

**Governor’s Council on Disability  
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes  
August 16, 2024**

**Council Members Present/Participating:**

Steve Ahrens, Wayne Crawford, Betty Davidson, Stacey Elster, Ron Hack, Chip Hailey, Rosemary Hendon, Katie Jones, Kim Lackey, Sue Orton, Andrew Sartorius, Jason Schott, Lesia Shelton

**Council Members Absent/Not Participating:**

Chuck Comstock, Elijah Mayfield, Bob Wallace

**Department Liaisons Present/Participating:**

Ashley Anderson	Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)
Rosie Anderson-Harper	Department of Mental Health (DMH/BH)
Shawn Brice	Department of Social Services (DSS/MFP)
Kim Buckman	Department of Mental Health (DMH/DD)
Becky Davis	Missouri Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)
Mark Feedback	Department of Revenue (DOR)
Louis Gatewood	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)
Luke Hawley	Attorney General Office (AGO)
Chad John	Department of Conservation (MDC)
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:** Marsha Campe, Assistant Director for Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)

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 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 May 3, 2024. The approved minutes will be posted on the GCD website.

**Public Comment:** None

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

Ron stated that we have two new Council Members for the Council. Steve Ahrens is from Jefferson City and was appointed to the Council as Member 1. Jason Schott is from Ste. Genevieve and was appointed to the Council as Member 6.

Ron stated that he attended the closing ceremony of the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum. He recommended to everyone to attend at least one time because it is so rewarding to hear how the delegates grew within that week.

Ron stated that before the pandemic, in person attendance at two of four quarterly Council Meetings was required. He is strongly encouraging that to be a requirement again because it is nice for Council Members and State Liaisons to get to know each other and network.

Ron shared with the Council that on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis will be hosting a celebration called Festability, celebrating the Disability Community with a day of accessible, family friendly activities and entertainment. If you are interested visit [festability.org](https://festability.org).

**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: Governor Parson appointed Steve Ahrens of Jefferson City and Jason Schott of Ste. Genevieve on June 5. The GCD team provided a new council member orientation on July 2.
- Model Employer initiative and NEON Work Group (Employment First/Model Employer) meetings continue to address requirements of the Model Employer Executive Order and Legislation
- Provided presentations at State of Missouri Recruiter Summit (June 5) and to OA Interns (June 12)
- Participated in Missouri Way Training conference – June 24
- Participated in National Hire A Veteran Day at the Missouri capitol – July 25
- Participated in OA Continuity Tabletop Exercise with SEMA – July 29
- Participated in Disability Advocacy Roundtable hosted by U.S. Senator Eric Schmitt – August 14
- Met with Centers for Independent Living directors/staff and toured facility – Empower Abilities, Springfield – July 12
- Promoted Jenn Pettit to Administrative Support Professional – June 16
- Presented GCD Inclusion Award Honorable Mention to Kristi Kliewer in Springfield – July 12
- Participated in Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) – July 15–20
- Launched annual GCD Poster Contest for National Disability Employment Awareness Month – May 7
- FY25 budget – The new fiscal year started July 1. To date, the GCD has spent/encumbered \$2,152 or 8.5% of our total E&E operational budget of \$25,283.
- FY26 budget – The budget requests for the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) are due to OA in September.

### **Laura**

- Coordinated the legislative day for the Youth Leadership Forum. Senator Bernskoetter and his legislative aide Penny assisted with the debate in the Senate Chamber. Representatives Davidson and Hausman were able to attend with relatively short notice. They were new to assisting with the mock bill hearing and House Chamber debate. Representatives Walsh Moore, and Proudie assisted again this year. Representative Lavender joined us for the debate in the House Chamber. They did a great job.
- Thank you to the Council members who provided input for this year's Legislative Priorities Poll. There are fewer questions, which will hopefully encourage higher completion rates compared to longer surveys. Jenn helped create alternate formats. It will be launched on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Please assist by sharing it with others. The deadline will be 5:00 p.m. on November 1.

### **Reece**

Meetings/Outreach:

- Participates in planning committees for the Statewide Veterans Day and NDEAM celebration events.
- Participated in the Transition Training Institute in Columbia (June 26-28)
- July 12<sup>th</sup> – Award Presentation to Kristi Kliewer of Abilities First

GCD programs/activities:

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual MO-YLF from July 16-20 was very successful.

- 26 Delegates Accepted from 17 Counties, 23 graduated from the program.
- 414 alumni have gone through the program.

