

**Governor’s Council on Disability
Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2024**

Council Members Present/Participating:

Chuck Comstock, Wayne Crawford, Betty Davidson, Stacey Elster, Ron Hack, Chip Hailey, Katie Jones, Sue Orton, Andrew Sartorius, Jason Schott, Lesia Shelton, Bob Wallace

Council Members Absent/Not Participating:

Steve Ahrens, Rosemary Hendon, Kim Lackey, Elijah Mayfield

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)
Becky Davis	Missouri Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)
Mark Feedback	Department of Revenue (DOR)
Andria Hendricks	Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT)
Chad Hinkle	Department of Mental Health (DMH/BH)
Chad John	Department of Conservation (MDC)
Lane Lakey	Department of Social Services (DSS/FSD)
Rachael Robinett	Department of Social Services (DSS/FSD)
Jared Lange	Attorney General Office (AGO)
Chiquita Small	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE/MSSD)

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

Guests: Mindy Ulstad, Chief of Bureau of Senior Programs, Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS)

Call to Order/Introductions: 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 12 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 August 16, 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 three new Department Liaisons for the Council. Jared Lange is from the Attorney General Office (AGO). Chad Hinkle is from Department of Mental Health (DMH/BH). Rachael Robinett is from the Department of Social Services (DSS/FSD)

Ron encouraged participants to take some flyers for the Inclusion Award, Youth Leadership Award, and the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum. The flyers are also online and posted on our website. He asked Council members and state liaisons to share the information with people and organizations to spread the word about these programs.

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

- **Model Employer initiative** and NEON Work Group (Employment First/Model Employer) meetings continue to address requirements of the Model Employer Executive Order and Legislation. Activities included launching a survey of ADA coordinators and HR directors and conducting the annual self-disclosure survey of state team members.
- Presented at OA Supervisor Foundations training and OA ITSD-U Leadership Training in August.
- Exhibited and attended Governor’s Conference on Economic Development, St. Louis – September 4–6
- Attended Missouri Transportation Task Force Annual Summit, virtual – September 25
- Starkloff Disability Employment Summit, St. Louis – September 26
- MACDDS Conference, Columbia – October 10–11
- Presented at State of Missouri Veterans Day celebration, Jefferson City – November 1
- Outreach/Collaboration:
 - MODOT – requested recommendation for speakers for conference on pedestrian accessibility. Referred and connected two presenters.
- **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Activities:**
 - OEO/GCD hosted first statewide National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebration in Jefferson City – October 21
 - GCD Poster Contest for National Disability Employment Awareness Month – awarded winner JP Sauter, St. Joseph
- **GCD Inclusion and Youth Leadership Awards** – program launched for 2024 awards. The GCD is currently exploring options for the awards presentations.
- FY26 budget request – submitted to OA.
- FY25 budget – To date, we have spent/encumbered \$10,390 or 41% of our total E&E operational budget of \$25,283.

Laura

- Attended meetings of the MO Brain Injury Advisory Council, the Disability Policy Coalition, the Disability Rights Legislative Day planning committee, and the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC) for the Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled. The LRPAC public facing web page can be found at [LRPAC web page](#). The date for Disability Rights Legislative Day has been changed to February 26, 2025, due to Capitol scheduling conflicts.
- The Legislative Priorities Poll closed on November 1. Four hundred ninety-seven individuals completed it. This is one hundred and one fewer responses than last year. Seventy-one counties are represented. This is an increase of six counties from 2023. Currently working with two OA research and data analysts to create the reports using this year’s data. We are reimagining how the data is presented, with one being an interactive dashboard. The report will be sent out to the GCD listservs. They will also be provided to legislators and elected officials in January after the legislative session begins. The priorities for 2024 are:
 1. The State of Missouri updating websites to include more language that is direct and easy to understand for those with reading or writing difficulties.
 2. The Personal Care Attendant/Aide/Direct Support Professional workforce providing critical services.
 3. Transportation needs.
 4. Care workforce needs.

- The 2025 Legislative Education Project will launch in the next few weeks. There will be four webinars offered between January and March. Please share this opportunity with your networks.
- Presented to a new class of twenty MO State Highway Patrol Driver Examiners.

