



**Governor's Council on People with Disabilities
Council Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016
State House**

Council Member Attendees: Matthew Sauer, Ph. D., Chair, Stephanie Garrett, Victoria Baker-Willford, Bryan Grubb, Christine Brown, Melinda Kale, Robert Heidt, Sean Bailey, Brian Kellett

OOD Staff: Kristen Helling, Assistant Deputy Director, BVR, Shirley Marchi, Program Administrator

Guests: Emily Spalla, Clermont, Ohio, Kevin Willford, Jane Allinder, Tonya Grubb, Derek Mortland, State Senator Bill Beagle, State Representative Jeff Rezabek, Doug Green, Emily Spalla, Legislative Aide, State Representative Doug Green's office

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sauer welcomed members and visitors and determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Remembering Chuck Beatty

Council members remembered Chuck Beatty. Chair Sauer stated he attended Chuck's funeral. He sent flowers on behalf of the Council. Three people spoke at his funeral. Chair Sauer spoke briefly about Chuck's role on the Council and his role with Medicaid Buy-In. Chuck fostered 55 individuals with disabilities and adopted one person, Tony. Chuck adopted Tony because he was told Tony was a child that no one would want and no one would ever take care of because he was so disabled. Tony lives independently. He has challenges, but the doctors were wrong.

Review of Information in Packet/Approval of Agenda

Council members reviewed the information in the packet. Council members approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Council member Robert Heidt moved to approve the April 20, 2016 minutes, seconded by Council member Sean Bailey. Motion carried.

OOD Updates

BVR Assistant Deputy Director Kristen Helling reported OOD does not have the final regulations from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) regarding the Workforce Opportunity Innovation Act (WIOA). OOD is operating under the language in the Act, but not making a lot of policy decisions until it has those final regulations which will impact most of our VR policies because of the definition changes. The regulations were supposed to be out in January and now we are hearing in June. RSA will write the regulations and the Department of Labor (DOL) will draft their regulations for the sections that impact workforce development. The RSA oversees the vocational rehabilitation programs across the country. WIOA impacts workforce development that includes vocational rehabilitation. WIOA is the reauthorization act of the Workforce Investment Act. It was signed into law in July, 2014. For the VR program some of the major changes under WIOA is an increased emphasis on transition youth. Students with disabilities and transition youth with disabilities. States are required to set aside 15% of their total VR budget for youth with disabilities.

Ms. Helling reported OOD has a partnership with the Department of Education (DOE). This partnership is to help multiple agency professionals, educators, county board staff and vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors work together to develop a person-centered plan for a person- or multiple-person-center plans (in the case of multiple agencies) to insure all plans are coordinated, no duplication.

Ms. Helling reported on the Ohio Transition Support Partnership (OTSP) which is an initiative that Governor Kasich allocated \$2.5 million to the DOE to transfer to OOD to match local and state dollars with federal dollars to pull down more money to provide vocational rehabilitation services. OOD has 26 counselors assigned to the partnership. The partnership is a way for us to expand resources, counselors and services to even more students with a disability.

Ms. Helling reported the Employment First Initiative is a much larger initiative which requires multiple agencies to work together. It is an initiative that is more of a policy change and a culture shift in how we do planning for people with developmental disabilities.

Meeting with Legislators

Several legislators and legislative aides stopped in and explained their roles to Council members. Council members explained the purpose of the GCPD, which is to advise the Governor on issues around people with disabilities, provide education, and develop local resources for each of its members to bring the information to their local communities. Each member is an advocate for people with disabilities.

Legislative Update

OOD Legislative Liaison Brie Lusheck reported House Bill 299 is the Autism Scholarship legislation that passed out of Committee yesterday. Currently, if you are a legal, permanent, temporary custodian of a child applying for the Autism scholarship they cannot receive it. If a child was adopted, they cannot receive the Autism Scholarships. It is currently interpreted by the DOE. The new changes would make it so they can receive it.

House Bill 358 is the tax free savings account for the ABLE Act. The accounts may be available to the state at the end of May.

House Bill 483 modifies the programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation, that is the DODD version of the Mid Biennial Review (MBR).

House Bill 158, disability terms, is moving quickly. Mental retardation would be taken out of the Code.

House Concurrent Resolution 21 deals with sheltered workshops and a hearing is being held today.

House Concurrent Resolution 32, the Education Act, also has a hearing today.

Disability Rights Ohio's goal is to combine the Commission, the Consumer Advisory Committee and the GCPD into a 15 member board with a majority of those individuals with disabilities.

The Sunset Review committee met Tuesday, April 12th. They continued to hear testimony from various agencies about the boards and commissions they house. There will be continued testimony from more agencies in the coming weeks. They are halfway through the review process. A report will be issued on their findings and then legislation will be introduced. The goal of what was asked from Disability Rights Ohio would be the Commission, the CAC and GCPD to combine those into a 15-member board with a majority of those individuals have a disability. It would condense resources so that whenever the disability community would take something to the legislature, it is a body as a whole, not individual councils or commissions. It is trying to unify that voice for the disability community. If Council members have questions, please contact Brie.

Transportation

ADA and Community Outreach Coordinator Derek Mortland presented on transportation and the two enforcing agencies. If federally funded or a Title 2 agency, you will be enforced by the Department of Transportation. If you are a

private or a Title 3 business, like Greyhound, taxi service, the Department of Justice is the enforcing agency.

Mr. Mortland stated it is necessary for the transportation entity to provide contact information for consumers who may need reasonable modifications to existing policies. The guidelines for transportation for prepared transit agencies say it is supposed to be door to door service. He stated transportation is a continual conundrum for people with disabilities, alongside employment. Good transportation systems connect people to the jobs, education and community supports that enable them to prosper and advance economically.

Community Updates by Council Members

Council members provided the following updates:

- Citizens for deaf culture focusing on the libraries in Ohio;
- Established Deaf History Month;
- Digital Library – there are not real pictures to help collaborate words. Deaf grass roots movement;
- The levy for Fayetteville failed. Working on another school board levy;
- Working with the Brown County Emergency Taskforce to help people with disabilities;
- Active with the People First Conference – includes abuse awareness; breast cancer awareness for women with disabilities;
- Looking for grants to help small business startup in Southeast Ohio.

Objectives for 2016

- Continue with the awards ceremony;
- Continue with trainings;
- Look at the Missouri GCPD website. They have high level objectives. Do we want to adopt any of their objectives?;
- Continue updates on agenda (legislative, training, businesses, etc.);
- Inviting business people to attend a GCPD meeting (reactivating the liaison system);
- How do we increase communication to our elected officials?
- Annual letter to the Governor and legislators with an executive summary;
- Focus each person bringing in two salient specific points from their specific county and using those and points and either provide a comment or an issue and each issue supply a suggested course of action;
- Create a newsletter;
- Create a marketing plan to market ourselves to our communities, counties and legislators;
- At the June meeting, create a template or list for Shirley to retype and send out directly after meeting – Four issues – 1. Deaf History Month, 2.

Transportation, 3. DOT and DOJ: Awareness about having a therapy animal on the plane but can't get it through the airport, 4. Education Issues for Students with disabilities.

Old Business

Council members stated they can call members of the Sunset Review Committee and provide testimony in addition to when the bill is put together.

New Business

Vice-Chair: Chair Matt Sauer appointed Robert "Chip" Heidt as Vice-Chair. Mr. Heidt accepted.

Vice-Chair Heidt is to reach out to Council members who have not participated in two or more meetings and remind them of the GCPD bylaws and ask if they are still interested in being a Council member.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Council member Sean Bailey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council member Stephanie Garrett. Motion carried.