



**Governor's Council on People with Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2017**

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

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

Guests: 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/Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Council member Garrett moved to accept the August 16, 2016 minutes, seconded by Council member Bailey. Motion carried. Council member Bailey moved to accept the December 7, 2016 minutes, seconded by Council member Garrett.

Reappointment

Council members congratulated Melinda Kale on her reappointment.

GCPD September Meetings

After discussion, Council members decided to have two separate meetings in September. One last GCPD meeting scheduled on September 13 to recognize Council members for their work and advocacy; and a second meeting scheduled on September 29th at the Statehouse to honor Awardees.

Members discussed having a statement of transmittal for the new State Rehabilitation Council members about GCPD's history, background information, etc. Council members agreed to write about the important work they have done in 300 words or less and provide bulleted information to discuss at April's meeting.

Driver's License Notification Update

OOD Director Kevin Miller reported Ohio's Driver's License Notification law is being modeled after a Texas law that passed two years ago. There are six other states with

various differences but the Texas law is the closest to what Ohio wants to do. This law is voluntary. If a person has a communicative disability that could cause law enforcement to misinterpret something, that individual can complete a one sheet paper that has their name and driver's license number, and take it to their physician to complete stating this individual is diagnosed with autism, for example. The individual would then take the form to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) when they renew their license. It would only cost a fee if the individual took the paperwork before their license was renewable. The BMV would take the document and forward it to OOD where the information would be entered into a server which, is only accessible through the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS). OOD would not have access to LEADS. The computer service that holds that information is really through the county Sheriff's departments. There are three or four entities that feeds into LEADS, one is if you are an organ donor. LEADS will have information that this individual has a communications disability. The police officer will not know the specific disability. The information will only state that this person has a communication disability, not state the specific disability. This puts the officer on notice that someone in the vehicle might have some issues with communication. This is not going to solve everything. We do have individuals with disabilities who commit crime, they do speed and get in accidents, etc. We also have officers that make bad judgement calls. OOD is working with police, Community Centers for the Deaf, etc., to develop online video trainings for officers. This is just another tool. This document will work with a State ID as well. We are hoping the bill will be introduced in the House by the end of February or first of March. We are working with Representatives Gavarone and Wiggam.

Regarding the budget, Director Miller met with the Finance Subchair Representative Romanchuck. He is very supportive of OOD's budget. OOD will receive flat funding, which means OOD is at the same level from the budget that was introduced two years ago. Because of the good work OOD has done, OOD was able to take that money and reinvest it in hiring caseload assistants that are doing Section 511 Compliance under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This is the law that stipulates anybody who is receiving subminimum wage has to receive employment counseling. OOD received an increase in allocation, which is not new money. This is the part where OOD is offering Challenge Grant opportunities. Challenge Grant opportunities are for associations, Community Centers for the Deaf, Centers for Independent Living, Sight Centers, etc. OOD sent information last week on five categories. OOD wants to increase the number of individuals with disabilities into the workforce and increase their wages. OOD is making available \$250,000. The Challenge Grant opportunity can be for individuals who are deaf/blind too. Also, OOD will be providing separate funding for Braille literacy.

Director Miller stated the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is prescribed by federal statute. The Governor will appoint who goes into these slots. The criteria is set up by the federal code. There are 49 other states that operate under a SRC. No legislation has been introduced. The legislature was going to go through a Sunset bill, but they stripped everything out of the Sunset bill and focused on the regulatory boards, like combining cosmetology and barbering, optical dispensers, etc.

Council members asked about moving forward. Director Miller suggested to do business as usual. GCPD and OOD should hear something within the next two months. Then GCPD can make a decision.

OOD Updates

BVR Deputy Director Pugh reported on the five Challenge Grants opportunities. OOD's first area is with services for the deaf and hard of hearing to expand the number of service providers OOD has that specializes in services for the deaf and hard of hearing. OOD wants to make options available to the Community Centers for the Deaf and other entities that provide services to the deaf and hard of hearing in order to help them meet OOD's accreditation requirements and or to get their staff certified in vocational areas, like community employment, support professional through APSI or community work incentives consultants (CWIC).

The second area is for visual impairments. How does OOD get more people available to provide vision specialty types of services? This grant will help people become certified as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. It will also help improve the capacity of providers to meet the needs of individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

The third area is general credentials for our general providers. Supported Employment programs will get a higher rate in OOD's new Fee Schedule. OOD is also offering an enhanced rate for individuals who provide benefits planning services and benefits analysis that have CWIC certification. OOD is to give grants for providers to get their staff credentialed to provide more high quality services to individuals that OOD serves.

The fourth area is summer youth programming. OOD has a lot of summer programs and is interested in developing new sites. OOD wants providers to look at more in-demand occupations and higher wage occupation types of experiences rather than some of the more traditional jobs. OOD wants to give grants for providers to go out and develop sites that have more varied options and more upward mobility, higher outcomes and wages in terms of occupational career pathways.

