarterly meetings for February 4, May 3, August 23 and November 15.

Laura reported that Senator Mike Cunningham’s staff contacted GCD to discuss filing legislation to create a voluntary registry for people with disabilities for emergency responders. Laura provided information about the pros and cons of such a registry based on feedback received at the State Emergency Management conferences she attended in August.

Council members discussed taking position on disability related issues and decided that this would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee:

Yvonne reported that the Executive Committee met on July 24 by conference call to address an individual's concerns relating to an introduced bill on service animals. The individual, who had contacted the GCD several times, had the opportunity to voice his concerns and opinions during the call. The legislator who had introduced the bill was present on the call and indicated that she was not sure if she would refile the bill in the upcoming session.

Programs Committee:

Ron reported that the Programs Committee met by conference call on August 9 and decided to invite Colleen Starkloff with the Starkloff Disability Institute for the November meeting to provide a presentation about employment/education options for high school graduates with disabilities. For the February 2019 meeting, Ron proposed inviting Anna Stewart from the Great Plains ADA Center to provide a presentation about service animals.

Transportation Subcommittee:

Betty attended the Regional Disability Transportation Network meeting in St. Louis. The committee discussed the need to educate students with disabilities on the use of public transportation.

Council member reports:

Opeoluwa Sotonwa – Effective August 28, House Bill 1456 changed the laws regarding 911 communication services and authorizes the collection of a 3% tax which will provide Missouri with more funding for text to 911 program. This bill allows for individual counties to opt out, resulting in no funding in those areas for the text to 911 program.

Senate Bill 814 changed the optional code used to identify hearing loss on driver's licenses from J88 to DHH for easier recognition by law enforcement officers. The next MCDHH meeting is October 18 at the Lodge of Four Seasons, followed by the Missouri Interpreter Conference October 19-21.

Betty Davidson – Betty encouraged everyone to attend Variety Theatre's 2018 production of *Disney's The Little Mermaid* at Touhill Performing Arts Center with show dates October 18-21.

Katie Jones – The transportation contract between DMH and OATS has ended, which affects 150 employees and 80 day program participants in the St. Charles area, and a total of 608 individuals including the St. Louis area. Katie asked to join the transportation subcommittee.

Deanna Noriega – Columbia is considering cutting its public transit services. Deanna is planning to attend the September 4 City Council meeting to testify for continuation of transit services. Deanna announced that she plans to continue to serve on the Council but is not seeking reappointment. She has been with the council almost 9 years. Deanna has revised and edited a new book titled *Prospective Guide Dog Users*.

Bob Wallace – Mentioned that St. Louis Bloom Café was created by Paraquad to train and provide employment for individuals with disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 16, 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:
Invite Anna Stewart, Great Plains ADA Center, to provide service animal presentation at the February 2019 meeting	Claudia Browner

Minutes by Christina Brazell
August 31, 2018

Approved by the Council November 16, 2018