

**Governor's Council on Disability
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2019**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Chip Hailey, Ron Hack, Katie Jones, Elijah Mayfield, Todd Mayfield, Deanna Noriega, Sue Orton, James Trout, Bob Wallace, Yvonne Wright

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Mary Ann Harter, Rosemary Hendon, Opeoluwa Sotonwa

Department Liaisons:

Anita Baker	Vocational Rehabilitation – DESE/VR
Becky Brietzke	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Brooke Dawson	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
Steven Milburn	Department of Social Services – DSS
Justin Moore	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Christina Predmore	Department of Revenue – DOR
Angelette Prichett	Department of Higher Education – DHE
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

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

Guests: Scott Fitzpatrick, Missouri State Treasurer, David Pearce, Senior Policy Coordinator, Office of Missouri State Treasurer, Adonis Brown, Clementine Brown

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 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 February 4.

Public Comment: None

Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:

The 2019 Annual MAWD (Missouri Association of Workforce Development) Conference was held at the Branson Hilton & Convention Center April 24-26th. Over 400 were in attendance. Yvonne shared that she had the honor of presenting Governor Parson with the Person of the Year Award.

GCD Update from staff:

Claudia Browner thanked Council members Joan and Chip for their assistance with an advocacy issue relating to blind pension, Joan for sharing FRDAT training with local law enforcement, and Betty for submitting an award nomination. She also thanked Steven Milbourn, Kris Sweeten, and Shomari Rozier for assistance with calls/emails to our agency. Claudia updated the Council on the boards and committees she participates in as well as conferences she has attended.

Claudia reported to the Council on the Governor's State of Missouri as a Model Employer initiative, which meets once a month. The current plan is to have an Executive Order issued in addition to an Administrative Plan. Kim Lackey from Paraquad & Claudia are both working on the disability awareness training for state employees. Governor Parson attended the April 22, 2019 meeting and spoke about the importance of this initiative.

Kyle Aubuchon (Director, Boards and Commissions) advised that there are three new Council member appointments in the works. Council members asked Claudia to follow up with Kyle on reappointments of current members.

Claudia reported on the GCD Annual Awards presentation that was held at Power-Up on April 2nd as well as who all the winners were. Here is a link to the press release that was issued:

<https://oa.mo.gov/commissioners-office/news/governor-s-council-disability-names-annual-award-winners-1>

Proposed new **Poster contest** for artists with disabilities (K-12 and adult) to bring awareness to National Disability Employment Awareness month in October was presented to the Council for approval. The Council voted in favor of the poster contest. Claudia and Christina will be working on the announcement for this new program.

Budget Update: House & Senate budget hearings for FY20 completed, budget conference hearing has been scheduled for May 7. The budget needs to be approved by the legislature by May 10.

Rachel Rackers shared with the Council the different committees she serves on as well as the transition fairs she attended. In March both Claudia & Rachel attended a transition fair in Osage Beach where they had an exhibit booth and gave three presentations on MO-YLF and had 100 in attendance. GCD has been doing lots of new advertising for MO-YLF. The outreach resulted in 54 applications. 30 Delegates were selected with 7 on a waitlist. Rachel shared the donations and sponsorships that were received for MO-YLF as well as future plans to keep MO-YLF Alumni involved.

Yvonne recommended having a panel of MO-YLF delegates and volunteers provide a presentation at the Council meeting in August.

OA Training: Rachel and Claudia reported that OA did not include disability awareness and etiquette in the division's mandatory Diversity training. GCD staff brought this to the attention of the Division of Personnel and developed this training component, which will now be implemented as part of the mandatory training for OA Employees as of May 22nd.

Laura Mueth reported that the Legislative Session is coming to a close on May 17. There were 170 Bills and Resolutions. The Legislative Education Project (LEPs were offered in: St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, and St. Joseph) is finished for the session. Laura reported she is now working on legislative day activities for the Youth Leadership Forum and has invited several representatives and senators to participate. Laura reported on the meetings and presentations she has been a part of.

