

# **Governor's Council on Disability**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **February 4, 2019**

**Council Members Present/Participating:**

Joan Bergstrom, Betty Davidson, Chip Hailey, Mary Ann Harter, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Elijah Mayfield, Todd Mayfield, Deanna Noriega, Sue Orton, James Trout, Bob Wallace, Yvonne Wright

**Council Members Not Present/Participating:**

Chuck Comstock, Ron Hack, Opeoluwa Sotonwa

**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
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health– DMH/DD
Kris Sweeten	Department of Corrections - DOC
Lisa Wehmeyer	Department of Conservation – MDC
Joyce Wilson	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education - DESE

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

**Guests:** Representative Sara Unsicker, Anna Stewart, Tom Fast, Kim Johnson, Bob Collier

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. With thirteen (13) 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 November 16.

**Public Comment:**

Representative Sarah Unsicker spoke to the Council in regards to HR 19, which urges state entities to engage in practices that encourage disability inclusion. The Council was in agreement to write a letter of support for HR 19 and asked Claudia and Council members Joan Bergstrom, Katie Jones, and James Trout to draft a letter to be sent to the Council for vote/approval prior to February 15.

**Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:**

- Yvonne shared with the Council that on 1/28/19 GCD reached out to Kyle Aubuchon, Director of Boards and Commissions, in regards council appointments/reappointments. A response is pending.
- At the upcoming house and senate budget hearings for FY2020, Claudia will be asking for an additional \$5,000. Governor Parson supported this request. Both hearings begin next week.
- In December, Yvonne and Claudia met with Governor Parson's legislative director Justin Alferman to discuss the Council's role in regards to legislation affecting the disability community. Mr. Alferman was very helpful in providing guidance and indicated that Yvonne and Claudia could continue to seek his guidance whenever needed.

**GCD Update from staff:**

- Claudia reported that GCD is one of the partnering agencies participating in the Missouri Workforce Initiative to make Missouri a Model Employer for individuals with disabilities. GCD offered to host website on the Disability Web Portal. The first meeting of this group is scheduled later in February.
- Claudia Browner gave an overview of the different meetings, conferences and presentations GCD attended.
- The 2018 Annual Report is complete. It was sent out and posted online.
- GCD staff is working with Division of Personnel to add disability awareness/etiquette component to the state's diversity training for employees. GCD staff will develop training to co-present or share with DOP.
- GCD responded to Fiscal Note requests relating to HB/SB 107 (Service Animals) and HB 517 (Competitive Integrated Employment).
- There was a lack of nominations for the Annual Website/IT Award. The Council unanimously approved including the Website Award category in the Inclusion Award, and providing an honorable mention award for both the Inclusion and Youth Leadership Awards.
- **Strategic Plan Update:** The Strategic Plan needs to be updated for 2020-2022. GCD will e-mail the existing Strategic Plan to the Council members and they are to contact Claudia with any updates or changes they would like made.
- **Budget Update:** House budget hearings for the FY20 budget will be held February 11, Senate budget hearings are scheduled for February 12. Governor's recommendation supports our request, incl. NDI for additional EE. GCD Budget: For the current fiscal year, E&E spending (including encumbered funds) to date: \$9,978, about 52% of our operating budget.
- **MO-YLF Budget:** We are currently working with MU Conference Center on the 2019 MO-YLF budget and are budgeting for 30 delegates.
- Laura Mueth gave an update on the Legislative Priorities Poll and Legislative Update. New marketing and outreach are being done for the Legislative Education Project resulting in several requests for LEP on the Road.
- Rachel Rackers gave an update on MO-YLF planning and informed the Council of the upcoming MO-YLF Dates (July 16-20) and invited anyone to come and volunteer. Applications are available online at: <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/yf.htm>
- Christina Brazell informed the Council of new marketing and promotional materials that she has been working on to increase GCD Program awareness.

- Christina updated Council on the Annual Awards program nominations that were received (13 Inclusion Award Nominations and 8 Youth Leadership Award Nominations). She informed volunteer judges they would be receiving the nominations and scoring forms the following day.

**Presentation:**

Anna Stewart from the Great Plains ADA Center, gave a presentation on Service Animals. She explained the different regulations and ADA guidelines surrounding service animals as well as emotional support animals. Her PowerPoint presentation will be shared with the Council by email.

**Department Liaison information:**

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – The Division of Workforce Development is transitioning to the Department of Higher Education. DWD is participating in the EFSLMP grant project that DMH is leading. DWD will be conducting training for equal opportunity officers this week.

