

**Governor’s Council on Disability
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2020**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Chip Hailey, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey, DeAnna Noriega, Susan Orton, Andrew Sartorius, Lesia Shelton, Opeoluwa Sotonwa, James Trout, Robert Wallace, Yvonne Wright

Council Members Absent/Not Participating:

Ronald Hack, Elijah Mayfield

Department Liaisons:

Rosie Anderson-Harper	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
Ali Carey	Attorney General’s Office – AGO
Tom Green	Missouri Housing Development Commission - MHDC
Katy Plaster	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Christina Predmore	Department of Revenue – DOR
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS
Sarah Schappe	Attorney General’s Office – AGO
Mara Woody	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development – DHEWD

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

Guests: Daniel Cayou and Betty Farley, Missouri Protection and Advocacy; Sheila Suderwalla, Artists First; Annie Donnell; ASL interpreter AJ Housewright and CIS interpreter

Council Chair Yvonne Wright called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Roll call was taken by Claudia. There was a quorum for the meeting with 15 of the Council members in attendance. The meeting was held by WebEx.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

Approval of meeting minutes: The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for August 21, 2020. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

Public Comment: None.

Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:

This week is National Apprenticeship Week with the Office of Workforce Development (OWD). Governor Parson is a large supporter. Jeanna Caldwell is serving as part of a national inclusion cohort to work on the inclusion of all populations that are under-represented, focusing on those with disabilities. OWD held the Apprenticeship Missouri Summit event this week. Claudia has taken a lead in participating with the events. Yvonne participated in a survey with the Office of Management and Budget named “Federal Customer Service Initiative.” Yvonne got to participate in an interview to put together a cross agency customer journey map to map the path of a person with disabilities through services like Vocational Rehabilitation and job centers. This is almost ready to publish once the map is edited and approved. Yvonne now serves as the deputy director for the Office of Workforce Development. The Council members congratulated her on her promotion.

Reports from GCD Team:

The team report was sent via email prior to the meeting. Team members provided highlights of their reports.

Claudia:

- Claudia has been working with the Missouri as a Model Employer initiative and has finished putting the disability awareness trainings-online. State employees can participate in this trainings through MO Learning for free. An employee let us know the trainings were not captioned, so Claudia has been working with the Division of Personnel to caption all state provided content in MO Learning. We have the captioned versions on our disability web portal.
- Claudia put together a virtual exhibit for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), including a website with information and resources on the event. She worked with the Governor's Office to share the event on social media. It reached over 16,000 people. Claudia also participated in webinars related to NDEAM, the Missouri Apprenticeship Summit, a virtual Show Me Excellence Summit, and a series of ADA webinars with Judy Heumann on disability rights, advocacy, and the independent living movements.
- The GCD team has continued to have regular team meetings and engage meetings.
- Claudia has been participating with MOCIL, SILC, State Rehab Council, and Emergency Preparedness and Response centering on COVID.
- GCD is working remotely due to the active number of COVID cases in the Truman Building.
- The State is doing random COVID testing for the next 18 months in randomly selected departments. Claudia is selected as the site coordinator for our section. Taking the test is voluntary if our section is chosen. The website is being updated with COVID information as GCD receives it.
- GCD renewed the MOU for RLF and YLF for 2021.
- The October newsletter was sent out via email.
- Budget update- the GCD team has not been spending much since we have had to cancel the usual trips. Most of the money spent has went towards paying for our usual bills and supplies. We have only used 7 percent for this year. The budget for next year was submitted on August 20 requesting the same funds for 2021.

