



**Governor's Council on People with Disabilities
Council Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2016**

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

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

Guests: Christine Woodruff, PRI, Kevin Willford, Jane Allinder, Tonya Grubb, Derek Mortland, Kim Huggins, Judy Sauer, Dawn Watts, Citizens for Deaf Culture

Welcome and Introductions

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

Remembering the Victims in Orlando

Council member Willford stated the victims in Orlando, Florida differences were not disability related; they were targeted as a group of people for who they are. Any time a person is put down for any reason, their humanity is lost - their humanity is marginalized. We want to remember not just the fact of what group they may or may not have been affiliated with, but the fact they were human beings and they were killed because one person had an immense amount of hate. As a GCPD member, we work to that end - that all people are people, they are not people necessarily with disabilities, or people of a certain gender, ethnicity, whatever - they are people.

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

Youth Leadership Forum

Program Administrator Donna Foster reported 60 students were interviewed for the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). Several students are from rural areas. Invitations have been sent. Each OOD Regional Manager had a goal of sending 15 consumers from their area. Ms. Foster explained the YLF schedule. YLF speakers have been reduced and replaced with small group activities. This years' service project is to partner with

Paws for Ability, an organization near Dayton that trains service dogs. Ms. Foster invited GCPD members to participate in the Mentoring Event.

Business Cards and Name Plates

GCPD members were provided a sample business card to write their information on the card. Ms. Marchi will create Braille/regular print business cards for each Council member. Also, Ms. Marchi will have name plates created for each Council member.

Legislative Update

OOD Legislative Liaison Brie Lusheck reported the legislature is in recess until mid-November. She reported on the following House bills (HB): HB 121: To designate the last week of July as Service Dog Awareness Week. This law is now effective. HB 158: To change the variations of the term mentally retarded to person with an intellectual disability. Passed in the House and Senate. HB 299: To permit the temporary, legal or permanent custodian of a qualified child to apply for an Autism Scholarship. Signed by Governor Kasich on May, 31, 2016 and will take 90 days to become effective. HB 350: To mandate coverage of autism treatment. HB 358: To allow an income tax deduction for contributions to Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) savings accounts. The ABLE Act amends Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 to create tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. This was added as an amendment to the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Mid-Biennium Review (MBR). HB 483: To modify programs administered by DODD, to modify certain laws pertaining to tax levies for developmental disabilities, to modify certain laws regarding ABLE savings accounts and Ohio's disability savings account program, to designate October as "Disability History and Awareness Month," to require acceptance of certain certificate of need applications regarding relocation of long-term care facility beds, to remove behavioral health services from inclusion as direct care costs of nursing facilities, to delay certain laws regarding community behavioral health services, and to make an appropriation. The House concurs with Senate amendments.

Ms. Lusheck reported on the following Senate bills (SB) SB 63: To create an online voter registration system, to require the Secretary of State annually to review the Statewide Voter Registration Database to identify registrants who are not United States citizens, to modify the procedures for maintaining the Statewide Voter Registration Database, to amend the requirements for the certification of voting equipment, and to clarify the circumstances under which a political party may appoint a person to fill a vacancy in certain elective offices. Passed out of the Senate; Senate concurs with House amendments. SB 130: To designate October as Disability History and Awareness Month. This was added as an amendment to the DODD MBR.

The Sunset Review Committee met on May 24, 2016. A draft report with recommendations was discussed but were not made available to the public. The Sunset Review Committee is in recess.

Council member Christine Brown stated there is a petition in Scioto County to stop Social Security from penalizing people if they get married. The petition allows people with disabilities the right to get married as everyone else as the right, but not have their Social Security benefits reduced.

Ohio Business Leadership Network

Chair Sauer reported the Ohio Business Leadership Network (OHBLN) has reached 100 businesses as members. GCPD started the OHBLN. The OHBLN is a national organization. It is businesses who are committed - by voice, and processes and hiring practices - to increase the diversity of their workforce. The OHBLN is specifically targeted at increasing hiring of persons with disabilities and reducing the barriers to employment by having businesses network with each other.

OOD Updates

BVR Deputy Director Susan Pugh reported the legislative authority for the VR program is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA has been in place for almost two years. There are no regulations from the federal government at this time. OOD is operating under the language in the Act, but not making policy decisions until the final regulations come out. The final regulations impacts OOD's VR policies because of the definition changes.

OOD's VR program is averaging 28 days to eligibility. OOD has reduced the time for eligibility decision from 127 days to 28 days.

In the last budget, OOD received funding for a VR Application Portal. People will be able to go online and apply for services. There will be a page on OOD's website where a video will explain vocational rehabilitation (VR) services and self-assessment that will help a person walk through whether or not they would be appropriate for services. There will be a section for OOD's providers too. OOD is hoping to launch a pilot in August.