Kris Sweeten (DOC) – The Department of Corrections received tablets that assist inmates with visual disabilities or hearing loss. Kris put together a training program for staff that will be held in March and April on interactive process for reasonable access and accommodations. All DOC staff will also receive Mental Health First Aid training over the next two years.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – Lynette has been receiving calls from courts needing interpreting services. They are training them how to use Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) and when it is appropriate to be used.

Duane Shumate (DMH/DD) - Missouri was recently selected for the fifth consecutive year for participation in the Employment First State Leadership Program (EFSLMP). This technical assistance program is made available by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy as a cross-disability, cross-systems change initiative with a focus on aligning state practices and policies which promote increased employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The Governor announced this effort through a public event on January 31 in St. Louis at Paraquad and a round table discussion on February 1 in Joplin at The Ozark Center. A press release announcing Missouri's participation was issued by the Governor's Office on February 1.

The Department of Mental Health was the lead applicant with support from the Governor's Office. There are two major areas of focus: 1) Building the capacity in Missouri to have accurate and purposeful discussion related to earned income and public benefits (i.e. SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, etc.) through the development of a "tiered approach" to education and information dissemination. 2) Supporting the development and implementation of Missouri as a Model Employer - an emerging national strategy where state government commits to hiring more people with disabilities, and thereby become a "model employer" for private businesses and non-profits.

Missouri's teams consist of representatives from the Governor's Office, Office of Administration, Department of Mental Health (Divisions of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities), Department of Social Services (Rehabilitation Services for the Blind and Family Support Division), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Vocational Rehabilitation), Department of

Economic Development (Workforce Development), Department of Health and Senior Services (Division of Senior and Disability Services), Governor's Council on Disability, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, Missouri DD Council and Paraquad.

Steven Milburn (DSS) – Steve shared that the new Children's Division Director is David Kurt. Due to the government shutdown, SNAP Food Stamps for February were delivered in January.

Brooke Dawson (DMH/BH) – Brooke announced the Missouri Mental Health Champions' Award Winners: Team Richard Cohen & Angelo Blanchard, Connor McGranahan and Dan Hanneken. Click on the link for more details: <http://www.missourimhf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Announcement-2019-Missouri-Mental-Health-Champions-Award-Recipients.pdf>

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) – The Division for Senior and Disability Services is conducting a review of the Level of Care assessment system to more accurately determine the care needs of individuals with disabilities.

Money Follows the Person Grant Update: HR259 was passed in congress and signed into law by the president on January 24. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will be presenting participating states with 3 options, either (1) do nothing and finish out grant by September 2020 or sooner, (2) request new program funds for only 3-6 months and continue program through September 2020, and (3) start over with a new budget and submit a request for additional funds to extend the program through 2022 and closing out in 2023. Missouri is submitting a proposal for Option 3.

Anita Baker (DESE/VR) – Margie Vandeven has been rehired as state commissioner for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Anita reported VR is preparing for the 2019 VR Summer Work Experience Program and that last year 700 students, 203 employers and 158 schools participated in this program.

VR will also be involved in the Missouri as a Model Employer initiative and two representatives from VR were able to attend the Governor's announcement of the initiative at Ozark Center in Joplin.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met via phone conference December 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss focal points for 2019.

**Council member reports:**

Chip Hailey – Missouri Council of the Blind (MCB) will be holding Legislative Days at the Capitol March 12 and 13. MCB is following several pieces of legislation including [SB107](#) (Service Animals) and [HB61](#) (Workers Compensation). Members of MCB will participate in the Disability Rights Legislative Day on March 13.

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Sue Orton – Sue was re-nominated to the St. Louis Realtors Inclusion Advisory Group. St. Louis County voted for a full-time ADA Coordinator position but may not be able to fill the position due to budget cuts.

Betty Davidson – Betty reported that on Wednesday she will be attending the Regional Transition Network Meeting.

Deanna Noriega – Deanna is continuing to work on the transportation issues as well as efforts to make Columbia more inclusive and is planning on requesting that the Columbia City Council reevaluate its decision to cut public transportation. Deanna also shared that she has completed the revision of the Handbook for Guide Dog Users.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, May 3, 2019** at 10 AM at the **Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, CFO Room**, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City

<b>Summary of Action Items:</b>	<b>Person Responsible:</b>
E-mail existing GCD Strategic Plan to Council Members for review and feedback.	Claudia Browner
Draft letter of support for HR 19 and submit to full Council for vote/approval by February 15	Claudia Browner, Joan Bergstrom, Katie Jones, James Trout

Minutes by Christina Brazell  
February 7, 2019

Approved by Council May 3, 2019