Laura:

- Laura participated in several webinars and trainings which are listed in the team report. She participated in the Show Me Excellence Program. She has been giving presentations and hosting meetings such as giving a presentation to the Ozarks Inclusion Partnership based in Springfield. Laura let them know of resources on our web portal. She provided a training to new VR employees.
- She participated with DHSS to give information on disability history and awareness, etiquette, COVID considerations, and provided information on NDEAM. There was a Q and A period at the end. Around 40 employees participated.
- Laura has been working on a mask guidance document with the MO Commission on Human Rights, which is currently under review by their legal team and will posted on their website once approved.
- She is working on accessibility portions of our website in a project called "site improve."
- Laura is working on the report for the Legislative Priorities Poll. 372 people have participated, which is less than in the past. She hopes to have the report done by Monday.
- GCD will not be holding the Legislative Education Project (LEP) in the current format next year due to health concerns. Instead we are encouraging people to watch the training videos on our website and sign up to have a Q and A session with Laura. An announcement will go out in December about this project.
- Questions/Comments for Laura: Katie Jones requested that Laura share the DHSS presentation with her.
- Chip Hailey announced that Laura received the 2020 Ellis M. Forshee award from the Missouri Council of the Blind for her outstanding legislative work and services for the blind of Missouri. The Council congratulated her on receiving this award.

Rachel:

- Rachel gave a presentation this fall with MOCASE to present about the Regional Leadership Forum (RLF) and the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF).
- She participated with the National YLF Association's monthly meetings.
- Rachel is working with IT to create an online application for all of YLF. They are on the last sprint of this and almost ready to launch it. This will allow all applications and reviews for interviews to be done online. RLF will most likely be added to this web based application in the future.
- The planning team has postponed the RLF events until the spring and is meeting monthly to continue planning the events which are tentatively scheduled for:
 - March 13th in Jefferson City
 - March 20th in Cape Girardeau
 - April 10 in Kansas City
 - April 17th in Springfield

Jessica:

Jessica has been continuing on the Alumni Database project. So far we have received approximately 46 responses from past alumni through phone responses and survey responses. She is now reaching out to the alumni who we haven't received a response from yet, and phoning them again in an attempt to get a response. We have reached out to a few past alumni for assistance in contacting the others as well.

Report from State Liaisons:

Tom Green (MO Housing Development Commission) – MHDC has been accepting applications for affordable housing. There are two weeks left for applications to be sent in. Tom will follow up with Megan Word, MHDC, regarding a meeting with Claudia and Yvonne about GCD's involvement in MHDC's planning processes for community development and affordable housing.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS/DSDS) – Under the Money Follows the Person program, there have been 99 transitions for the year. It is their goal to get 112 transitions done, which would be 80 percent of the projected transitions for the year. Relief funds are being provided for business interruptions due to COVID. Providers can submit their claims through November 15th.

There are no changes with the caregiver waiver. This will start in July of 2021.

The level of care transition project will take effect starting in July of 2021.

EVV (electronic visit verification) will take effect starting 01/30/21. Providers and participants cannot opt out of this. All will have to adhere to the EVV policies.

New Consumer Directed Services (CDS) regulations be open for public comment soon. The new language will require providers to have a financial review/audit yearly, have a physical location of business, and conduct face to face visits with participants each year. Providers will have at least one staff member take a designated management training and include language to better understand and prevent fraud.

Awards presentation:

The Council honored and recognized the 2019 GCD Inclusion and Youth Leadership Award winners. The awards are traditionally presented at the Power-Up Conference each year, which was canceled this year due to the pandemic.

The Inclusion Award is presented every year to recognize an individual, employer or organization that has successfully included individuals with disabilities in education, employment, housing, and/or leisure activities.

One award and one honorable mention was given. Artists First from St. Louis was the 2019 winner. They are an art studio empowering people of all abilities. They have helped more than 225 people grow through self-expression. Artists participated in more than 45 community events in 2019 where they also sold art pieces. Sheila Suderwalla, the executive director of Artists First, joined the virtual meeting and thanked the Council for being honored with this award.

The Honorable Mention was awarded to BCI Skills Center in St. Peters. They were established in January of 2019 as a first of its kind training center. BCI Skills Center creates custom programs to prepare people with disabilities for employment. Upon graduation, individuals move into the integrated workforce and receive competitive wages.