- 15 alumni returned to serve as Facilitators or Team Leaders and Mentors.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year that delegate teams were exclusively led by alumni.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year that an alumni served as the keynote speaker (Colleen Young, Paralympic Athlete)
- Alumni Reunion  
Over 30 alumni from various years attended the hybrid reunion planned by the Alumni Reunion Planning Committee
- Legislative Day  
Legislators joined from Greene County, Cole County, St. Charles County, St. Louis County, and the City of St. Louis
- Community Service Project (Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Missouri)  
Collected 2 Full Size Vans worth of donations, including over \$1500 worth of items from a single delegate.

### **Jenn**

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF)

- Participated in the MO-YLF and lead the logistics team.
- Handled email and text communications and reminders with delegates and parents.

MO-YLF Alumni Reunion:

- Assisted the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum Alumni with planning and communications for the reunion event held July 14

### **Presentation:**

Emily Hartley, Executive Director of Missouri DD Council and Jennifer Hulme, Human Resources, provided a presentation about Alternatives to Guardianship. The presentation highlighted the differences between supported decision-making agreements, powers of attorney, limited guardianships, and full guardianships relating to individuals with intellectual disabilities, and included resources for additional information.

### **State Liaison Reports:**

**Rosie Anderson-Harper (DMH/BH)** stated that 988 Crisis Line at [Crisis Services | dmh.mo.gov](https://dmh.mo.gov) are for anyone, anywhere and anytime. They are the first line of care in helping people and preventing tragedies. DMH strives to use the best tools and practices to meet the needs of people in crisis. The goal is to help each person work through the crisis so they can get back to how they were doing before it happened. This can be done in different types of settings. Missouri follows national best practices to provide crisis services in three ways:

- Someone to talk to: 988 crisis line workers accept all calls, texts, and chats. They help with the immediate need and can connect people to resources for ongoing help;
- Someone to respond: If help from the crisis line is not enough, a mobile team can respond to meet the person where they are in the community and provide in-person help;
- Somewhere to go: If a person needs more help than a mobile team can provide, they can go to a crisis center. Crisis centers provide more intense help for up to 23 hours and can usually help the person not need to be hospitalized.

Additional website: [Home - Missouri 988](#)

Order 988 materials at: [Toolkit - Missouri 988](#)

Recovery Friendly Workplaces: [Recovery Friendly Missouri \(recoveryfriendlymo.com\)](https://recoveryfriendlymo.com) The Recovery Friendly Initiative empowers workplaces to support people affected by substance use disorders and those in recovery.

Conference Website: [Midwest Rural Opioid & Stimulant Conference 2024 - Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute \(iastate.edu\)](https://iastate.edu)

**Shawn Brice (DSS/MFP)** stated that the Show Me Home Program with Mo Health Net transitioned 59 individuals so far in 2024, with the target being 114. They have transitioned 2,483 people so far through the grant and will hit the 2,500 mark this year.

He will be attending the HCBS conference in Baltimore MD next week for the Show Me Home Program. One day of the conference is dedicated to the Money Follows a Person Program nationally so they will be learning lots of new information from the Federal Government.

They are working on updating their annual report to implement the work plan. This gives them an opportunity to look at what their goals and objectives have been since the inception of the grant in 2007. They will make some changes on those focus areas.

**Kim Buckman (DMH/DD)** stated in the Missouri Talent Pathways Apprenticeship Program there have been 60 new graduates, that brings the total to 87 graduates. She reported that their apprenticeship program for Direct Support Professionals has 269 people enrolled. They are up to 22 providers that are partnering with them on this program.

The division is currently in the process of getting the RFP built for the Electronic Case Management System, they are hoping to get that out for bid in the summer of 2025.

The division did not get the funding that they were hoping for from the legislature, so effective July 1<sup>st</sup> they had to start a waitlist for waiver services. As of August 12<sup>th</sup>, there were 32 people on the residential services waitlist and 148 for the in-home community support waitlist.

They did get approval for Health Homes, which is a care coordination system for individuals with developmental disabilities. There are five providers who are initially designated and put in for it is Abilities First, Compass Healthcare, Easterseals Midwest, Skill Set and Supported Living. There are about 20,000 individuals in Missouri that will be eligible for this program, and they are currently in the outreach and enrollment phase.

**Becky Davidson (MCDHH)** stated the LEAD K Bill stands for the Language Equality Acquisition for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. This is focusing on children from birth to five years old. This is moving to DESE and will be used as a feature to assess for language skills and collect data.

Services Supported Provider Program (SSP) assists deaf and blind individuals to help with their independence in the community. This is where someone goes with the deaf and blind client and makes doctor appointments or goes to grocery stores. Unfortunately, the provider decided to stop those services, so they agency is happy to open the bids up and find a new provider for these services.

MCDHH is working with the Missouri State Highway Patrol on making the driver's examination accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. They have already worked on the class F license and are hopefully going to be working on class E and motorcycle licenses this fall.