Ms. Pugh reported three years ago OOD implemented its very first Fee Schedule for services. Prior to that date, the providers set their rates and OOD didn't have any common service definitions for services. Three years ago, OOD implemented a market based fee schedule. This means OOD had a consultant help us develop rates, and they looked at the rates, and came up with an average of what providers were charging. Some providers received an increase and other received a decrease. The recommendation was to move OOD towards a cost based or a cost informed rate in the future - how much does it really cost to deliver the service. OOD hired a consultant who issued a draft rate recommendations. OOD held a series of forums for providers to share their feedback about the rates. The recommended rates were lower. OOD will make decisions based on feedback from providers. The consultant does not decide

what OOD's rates are. OOD is looking at a January start date for implementing the rates.

OOD is working to finalize a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant who will help finalize OOD's policy and procedures, and train counselors on a minimum level of work incentives counseling. OOD's preference is to use comparable benefit contracts and provide more in-house services so it is engrained in the whole service delivery and ensures high quality services.

OOD has implemented Provider Score Cards that help people with disabilities make choices based on data about performance.

The Employment First Agreement has expanded with the DODD. OOD hired five additional counselors statewide. OOD and DODD have an interagency agreement on data exchange to see how people who are eligible for services are being served and to share the information.

One of the new common performance measures in the VR program under WIOA is to measure employment 90 days after a case is closed. WIOA added VR must measure employment status six months and one year after closure in addition to the 90 days.

Disclosure in the Workplace

ADA and Community Outreach Coordinator Derek Mortland presented on disclosure in the workplace. Mr. Mortland briefly explained the five titles of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the three criteria to qualify as a person with a disability.

Mr. Mortland stated a reasonable accommodation request may be needed to perform the essential functions of the job. Under the ADA, a reasonable accommodation includes modifications or adjustments that enables employees with disabilities to perform the essential functions of their job. If a person with a disability requests an accommodation in the interview process, it is an automatic disclosure. When a person has an obvious disability, disclosure is obvious. People must advocate for themselves. Employers are prohibited from asking disability related questions before making an offer of employment. An exception is if an applicant asks for a reasonable accommodation in the hiring process.

Digital Libraries

The Maryland legislation passed a bill two years ago called the deaf culture digital library. Ohio needs digital libraries. Funding is needed to establish and give recognition to the deaf culture. The goal is to set up a program within the library that would have different resources for parents who have a deaf child or somebody who has a visual loss and needs resources. Libraries need to remain educational for the appropriate instruction and understanding.

Ohio Citizens for Deaf Cultures is asking Ohio's main libraries and its branches to consider recognizing March 13-April 15 as Deaf History Month by displaying materials to highlight the monumental significance of the contributions made by deaf and hearing pioneers in Deaf Education and Commerce.

Community Updates by Council Members

Council members provided the following updates:

- Street Fair in Cincinnati – decorating flower pots and provided information about GCPD;
- Provided information about accessibility issues in public institutions (around Clifton);
- The Ohio College Opportunity grant pays for OSU, UC, and certain other colleges but will not pay if someone is attending a community college or if someone is trying for a job certificate. Trying to get this rule changed by the next two-year budget;
- There is a bill that passed for people with disabilities for scholarships;
- Getting stories together of how people have tried college, what has worked, what has failed, what has been the part that caused them to fail and giving these stories to the legislators;
- The State Office Towers are not accessible. A complaint has been issued on paper by Andrew Brenner;
- The Organizational Rotary held a hot dog roast for the entire DD school in Jackson County. The afternoon was filled with games and entertainment. High school seniors participated in the activities;
- This month is Aphasia Awareness Month. Please spread the word. Magnets were distributed.
- Citibank has started a disability program. Citibank is the 12th in the nation to start one for disabilities. Citibank is doing \$250,000 in scholarship for Kentucky. Each scholarship is going to be about \$5,000 for any student that qualifies with a disability – learning, physical or mental. A guideline is that the money goes towards an accounting degree or business degree.
- Provided direct interviews for National Corps Indicators. Interviewed individuals who receive services through DODD;
- Participated in the Special Olympics in May for Preble County;
- Play Program is offered in three public schools in Preble County. The administrators and teachers are on board with the Play. They saw the difference in children at the beginning of the year, and then three months later how they interact with other students. Discussions with the Governor's Office are ongoing to make this available in other schools.
- The Deaf Grass Roots movement – marched to the State House on May 4. The goals were to bring awareness about employment and education of people with disabilities.

Old Business

Goals

Annual Awards: Council members discussed the awards. Advocacy Award – Chuck Beatty’s wife – Medicaid Buy-In.

Council members discussed four items to share with the legislators and Governor: 1. Aphasia - People should know about Aphasia Awareness Month (June). 2. Play Program – Advocate for this educational program. 3. Digital library. 4. BMV – people who are deaf need to have something over their visor or attached to their registration that states they are deaf to police officers. Ms. Marchi to contact the BMV as a possible presenter.

New Business

Council members agreed to have a meeting on December 7, 2016 at OOD.

An Executive Summary of the GCPD meetings will be sent to the legislature and Governor after each GCPD meeting.

Old Business

Council members stated they can call members of the Sunset Review Committee and provide testimony.

Vice-Chair Heidt is to contact three members who have not attended meetings and let the full Council know of his results.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Council member Bryan Grubb motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council member Marshall Kimmell. Motion carried.