

**Governor’s Council on Disability
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2024**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Chuck Comstock, Wayne Crawford, Betty Davidson, Stacey Elster, Ron Hack, Rosemary Hendon, Elijah Mayfield, Sue Orton, Andrew Sartorius, Lesia Shelton, Bob Wallace

Council Members Absent/Not Participating:

Chip Hailey, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey

Department Liaisons Present/Participating:

Ashley Anderson	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services (DSS/MFP)
Kim Buckman	Department of Mental Health (DMH/DD)
Kelly Cramer	Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
Raylene Douglas	Department of Corrections (DOC)
Mark Feedback	Department of Revenue (DOR)
Luke Hawley	Attorney General Office (AGO)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS/FSD)
Forrest Luck	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Chiquita Small	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE/MSSD)
Venice Wood	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS/DSDS)

Staff: Claudia Browner, Reece Ellis, Laura Mueth, Jenn Pettit

Guests: Karen Gridley, MOSILC Executive Director

Council Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting with 11 Council members in attendance. The meeting was held in person and by WebEx. Introductions followed.

Approval of agenda: The agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

Approval of meeting minutes: The Council members unanimously approved the meeting minutes for February 16, 2023. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

Public Comment: None

Report from Council Chair – Ron Hack:

Ron stated that we have one new Council Member and two new State Liaisons for the Council. Stacey Elster is from Wildwood and was appointed to the Council as member 7. Kim Buckman from Department of Mental Health/DD has taken the place of Duane Schumate, Mark Feedback from Department of Revenue has taken the place of Matt Medley, and Andria Hendricks serves as the new liaison for MO Department of Transportation.

Ron stated on a personal note that his shoulder surgery went well, now he is doing physical therapy.

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

- New Council members appointments:
 - Stacey Elster, Wildwood – March 15. Met for orientation (WebEx) – April 23
- Advocacy Committee and Employment Subcommittee – Meeting April 11
- Model Employer initiative – Meeting with DOP, OEO, GCD – March 12
- NEON Work Group (Employment First/Model Employer) – Meetings April 15, April 16
- Exhibit booth and three presentations at Lake Transition Network, Osage Beach, March 15
- Exhibit booth and presentation at Jefferson City Public School District Transition Fair, Jefferson City, March 16
- Participated and provided exhibit booth at Power Up Assistive Technology Conference & Expo – April 8 – 9
- Presented GCD Inclusion & Youth Leadership Awards at Power Up conference – April 9
- Met with two Centers for Independent Living directors/staff and toured their facilities – SIL and IRLC
- HR CORE – attended weekly meetings, presented on new web accessibility rule – April 25
- Presented Jenn with the OA Challenge Coin for process improvements & customer service – April 18
- GCD Newsletter, published April issue.
- FY25 budget - submitted request for FY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) to OA, discussed in Senate this week.
- FY24 budget – To date, we have spent/encumbered \$13,994 or 58% of our total E&E operational budget of \$23,980.

Laura

- Continued attending the Disability Rights Legislative Day planning committee meetings. Presented to the MO Developmental Disabilities Council's (MODDC) Partners in Policymaking class about Disability Rights Legislative Day in February and co-presented the *Ultimate Guide to Disability Rights Legislative Day 2024* with Shelby Butler from Empower: Abilities in Springfield and Leigh Anne Haun from the MODDC. Disability Rights Legislative Day was held March 13. Eight hundred people attended at the Capitol. Additional individuals participated virtually.
- Eighty-six people attended the Legislative Education Project from January to March this year.
- Invited representatives and senators to participate in the Youth Leadership Forum Legislative Day. So far, four representatives and one senator will be participating. One of the alumni will be assisting me again this year.
- Provided disability awareness training to new MO State Highway Patrol drivers examiners.

