

Governor's Council on Disability

Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2015

Council Members Present/Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Ed.D., Chuck Comstock, Betty Davidson, Ph.D., Ron Hack, Mary Ann Harter, Todd Mayfield, DeAnna Noriega, Sue Orton, James Trout, Yvonne Wright

Council Members Not Present/Participating:

Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Derek Smith, Bob Wallace

Department Liaisons:

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| Bonnie Aaron | Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – DESE |
| Kristin Funk | Department of Economic Development – DED/DWD |
| Bobbi Jo Garber | Department of Health and Senior Services - DHSS |
| Misty Hill | Department of Natural Resources – DNR |
| Steven Hoskins | Department of Revenue – DOR |
| Julie Juergens | Department of Social Services – DSS |
| Angelette Prichett | Department of Higher Education – DHE |
| Lynette Ricks | Office of State Court Administrator - OSCA |

Staff:

Robert Honan, Claudia Browner, Dawn Evans, Laura Mueth

Guests:

Elijah Mayfield

Real-Time Captioner: Carrie Logback

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. With ten (10) Council members in attendance, there was a quorum for the meeting. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda and minutes:

The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for September 18, 2015 and the agenda for the day.

Public Comment: None.

Report from Chair Yvonne Wright:

Based on decisions made at the Executive Committee meeting held October 13, 2015, the following changes will be made at future meetings:

- Public comment will be moved to the beginning of the meeting and comment time will be limited.
- Council members and state liaisons are to be seated at the table and members of the public be seated separately.
- If there is no speaker or presentation scheduled for a meeting, the time is to be used for committee meetings.
- State liaisons will be asked to engage in committees.

A subcommittee has been established to revise the strategic plan. Members of the subcommittee are Joan Bergstrom, Ron Hack, Sue Orton, and Yvonne Wright.

The Executive Committee further discussed adding an additional award to the GCD awards programs, sanctioning or participating in other organizations' conferences and events to promote GCD, e.g. regional housing conferences, MPACT Transition Summit, Disability Rights Legislative Day, etc. Chuck Comstock invited GCD to participate in the annual Disability Awareness conference in Kirksville in October 2016.

Lastly, during the Executive Committee meeting, James Trout and Ron Hack had proposed switching their committee chair positions. The Council unanimously voted to approve this change. Ron Hack now chairs the Programs committee and James Trout chairs the Advocacy committee. Per GCD By-Laws, Ron Hack would be the Acting Chair if the current Chair, Yvonne Wright, were to be absent or unavailable. The Council committee roster will be updated accordingly and sent to the Council.

Report from Executive Director Rob Honan:

Council vacancies and appointments

Rob Honan and Yvonne Wright had a meeting with AJ Fox with the Office of Boards and Commissions in the Governor's Office to discuss Council vacancies. After Ed Duff's and Mike Esser's resignations in September and October, the Council now has eight vacancies; three congressional districts are not represented as required by statute. Mr. Fox stated that the vacancies would most likely be filled after the 2016 legislative session since appointments requiring Senate approval have priority. He further stated that current Council members do not need to reapply to remain on the Council; they are expected to serve until they either are replaced or resign.

Hands Around the Capitol

The event to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities was a great success with more than 400 disability rights advocates and 350 school children attending on October 6. The event received great media coverage from local radio and TV stations and newspapers around the state.

Legislative Education Project (LEP)

GCD sent out the annual legislative priorities poll and received a record number (419) of responses. New for the 2016 LEP is the *LEP on the road*. GCD staff will travel to agencies and organizations to educate individuals about the legislative process and discuss disability-related pieces of legislation. Three *LEP on the road* programs and one *LEP at the Capitol* have already been scheduled.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF)

The next MO-YLF will be held July 12-16, 2016 and will include an alumni event. GCD is currently accepting applications.

Dawn Evans and Rachel Baskerville (MO-YLF alum) attended the national APRIL conference in Virginia in October.

Technical Assistance (TA)

TA calls and emails have increased in 2015.

Department Liaison Information:

Misty Hill (DNR) – DNR has rebuilt eight camper cabins at Big Lake State Park that had been damaged by flooding, and two of the cabins are fully accessible. The Missouri State Parks website provides a listing of all accessible facilities at state parks.

