

**Governor’s Council on Disability  
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2023**

**Council Members Present/Participating:**

Joan Bergstrom, Chuck Comstock, Wayne Crawford, Betty Davidson, Ronald Hack, Chip Hailey, Katie Jones, Elijah Mayfield, Sue Orton, Traci Ritter, Lesia Shelton, James Trout, Bob Wallace

**Council Members Absent/Not Participating:**

Rosemary Hendon, Kim Lackey, Andrew Sartorius

**Department Liaisons:**

Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services (DSS/MFP)
Kara Cahill	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Kelly Cramer	Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
Luke Hawley	Attorney General Office (AGO)
Forrest Luck	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Shomari Rozier	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS/DSDS)
Duane Shumate	Department of Mental Health (DMH/DD)
Venice Wood	Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS/DSDS)

**Staff:** Claudia Browner, Laura Mueth, Rachel Rackers, Jenn Pettit

**Guests:** Becky Davis – Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Council Chair Ron Hack called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting with 13 Council members in attendance. The meeting was held in Jefferson City and by WebEx. Ron welcomed the new state liaison to the meeting. 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 17, 2023. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Report from Council Chair – Ron Hack:**

Ron stated that the Senate confirmed him as the appointed Council Chair on March 8. Ron shared that the Governor’s Office has asked him to serve on the Missouri 911 Service Board. The official appointment is anticipated for June.

**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:**

- Claudia and Jenn attended Ron Hack’s confirmation hearing in the Senate on March 8
- Committee meetings held: Advocacy Committee – May 9, Education Subcommittee - March 24, Housing Subcommittee – May 11
- Serves on the Advisory Council for the Master Plan on Aging, Subcommittee on Housing – Meetings April 14, April 21

- Participated in OA Language Lab’s ASL workshop in April and plans to provide German language lab this fall.
- Participated in Disability Rights Legislative Day at the Capitol and virtually – March 1
- Presented at Empower: Ability’s Inclusive Solutions community event (virtually) – March 23
- Participated in Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training, Columbia – March 27-28
- Presented at Power Up Assistive Technology Conference, Columbia – April 3
- Provided exhibit booth with Rachel at Power Up AT Conference & Expo – April 3-4
- Presented GCD Awards for Inclusion and Youth Leadership, at Power Up conference – April 4  
GCD awards for Inclusion and Youth Leadership – thank you to the volunteer judges Duane Shumate (DMH/DD), Matt Medley (DOR), Andrew Sartorius, Kim Lackey, Wayne Crawford, Traci Ritter, Lesia Shelton for selecting the winners:  
Inclusion Award Winner: Tim Lewin, Embassy Suites St. Louis – St. Charles  
Honorable Mention: Brock Sousa, Hannibal Public High School  
Youth Leadership Award Winner: Holly Connor, St. Louis  
Samantha Keeney, Van Buren
- Outreach to OA/Division of Personnel and OEO regarding creating of ADA coordinator network group – Meeting with OEO March 16, presentation to HR CORE March 30
- Provided monthly update on GCD initiatives and programs to OA Commissioner’s Office
- Virtual Leadership Summit – March 4
- Launched annual GCD Poster Contest for NDEAM – entries must be received by September 15
- GCD: FY24 budget request – approved in House & Senate, pending Governor’s signature
- FY23 budget – To date, we have spent/encumbered \$19,152 (77%) of our total E&E operational budget of \$24,898.

**Laura Mueth:**

- Disability Rights Legislative Day was held March 1. It was a huge success. For the rally, over 400 people participated at the Capitol and 182 participated virtually. Laura moderated the afternoon sessions for those who did not have meetings with legislators. 25 individuals participated.
- Has been compiling the Legislative Update. The second to last issue went out this week. There were over 300 bills that would impact the disability community. The last issue will be sent after Governor Parson takes actions on the bills sent to him.
- Provided Legislative Education Project webinar on March 16, and 57 people participated in the four webinars this year.
- Has been working on preparations for the Youth Leadership Forum Legislative Day. Three representatives and one senator, who participated last year, are participating again this year.
- Presented on disability awareness and etiquette to 12 new drivers examiners on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Will begin working on this year’s Legislative Priorities Poll later in late June or July. She will be reaching out again to Council members for input and feedback during that time.

**Rachel Rackers:**

- MITT (Missouri Interagency Transition Team) Meeting—April 19
  - Planning for the 2023 TTI (Transition Training Institute) have begun.
  - The dates are June 26-28 in the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO
- Participated in Capacity Building Institute (CBI) Conference on youth transition in Charlotte, NC—May 16-18

- We hosted our third Virtual Leadership Summit on March 4, 2023; 33 youth participated, representing 17 different counties. Four MO-YLF alumni participated in the college/employment panel that Vocational Rehabilitation facilitated.
- Is currently planning and preparing for the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF). We received 47 delegate applications this year; 10 of the applicants had participated in VLS. Selected 36 delegates to attend, with three on a waiting list. Ron Hack stated that Rachel might reach out to Council members for support and assistance with the MO-YLF.