The Youth Leadership Award is presented annually to a youth between ages 18-26 with a disability that has shown leadership by making a difference and improving the lives of people with disabilities in their community.

The 2019 winner is Annie Donnell. Annie has worked with the Starkloff Disability Institute's Dream Big program and serves as a junior board member and volunteer for the St. Louis Recreation Development Group. After completing the 2019 New York City Marathon as part of the Achilles International team, Annie established and serves as the president of the St. Louis Chapter of Achilles International, an organization where runners with disabilities and volunteers come together to train in an environment of support and community. Annie joined the virtual meeting and thanked the Council for her award.

The Honorable Mention was awarded to Dylan Farmer, an alum of the YLF. He received a Bachelor's Degree from Maryville University in History. During his time at Maryville, he participated in the ABLE (Abolish Barriers to Leadership and Education) advocacy group and served on the Accessibility Committee. Dylan was a student intern at Starkloff Disability Institute and volunteered at the St. Louis History Museum. He is now employed with the National Archives and Records Administration.

More information about the winners can be found on our website:

Inclusion Award <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/inclwin.htm>

Youth Leadership Award <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/youthleadershipaward.htm>

Presentation:

Daniel Cayou, a licensed attorney with Missouri Protection & Advocacy Services gave a presentation about the agency's programs and an overview of services they provide for people with disabilities. Betty Farley, the director of advocacy administration, co-hosted this presentation with Daniel.

Missouri Protection and Advocacy's is a federally funded, nonprofit agency law firm which provides services to resolve conflicts for people with disabilities. The agency's mission is to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities by providing advocacy and legal services. These services are provided free of charge. More about the ten different programs the agency provides to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities can be found at <http://moadvocacy.org/>

Old Business: None

New Business: The Council approved the quarterly meeting dates for 2021

February 19, 2021

April 30, 2021

August 20, 2021

November 12, 2021

Election of Officers/Committee Chairs:

Andrew motioned to continue with the current officers in the current positions. Bob seconded and the Council approved the motion. The Council committee roster will be sent out after the meeting to see if anyone is interested in serving as the chair of the Employment Subcommittee or on other committees.

Committee Reports:

Advocacy Committee – Katie will set up meetings in the near future to discuss the work of the committee.

Transportation Committee – Betty reported that the Metro Bi-State Transportation Council met on October 28.

Healthcare Committee – Ope stated that the committee will follow the Medicaid Expansion program's developments and implementation.

Council member reports:

Sue Orton – The Brain Injury Association of Missouri had its annual conference in October. Sue was awarded a lifetime achievement award.

The St. Louis Older Adults Commission had a meeting with Daniel Rosenthal, who published a report on universal design for senior citizens. St. Louis County Council on Disabilities is working on a universal design ordinance for the county.

Lesia Shelton - Has been working on community outreach and trainings in Southwest Missouri. The deaf and hard of hearing community is feeling isolated during the pandemic and there are some concerns due to difficulties with communication and connections with mental health and other service providers.

Chuck Comstock – Has been serving as chair of curriculum of the Advisory Board at the University in Kirksville with a program to help educate student doctors about how to interact with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He will be contacting Joan to assist with the review of some of the training materials.

Chip Hailey - He spoke to the Kansas State School for the Blind about voting. Chip has been advocating for years to make sure his precinct's accessible voting machines were working properly. At the November 3 election, the equipment finally worked without any problems.

DeAnna Noriega – Reported that she received appropriate accommodations for the election. She has been participating in a caregiver support group via Zoom, and continuing her work with COMO Transit Justice. For the American Council for the Blind, DeAnna will be teaching a virtual class for a craft project.

Katie Jones - Despite COVID, the workshops in Missouri are still employing over 4500 adults with disabilities. Most of them are considered essential businesses.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, February 19, 2021** at 10 AM at the **Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, CFO Room**, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City or by WebEx/conference call.

Minutes by Jessica Zimmer
11/17/2020
Approved by the Council
2/19/2021