

**Governor's Council on Disability
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2019**

Council Members Present/Participating:

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

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Mary Ann Harter, Opeoluwa Sotonwa

Department Liaisons:

Anita Baker	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE/VR
Edwin Cooper	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
Tom Green	Missouri Housing Development Commission – MHDC
Rocky Martin	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Steven Milburn	Department of Social Services – DSS
Justin Moore	Attorney General's Office - AGO
Rebecca Pinto	Attorney General's Office – AGO
Katy Plaster	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health – DMH/DD
Kimberley Taylor-Riley	Office of State Courts Administrator – OSCA
Joyce Wilson	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE

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

Guests: Adonis Brown, Melissa Comstock, Kristin Funk, Todd Mayfield

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. With sixteen (16) 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 August 23rd.

Public Comment: None.

Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:

Yvonne introduced and welcomed the new state liaisons Tom Green, Rebecca Pinto, Katy Plaster and Kimberley Taylor-Riley as well as GCD's new staff member Jessica Zimmer. Mara Woody has taken over for Angelette Pritchett as the liaison for DHEWD.

Yvonne is representing DHEWD at the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and has submitted her application to be appointed to the SRC.

GCD Update from staff:

Claudia Browner

- Governor Parson issued an executive order and administrative plan for the Missouri as a Model Employer initiative. The reverse job fair was held on October 10 in the capitol rotunda – 50 job seekers met with local employers and state agencies to discuss employment opportunities, the Governor gave a speech and announced a \$5,000.00 scholarship for 10 state employees, preference will be given to state employees with disabilities for five of these scholarships.
- Governor's Council on Disability was invited to attend the Future of Advocacy for Youth meeting on December 11 in Columbia. Claudia and Rachel will be participating.
- Claudia gave a presentation with Julie Brinkhoff from Great Plains ADA Center to House of Representatives staff on the employment of people with disabilities and accommodations in the workplace. Other presentations provided were: Disability Awareness Training to the Office of Administration staff, GCD programs to the Missouri Council of the Blind in Kansas City, Missouri Youth Leadership Forum presentation at Sedalia transition event and MPACT transition event in Jefferson City.
- GCD staff will attend a planning meeting at Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD) on November 25 to discuss collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation, MU Pre-Employment Transition Services and MSD to develop and host a leadership conference for youth who are deaf and hard of hearing in June 2020.
- Claudia and Laura initiated a PSA on accessible parking and are looking for support from the Attorney General's Office and help from IT department with filming and production. Laura reached out to the Highway Patrol to get a law enforcement officer to participate in the PSA.
- Claudia has reached out to various disability organizations to collaborate on an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ADA in July 2020.
- GCD is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Inclusion and Youth Leadership Awards which will be presented at the Power Up conference in Columbia on March 31, 2020.
- **Budget Update:** GCD: FY20 – To date, GCD has spent about 30% of its E&E for FY20. The FY21 budget request has been submitted.

Rachel Rackers

- Provided outreach for the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum at the Conference for Special Education Administrators September 22-23 at Lake of the Ozarks. 600 people attended.
- Provided presentation and informational booth at transition workshop for educators hosted by VR in Springfield on October 4; at a Transition Expo in Cape Girardeau hosted by MPACT on October 10; the MPACT Summit in Jefferson City October 15, and Transition Fair in Rogersville on October 30.
- Attended APRIL conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan 10/25-28.
- Dates for the MO-YLF are July 14-18, 2020. GCD is now accepting applications for delegates and volunteer staff.
- The Central Missouri Youth Connections group is planning a reverse job fair for in spring of 2020.

Laura Mueth

- Attended National Association of State Head Injury Administrators Conference in Kanas City (Sept. 23-26) and learned about other states' rehab practices. Missouri is doing very well on this.

- Attended white belt training webinar as part of an Office of Administration pilot program.
- Conducted trainings: Fall Disability 101 training for the MO State Highway Patrol Driver's Examiners on October 1; co-presented about the ADA at the Court Clerk College in Jefferson City on October 10; presented at the MO Association for Court Administration Conference in Branson on October 18. On October 22, co-trained portions of the EMS First Responder Disability Awareness Training in Lee's Summit.
- Recorded an interview on service animals with IT department that will be combined with other interviews and used by the First Responder Disability Awareness Training Program to train additional first responders in a national video.
- Sent survey to public administrators gauging their interest in training on disability issues. Based on survey results, training will be provided by webinar in December.
- The **Legislative Priorities Poll** closed on November 8. This year, 453 individuals participated in the poll. The 2020 priorities based on the poll results are:
 1. Public buildings having an evacuation plan which includes people with all types of disabilities
 2. Private health insurance being required to cover hearing aids
 3. Increasing cost of medications
 4. Access to health care and medical services
 5. Schools having a restraint and seclusion policy

The Legislative Priorities Poll report is available online at

<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/files/2019-Legislative-Priorities-Poll-Report.pdf>

Presentation on Medical Marijuana Program

Lyndall Fraker, DHSS, Section for Medical Marijuana Regulation Director provided an overview of the medical marijuana program in Missouri and the department's role in administering this program. Under Article XIV of the Missouri Constitution, state-licensed physicians will be allowed to recommend marijuana for medical purposes to patients with serious illnesses and medical conditions. DHSS's Medical Marijuana Program implements the provisions of Article XIV by issuing identification cards to qualified patients and licensing/certifying medical marijuana cultivation, laboratory testing, transportation, and manufacturing facilities and dispensaries. Program proceeds and taxes on medical marijuana will benefit the Missouri Veterans' Health and Care Fund.

