

**Governor’s Council on Disability
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2022**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Chuck Comstock, Wayne Crawford, Ronald Hack, Rosemary Hendon, Chip Hailey, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey, Elijah Mayfield, Andrew Sartorius, Lesia Shelton, James Trout, Bob Wallace

Council Members Absent/Not Participating:

Joan Bergstrom, Betty Davidson, Sue Orton, Traci Ritter

Department Liaisons:

Joe Amberger	Attorney General’s Office (AGO)
Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services (DSS)
Tom Green	Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS)
Cathy Lucia	Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
Jessica Owen	Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR)
Andrew Ragsdale	Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT)
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)
Tara Smith	Office of State Court Administrator (OSCA)
Mara Woody	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)

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

Guests: Nancy Pennington, MACDDS

Interim Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting with 12 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 November 12, 2021. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

Public Comment: None

Report from Interim Chair – Ron Hack: None

Report from GCD Team: Council members received the full report by email prior to the meeting. Each team member provided highlights of their report.

Claudia Browner:

- An introductory meeting with the Governor’s Legislative Director, Alex Tuttle, is scheduled for March 9th
- The Advisory Committee on Equitable COVID 19 Vaccine Distribution has been renamed to the Missouri Health Equity Committee. The committee’s scope and focus will be shifting to Access to Healthcare and Public Health Data Collection. The meetings will be held monthly, with the first being on March 3rd.
- The Office of Administration is putting together a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. The committee is currently planning a virtual Black History Month celebration event that will take place on February 24th 10:30 a.m. The event is open to the public (<https://vimeo.com/event/176562>)

- Provided 8 presentations discussing the GCD youth programs at VR Summer Kick Off events around the state
- Responded to outreach for collaboration from Treasurer's Office, UMKC, DMH/DD, OA/DOP, OEO/OSCA, Missouri Assistive Technology, and several disability organizations (MPACT, MOCIL - IL Summit)
- Worked with Facilities Management division to address sound barrier to adjoining meeting rooms and office renovation (painting)
- Met with OA/Facilities Management Design & Construction (FMDC) to discuss building safety and emergency egress. This is an ongoing project.
- Worked with IT Department and Laura to update Disability Web Portal, GCD website and logo. This project is in its final stages and the new website/logo will be launched in the near future.
- Completed the GCD Annual Report for 2021, posted and sent out to Governor's Office and General Assembly.
- GCD Awards Programs (Inclusion and Youth Leadership Awards) – administered the program and recruited judges to rate nominations. Claudia thanked Traci Ritter, Wayne Crawford, Andrew Sartorius and Bob Wallace for rating the nominations. Winners will be determined and notified in the next few days. Awards will be presented at Power Up conference in Blue Springs on April 5 or, alternatively, at the next Council meeting.
- **Budget Update:** Attended FY23 budget committee hearings in the House and Senate. FY22 budget – As of February 16, we have spent/encumbered \$8,536.25 (approx. 35%) of our total E&E operational budget of \$24,558.

Laura Mueth:

- Serves on several committees such as the MO Transportation Taskforce, the MO Brain Injury Advisory Council, the First Responder Disability Awareness Training Advisory Committee, and the MO Disability Health Collaborative Advisory Committee.
- Serves on the planning committee for the 2022 Disability Rights Legislative Day (<https://drlld.org>), held March 9 as a hybrid event at the capitol or zoom.
- Serves on two new committees- Committee for Aging and Disability Advocacy Network and the National Association for Head Injury Administrators.
- Worked with legislators and House of Representatives staff to secure spaces for the Youth Leadership Forum Legislative Day. This is an ongoing process. It will look different from past years.
- Contacted Representative Rasheen Aldridge to follow up on a request he made last spring to come to the GCD office during the current legislative session to discuss health care for people with disabilities. As of today, he has not responded.

Rachel Rackers:

- Presented at eight VR and Pre-ETS Summer Kickoffs about GCD Youth Programs.
- Presented at the Springfield Transition Event and to the West Plains Transition Network.
- Attended meetings with the Leadership Development Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing planning committee to plan the 2022 event. The committee is looking to expand the program to students throughout Missouri.
- Attended the MIPS Board Quarterly meetings in November and earlier this month.
- The Virtual Leadership Summit will be held February 26th. GCD has received 42 applications for the program and five Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) alumni will be facilitating the college, employment and mentoring panel.

