

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2015

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Ron Hack, Mary Ann Harter, Todd Mayfield, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, Derek Smith, James Trout, Bob Wallace

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Ed Duff, Mike Esser, Rep. Jeff Grisamore

Department Liaisons:

Bonnie Aaron	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - DESE
Becky Brietzke	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Dee Ann Fuller	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Voc Rehab – DESE/VR
Kristin Funk	Department of Economic Development – DED/DWD
JoAnn Hanley	Department of Conservation - MDC
Jonathan Hensley	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Dana Muessig	Department of Natural Resources - DNR
Angelette Prichett	Department of Higher Education – DHE
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Court Administrator - OSCA
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health – DMH/DDD
Melissa Wilding	Missouri Veterans Commission – MVC
Jennifer Zamkus	Department of Corrections - DOC

Guests:

Melissa Comstock, Marilyn Lehman, Opeoluwa Sotonwa, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Yvonne Wright, Vocational Rehabilitation

Staff:

Linda Baker, Claudia Browner, Dawn Evans, Laura Mueth

Real-Time Captioner: Kim Pflieger-Schacht

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. With eleven (11) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting.

Approval of agenda and minutes:

The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for November 13, 2014 and the agenda for the day.

Report from Acting Chair James Trout:

James Trout announced Linda Baker's retirement effective March 1 and thanked her for her service to the Governor's Council on Disability. Ron Hack, on behalf of the Executive Committee, then thanked Linda for her great work for and service to the Council and honored her with a plaque.

James informed the Council that the Executive Committee had met on February 5 to review and approve the latest revisions to the Missouri Universal Design criteria and provided a copy of the revised criteria. After review and discussion, the Council voted unanimously to accept the proposed

revisions, which will be sent to MHDC. Upon recommendation from Joan Bergstrom, the Council will send a letter to the involved stakeholders to thank them for their work.

Report from Executive Director Linda Baker:

- Linda summarized her ED report. GCD has spent about 46% of its FY15 budget. So far, there are no changes to the FY16 budget. Budget hearings will be held this week.
- GCD and Paraquad have entered into an MOU for the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum with Paraquad being the fiscal agent for the program. The current balance is \$21,888.76 and the budget for the program is \$39,000. Fundraising efforts are underway. Linda recommended looking for a large grant to fund the program in the future, or to propose making the program a new budget line item.
- For the Legislative Education Project (LEP), GCD has posted three learning modules and videos online. The feedback has been very positive. GCD continues to offer the LEP at the capitol upon request.
- House Speaker John Diehl has not reinstated the disability committee. Disability-related bills may be assigned to any committee. The House has introduced a two-tier approach to passing bills.
- The 2015 Inclusion Award winner is Wayne Crawford and Disability Inclusion Services at Mercy Hospital received the honorable mention. Claire Solomon is the Youth Leadership Award winner. The awards will be presented at the Power Up conference in April.
- Linda thanked the Council for the honor of serving as the Executive Director.

Department Liaison Information:

Melissa Wilding (MVC) – The Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) is working on legislation to update the Veterans Employment Preference Program.

DeAnn Fuller (DESE/VR) – Project Search has been implemented with Jefferson City High School and Lincoln University. There has been a 15% increase in funding for transition services. The Council then discussed the elimination of the ABLE program at Longview Community College. James Trout asked Joan Bergstrom to write a white paper on the retention of the program.

Dana Muessig (DNR) – Work has been completed to make Bennett Springs State Park more accessible. DNR met with sComm to discuss purchasing UbiDuo communication devices for the deaf and hard of hearing. A Multicultural Affairs conference with the focus on individuals with disabilities will be held March 26 in Jefferson City. Dana will send the information to the Council.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – Kristin thanked Linda for her support and excellence, especially in providing training to the disability navigators. The division is planning Equal Opportunity Officer training; Kristin will assist with training on assistive technology and accommodations.

JoAnn Hanley (MDC) – JoAnn will participate in the Power Up conference, providing an awareness program for MDC opportunities for people with disabilities.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – Lynette is working with many public users with PTSD in the courts and asked for information on accommodations for people with PTSD. Joan Bergstrom offered to help with a training workshop. OSCA is purchasing additional Assistive Listening Devices for the courts.