More information can be found at <https://medicalmarijuana.mo.gov>

Department Liaison information:

Yvonne Wright (DHEWD) has been appointed to the National Task Force for Workforce Development and serves on three of its subcommittees. In collaboration with VR and local job centers, workforce development is developing a curriculum to help people with disabilities find jobs. November 11-15 was National Apprenticeship Week. Missouri is the second in the nation in developing apprenticeships. The 2nd annual Apprenticeship Summit was held November 12 in Columbia. Governor Parson attended and issued an [executive order](#) creating the Office of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning. A pilot project for apprenticeship programs has started in southwest Missouri (Springfield/Branson area) in partnership with VR.

Anita Baker (DESE/VR) – Participated in MO as a Model Employer reverse job fair. VR and partnering agencies held second cohort training on customized employment, statewide rollout in

the near future. Kim Gee (VR) has developed new Peer Mentoring program for students with disabilities (14-21) involved with courts or the foster care system.

Katie Plaster (DNR) is the recruiter and new state liaison for DNR. She also attended MO as a Model Employer reverse job fair, collected resumes from job seekers.

Rebecca Pinto (AGO) is a new member of the Attorney General's Office. AGO is working on new consumer complaints initiative to protect vulnerable population.

Steve Milburn (DSS) – November is Adoption Awareness Month, a display at the capitol provides information throughout the month of November. November 21 is National Rural Health Day to bring awareness to the challenges in rural health issues. Rehab Services for the Blind has been recognized by the National Rehab Services Administration for providing 68% employment success rate for people with visual impairments.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS/DSDS) - Home and Community Based Services level of care transformation project has been practicing new algorithm and turned data over to Mercer for review and completion of final report on rate study. Adult Protective Services has specialized hotline where trained adult protective service workers will determine criminal vs. social work related hotline calls. Money Follows the Person unit has wrapped up financial audits with contractors. Region II (Bootheel/SE MO) MFP contractor resigned; a new RFP will be issued.

Kim Taylor-Riley (OSCA) is the Diversity and Inclusion Manager for OSCA and will serve as liaison until Lynette's position has been filled. Written testing for foreign language interpreters for courts will be held November 16.

Kristen Funk (MCDHH) attended on behalf of Council member Opeoluwa Sotonwa. MCDHH's hearing aid distribution program went live August 28th. They are currently accepting applications for hearing aids from individuals. Awards will be made in December to those who meet the low income criteria for the program.

Tom Green (MHDC) - Missouri housing development commission is offering first time homebuyers program to assist people with buying a home by providing the down payment. If buyers live in the home for five years they do not have to repay the grant. MHDC's Low Income Housing Tax Credit provides federal and state tax credit to investors in affordable housing through an annual competitive application process.

Old Business:

Appointment/Election of Council committee chairs for 2020:

Council Chair Yvonne Wright appointed Sue Orton as the new chair of the personnel committee. The Council had two nominations for advocacy committee chair position – Katie Jones and Andrew Sartorius. Andrew withdrew his nomination. The Council unanimously voted for Katie Jones as the new advocacy committee chair. Claudia will send out the revised committee roster to Council members and state liaisons.

New Business:

The Council unanimously approved the proposed 2020 meeting dates. The quarterly meetings will be held February 7, May 1, August 21 and November 13.

Committee Reports:

Housing Subcommittee – Sue Orton reported that UD features have been added to the MARIS/MLS system. However, terminology used for accessible features needs to be revised.

Council member reports:

Lesia Shelton provided presentations relating to individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing at MODOT events in support of their efforts to work towards improving diversity inclusion and awareness.

Elijah Mayfield will be giving 2 presentations – one at the YMCA Youth in Government event in Jefferson City on November 15, where they plan to have 600 attendees, and the other at the “Keys to Success” Down Syndrome Conference in Columbia on November 16.

Deanna Noriega attended the 1st Transportation Access Summit in Columbia. In the city of Columbia she continues her advocacy work to improve transportation access for people with visual impairments. Deanna also attended the guide dog reunion in Morristown, New Jersey where she received her guide dog and more than 400 guide dogs attended the celebration.

Sue Orton and Jim Trout attended regional housing workshops. Sue also attended the Brain Injury Association conference in October where she learned of a robotics invention called exoskeleton that helps people with traumatic brain injuries walk. Attended presentation on adult abuse reporting at St. Louis County’s older adult commission meeting.

Ronald Hack and a group of stakeholders secured funding for an inclusive, accessible playground in Sunset Hills.

Bob Wallace was appointed to the Productive Living Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, February 7, 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:
Send updated Council Committee roster to Council members and state liaisons for review/feedback	Claudia Browner/Council/Liaisons

Minutes by Jessica Zimmer
November 26, 2019
Approved by Council: 2/7/2020