- GCD is now accepting applications for the MO-YLF held July 12-16, 2022 at MU in Columbia. The application deadline is April 15th. There are currently 11 applications in progress.

Jessica Zimmer:

- Assists Rachel with the MO-YLF and VLS planning committee meetings by taking the minutes and processing applications for the VLS.
- Attended several professional development webinars in MO Learning.
- Assists the GCD team with booking and preparing for conferences and events that require travel.

State Liaison Reports

Shomari Rozier – At the end of last year, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program realized that there were additional funds left to offer higher rates for services to contractors. Through a bidding process for the five regions in the state, three contracts were awarded for the regions of Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield. The other two regions have been reposted with a closing date of March 15 to have the contracts in place by April 1.

Shawn Brice reported 95 transitions of individuals from nursing institutions to the community for 2021. This is down from the average of 140 in non-COVID years. The name of the program is changing from “Money Follows the Person” to “Show Me Home.” A new logo, website and commercials will be launching in March. The program will be continuously funded through 2025.

Regarding the concerns with Social Security that were discussed at the last council meeting, Shawn made a contact with the Social Security office in Kansas City, John Powell, who has been very responsive in addressing these concerns and conducted a training with the MFP staff.

Lane Lakey – The Family Support Division (FSD) is currently working on Medicaid expansion. This coverage began on October 1st, 2021. So far they have enrolled 65,000 individuals in the adult expansion group ranging from ages 19-64. Claudia thanked Lane for assisting individuals who have contacted GCD with concerns regarding food stamps and other FSD services.

Presentation:

Nancy Pennington, executive director with the Missouri Association of County DD Services (MACDDS), gave a presentation about the program. MACDDS works with county boards throughout the state to promote inclusive communities through leadership, collaboration and education. The Senate Bill 40 board 1969 legislation was passed by the state to approve a property tax levy to provide support for individuals. Each county board is unique in regards to the services they provide to individuals. MACDDS is currently recruiting direct support professionals (DSP) and hosting classes to educate persons on the history of the field and address the DSP shortage.

MACDDS will host the annual conference from October 5-7 in Columbia. More information about the organization and the conference can be found at <https://macdds.org>

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Committee Reports:

Finance (Bob Wallace) – No report.

Advocacy (Katie Jones) – No report.

Housing (Sue Orton) – Claudia reported that the housing committee met on February 12. The topics discussed were availability of affordable housing units, engaging more and diverse participants, unfair rental application fees, and density ordinances. Sue is working with the transportation committee to make sure housing units are more accessible to home, work, and leisure activities.

Employment (Katie Jones) – Wayne, Traci and Katie had a meeting to discuss updating the strategic plan. They will have a follow up meeting to see how to address current strategies and what to look for to prepare for future strategies regarding employment.

Transportation (Betty Davidson) – No report.

Programs (Betty Davidson) – No report.

Healthcare (Kim Lackey) – Kim asked Council members and state liaisons to join the healthcare committee if interested. Ron Hack and James Trout joined the committee. She reported that free at home COVID test kits and masks are available to individuals.

Council Member Reports:

Lesia Shelton is trying to find independent living housing for deaf and hard of hearing. There is a lack of available housing and staff trained in ASL to communicate with the individuals in ISL settings.

Chuck Comstock will be presenting a session on engaging with individuals with disabilities titled “Let’s Talk” at the upcoming consumer conference at Truman State University on March 15th. Chuck will send Claudia a flyer to share.

Kim Lackey reported that Paraquad will be participating in Disability Rights Legislative Day at the Capitol. They will also be attending the Power Up conference in April. The Center for Independent Living (CIL) Advocacy Day at the Capitol will be held April 12. The IL Summit will be held May 22-24. Kim’s team is following legislation on education bills concerning parental signatures on IEP’s, due process, and burden of proof on IEP’s.

James Trout – The Universal Design Alliance is addressing universal design for existing homes in the St. Louis area. The alliance is working on making a search feature available in MLS listings for existing homes that are “UD ready”, meaning they can easily be made accessible for individuals with disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Action Item	Responsible
Provide flyer for consumer conference in Kirksville	Chuck Comstock
Update Council committee roster	Claudia Browner

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, April 29, 2022** at 10 AM at the **Department of Natural Resources, Lewis and Clark Office Building located at 1101 Riverside Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101** or by WebEx/conference call.

Minutes by Jessica Zimmer - 02/22/2022
Approved by Council – 4/29/2022