Reece

Meetings/Outreach:

- August 27th – Conversation with Ellen Britt, Special Education Director at Ralls-R2, about plans for developing a transition fair.
- October 16th – Meeting with Jennifer Hartwick from Mizzou to troubleshoot potential location challenges with 2026 MO-YLF Program
- November 7th – Meeting with Zach McCall of MPACT to discuss challenges of youth programming and potential collaboration.

Professional Development

- Attended Pacific ADA – Beyond Compliance: Equity, Access, and the ADA

GCD programs/activities:

- 21st **MO-YLF** scheduled for July 15-19. Applications launched November 1st and Planning Committee Meetings are starting in November.
- October 21st - **National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebration**
This was the inaugural celebration for the state workforce and had tremendous support throughout state government. The keynote was delivered by Lydia Olmstead, a previous winner of the Youth Leadership Award and a MOYLF alumni. Messages were also delivered by Shirlene Treadwell (Special Olympics) and Brittani Dagen (Vocational Rehab) on their success in the workforce as individuals with disabilities. Especially impactful for the entire audience was the inclusion of the 2024 GCD Poster Contest Winner, JP Sauter of St. Joseph Missouri. Sauter and his entire family traveled from St. Joseph to Jefferson City to attend the celebration and receive recognition from our office for his creativity.
- November 1st – **Statewide Veteran’s Day celebration**
This was the second annual celebration for the state workforce and the first with extensive interagency cooperation. I served on the planning committee and was one of the masters of ceremony for the program. We were honored to have the participation of Governor-elect Kehoe, Rep. Dave Griffith (Jefferson City), Executive Director of the Missouri Veteran’s Commission Paul Kirchhoff, and Director of Revenue Wayne Wallingford. Griffith, Kirchhoff, and Wallingford are veterans of the United States Army and the United States Air Force respectively. In addition to our speakers, the 135th Army Band performed patriotic standards as well as the anthems of the individual branches of the armed forces. We were also pleased to include the JROTC of Smith-Cotton High School in Sedalia who served as color guard and performed a drill exhibition.
- Production of 2 **New Promotional Videos for MOYLF**
The Office of Administration’s Communications Team worked with us to develop new promotional material to reach more students, teachers, and parents about YLF. They followed the program several days and conducted interviews of volunteers as well as parents. The videos were shared with participants and can be found on the MO-YLF website at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/yf>

Jenn

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

- Assisted with the NDEAM Poster Contest.
- Helped at the NDEAM Event that was held in the Truman Building.

Veterans Day Event

- Helped OEO with the Veterans Day Event that was held in the Truman Building.

Conferences

- Staff GCD information exhibit at the MACDDS Conference in Columbia and the Summit Future Foundation Conference in KC in October.

Administrative Duties

- Process all invoices for payment and track expense & equipment expenditures for GCD and the OEO team.

Presentation:

Mindy Ulstad, Chief, Bureau of Senior Programs, Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS), provided a presentation about Aging with Dignity, **Missouri's Master Plan on Aging**. The presentation highlighted the work that has been done by the Advisory Council and Subcommittees to coordinate a state-wide plan to prepare state, county, and local governments for the aging population. The final plan is due to the governor and legislature by December 31, 2025. Information on the Master Plan on Aging is available on the MPA website at <https://health.mo.gov/seniors/masterplanaging>

State Liaison Reports:

Kim Buckman (DMH/DD) stated they are working on renewing the Medicaid waivers. They will be holding stakeholder meetings in early 2025 for the renewal process.

They are in the process of enrolling people into the Missouri DD Health Homes. There are five health home providers. There will be about 20,000 people across Missouri that will be eligible for the DD Health Homes and the first enrollment process started back in June and they are on their second wave of enrollment letter that was sent out in September. There are 384 individuals on the health home waitlist and 74 on the residential wait list.

Becky Davidson (MCDHH) stated the MCDHH has collaborated with the Missouri State Highway Patrol to offer ASL translation for Class E, F and Motorcycle examinations. Many Deaf and Hard of Hearing people use English or learn English as a second language, having ASL support might clarify things for them on the exams. The project was supposed to be released this month, but MCDHH has not received an update.

MCDHH is initiating a Missouri Deaf Youth Leadership (MODYL) program, modeled after GCD's MO-YLF program. MCDHH is hoping to have MODYL's first event this spring at the Missouri School for the Deaf for middle school and high school students.

