

**Governor's Council on Disability
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2020**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Betty Davidson, Ronald Hack, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey, DeAnna Noriega, Susan Orton, Andrew Sartorius, Lesia Shelton, Opeoluwa Sotonwa, James Trout, Robert Wallace, Yvonne Wright

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Chip Hailey, Rosemary Hendon, Elijah Mayfield

Department Liaisons:

Ali Carey	Attorney General's Office - AGO
Edwin Cooper	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
Tom Green	Missouri Housing Development Commission – MHDC
Rocky Martin	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Rebecca Pinto	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Katy Plaster	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Christina Predmore	Department of Revenue – DOR
Sarah Schappe	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Tara Smith	Office of State Courts Administrator – OSCA
Kris Sweeten	Department of Corrections – DOC
Lisa Wehmeyer	Department of Conservation - MDC
Joyce Wilson	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE
Mara Woody	Department of Higher Ed and Workforce Development - DHEWD

Staff: Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth, Rachel Rackers, Jessica Zimmer

Guests: Jeanna Caldwell, Sarah Schwegel, ASL interpreters (2)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. With twelve (12) 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 15, 2019.

Public Comment: None.

Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:

Council member Mary Ann Harter has resigned. There are 4 Council member vacancies currently. Yvonne encouraged reaching out to people to apply.

Yvonne and Claudia attended an introductory meeting with Jeff Earl, Legislative Director for Governor Parson, and Harry Otto, Policy Advisor.

GCD Update from staff:

Claudia Browner

- Missouri as a Model Employer initiative is continuing in 2020 through a new TA grant. Attended the first meeting on 02/06/2020.
- Kim Gee, VR, approached GCD to discuss collaboration with MU Pre-ETS and Missouri School for the Deaf to host a summer leadership camp for D/HH youth aged 16-21 in June 2020, which resulted in the development of a new [Leadership Development Program for Deaf/HH](#).
- ADA 30 Celebration – initiated celebration event for the 30th anniversary of the ADA, in collaboration with other state agencies and disability organizations. The celebration is set for July 28 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Capitol. More info at <https://disability.mo.gov/ada30.htm>
- Attended introductory meeting with Jeff Earl, Legislative Director for Governor Parson, Harry Otto, Policy Advisor, and Yvonne Wright on 01/27/2020. Offered assistance and training to legislators and staff and discussed committee assignments of disability related bills. The Council members asked that GCD send a letter to the house leadership asking to establish or reinstate a disability committee.
- Prepared and submitted GCD's 2019 Annual Report
- Attended House Budget Hearing on 02/05/2020 and will attend Senate Hearing on 02/12/2020.

Laura Mueth

- Attended webinar trainings on Texas Drivers with Autism Initiative, Service Animals and Air Travel, and SiteImprove (web accessibility management service)
- Conducted trainings Service Animals vs. Emotional Support Animals to public administrators from Missouri and two Disability 101 trainings for new VR employees and for HR Professionals in Missouri.
- Hosted GCD's first ever Legislative Poll Listening Session at the beginning of January to give poll participants an opportunity to share thoughts and ask questions. Laura shared the highlights with Katie, Chair of the Advocacy Committee.
- Scheduled Legislative Education Project (LEP) trainings in February and March for five different disability organizations, both in Jefferson City and "on the road."
- Started publishing weekly Legislative Update newsletter and listened to various hearings on disability related bills online.
- Sarah Schwegel contacted Laura to inquire if GCD would assist with a candidate survey for the upcoming general elections, developed by Paraquad, MO DD Council, MO Protection and Advocacy, and Coalition for Truth and Independence. This would include sharing the survey results with listservs, as well as sharing the survey results across GCD networks.

The Council discussed Ms. Schwegel's request and made a motion that GCD support and distribute the pre-survey that is sent to the disability community. The motion carried.

The Council then asked Sarah Schwegel to provide the list of questions for the second survey that is intended for the candidates, to the Advocacy Committee for review.

Rachel Rackers

- Attended future of self-advocacy in Columbia 12/11/2019

- Presented in West Plains at Regional Transition Network 01/21/2020
- Participating in 5 upcoming transition fairs (Farmington, Osage Beach, Waynesville, Jefferson City, and Republic)
- [Leadership Development Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) taking place from 06/18/2020-06/21/2020 at the Missouri School for the Deaf. Agencies GCD is working with on this include MSD, VR, Pre-ETS, and Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Main focus will be college and career readiness and mentorship, and include tie-ins on self-advocacy, leadership, accommodations, etc.
- [MO YLF](#): Dates for 2020 are 07/14-07/18/2020. Staff and volunteers will arrive on 07/13/2020 for orientation. Applications are available on GCD's website for anyone who'd like to become part of YLF. This year's goal is to increase the number of delegates to 36.

Jessica Zimmer

- Continuing to learn her duties and GCD programs.
- Working on the Inclusion and Youth Leadership Awards. Asked for volunteers to help judge for awards: Joan Bergstrom, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey, Sue Orton, and Andrew Sartorius volunteered as judges and Yvonne offered to be the tie-breaker if needed.

