

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2018

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Ron Hack, Chip Hailey, Mary Ann Harter, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Deanna Noriega, Sue Orton, Opeoluwa Sotonwa, James Trout, Bob Wallace

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Betty Davidson, Elijah Mayfield, Todd Mayfield, Yvonne Wright

Department Liaisons:

Anita Baker	Vocational Rehabilitation – DESE/VR
Brooke Dawson	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
Kristin Funk	Division of Workforce Development – DED/DWD
Rocky Martin	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Steven Milburn	Department of Social Services – DSS
Christina Predmore	Department of Revenue - DOR
Lynette Ricks	Office of State Court Administrator – OSCA
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services – DHSS
Lisa Wehmeyer	Department of Conservation – MDC
Joyce Wilson	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education - DESE

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

Guests: Bob Collier, Colleen Starkloff
Interpreters (2)

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 amended meeting minutes for August 24.

Public Comment:

Colleen Starkloff stated that people with significant disabilities who are able to work face barriers in employment due to Medicaid income levels.

Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright: Claudia Browner gave the Council Chair report on behalf of Yvonne Wright. Claudia followed up with Kyle Aubuchon, Director of Boards and Commissions, regarding a legislative liaison to the council and Justin Alferman confirmed as legislative contact. Claudia has requested an introductory meeting with Mr. Alferman and Yvonne prior to the

legislative session. Ron Hack requested Claudia to share Justin Alferman's contact information with the council.

On October 23rd, Claudia and Yvonne met with the Office of Equal Opportunity for a Partnership Development Meeting to discuss a possible collaboration of agencies. GCD invited OEO to provide a booth at the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum resource fair. GCD will be giving a presentation on Disability Awareness/Etiquette/Employment of Individuals with Disabilities to the Workforce Development Council in January or February of 2019.

GCD Update from staff:

- Claudia Browner gave an overview of the different meetings, conferences and presentations GCD attended. One in particular was the MPACT Transition Summit (October 9, JC) where there were 300 participants and GCD staff provided an exhibit and a breakout session.
- Claudia reviewed some of the GCD programs and activities. GCD received two proclamations from Governor Parson designating October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and Disability History Month. GCD provided an exhibit in the Truman building for the month of October on NDEAM & Disability History Month.
- Claudia scheduled the presentation for the February Council meeting with Anna Stewart from the Great Plains ADA Center on Service Animals.
- On September 21 Claudia and Rachel Rackers attended a meeting with Paraquad in St. Louis where they renewed the MOU with Paraquad as MO-YLF Fiscal agent for 2019. Rachel and Claudia also toured the Paraquad facility, Wellness Center and Bloom Café.
- GCD is promoting the new PSA by ODEP titled "[Working Works](#)" on our website, Facebook and Listservs.
- **GCD Budget:** Claudia submitted the FY20 budget request for GCD on August 17th. So far for FY19, about 28% of the operating budget has been spent.
- **MO-YLF Budget:** The cost for the 2018 MO-YLF came in about \$13,000 under budget due to a smaller number of delegates and lower costs for accommodations. We are currently working with MU Conference Center on the 2019 MO-YLF budget and are budgeting for 30 delegates.
- Laura Mueth gave a recap of the presentations she gave in September as well as her attendance at an event put on by the Lake Area Housing Initiative where she was able to learn more about the area's housing issues and efforts.
- On September 19th Laura received a call from Dan Engemann (legislative aide to Senator Mike Cunningham) to follow up on filing legislation to create a voluntary registry for people with disabilities for emergency responders. Senator Cunningham's staff will continue to keep GCD informed about any new developments.
- Laura discussed her legislative work and the Legislative Priorities Poll which closed on November 9th. 537 Individuals participated in the poll. Results will be reviewed and posted on the GCD website and shared with legislators.
- Rachel Rackers gave an overview of the conferences and meetings she attended, one being the APRIL Conference from October 4-8 in Denver, CO.
- The dates for the **2019 MO-YLF** have been set for July 16-20th. The delegate and staff applications are now available on the GCD website.
- Christina Brazell discussed the conferences she was able to attend as well as the work she is doing in the office.

- Christina has taken over the annual GCD Awards Program and asked the council for volunteers to judge the nominations. **Volunteers to judge the Annual GCD Awards include:** Lynette Ricks, Mary Ann Harter, Katie Jones, Ron Hack, Brooke Dawson, Steve Milburn, Chip Hailey and Sue Orton.

Department Liaison information:

Steven Milburn (DSS) – On Tuesday, Governor Parson signed a proclamation declaring November Adoption Awareness Month in Missouri. Visit the MO Heart Gallery to see the profiles of foster youths in Missouri at: <https://moheartgallery.org/heart-gallery/>
Governor Parson appointed House Speaker Todd Richardson as the Director of MOHealthNet on November 1st, 2018.

Brooke Dawson (DMH/BH) – The 2017 Opioid State Targeted Response Grant ran out and is being replaced by a new program called State Opioid Response Team. Brooke shared it was time for the **2019 Missouri Mental Health Champions Award** nominations. The Mental Health Champions Award recognizes individuals living with mental illness, developmental disabilities and in recovery for substance use disorders, who make positive contributions to their community, exemplify commitment and vision, and whose actions have increased the potential for independence in others with similar mental health conditions.

Christina Predmore (DOR) – On behalf of Melody Reichel, Christina shared that Missouri has a new bicentennial license plate. Individuals who cannot make it into a motor vehicle office can renew online and the plates will be mailed directly to them.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – Lynette has been assisting a court that is undergoing renovations with questions relating to accessibility.

