

Governor's Council on Disability Meeting Minutes November 17, 2017

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Chip Hailey, Mary Ann Harter, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Todd Mayfield, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, James Trout, Bob Wallace, Yvonne Wright

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Ron Hack

Department Liaisons:

Bonnie Aaron	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE/Special Ed
Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services – DSS
Cari Collins	Department of Corrections - DOC
Brooke Dawson	Department of Mental Health – DMH/Behavioral Health
DeAnn Fuller	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE/VR
Kristin Funk	Department of Economic Development – DED/DWD
JoAnn Hanley	Department of Conservation – MDC
Misty Hill	Department of Natural Resources – DNR
Rocky Martin	Department of Transportation – MODOT
Melody Reichel	Department of Revenue – DOR
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: Amy Bledsoe, Claudia Browner, Wendy Molitor, Laura Mueth

Guests: Leslie Anderson, Karen Burnell-Ruff, Bob Collier, Ginny Kalmer

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. With thirteen (13) Council members (12 members, chair Yvonne Wright) 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 September 15 and special meeting minutes from October 16.

Public Comment: None

Council Chair report from Yvonne Wright:

- Yvonne introduced meeting guest Ginny Kalmer, who has applied to serve as a Council member, and welcomed new Council member Katie Jones.
- Yvonne thanked the members of the Advocacy Committee and the whole Council for their work on the proposed Position Paper on Healthcare.

- Federal legislation relating to Work Opportunity Tax Credit – the House has voted to eliminate the tax credit employers receive for hiring veterans, people with disabilities, ex-offenders, etc. The bill is now in the Senate.
- DMH and partnering agencies have received a technical assistance grant to continue their employment first initiative.

Executive Director report from Amy Bledsoe:

- To date, GCD has spent 40% of its budget for operating expenses.
- In October, GCD staff provided four conference exhibits and 20 outreach activities.
- The Legislative Priorities Poll closes November 26. To date, 571 individuals have completed the poll. Amy encouraged Council members and state liaisons to complete the report.
- Amy would like to create a dedicated account for GCD under the Office of Administration to be able to receive designated funds for the agency.
- Staff updates:
 - Claudia Browner announced that [GCD is currently accepting nominations for GCD's annual awards programs](#) (Inclusion, Youth Leadership, Website) and asked attendees to share the information. Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2018, and awards will be presented at the Power Up conference in April 2018. The volunteer judges for the awards will be: Joan Bergstrom, Cari Collins, Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Chip Hailey, Mary Ann Harter, Misty Hill, Sue Orton, Lynette Ricks, and Lainie Strange (OA-ITSD).
 - Laura Mueth reported that GCD provided an exhibit at a Girl Scout of America event in St. Louis to raise disability awareness and shared artwork created by some of the 4,160 conference attendees.
 - Wendy Molitor announced that the [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) (MO-YLF) will be held July 10-14, 2018 at MU in Columbia and asked for volunteers to help with the event. Wendy recently attended the APRIL conference to learn about other states' YLFs. Wendy and Laura both attended the Universal Design Summit in St. Louis.

Department Liaison information:

Bonnie Aaron – DESE's proposed changes to the [Part B State Plan's](#) organizational structure were approved by the State Board of Education. The hiring process for a new Superintendent at Missouri School for the Deaf continues. A facilities review is being conducted to help determine the feasibility of continuing upgrades of the Missouri School for the Blind building. A user friendly version of the Parent's Guide to Special Education will be available along with the legal version to help parents better understand the special education process.

Shomari Rozier (DHSS) – The Division of Senior and Disability Services continues to improve its adult protective services (APS) program. Beginning in March 2018 with the mid-Missouri region, APS staff statewide will be divided up with about half being assigned to the Special Investigative Unit (SIU), and the remaining APS staff staying with the Home and Community Based Services side. This additional level of specialization separating Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation reports of a criminal nature and those of a social nature is an effort to enhance the supports provided to reported adults, by allowing all Adult Protective and Community Workers (APCW) to focus primarily on one or the other that best fits their skill set.

Rocky Martin (MODOT) – The department’s ADA transition plan is currently at 18.4% completion. It is due for completion in 2027.

DeAnn Fuller (DESE/VR) – The division of Vocational Rehabilitation has assisted more than 5,000 individuals in 2017 with finding employment.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – Lynette thanked GCD staff for providing disability awareness training for the courts in Jackson County. She will follow up with GCD program staff regarding providing the training to more courts throughout Missouri. Lynette is currently working on updating the listing of ADA coordinators for the Missouri court system.

Shawn Brice (DSS) – Shawn gave an update on the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. The target number of transitions of individuals moving into the community was 218 in 2017. To date, 163 have transitioned this year. 520 individuals have been assessed for transition and 195 were found eligible. The last transition under the MFP grant will be in December 2018.

Cari Collins (DOC) – DOC has a job opening for an ADA Coordinator. Cari asked GCD to share the job announcement. Application deadline is November 22.