Presentation on Missouri Apprenticeship Programs – Jeanne Caldwell, Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, Office of Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning

- Open to create apprenticeship programs based on employers' needs
- This program works to bridge the gap between experience and required education
- MO ABLE pilot project in the Branson area with VR, Ozark Technical College, Abilities First, and Workforce Development, employing individuals with disabilities in the hospitality industry
- The Missouri Apprenticeship Connect Portal will be coming this spring to connect students wanting to register for an apprenticeship and employers wanting to post apprenticeship opportunities
- These are paid apprenticeships that include raises
- ITSD, MoDOT and DOC currently offer apprenticeship programs
- More information can be found at https://dhewd.mo.gov/apprenticeship_missouri.php

Department Liaison information:

Rebecca Pinto (AGO) - Represents Consumer Protection Unit. Revised consumer complaint process expedites complaints from people with disabilities and seniors. Asked meeting participants to inform the attorney general's office of any exploitation they may become aware of. The AGO consumer hotline number is 800-392-8222. Reports can also be submitted online at ago.mo.gov

Rocky Martin (MoDOT) ADA Transition Plan addressing 44,000 + barriers due to complete by 2027. Sidewalk replacement will be upwards of \$22 million, and a total of \$133 million of improvements is planned for the next 5 years.

Kris Sweeten (DOC) oversees ADA centralized FMLA process and handles requests for reasonable accommodations.

Katy Plaster (DNR) introduced herself as DNR's new HR officer in charge of ADA/FMLA issues.
Joyce Wilson (DESE SpEd) The Schools for the Severely Disabled have developed a curriculum for severely disabled students.

Tara Smith (OSCA) Working on presentations with Laura Mueth to the Clerk College and Missouri Courts Association.

Tom Green (MHDC) Trying to determine if federal tax credits for affordable housing are effective in Missouri. There are 33 new affordable, universally designed housing unit developments available – one third each in Kansas City, St. Louis, and outstate.

Sarah Schappe (AGO) Represents Medicaid Fraud Unit. Investigation of 33 cases of Medicaid Fraud complaints has returned approximately \$7 million to Missouri.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) (report submitted by email)

DHSS has issued a competitive sealed bid solicitation for their Region 2 Long Term Care Rebalancing Opportunities Program, more widely known as the Money Follows the Person Program. This program assists individuals who currently reside in a Skilled Nursing Facility, but have the ability to live on their own, and transition back into their community. The counties included in Region 2 are: Jefferson, Washington, Dent, Reynolds, Carter, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Dunklin, St. Francois, Iron, Madison, St. Genevieve, Perry, Cape Girardeau, Wayne, Bollinger, and Scott County. Proposals are due February 25. The RFA document are listed on the website at <https://health.mo.gov/information/publicnotices/invitations/index.php>

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Committee Reports:

Transportation Committee – Betty Davidson attended Regional Disability Transportation Network meeting where they discussed a centralized training certification for drivers of buses and Lyft vehicles.

Programs Committee – Met January 7 by conference call to set program presentations for 2020 Council meetings.

Advocacy Committee - Katie Jones met with James Trout as well as GCD staff to discuss her role as the Advocacy Committee chair. The Employment Subcommittee chair position is no vacant due to Mary Ann Harter's resignation. Advocacy Committee will meet prior to May Council meeting.

Council member reports:

Ope' Sotonwa is a 911 board member. Board will help establish accessible 911 such as text 911, next gen 911. This is a challenge to become active in smaller counties since they have independent 911 centers. Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is hosting deaf and hard of

hearing legislative day at Capitol on March 2, 2020, and four deaf empowerment symposiums on financial literacy in Kansas City (May 16), St. Louis (May 30), Springfield (June 13) and Fulton (August 15). MCDHH's hearing aid distribution program has awarded hearing aids to 25 low income individuals.

Lesia Shelton reported that MoDOT is working to allow drivers that are deaf/hard of hearing to get their CDL (bill pending). If the bills passes, this will add jobs and open opportunities for people with disabilities.

James Trout is a member of the Inclusive Design Coalition. One of their goals is to add a Universal Design search tab to the multiple listing service or MLS.

Sue Orton - Serves on the St. Louis County Older Adult Commission that recently featured a presentation on elder abuse & exploitation. Sue also continues to work with members of Maris to make searching for accessible features more organized and user friendly to realtors, buyers and sellers.

Kim Lackey – There will be an ADA celebration on July 25 in St. Louis at the History Museum. More information about the event is available online at <https://festability.org/>

DeAnna Noriega – Jill McClintock requested for Laura to give a service animal presentation April 7 from 3:30-4:30 to the Columbia Restaurant Association. Deanna will be representing Columbia disability advocates and Missouri Council of the Blind at the Disability Rights Legislative Day on March 11 at the Capitol.

Betty Davidson – The International AER (Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired) conference will be held July 22-26, at Union Station Hotel in St. Louis. <https://aerbvi.org/professional-development/conferences/aeric2018/>

Katie Jones - Attending the LEP in Jefferson City on March 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, May 1, 2020** at 10 AM at the **Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, CFO Room, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City**

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Letter to House Leadership regarding Disability Committee	Yvonne Wright, Claudia Browner

Minutes by Jessica Zimmer
February 19, 2020
Approved by Council – May 1, 2020