Reece

- Exhibit Booth at Osage Beach Transition Fair with Claudia – 3/15
- Exhibit Booth at Jefferson City School District Transition Fair with Claudia – 3/16
- Exhibit Booth at Farmington Transition Fair – 3/19
- Exhibit Booth at Disability Rights Legislative Day – 3/13
- Exhibit Booth and GCD Awards Presentation at Missouri AT, Power Up Conference in Columbia – 4/9
- Meeting with Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon to discuss Civic Education piece of Saturday Resource Fair at MO-YLF – 4/16
- Meeting with Dr. Gina Pifer, Doctoral Capstone Coordinator from the Mizzou Department of Occupational Therapy, to discuss staff/volunteer opportunities – 4/17
- Alumni Reunion Planning Meetings – 3/5, 3/21, 4/17
- We received 29 delegate applications this year, 26 delegates have been accepted.
- **Keynote Speaker** - Colleen Young, Paralympic Athlete from St. Louis with medals in Rio in 2016 and Tokyo in 2020. Mo-YLF Delegate in 2014; **Organization for Adaptive Sports Night**—Midwest Adaptive Sports;

Community Service Project—Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Missouri; **Saturday Resource Fair** – Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon.

Jenn

- Administered the **GCD Inclusion Awards and Youth Leadership Awards** programs.
- Staffed exhibit booth at Disability Rights Legislative Day – March 13
- Staffed exhibit booth at Power Up Assistive Technology conference – April 8-9
- Continued to assist with the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum Alumni Reunion event scheduled for July 14

State Liaison Reports:

Shawn Brice (DSS/MFP) stated that the Show Me Home Program with Mo Health Net transitioned 34 individuals so far in 2024. They have transitioned 2,458 people so far through the grant and we will hit the 2500 mark this year.

Kim Buckman (DMH/DD) reminded everyone that they have the Mental Health Champion Banquet on May 7th. They will be recognizing leaders and celebrating their success stories. She reported that their apprenticeship program for Direct Support Professionals has 230 people enrolled. They are up to 21 providers that are partnering with them on this program.

Kelly Cramer (OSCA) stated they have a monthly access to justice newsletter, and she is trying to organize another interactive in person training event.

Karen Gridley (MOSILC) stated she is excited to be able to volunteer at MO-YLF this year. MOSILC is in the midst of the public comment phase for their State Plan for Independent Living, if you wish to leave a comment, please go to www.mosilc.org, they will submit the plan to the Association for Community Living (ACL) by June 30th.

Raylene Douglas (DOC) stated that DOC has been going through a period of reorganization of their management team. The Deputy Wardens in each institution will be focusing on an offender disability issue. They have hired 19 new HR Specialist who will focus on employee ADA issues.

Mark Feedback (DOR) stated that the MVDL Integrated System: The MoFUSION - Fifty Unique Systems in One Nexus, is being implemented. The system modification was awarded to FAST Enterprise, Inc. they are onsite and working on the driver licensing service until November 2024. Vehicle services will be implemented in July of 2026.

The Department will be continuing the auto renewal of disabled placards and is looking at issuing 238,000 placards this year. For Legislation, DOR has received 140 fiscal notes to respond too. There is a chance for the auto renewal of placards continuing each year, placards being effective for 8 years instead of 4, and not requiring a physician statement during the renewal of a placard.

Lane Lackey (DSS/FSD) stated the public health emergency unwind will be over with the Family Support Division at the end of May. They have completed all the annual reviews for the Health Net Program. Effective June 1st anyone that would have been eligible under the lock program will have ended and premiums will begin again. If they had a spend down or a ticket to work premium, those will now be back in effect. Notification letters have been sent out to all those individuals letting them know how they can pay or meet that premium.

Forrest Luck (DNR) stated that all State Parks with beaches will have beach wheelchairs for checkout. Parks have been adjusting exhibits and making them more accessible. DNR also offers a Senior Parks Program. The MO Virtual Heritage 360 provides virtual 360-degree tours. DNR is in the process of planning a family camp for 2025 for the deaf and hard of hearing. DNR is researching the ability to provide ASL via a QR code during tours, and

scheduling ASL interpreters for events at parks. They are adding more baby changing stations at parks. DNR put in place an LEP (Limited English Proficiency policy) to assist with connecting people to someone with an interpreter.