Angelette Prichett (DHE) – The Coordinating Board for Higher Education has been directed in statute to develop and promulgate the administrative rule for legislation regarding student resident status for admission and tuition purposes for military personnel (Senate Bill 117). The legislation, signed in 2014, requires higher education to establish rules for establishing residency requirements for veterans newly separating from the military, which would allow them to qualify for lower tuition rates at Missouri public colleges and universities. MDHE is currently drafting the rules to support this legislation. Senate Bill 106, also signed in 2014, requires public higher education institutions to give credit for courses that are part of a student’s military service.

Becky Brietzke (MODOT) – MODOT is offering video interpreting services for the deaf and hard of hearing in its facilities.

Jennifer Zamkus (DOC) – Jennifer introduced herself as the new liaison for the Department of Corrections.

Bonnie Aaron (DESE) – Part B application (funding) and Part B State Plan are open for public review with comment periods ending February 9 and 18. Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) – Missouri is part of an 18-state consortium to develop an alternative assessment in English/Language Arts and Math for students with significant disabilities. The system is used for statewide assessment for some students but can also be a curriculum and progress measurement for many other students. The Council discussed the need to help students navigate the tests on the computer.

Duane Shumate (DMH) – Duane thanked Linda for her efforts on the employment of people with disabilities. The Home and Community Based Services transition plan was posted for comment until January 30th and received many comments. The primary effort of the community based service rule is for people to receive services in the most integrated setting. Representatives of MACDDS, Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, and workshop managers met with DMH Staff and DESE staff to discuss the future of employment for people with disabilities.

Public Comment:

Opeoluwa Sotonwa introduced himself as the new Executive Director of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH). Rep. Rowland has filed a bill that would require the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide grants to organizations that provide services to deaf-blind persons. MCDHH is also working on legislation to require insurance companies to pay for hearing aids. An actuarial study is being completed. MCDHH has two position openings one of which will be working with veterans with hearing loss.

Lunch recess was taken.

New Business:

The Executive Committee had a meeting on January 15, 2015 to discuss revisions to GCD’s by-laws. Ron Hack summarized the proposed changes for the Council. The Council voted unanimously to accept the proposed changes. The revised by-laws will be sent to Council members and posted online.

Council Membership and vacancies were discussed. James Trout will follow up with Council members on future commitment and interest in serving on committees. Council vacancies and unexcused absences will be added to the April meeting agenda.

Presentation:

Yvonne Wright, Director of Business Outreach and Workforce Development with Vocational Rehabilitation gave a presentation about VR's Talent Acquisition Portal. TAP is an online system which includes both a national talent pool of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) candidates looking for employment and a job posting system for businesses looking to hire individuals with disabilities. More information can be found at www.tapability.org

The 1st Annual Disability Inclusion Summit for employers and service providers will be held in Kansas City on April 22.

(<http://www.bln-gkc.org/events/1st-annual-bln-gkc-disability-inclusion-summit>)

GCD Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee: Ron Hack will schedule a committee meeting prior to the next Council meeting to discuss committee goals.

Housing Subcommittee: Sue Orton met with Paul Prince of Mid America Regional Information Systems (MARIS) to discuss including UD features in real estate listings. This will allow people with disabilities to include specific accessibility criteria in their search for properties on MLS listings.

Education Subcommittee: Joan Bergstrom will chair the subcommittee with Mary Ann Harter and Betty Davidson serving as members.

The Employment and Transportation subcommittees need members and chairs. James Trout asked Council members to let him know if they are interested in serving on these committees.

No other committee reports.

Council Member Reports:

DeAnna Noriega announced the merger of her employer, Services for Independent Living, with Boone County Council on Aging. DeAnna is currently mentoring Occupational Therapy Assistant students.

Chuck Comstock announced that the annual art show of adults and children with disabilities from the Kirksville Regional Office's 14 counties will be on display at the Kirksville Art Center for two weeks. Chuck is mentoring two students at Truman State University whose minor is in disability services.

Old Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, April 24, 2015** at 10 AM by videoconference in Jefferson City, Lee's Summit, Kirksville, and St. Louis.

GCD Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2015 Meeting

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Draft letter and send revised UD criteria to MHDC Send thank you letter to stakeholders involved in Missouri UD criteria development.	Linda Baker/James Trout
Write White Paper on retention of ABLE program.	Joan Bergstrom
Send revised GCD by-laws to Council and post online.	Claudia Browner
Email Council members to get future commitment and interest in serving on committees.	James Trout/Claudia Browner

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
February 11, 2015