The fifth grant is the Other category. This grant helps increase the wages of outcome for outcomes. This would identify new partnerships to help move individuals into higher wage occupations and help speed up the time to placement or increase the percentage of people that OOD is able to place into in-demand or high demand occupations.

Deputy Director Pugh further reported OOD is providing local focus groups. Discussion has been around the new VR application portal and job fairs. OOD will begin having training at the local focus groups on things like resume writing.

The VR Portal's second phase, the participant portal (for people who are receiving services now), is to allow participants to upload their paperwork, bills, grades, etc. OOD is receiving about 150 applications monthly from the VR Portal.

OOD wants to make it easier for families and individuals with disabilities to understand how we can help students who are attending comprehensive transition programs with reaching their employment goal. Some universities are interested in working with OOD to blend funds. OOD has been able to work with OSU because they meet our accreditation requirements and can partner to provide assistance with an internship or job placement.

Lastly, Deputy Director Pugh reported OOD has been working on the development of the VR Fee Schedule. OOD has worked with providers to develop rates and language for service definitions and requirements. OOD went through the process with the Common Sense Initiative and on Monday received clearance to move forward with filing with JCARR. The next steps are to schedule a public hearing.

Legislative Update

Chair Sauer read the legislative report. Some of the highlights include: Senate Bill 3 revises 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 OOD to identify the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week; Senate Bill 27 designates the period between March 13 and April 15 as Ohio Deaf History Month.

Awards

Council members agreed that July 15, 2017 is the deadline date to submit nominations for the 2017 GCPD Awards. They also agreed to review and approve awardees at their August 16th meeting.

Council members agreed to have an additional meeting on September 13th.

Community Updates

- Chair Sauer has been supervising a Ph. D. student who is writing a dissertation on developing techniques for assisting students with autism to move from university training to their first permanent professional position, looking at job skills, and other things. UC is developing quantifiable outcomes and data so it can see what kinds of employment interventions work for these students. The second group he is working with is the stepping stones people and developing community interaction and community inclusion group leading towards gainful employment. These are kids up through high school who have cerebral palsy.
- Council member Bailey has been helping high schoolers complete college applications, scholarship applications and sitting down with them to pinpoint what's best for them. He is helping them pick a career, pick a path they want to go down. He has been assisting Fayetteville Prairie High School. He is on the Brown County Emergency Task Force and is helping them update better communications with people with disabilities to make sure if something happens in southern Ohio they are able to get to these individuals as fast as possible.
- Council member Kale continues to go through the transition of becoming a private provider, separating from the county board. They continue to go through transitions

because it takes a good year to hit all the milestones. They are also working on a contract for cartridges to broaden it by working with a minority business. They are working on putting together a proposal to submit to DAS. They were contacted by a small business owner that has a similar value system to either partner or buy their business to become integrated with the community.

- Council member Brown is taking a class at Columbus State called Self-Care and allied health, part of trying to advance her knowledge to get skills to go forward in her career.
- Council member Garrett met Roy Hall, an OSU football player, who is a member of the Driven Foundation, which raises money for Preble County Developmental Disabilities for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Roy is a motivational speaker. He may be a good speaker at the GCPD awards ceremony.
- Council member Grubb has been working on a lot of things with the Ohio Association of Deaf-Blind. One item is to train individuals who want to learn about an outside environment on how to use public transportation. Many deaf-blind people are not familiar with Uber or other services. Also, they will have deaf culture digital library.
- Council member Baker-Willford has been distributing the OOD VR Portal flyers. She is providing information to parents of an inclusion based preschool in Gallia County. It is designed more for the parents than the students. It talks about resources that the parents may have available to them, not just to help their students but to help themselves. She continues to work with the Nisonger Center to interview underserved counties in the local area and make sure participants are satisfied and receiving appropriate services. Lastly, she is working with two individuals who are students, on a personal level, who are entering the health services profession.

The speaker from Mental Health and Addiction Services is ill today and is unable to present at today's meeting. However, Dr. Hurst will be presenting at the April meeting.

Old Business

Council members would like to have people who are presenting to come in the mornings and have a boxed lunch delivered so members don't lose an hour and a half in the middle of the day. This will allow members to get out of the meeting early, before the traffic gets bad in Columbus.

Chair Sauer to work on wording for the Accessible Parking Law Enforcement Award and share with Council members – maybe dedicate it to police work or public safety.

Shirley Marchi stated there is \$1,000 available for the Karla M. Lortz Scholarship. Council member Bailey stated he would like to create a \$250 scholarship for an individual who majors in accounting, business, or engineering. Council member Bailey to send information to Shirley Marchi.

Council members would like to invite legislators to the June meeting which is held at OOD, to update them on activities of the Council.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Council member Baker-Wilford moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Bailey. Motion carried.