Lynette Ricks (OSCA) – At the Court Clerk College in September, Lynette gave a presentation on ADA accommodations, specifically addressing PTSD and how to accommodate people in the court. The presentation will be given again at the Court Clerk College in May.

Bobbi Jo Garber (DHSS) – The Division of Community Health is coordinating efforts with DMH to connect families of children with disabilities who are aging out of the Special Needs program with ongoing services.

DHSS is currently serving 57,000 individuals. By statute, initial assessments are due within 15 business days; currently, the initial assessments are getting done within eight business days.

Bonnie Aaron (DESE) – DESE's budget was approved by the State Board of Education and has been sent to the Governor's Office. The Missouri Interagency Transition Team (MITT) has posted a Resource Guide online to provide parents, districts, and other interested parties a quick reference for services available to persons with disabilities. The Office of Special Education will be doing a pilot this fall and spring to support a neutral facilitator to help parents and schools through difficult IEP meetings. The first year of fully online MAP assessments have gone very well. Missouri students' results in English language arts and mathematics were higher in nearly every category than results from field tests administered in 2014.

Julie Juergens (DSS) – The Money Follows the Person (MFP) budget for a little more than \$37 million has been submitted and is being reviewed by CMS. MFP has added a new demonstration service with Missouri Assistive Technology to provide vehicle modifications and assistive technology for individuals. This was the last year to request grant funds to carry out the program through 2020, the last transition will occur on 12/31/2018. This year, 218 individuals had been projected to transition. To date, 213 have transitioned, and a total of 230-240 is now anticipated for 2015. A total of 1,225 individuals have transitioned under the MFP program since the beginning. HB 343 was passed, which established a committee to assess the continuation of the Money Follows the Person program after the grant ends. This committee meets every two weeks to discuss the continuation of the MFP program. A report is due to the legislators by July 1.

Kristin Funk (DWD) – Workforce development board and job center staff participated in the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and Disability Mentoring Day events. In August, more than 60 businesses attended the Accommodation for Success event in St. Louis. In October, Kristin and workforce staff serving youth, presented during the MPACT Transition Summit where over 300 individuals attended. At the Greater KC DMD event, Kristin and staff from several Missouri Job Centers participated in the services fair and mock job interviews with youth. Kristin also attended the DisAbility Awareness event in Kirksville on October 6 where Missouri Job Center staff participated in the disability services fair.

New Business:

Upcoming Events page on Disability Web Portal

Dawn Evans recommended posting all disability-related conferences and events on the Disability Web Portal. Information to be included on that page may be emailed to Claudia Browner.

Council Committees

Yvonne Wright will send out an email to state liaisons to request participation on the Council committees.

Presentation for February Council meeting

Delores Sparks with the Missouri DD Council would like to give a presentation about Guardianship at the next meeting. The Programs Committee will review the information and make a decision.

GCD Committee Reports:

Housing Committee: Sue Orton, James Trout, and Rob Honan are working on a housing position paper and will have a draft ready for the February meeting.

Transportation Committee: DeAnna Noriega reported that Megabus is no longer going across the state, but only picking up passengers in St. Louis. AmTrak transportation works well and is accessible for transportation between Kansas City and St. Louis, but there are no good transportation options from north to south in Missouri.

Education Committee: Joan Bergstrom, Betty Davidson, and Rob Honan have worked on a position paper on education. Rob read the paper to the Council members. The Council unanimously approved to move forward with the position paper, which is to be fine-tuned by the Education Committee.

Council Member Reports:

Sue Orton attended the Brain Injury Association conference in October. About 150 individuals attended the conference.

Todd Mayfield introduced his son Elijah who interns in the Governor's Office to help raise awareness for the employment of people with disabilities. Todd and Elijah have been working with the catholic diocese to fund special education in parochial schools, and have been speakers at events to share the importance of inclusion. Elijah attended Helias High School without supports. Helias HS has now hired a coordinator to provide supports for students with disabilities.

Old Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Monday, February 8, 2016** at 10 AM in room 315 of the Governor's Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.

| Summary of Action Items: | Person Responsible: |
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| Update and send out Council committee roster | Claudia Browner |
| Post information about upcoming disability-related events and conferences on Disability Web Portal | Council members & state liaisons (send info to Claudia) |
| Send email to state liaisons to request committee participation | Yvonne Wright |
| Review proposed Guardianship presentation | Programs Committee |