**Jenn Pettit:**

- Completed the Special Ed Teachers email distribution list for all school districts in Missouri.
- Participates in monthly OA Support Squad and OA MO Appreciation Ambassadors meetings.
- Volunteered to help answer phones for the Division of Personnel while their staff participated in a team retreat

**State Liaison Reports:**

**Shawn Brice** (DSS/MFP) The Show Me Home MFP has transitioned 52 individuals out of nursing facilities so far this calendar year. They are at 51% of their projected goal for the year. He asked if any Council members or state liaisons wanted to attend a Social Security Administration (SSA) meeting on June 6, regarding issues about with getting the social security payee changed after individuals leave nursing facilities and move into the community. SSA is looking for input, recommendations and feedback from agencies. Wayne Crawford stated his interest in participation.

**Kelly Cramer** (OSCA) stated that she would be attending the upcoming ADA Coordinator meeting and asked to be included in the invitation for upcoming language lab sessions.

**Shomari Rozier** (DHSS) stated that the number of Independent Living Waiver slots have increased from 800 to 1100; 892 slots are filled and 208 are currently available. The Traumatic Brain Injury Program waivers have increased from 20 to 26 and all 26 slots are filled. The cost cap went up per person from \$26,500 to \$32,000.

**Duane Shumate** (DMH/DD) stated that the Employment 1<sup>st</sup> Bill and the Model Employer Bill have passed, waiting for the governor to sign them. The Direct Support Professional registered apprenticeship program currently has 16 employer partners and 152 active apprentices. The division's services for individuals who receive waiver funded employment supports started in 2016 with 367 participants, and have increased to 1,258 participants currently. The division has about 600 support coordinators that are working with approximately 16,000 waiver recipients. DMH/DD is getting ready to launch a brand new case management system that has been in design for 4 years.

**Presentation:**

Jason Lewis, Chief Counsel for Governmental Affairs with the Missouri Attorney General's Office presented an overview of the Missouri Sunshine Law and answered participant questions. Topics included which entities must comply with the law, tentative agenda requirements, meeting minutes, public records, open record requests, and Sunshine Law compliance policies.

**Unfinished Business:**

Sue Orton stated the committee met on May 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed Universal Design ready (UDr) criteria. The committee’s recommendation is to post the UDr recommendations for existing homes as a guideline for information only. The Council members agreed.

**New Business:**

Joan Bergstrom stated that the Council Position Paper on Education was updated and revised. The Council unanimously approved the revised Education Position Paper.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive (Ron Hack)** – No report.

**Finance (Bob Wallace)** – No report.

**Personnel (Sue Orton)** – No report.

**Advocacy (Katie Jones)** – The Advocacy committee met on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the Employment subcommittee met on March 24<sup>th</sup> to talk about the different bills that were pertinent to the Council, the Master Plan on Aging. Kaite explained the reasoning for asking what committees Council members and state liaisons serve on, outside of the council. Our goal as council members is to share information and resources with networks outside of the council. Katie stated that Jenn would send out another e-mail, and requested that everyone to e-mail her back with the committees, associations, and boards they serve on.

**Housing (Sue Orton/Jim Trout)** – No report

**Education (Joan Bergstrom)** – No report

**Employment (Katie Jones)** – No report

**Transportation (Betty Davidson)** – Betty has been attending the Disability Transportation Resource Network meetings in St. Louis. There are major issues with transportation in St. Louis, due to a shortage of drivers and safety concerns. A special committee “Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan” committee was created. Wayne Crawford added that transportation is one of the important issues addressed in the Executive Order regarding the Master Plan on Aging.

**Programs (Betty Davidson)** – No report

**Healthcare (Kim Lackey)** – No report.

**Council Member Reports:**

**Wayne Crawford** announced the next Master Plan on Aging Housing Subcommittee meeting on May 25. The subcommittee will be addressing the lack of affordable housing. The committee will be submitting a plan for public comment.

**Betty Davidson** reported that she is working with Inclusive Media to create media related jobs and opportunities for people with disabilities in Missouri. Senate Bill 94 was passed in Missouri to allow incentives for media production.

**Sue Orton** reported that she was reappointed to the St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities.

**Lesia Shelton** reported that she testified for HB 106 and it passed and on its way to the Governor’s desk. Starting in July, she will be working with Mizzou on their Pre-employment Transition Program to expand their programs for individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing. She attended the Emergency Response Management Training that focused on access and functional needs in emergency management situations.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, August 18, 2023** at 10 AM at the Missouri Behavioral Health Council – Kathy Carter Building, CEO Room, 221 Metro Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101 or by WebEx/conference call.

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Provide information about involvement on boards, committees and organizations that support individuals with disabilities	Council members, state liaisons and GCD team

Minutes by Jenn Pettit  
5/23/2023

Approved by Council  
8/18/2023