Anita Baker (DESE/VR) – Anita shared that DESE is searching for a new commissioner. Interviews have been conducted and a decision will be made soon. Vocational Rehabilitation sponsored 17 MO-YLF delegates in 2018 and will continue to support MO-YLF in 2019.

Kristin Funk (DED/DWD) – Kristin was able to attend the MPACT Transition Summit where she provided a breakout session to promote the free employment services DWD has to offer.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) – The Division for Senior and Disability Services is still looking into how to best determine the Level of Care by conducting statewide meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for November 27th. Individuals with cognitive disorders are slipping through the cracks. They are also looking into individuals who have services but do not need them.

The Bed Bug Task Force does not receive any state or federal funding. The treatment for bed bugs is very expensive and unaffordable for many. DHSS is looking for businesses to donate the treatment services for individuals with low income.

Under the Money Follows the Person grant, 173 individuals have transitioned to community living in 2018. The number is lower than expected due to the lack of affordable, accessible housing.

Presentation:

Colleen Starkloff, Founder of the Starkloff Disability Institute (SDI) in St. Louis provided a presentation about SDI's history and programs, and discussed the barriers for economic independence through employment for individuals with disabilities. Colleen asked the Council to help legislators understand the roadblocks for people with disabilities in employment.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Claudia asked the Council to consider sending a letter of support to US Senator Bob Casey in support of this proposed READI for Disasters Act legislation which would create a National Commission on Disability Rights & Disasters to include individuals with disabilities in the preparation and recovery efforts for natural disasters. The Council asked Claudia to send the request and draft letter by email to the Council for vote with a deadline of two weeks.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee:

Ron Hack asked Claudia to schedule an executive committee meeting to discuss the Council's focal points for 2019 and Ms. Starkloff's request for the Council to help legislators understand the barriers for individuals with disabilities in employment.

Council member reports:

Opeoluwa Sotonwa – Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing held its 25th Annual Interpreters Conference in October. October 20th was Deaf & Hard of Hearing Day. MCDHH is currently working on several bills for the upcoming legislative session: Hearing Aid Bill (Hearing aids are not covered by insurance and labeled as “cosmetic”), Commercial Driver's License Bill (To allow deaf to obtain a CDL), and VRI (Video Remote Interpreting) is being looked into because they are ineffective and difficult to use in the medical field.

Chip Hailey – Attended the MO Council of the Blind's state convention in Jefferson City where Anna Stewart provided an excellent ADA presentation on service animals.

Katie Jones – There is still a transportation issue in St. Charles area and St. Louis. As of October 1st, only 5% of the previously served individuals had any transportation under the new contract with LogistiCare. The agency is using subcontractors to provide transportation and there are major issues, e.g. trips that are 3.5 miles long are taking an hour and a half with transportation services such as Uber and they are demanding cash payments. There are communications going on with DMH to look for solutions. It was discussed that legislators need to know about this situation. Katie will be contacting the Attorney General Office's Legislative Liaison Justin Moore. The Council congratulated Katie on receiving the 2018 Belle Greve Award from the National Rehab Association.

Following is an annotation to this report requested by the Department of Mental Health:

DMH has contracted with LogistiCare, Inc. to provide scheduled and on-demand transportation through a network of transportation providers.

- **On-demand Transportation.** This represents the bulk of non-emergency medical transportation services provided through Medicaid. Single rides that may or may not be predictable such as to doctor when feeling ill or annual dental checkups.
- **Scheduled Transportation.** Rides that occur routinely on a regular schedule such as to a day program, sheltered workshops, or community work locations. These rides will be scheduled with one consistent provider and with a priority to maintain a consistent driver as well. To the extent possible, one provider will be used to provide all rides to a single destination. This improves communication, coordination, and reduces traffic at the delivery site.
- **Please note.** There has been some confusion that LogistiCare is using Uber and/or Lyft to provide transportation to our riders. They are not. LogistiCare does hold a national contract with Lyft that they use in cases of emergency for their non-emergency medical transportation riders only. LogistiCare contracts with providers of all sizes. Some are companies with a fleet of vans and some are independent providers that use their personal car. In some cases, the independent provider may also provide rides for Uber or Lyft and have those stickers in their windows. However, LogistiCare is ONLY using providers through their contracted network ensuring that all drivers pass background checks and meet training requirements before driving.
- To date, 543 of the 610 individuals have routes assigned either through LogistiCare or another DD provider.

Sue Orton – Sue reported that the St. Louis County Council will be voting on funding a full time ADA coordinator position for the County. The Council is currently only funding a part time position. Sue serves on the St. Louis Realtors Inclusion Advisory Group to advocate for universal design in housing. Accessibility features will be included in MARIS as search criteria and on MLS property listing sheets by the beginning of the year. St. Louis area builder Consorts Homes will begin construction of homes that follow MHDC's universal design/accessibility standards.

Deanna Noriega – Columbia is considering cutting its public transit services and discussing alternative methods to fund public transit. Some options are to move a percentage of funding from the Columbia airport to transit or to start charging a parking fee at the airport. The City council has refused to do a study on the issue. Another option would be to raise parking fees for the city parking garages. They are researching how other states fund their free transit services.

Todd Mayfield – Claudia announced Todd's new position as administrative director for Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe effective November 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Monday, February 4, 2019** at 10 AM at the **Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare, CFO Room, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City**

GCD Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2018 Meeting

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Schedule Executive Committee meeting	Claudia Browner
Send information about READI for Disasters Act and request for letter of recommendation to Council	Claudia Browner
Share contact information for Justin Alfermann with the Council	Claudia Browner

Minutes by Christina Brazell
December 4, 2018

Approved by the Council
February 4, 2019