



**Governor's Council on People with Disabilities**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2017**

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

OOD Staff: Susan Pugh, BVR Deputy Director, Shirley Marchi, Program Administrator

Guests: Dr. Mark Hurst, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Andrea Crago, PRI, Kevin Willford, Jane Allinder, Tonya Grubb, Judy Sauer

Welcome and Introductions

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

Review of Information in Packet and Approval of Agenda

Council members reviewed the information in their packets and approved the agenda.

Membership

Council member Kale has been reappointed. A new member Daniel Hutchison, has been appointed to the Council. GCPD Liaison Shirley Marchi has been unable to contact Mr. Hutchison.

Approval of Minutes

Council member Garrett moved to accept the February 15, 2017 minutes, seconded by Council member Baker-Willford. Motion carried.

OOD Updates

BVR Deputy Director Susan Pugh reported the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Fee Schedule cleared the Joint Commission on Agency Rule Revision (JCARR). OOD is working on a communication to send to the public regarding the implementation date and how OOD is moving toward a performance-based rate for job placement. It will also include an enhanced rate for Supported Employment services. OOD is incentivizing higher wage positions which should encourage the community rehabilitation partners. The VR Fee Schedule will not be implemented during the summer work programs for youth. Council members stated their concerns about transportation issues in the rural areas. OOD collaborates with the Ohio Department of Transportation to enhance transportation. However, transportation continues to be a problem. Council members inquired about availability of white collar jobs and the job developer's role. OOD is

working with the provider community on the quality of job development services being delivered. OOD is also working more directly with businesses to develop partnerships to help get people into more advanced jobs.

Council members inquired about embedding counselors in high schools to talk about employment awareness for 14- and 15-year olds. OOD is receiving an additional \$500,000 for match from the Ohio Department of Education for transition youth. Currently, OOD has 26 counselors and 13 caseload assistants serving the transition youth population by focusing on career tech engagement. OOD plans to expand services by hiring four counselors and eight caseload assistants after July. More than half of OOD's caseload is youth under 24 years of age. OOD is looking at the pre-employment transition services required under the Act. OOD is considering new models of service for next school year. OOD is hearing good things from the schools about the counselors. OOD counselors are connecting with the schools on activities that happened over the summer with a consumer's work experience, and address or focus on the next steps that need to be addressed. OOD counselors are not operating in a silo. Counselors are sitting down with people, not waiting until next summer to do another work experience, and use that process to promote the student's career development to be ready for employment.

OOD has a Fast Track program which consists of a group of counselors and field staff who identify an individual who may already be working but needs help to retain the job or an individual who got laid off and has a strong work history but needs help to find a another job. The Fast Track Program is for an individual who is really job-ready. The Fast Track program has been piloted at five OOD offices as of April 1, 2017.

OOD has been working on its front door. When services take too long, people get disengaged and they don't follow through. OOD has gone from 128 days to 24 days to get an individual eligible for services. OOD is now focused on the back- end of services and how do we get an individual a job.

#### Training-What are Plans for Improving the Heroin/Drug Problems in Southeastern Ohio?

Dr. Mark Hurst provided a PowerPoint presenting are the heroin and drug epidemic in Ohio. In 2015 in Ohio, 3,005 individuals died from accidental overdoses. Due to a change in the medical culture regarding treating pain, in 1997 there were about 20,000 grams of opioids sold in Ohio per 100,000 population. A study was done and cited that people who have pain are no more likely to become addicted to opioids than anyone else. A source from a physician, decreased belief in harmfulness and increased use, equals increased addiction. By 2011, the amount of opioids sold in Ohio had tripled to 60,000 grams. The accidental death rate parallels with the increased opioids prescribed by a physician. Governor Kasich worked with the legislature to close the pill mills. What started to increase were deaths due to heroin. The uptick in the use of heroin receded the closing of the pill mills by four years. Heroin is a more potent drug than oral opioids, is cheaper than prescribed opioids, and is twice as potent as morphine. Fentanyl is about 50 times more potent than heroin and is not a drug approved in the US. Fentanyl developed as an elephant tranquilizer and causes a more tense euphoria. It is made for

a several ton elephant, not a 150-pound man or woman. As a person develops their addiction, they build tolerance – more and more is needed to have an effect. If a person relapses, which most individuals do relapse, the amount used barely caused euphoria; but now it becomes an amount that can kill. Fentanyl is a prescription medication in the US. It comes in through China, usually through Mexico. Addiction is a brain disease, not a moral issue. It's the course of addiction that leads people to do things that are not typical of them, because their brain responds differently. There are behaviors associated with it, craving, inability to control use, and continue use of the drug despite consequences related to use. There are different things that contribute to addiction- genetics, exposure to addictive substance, especially early in life, early life trauma, predisposing factors like mental illness and characteristics of the drug.