Their office has a Hearing Aid Distribution Program, so if you know anyone that needs assistance, they have funding available.

**Mark Feedback (DOR)** stated the Department has recently auto renewed 200,000 disabled placards that have an expiration date of 2028.

Senate Bill 912 passed which included a provision with a letter from the Veterans Administration certifying permanent disability to be accepted as proof of a disability for initial issuance and renewal of disabled placards and disabled license plates substituting for the physician's statement. This will take effect on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Louis Gatewood (DESE)** stated that there are 26,000 individuals eligible for services, the most since the pandemic. They are starting to see more referrals and applications. They have developed over 8,000 digital individualized plans for employment with VR counselors in 23 district offices around the state. With these plans, they are trying to outline what services are necessary to achieve the employment goals.

The summer work experience program for high school students provides opportunities for paid work experience. This year we had over 1,700 students statewide participate in the program with over 300 different job sites. This year was the first year that VR expanded the program to sophomores. Sophomores and juniors could participate in paid work experiences for six weeks and start getting some of those early work skill experiences.

**Forrest Luck (DNR)** stated they are continuing to provide refresher trainings on FMLA leave and the availability of long-term disability for those that can't work in their positions anymore.

**Chiquita Small (DESE/MSSD)** stated that MSSD has just wrapped up its three-day Professional Development conference with all 500 of the schools' staff in Columbia. They had several vendors from around the state including the Independent Living Resource Center. Staff appreciated the information they provided at the conference.

**Venice Wood (DHSS)** stated the Direct Service Worker (DSW) panel kicked off in May. They have met twice now with the latest focus being on training needs.

The Direct Service Worker (DSW) Workgroup is composed of 15 providers and Division of Senior and Disability Services. This provider work group is working hand in hand with the information that is gained from the Direct Services Worker Panel. The plan is to establish a Direct Service Worker training in a learning management system that will ensure all Director Service Workers are receiving comprehensive training and to house all Director Service Workers in one system where providers can easily receive prior training completion records.

They have finalized their survey report and released it on August 1<sup>st</sup>. There was an agency and vendor survey that was completed by NCIAD workforce and CDS Operational Survey. This information has been very timely and helpful with the rate study. The first stakeholder feedback meeting was August 7<sup>th</sup>. The state is collecting the feedback, and the next stakeholder engagement will be in October. The rate study is set to finalized around the first of the year.

Level of Care is currently in the process with CMS to close out their ARPA funds. Once closed, the state will be lifted from the maintenance of effort agreement associated with expenditures of those funds.

Senate Bill 1111, the Governor signed, which is the Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) facilities. These are facilities providing medically necessary multidisciplinary services to eligible children in a childcare facility by DESE.

The division has contracted with University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Human Development to provide a webinar for Alternatives to Guardianship. This will be on September 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 1. Claudia will send out the information to the members.

**New Business:** None

**Unfinished Business:**

Education Subcommittee Chair vacancy – Betty Davidson volunteered to move from the Transportation Chair to Education Chair.

Transportation Subcommittee Chair vacancy – Ron asked for Council member volunteers to serve as the subcommittee chair. He stated that we will revisit this in November.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive (Ron Hack)** – No report.

**Finance (Bob Wallace)** – No report.  
**Personnel (Sue Orton)** – No report.  
**Advocacy (Katie Jones)** – No report.  
**Housing (Sue Orton)** – No report  
**Education (vacant)** – No report  
**Employment (Katie Jones)** – No report

**Transportation (Betty Davidson)** reported she is on the Regional Transportation Council, and they have been reporting that the call a ride service seems to be working better again.

**Programs (Betty Davidson)** – Claudia reported that in November we will have a presentation from Mindy Ulstad on the Master Plan on Aging Project that was initiated by Governor Parson.

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

**Council Member Reports:**

**Chip Hailey** reported that the blind and visually impaired community was pleased and delighted that the Missouri Constitution Amendment 1 did not pass.

**Rosemary Hendon** reported about new apartments for low income, senior and disabled community being built in the West Plains area. She said that she did get a hold of someone at the apartment complex to request a tour to find out about the accessibility of the apartment complex. She was not approved to tour by upper management. Wayne offered to follow up.

**Susan Orton** reported the St. Louis County Commission on the Disabled Office has been working diligently with the Home Builders Association and they are addressing Universal Design again. Councilwoman Lisa Clancy has worked up a Universal Design code ordinance that they will be reviewing sometime in the next week to present to the entire council.

**Lisa Shelton** reported working with the deaf community and watching the lack of progress. But they are seeing improvement with VR's deaf services. She commended MCDHH for their community involvement since Becky Davis' appointment as the director of the agency.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 15, 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  
8/22/2024

Approved by Council  
11/15/2024