MCDHH recently partnered up with Mo State Parks and we will be hosting a camp for families with Deaf/HH children mid-June, there will be more info to come on that. The focus is networking, information, and fun.

Chad Hinkle (DMH/BH) stated the National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) Work Group is offered to give selected states the ability to access national subject matter experts to help the state advance competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. There is an application and a selection process, and this year Missouri was one of the 12 states that was selected. The NEON group is proposing an Employment First policy and MOUs between state agencies.

Lane Lakey (DSS/FSD) FSD is going through open enrollment now for MO HealthNet. They are getting a lot of referrals from the Marketplace and that will be running through January 15, 2025, and then they will have lots of applications to process.

FSD is also working with their specialized units that deal with the elderly and disabled population around spend down and home community-based care and have attended some events hosted by DHSS and Mo HealthNet Division. Lane announced his retirement. The Council thanked him for his participation and assistance as a state liaison, and welcomed Rachael Robinett as the new liaison for DSS.

Venice Wood (DHSS) submitted an update for DHSS, sharing a newly developed resource titled **Resource Guide for Missouri Families of Children from Birth to Age 12**. It was developed in partnership by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and LifeCourse Nexus Training and Technical Assistance Center, UMKC

Institute for Human Development. This guide is a navigation tool to help find answers to questions about services and supports available in Missouri. It provides descriptions, links, and phone numbers of various statewide resources and is organized by types of supports which are categorized as: Discovery and Navigation, Connecting and Networking, and Goods and Services. Targeted to assist Missouri families of children with special health care needs and disabilities, the Resource Guide highlights Missouri Family to Family (MOF2F) and the Special Health Care Needs Family Partnership (SHCN FP). Both provide free statewide services and are staffed by parents of family members of individuals with special health care needs or disabilities. The electronic version: [Resource Guide for Missouri Families of Children from Birth to age 12](#).

New Business:

Claudia proposed dates for next year's Council Meetings. The Council approved the dates for the 2025 meetings: February 21, May 2, August 15, and November 21.

Unfinished Business:

Election of Council vice chairs and committee chairs

Ron made a motion to have Katie Jones, Vice Chair/Advocacy and Betty Davidson, Vice Chair/Programs continue to serve on the Executive Committee. Wayne Crawford made the motion, Sue Orton seconded. The motion carried. Ron made a motion to approve Wayne Crawford, Sue Orton, and Bob Wallace on the Executive Committee. Lisa Shelton made the motion, Chuck Comstock seconded. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Executive (Ron Hack) reported that when he and his son had a very positive voting experience in St. Louis, they had a separate line and provided assistance and accessible voting options for people with disabilities, so they did not have to wait in line for hours.

Finance (Bob Wallace) – No report.

Personnel (Sue Orton) – No report.

Advocacy (Katie Jones) – No report.

Housing (Sue Orton) The Universal Design Code that the County Commission on Disabilities has been working diligently on with Lisa Clancy is moving along but they are still looking at having a meeting with the Home Builders Association to verify some of the items that are in there, but they did add Townhouses to the list. The other discussion is about the tax freeze, there has been misinformation about it. The Older Adult Commission Chair has been diligent in coordinating a home repair list, so hopefully that will be integrated into the Master Plan on Aging.

Education (Betty Davidson) – No report

Employment (Katie Jones) – No report

Transportation (Steve Ahrens) – No report

Programs (Betty Davidson) – No report

Healthcare (Kim Lackey) – No report.

Council Member Reports:

Stacey Elster reported her concern about transportation. This past October they were approved for a three-year funding for a pilot program where they look to utilize a ride share model, to provide transportation to and from work for adults with developmental disabilities. They have a town hall meeting in her community on November 20th where they are going to discuss the details of this.

Wayne Crawford reported that the loss of affordable housing is a great concern for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are living in nursing homes because they have nowhere to go.

Lisa Shelton reported working with the deaf community and watching the lack of progress. She would like to see ASL in all schools K-12. She commended MCDHH for their community involvement since Becky Davis' appointment as the director of the agency.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

The next regular Council meeting will be held **Friday, February 21, 2025**, 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
11/18/2024

Approved by Council
2/21/2025