In 2011 Governor Kasich formed the Cabinet Action team which is a consortium of different social service departments to have a coordinated response across departments to deal with the opioid crisis. We need to balance compassionate treatment of pain requiring strong pain medications and not having left over pain medications or people receiving excessive doses. There are people who have chronic severe neuropathic pain and are not responsive to medications. We need to treat that compassionately. In some way we created an expectation that life should be pain free- free from physical and emotional pain. Life is not free from either of those kinds of pain. You need pain as a warning that something is wrong. This is an issue for doctors and the community.

Opiates are derived from the opium poppy (morphine, codeine and heroin). Opioid is a broader class, which includes those that are basically formed in the laboratory. There are also things that are opioid like. The insurance companies need to lighten up in the state in using different medications for different reasons. Addiction is a chronic disease. Ohio is taking several approaches: expansion of medication assisted treatment and addiction treatment skills for primary care physicians, safe and stable housing for people to recover. Also, poverty, unemployment, social detachment, transportation and crossroads are associated with increased drug use and increased suicide rates. We have to deal with it all, not one or two aspects of it.

Project ECHO, began in New Mexico and started with treatment of Hepatitis C. People from all over the state were being referred to the academic medical center in New Mexico for the treatment of Hepatitis C. Patients could not travel 200 miles to get to treatment. A video link at the medical center where the primary care physician could participate was made available every week. They found that the outcomes for Hepatitis C treatment among the primary care physicians in those outlying areas who participated in the ECHO Program was as good as the outcomes for the Hepatitis C treatment at the University setting being treated by a gastroenterologist with a specialty in liver disease. This distance learning and distance consultation method will be used with the opioids and the medication assisted treatment.

Legislative Update

Legislative Liaison Andrew Conners was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Sauer read the legislative report that included the following:

- HB 115 – To establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification.
- SB 3 – To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.
- SB 5 – College Affordability - To increase the maximum income tax deduction for contributions to college savings accounts and disability expense savings accounts to \$10,000 annually for each beneficiary, to create the Joint Committee on Ohio College Affordability, and to declare an emergency.
- SB 27 – Month Designation - To designate the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15 as "Ohio Deaf History Month."
- SB 48 – Hearing Impairments - To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals and to require the Registrar to include an identifying symbol on a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or state-issued identification card of a hearing-impaired individual, if requested.
- SB 79 – Agency Reviews - To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.
- SB 93 – Hearing Aid Coverage - To require health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.
- SB 107 – Veteran Identification - To provide that any nondriver identification card that is issued to a veteran who is disabled or blind may be issued without an expiration date.
- SB 114 – Commercial Vehicle Training - To authorize a tax credit for expenses incurred by an employer to train a commercial vehicle operator.
- HB 30 – Prison Terms - To require an additional prison term of 3 to 8 years for an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence if the offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a specification that the victim suffered permanent disabling harm and that the victim was under 6 years of age at the time of the offense.
- HB 63 – Prison Terms - To require an additional prison term for felonious assault of 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20 years if the offender also is convicted of a specification that charges that the harm caused by the violation resulted in a permanent, serious disfigurement or substantial incapacity or that the offender used an accelerant in committing the violation and to name the act's provisions "Judy's Law."
- HB 109 – Patmon: Prison Terms - To create specifications that impose an additional prison term on a felony offender who commits the offense against a disabled person or elderly person and a period of Department of Youth Services

commitment on a delinquent child for felony act committed against a disabled or elderly person, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled or elderly person is the victim of the violation.

- HB 116 – Sales Tax - To exempt prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical aids sold by licensed dispensers from sales and use tax.
- HB 150 – License Plate - To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals.
- HB 154 – Commercial Driver Students - To establish the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid program and to make an appropriation.
- HB 155 – Commercial Vehicle Training - To authorize a tax credit for expenses incurred by an employer to train a commercial vehicle operator.
- HB 156 – Vision Care Insurance - Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision care services.
- HB 166 – Workforce Development - To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

### Community Updates

- Christine Brown: The third legislative advocacy day was held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. One hundred and seventy people attended. Issues discussed included the budget for the DD system and supporting more provider rates, getting the waiting list down again and celebrating the 5-year anniversary of the Employment First Executive Order Governor Kasich signed. The Ohio College Opportunity Grant help students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at OSU and UC and other sites in Ohio with tuition compared to a non-disabled student. However, if an individual with an intellectual and development disability attends OSU and is in the TOPS program classes, they can be audited and they will not receive technical credit. A person has a right to audit classes but if they are under 60 years old they can't pay the auditing fee; they pay the full tuition instead of the auditing fee. We want the Ohio College Opportunity Grant to prioritize and make available 100 slots for individuals with an intellectual and developmental disability. College is part of the path to getting a job and being a tax paying citizen. Also, the new security system in the Riffe Center is inaccessible. People in wheelchairs cannot get through the two doors.
- Bryan Grubb: House Bill 115 passed in the Senate 33-0 with no opposition. It moves on to the House of Representatives. When this passes, Ohio will be the second state in the United States to establish this. During the second week of March a workshop, titled United Deaf/Blind Individuals, was held and discussed issues with transportation. Deaf speakers explained how to contact Uber, how to use an iPhone, text to schedule an Uber driver, etc.
- Sean Bailey: With tax season over, a meeting was held for city employees, ages 18-20 years old, with and without disabilities, to explain why they had to file