Christina Brazell shared with the Council the various projects she has assisted with as well as new educational marketing materials that are being ordered for the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum. With the end of the fiscal year coming up, Christina is working on making year-end purchases for the office.

Presentation: State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick and David Pearce gave a presentation on the MO ABLÉ Program. ABLÉ accounts are accounts designed specifically for Missourians with disabilities. The account is a tax-free savings plan for disability related expenses as well as a way for individuals to save and invest without losing federal needs-based benefits. Here is the link for more information: <https://www.moable.com/>

Department Liaison information:

Anita Baker (DESE-VR) - Anita thanked Laura Mueth for coming to central office in March for Disability Etiquette Training. She stated survey results indicated they really enjoyed the presentation and stated everyone should receive this training. For the first time in VR history, they will be having a conference for VR support staff. VR is also involved in the Missouri as a Model Employer initiative. VR is partnering with DMH and RSB for a pilot project on customized employment, and five sites have been selected to receive training in July/August: Warrensburg, Jefferson City, Poplar Bluff, Hannibal and Springfield.

Brooke Dawson (DMH/BH) – In October, the Substance Use Prevention Act was signed into law giving practitioners more flexibility in medication assisted treatment for substance use disorders. Brooke shared upcoming events and training opportunities:

Become a Suicide Lifeguard – Register at <https://suicidelifeguard.com/training/>
Spring Training Institute will be held May 30-31, 2019, at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach.
<https://www.springtraininginstitute.com/>

The MO-HOPE project offers a number of different core trainings, with the option to include additional modules to customize a training designed to meet the needs of individual agencies and organizations. To view the trainings offered, visit: <https://mohopeproject.org/training/what-we-offer-2/>

Brooke also shared with the Council she will be retiring July 1. Council Chair, Yvonne Wright, thanked her for all her time and efforts. Brooke stated that the division will assign a new state liaison to the Council.

Beckie Brietzke (MODOT) – MODOT is 20% complete on the ADA transition plan. MODOT is restructuring to be compliant with ADA Guidelines.

MODOT is hosting an ADA Training called: Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility (DPFA). This event will be held May 6-7 at the Truman Building. The training will include testing wheel chairs on High Street, navigating areas blindfolded as well as utilizing white canes.

Steve Milburn (DSS/FSD) – Department Director Steve Corsi has resigned, his last day is June 3rd. Steve reported April was Child Abuse Awareness Month and May is Foster Care Awareness Month. The MO HealthNet division will be covering new treatment options for chronic pain (adults) to help combat opioid abuse. Visit the interactive quick facts web page at: <https://dss.mo.gov/>

LIHEAP has a new provider in KC area – Mid America Assistance Coalition.

Angelette Prichett (DHE) – DHE will be combined with the Division of Workforce Development and move to the Truman Building. DHE is working on the Missouri Equity Project initiative to identify and eliminate disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes. The Department will be putting together a report which will be rolled out at a statewide conference in October, where they will start looking into solutions to address the disparities.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) - Lynette has received several requests for sign language interpreters with the courts as well as requests for assistive listening devices. Lynette will be attending the ADA Symposium in Texas in June.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) - Money Follows the Person received a temporary extension for current contractors which will only last until June 30th. New competitive bid contracts will be awarded July 1. The MFP program focuses on the 5 regions of the state with one Medicaid provider per region. Level of Care transformation project: the division is still trying to figure out the best algorithm to determine the level of care so individuals don't slip through the cracks and qualify for the assistance they need. The federal CURES Act requires the use of an Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) system by all personal care providers by January 1, 2020. Most of the personal care providers in Missouri are already using the electronic means of visit verification.

The fee for Family Care Safety Registrations has been increased to \$14.00 (check) and \$15.25 for online registrations.