Chiquita Small (DESE/MSSD) stated she excited to be a part of YLF this year for the first time.

Venice Wood (DHSS) stated the Division of Senior and Disability Services is facilitating the Direct Service Worker (DSW) Workgroup. The goal for the DSW Workgroup is to enhance and expand the DSW workforce, develop standardized Personal Care Assistant (PCA) and Advanced Certification Training and increase DSW Safety. The long-term goal is to collaborate with Higher Education to increase DSW as a career path. DSW Panel – they are sorting through applications of the panel and hopefully the first meeting will be at the end of May. There will be 10 meetings in total over the next year and a half. The purpose is to gain a better understanding of the DSWs' perspective and gain an understanding of what motivates them, what is needed to retain them, what makes them feel supported, etc. As a result of these discussions, the panel will propose suggestions or initiatives to work toward these areas.

DHSS has both rounds of their workforce survey, agency model and a consumer direct service model completed.

In late May, they will launch a new rate study and that should be finalized by January 2025.

Presentation:

Rena Cox, Bureau Chief of Long-Term Services and Supports, Division of Senior and Disability Services presented a DHSS Waivered Services Summary. The presentation informed about HCBS waivered services offered by DSDS, understanding waiver eligibility requirements and restrictions, knowing the services provided by waivers and being able to locate additional information.

New Business: None

Unfinished Business:

Education Subcommittee Chair vacancy – Betty Davidson volunteered to move from the Programs Chair to Education Chair. Ron said that we will revisit this in the August Council Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Executive (Ron Hack) – No report.

Finance (Bob Wallace) – No report.

Personnel (Sue Orton) – No report.

Advocacy (Katie Jones) – Claudia reported that the Advocacy Committee met on Thursday, April 11th and discussed the Strategic Plan. They went through step by step and goal by goal to make sure that all the directives are being addressed and handled. They discussed some pending legislation that is currently going through the system, including the Circuit Breaker Tax Bill and legislation regarding guardians ad litem and amendments to Senate Bill 835.

They discussed potential presentations for upcoming Council Meetings. Recommendations included a presentation and update on the Master Plan on Aging for the November meeting. The other recommendation was a presentation on new assistive technology including devices, apps, artificial intelligence, and augmented reality. The Council recommended the AT presentation for 2025.

Housing (Sue Orton/Jim Trout) – No report

Education (vacant) – No report

Employment (Katie Jones) – No report

Transportation (Betty Davidson) – Betty attended the Regional Disability Transportation Network Meeting yesterday and announced that they have a new contract with Call A Ride and Metro in St. Louis. They are increasing the driver's pay from \$17.85 to \$21.00 an hour with the ability to receive benefits. Outreach efforts include a job fair on May 11 in St. Louis.

Programs (Betty Davidson) – No report

Healthcare (Kim Lackey) – Claudia reported that there is a new federal rule being finalized specifying that people with disabilities should not be denied medical treatment due to biases or stereotypes. The rule will also adopt the US Access Board's standards for accessible medical diagnostic equipment and requires medical providers to have at least one accessible exam table and weight scale within 2 years.

Council Member Reports:

Rosemary Hendon reported about new apartments being built in the West Plains area. She has been trying to get in touch with them to see the accessibility for the apartments and the parking lot.

Susan Orton reported the St. Louis County Commission on the Disabled Office has been working diligently with the Home Builders Association is against the mandate. They are willing to establish an educational component to present to Buyers regarding Universal Design. The format is yet to be determined. Buyers would have to "sign off" that they had been shown & offered UD options when purchasing their new homes. Commissions also sending recommendations to the St. Louis County Board of election re: accessible access to voting places. Improvement in curbside voting is just one recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, August 16, 2024**, at 10 AM at the Compass Health Center Administrative Office, Dogwood Room, 3515 Amazonas Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101 or by WebEx/conference call.

Minutes by Jenn Pettit
5/7/2024

Approved by Council
8/16/2024