taxes, where to file taxes, and what they would need to file taxes. Approximately 200 people attended from Clermont and Brown Ohio Counties and Boone County in Kentucky. We also had conversations about how to better manage their credit card debt and working for a bank – you can't default on your loans or credit cards. City Nationwide is providing classes on debt management with their employees.

- Marshall Kimmel: There has been a lot of conversation in the community about daytime activity centers that are being viewed as a segregation of a given population. A discussion about why DD should be divided into smaller units and placed into foster homes for inclusion into the community was held. People feel protected within their activity center, their workshop and are very happy in there. They do not want to be distributed about the community because they have experienced being harassed. In addition, robots are taking the manual labor jobs of the higher functioning DD people. Job placement people are saying robots are being brought in to do functions that electronic technology devices can do and are going to eliminate the fields that people with DD could be placed in. Also, there are conversations about doing away with trans fats in food. There are preservatives, insecticides that are being fed by many of the foods our kids eat, which is dropping their IQ level. In addition, a person provided canvases, washable paints and everyone had a great time. Their anxiety level seemed to have dropped. Money was provided through donations. The kids had a lot of fun. Lastly, after discussion regarding how several people with disabilities cannot go to church because they make unnecessary sounds and irritate the congregation, the Fellowship of Faith church set one Sunday per month aside for all disabilities to gather at church. There is no shushing.
- Victoria Baker-Wilford: On May 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Ohio State University, she will be participating in the standardized patient volunteer system. She has also been involved with the National Core Indicators for two years, which are actual interviews with individuals who receive services. There have been 24 interviews between Meigs, Jackson and Gallia Counties. At a community fundraiser, she had the opportunity to meet and greet and interact with new inclusion LSC, which is a day program that moved to Middle Port, in Meigs County. She has met twice with Gallia County nonprofit design to combat drug use. She spoke with the new administration of a vocational school in Gallia County about making sure they were ADA compliant and educational services and programs to enrich the community including people with disabilities.
- Stephanie Garrett: Continues to work with the PLAY Project, which is moving ahead with classrooms. It is up to second grade. There is a \$48,000 request to come out of the budget. She also participated in a lunch box series held at L&M Products. There was an HR expert to share techniques for finding quality staff and getting the most out of existing staff. There was a lot of interaction with the audience on how to deal with different types of disabilities. Lastly, she had fun

announcing the basketball Special Olympics - the Generals (who are the political officials, mayors, etc.) vs. the Cougars.

- Matt Sauer: Supervising a master's thesis on the development of disability services at the University of Cincinnati, going back to 1975. It brings up questions of when government, agency or a university does consciousness rising as opposed to actually making changes. We understand the Plight of the Disabled on the caps, but don't have the money to make the changes. His office was responsible for the change at the University of Cincinnati. They no longer have diversity fairs, they have inclusion and equity fairs. The word diversity is gone.
- Melinda Kale: Since her agency has become a private provider, they have held open houses where other providers can go through and see how they are organized and emulate it. The non-profit organization is small and is in transition. They are working on a large contract.

#### GCPD Awards Ceremony – September 29, 2017

The GCPD Awards Ceremony is scheduled September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Statehouse. Shirley will send the Awards information to the public with the application deadline of July 15, 2017. GCPD members will review applications and identify award recipients at their August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### GCPD September 13 Meeting

Council members agreed to have their September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at Deer Creek State Park. Council members to identify an agenda at their June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

#### GCPD Statement for State Rehabilitation Council

Council members worked on identifying the contributions and accomplishments the GCPD has done since their tenure on the Council. Contributions and accomplishments will include the development of the Business Leadership Network, legislative issues, awareness issues in mental health, parking enforcement, Medicaid Buy-In, Medicaid for individuals who are deafblind, Youth Leadership Forum, language for Accessing Parking, Ohio Deaf History Month, etc. A document with the GCPD history, contributions and accomplishments will be provided to members of the new State Rehabilitation Council.

#### Highlights of Meeting to State Legislature

Chair Sauer will work on the highlights of the meeting and Liaison Marchi will distribute to the legislature.

#### Public Comment

None.

#### Adjourn

Council member Grubb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Brown. Motion carried.