Duane Shumate (DMH) – The Division of Developmental Disabilities has updated their website - <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/>

In February the Division launched the Technology First initiative for individuals with disabilities.

Upcoming Tech Fest dates can be found here: <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/technology-first.html>

Mental Health Champions Banquet will be held June 18th at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City.

Real Voices Real Choices conference will be held August 25-27th at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach.

Old Business:

Strategic Plan - 2020-2022

Claudia reported to the Council that the current strategic plan goes through 2019 and needs to be updated and revised. It was agreed to e-mail the current strategic plan and committee roster to Council members for review by the committees. Yvonne Wright noted it was important that the strategic plan is representative of who the Council is and should be updated to reflect this.

New Business:

Claudia received a request for a letter of support for Redhawks Discover, an inclusive college program at Southeast Missouri State University. A draft letter of support was sent out to all members for review. The Council unanimously voted to approve sending this letter.

Committee Reports: None

Council member reports:

James Trout – Report for housing and transportation subcommittees:

Housing – James is working with a new group called Universal Design Alliance. They are establishing an expansive network with builders and realtors and health care workers to see universal design adopted on a larger scale.

Transportation – James attended three of the Disability Transportation Resource Network meetings where they discussed increasing access to work and school and on-demand ridership. The group is looking at models outside of Missouri that are working. The committee is moving forward ambitiously.

Joan Bergstrom – Submitted by email:

Joan enjoyed attending Laura's LEP presentation in Kansas City, which encourages self-advocacy among constituents.

Joan asked that GCD staff share upcoming programs and events so Council members can attend.

Claudia shared some upcoming events: [Access Ability Business Summit](#) – St. Mary's Hospital on May 9th. It is a free event that encourages employment of individuals with disabilities.

[Charting your Life Course](#) – May 17th hosted by the Missouri Disability & Health Collaborative at the brand new Special Olympics training building in Jefferson City. The event is targeted to individuals with disabilities, families, caregivers and professionals. All of GCD staff plan to attend.

Chuck Comstock – Reported on innovative and creative ideas for wheelchair users to contribute to yard work and house chores. He stated there are no limitations to what you can do.

Betty Davidson – Missouri Tech Fests provide individuals, service providers, and community members the opportunity to explore assistive technology and remote support options available to promote independence.

[MO Tech Fest](#) – Special School District, St. Louis - 12110 Clayton Road - May 13

Ron Hack – no report, but had a question - His community will be putting in accessible recreational equipment for children with disabilities and he wanted to know of available resources that help communities obtain grants for these types of projects. Claudia will research and e-mail him some resources.

Chip Hailey – The American Council for the Blind passed a resolution on accessible absentee voting by mail. Chip will share the resolution by email with the Council. Chip attended Missouri Council of the Blind advocacy event at the capitol as well as Disability Rights Legislative Day. He provided public testimony of accessible absentee voting by mail for individuals with disabilities. Other states have successfully implemented this policy and he is hoping the State of Missouri will look at this as a viable option for individuals with disabilities.

DeAnna Noriega – Advocating to save para-transit in Columbia because some routes are at risk of being eliminated. DeAnna has attended three advocacy events at the capitol including Disability Rights Legislative Day and Missouri Council of the Blind advocacy day. The Boone County Clerk is currently looking at three different options for accessible voting devices.

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Sue Orton – St. Louis County has approved funding for a full time ADA coordinator. Sue attended a Crisis Intervention Task Force presentation to St. Louis County older adult group. Consort Homes is constructing homes in Wentzville that include universal design options for residential properties. MLS listing used by MARIS will include accessibility features in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, August 23, 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:
E-mail existing GCD Strategic Plan and Committee Roster to Council Members for review and feedback.	Claudia Browner
Send letter of support for Redhawks Discover inclusive college program	Claudia Browner
Schedule MO-YLF panel presentation for August meeting	Rachel Rackers

Minutes by Christina Brazell
May 7, 2019

Approved by Council 8/23/19