Brooke Dawson (DMH/BH) – Brooke serves as the state contact for the Division of Behavioral Health’s PATH Program, a transition program for individuals with mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorders who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

Misty Hill (DNR) – The Missouri State Parks Division is in the process of updating all 25 Missouri State Parks to make them more accessible. Seven park updates have been completed, the remaining updates are scheduled to be done by the end of this fiscal year.

Kristin Funk (DED) – The Division of Workforce Development (DWD) has 14 workforce development boards and 33 Missouri Job Centers statewide, providing employment and training services. Four Workforce Development regions held events promoting the hiring of people with disabilities during National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, including: the Inclusion Forum and Reverse Job Fair in Joplin; Empower, Engage, Employ: Work Without Limits in West Plains and Poplar Bluff; EmployAbility Summit in Springfield; and an EmployAbility Summit in Cape Girardeau. Four other regions partnered to present Accommodations for Success earlier this year holding a reverse job fair in the St Louis metro area and the Central region presented AccessAbility in May. DWD also participated and presented at the MPACT Transition Summit for youth with disabilities in Jefferson City during October.

Melody Reichel (DOR) – Melody reported that Amy Bledsoe had contacted her regarding the requirements for a specialty license plate to generate additional funds for GCD. Typically, 200 applications and a startup fund of \$5,000 are required to apply for a specialty plate. In some cases, legislation has been passed to waive the fee and application requirements.

Duane Shumate (DMH/DD) – The Empower through Employment initiative has resulted in a 71% increase of individuals who are exploring competitive employment (628 individuals per month). The Division of Developmental Disabilities will be contracting with University of Massachusetts-Boston’s Institute for Community Inclusion to scale capacity of service providers and to co-locate

two subject matter experts of customized employment in Missouri. Duane will share the job announcement when it becomes available.

Missouri has been awarded for the 4th year the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program by the US Dept. of Labor. Emphasis will be placed on customized employment, benefits planning and veterans with disabilities.

Presentation:

Directors of Public Policy Karen Burnell-Ruff, Southwest Center for Independent Living in Springfield, and Leslie Anderson, Services for Independent Living in Columbia presented an update on legislative issues from 2017 impacting people with disabilities and an outlook for the upcoming 2018 legislative session.

Committee Reports:

The Advocacy Committee presented the draft Position Paper on Healthcare for vote by the Council. The majority voted to approve and adopt the position paper. Council member Mary Ann Harter abstained from the vote.

Old Business:

The Council discussed and modified a draft letter of support for the Money Follows the Person program. Council Chair Yvonne Wright and Advocacy Committee Chair James Trout will be signing the letter, and copies sent to the General Assembly and Dr. Randall Williams. The Council unanimously voted to approve the modified letter.

New Business:

Election of Council Committee chairs and members: The Council discussed nominations for Committee Chairs and members and unanimously voted to approve all proposed nominations. The updated committee roster is attached.

Funding sources for GCD/dedicated account:

Amy Bledsoe asked for the Council's support in creating a dedicated account for the GCD to be used for additional/designated funds. The Council discussed this request and asked Amy to provide the Executive and Finance Committees with additional information about this request and schedule a committee meeting to discuss the purpose of this account and possible funding sources.

Disclaimer on GCD online forms:

OA's IT department has recommended adding the following disclaimer on online forms that have a free text field: "Please DO NOT provide any personal or sensitive information when filling out this form, such as a social security number, credit card, health information, account number, etc." The Council unanimously approved the disclaimer.

Council member reports:

Sue Orton serves on the St. Louis County Commission on Disability. The commission spoke before the County Council to present a proposal for an ADA coordinator position.

DeAnna Noriega represented the Missouri Council of the Blind at the Children's Vision Summit in October in Jefferson City. DeAnna reported there is a shortage of Personal Care Attendants who are qualified to work with blind individuals with dual disabilities.

Chip Hailey reported that the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is now accepting another round of grant applications for the Missouri Support Service Provider (SSP) Program for DeafBlind Missourians.

Chuck Comstock announced that 270 individuals attended the disAbility Awareness conference in Kirksville in October.

Closed Session (per RSMO 610.021):

The Council unanimously voted to go into closed session and adjourn the public meeting.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Monday, February 5, 2018** at 10 AM at the **Department of Natural Resources, Bennett Springs Room**, 1738 East Elm St., Jefferson City.

Summary of Action Items:	Person Responsible:
Post approved Position Paper on Healthcare on GCD website.	Amy Bledsoe
Modify/sign/send letter of support for Money Follows the Person program.	Amy Bledsoe, Yvonne Wright, James Trout
Update Council Committee roster and send to Council/liaisons	Claudia Browner
Provide information about dedicated account and schedule Executive & Finance Committee meeting to discuss	Amy Bledsoe, Claudia Browner
Add approved disclaimer to online forms	Claudia Browner

Minutes by Claudia Browner, Executive I
November 21, 2017