



**Governor's Council on People with Disabilities**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22- 23, 2014**  
**150 E. Campus Blvd.**  
**Columbus, OH 43235**  
**Commissioners Meeting Room**

Attendees:

Matt Sauer, Chair GCPD
Judy Sauer, PA
Chuck Beatty, member
Bryan Grubb, member
Tonya Grubb, PA
Robert Thurman, member
Harry Prestanski, member
Victoria Willford, member
Kevin Willford, PA
Christine Huggins, member
Kim Huggins, member
Rob Glenn, member
Josh Hahn, member
Kevin Reardon, member
Shari Cooper, member
Erma Cooper, PA
Sarah Elek, Huntington, guest
Kristin Dhayer, VSU, guest
Dave Owen, VSU, guest
Christin Kristanich, CLH, guest
Christine Brown, guest
Jane Allinder, interpreter
Interpreter DSC
Donna Foster, staff
Larry McCartney, staff
Sara Clark, PRI court reporter

Introductions of all members present were made.

New members spent time with each experienced member and then introduced themselves to the group.

Rob Glenn – Thanked Council for having him as a member and doing the round robin so he could be introduced to the different issues and opportunities. Indicated that he has a brother that has severe mental issues. Additionally, as a veteran he has been exposed to the many issues facing those returning from combat zones. Described his military service and his work for the Ohio Department of Public Safety as Homeland Security Director. Especially interested in the preparedness of a community to alert and evacuate persons with disabilities in case of an emergency.

Kevin Reardon- Spent 32 years with the Columbus Fire Department, retired and currently is with the American Red Cross as Director of Emergency Services for a 25 county area in central Ohio. Shares an interest with Rob Glenn in how communities deal with the issue of people with disabilities. Indicated he has a 60% hearing loss in one ear. Looking forward to being involved with new issues, ones that he doesn't have a lot of information about.

Josh Hahn – Originally from Urbana, presently resides in Columbus. Did his undergrad work at Miami University and received his law degree from Capital University. Spent last six years representing associations with the Ohio Legislature. Presently works in the Ohio Attorney General's Office. He has 70% permanent hearing loss. Wanted to get involved because he has knowledge of the employment challenges facing people with disabilities.

Christine Huggins – Lives in Marietta, Ohio. Graduated from Dartmouth and then was employed as the Bankruptcy Clerk Court for a judge. Then she suffered a massive stroke. Speaking, reading, writing, processing language all became impossible. She has Aphasia. She has started an on-line group for others who have Aphasia. She advocates for better public awareness of Aphasia.

Guest speaker, Elizabeth Sammons, introduced herself and spoke briefly about her time on Council.

Chair Sauer spoke to the group regarding the three goals and expectations for the Council for the coming year:

- 1) Each member should be involved in a community disability organization so that they can bring information back to the council and then report issues, trends to the Governor's office on a semi-annual basis.
- 2) Outreach to two employers regarding Council, YLF, OOD and the jobs summit. Employer folder was distributed which included talking points and brochures.
- 3) Assistance with raising funds for YLF.

Each committee chair then spoke regarding their committee.

Employment – Primary goal is to be involved, in a meaningful way, with OOD's Jobs Summit. Last year did not work very well but by working with Shirley, that will be different this year. We should all be volunteering and make the GCPD very visible.

Health and Welfare – The goal for next year is to show the Governor exactly why Health and Welfare concerns impact employment and how they can impact employment in a positive way. To that end, I would like to create a White Paper style presentation to include information about different health and welfare concerns that directly impact employment. To do this we must garner whatever research is available.

Access – The purpose of the committee is to ensure the elimination of any architectural barriers to people with disabilities.

Education – Goal is to educate the public about the Governor’s Council and the work being done.

Nomination – The goal this year is to expand the number of nominations. This will raise the awareness of the Governor’s Council and the awards we present.

Legislation – Chair has concluded that legislation is so important to the disability community that all members of GCPD should serve on the committee.

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR THE DAY.

New members were asked to stay to complete new member paperwork.

January 23, 2014

The Chair, Matt Sauer, determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to approve meeting minutes from December 2013. Members voted and approved the minutes as written.

The next item of business was updates on each member's community organization.

#### UPDATES ON DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

Chair Sauer asked each member to become connected with two disability organizations in their area, and then to report any business or trends within this organization.

Matt Sauer –

\*United Cerebral Palsy of Cincinnati – They have recently united with Stepping Stones to create a much larger, well-funded agency. They will be working with all disability groups and doing a much broader community outreach. No new updates since last month.

Chair Sauer reported that he will be the mentor/advisor of a new advocacy student group at the University of Cincinnati which uses social media to discuss different issues, like workplace disclosure and the perception of mental illness in the workplace. No new updates since last month.

Victoria Willford

\*Senate Bill 23 the Adoption Release of Records Act has passed. This will allow all individuals who have been adopted to have access to medical records. This is important to all, but can be especially important for those with disabilities.

\*Willford participated in a video with the Nisonger Center for First Responders about assisting people with disabilities. She has not seen it yet, but thinks it went well. The Willfords were one of a few couples that participated in a short film by an YLF alumnus.

Bryan Grubb

\*Ohio Association of Deaf-Blind – the Deaf-Blind community in Ohio desperately needs a Support Service Provider Program. SSP's work with individuals who are deaf-blind to lead a more independent life. Donna Schultz, advocate, is a guest of Bryan Grubb's today. Grubb is scheduled to meet with Senator Burke in early January.

Shari Cooper

She has been working with Toast Masters. Her goal this year is to get more people to join Toast Masters. Cooper also explained a new phone app called Access Together. The goal is to have information about accessibility of different places listed.

Robert Thurman

Has been working with the City of Columbus about ADA compliant buildings. Also been working with the Board of Veterans Memorial.

Been working with Rep. Stinziano on H.B. 333.

Guests, Brad Reynolds and Shirley Marchi were introduced. Reynolds gave an update on OOD and passed out their strategic plan. Shirley briefly discussed the jobs summit and Sauer reiterated the Council's desire to be more involved.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Next on the agenda was Steve Wilson with a legislative update. Wilson provided a legislation tracker to members. Wilson explained HB 333, a bill by Representative Stinziano which allows a business or any entity that is out of ADA compliance 5 months to comply, before a lawsuit can be filed. There was discussion regarding this bill. OOD has not taken a position. Reynolds recommended that Sauer or Beatty check with Jennifer Seidel prior to making any position statements. He also asked if members would inform OOD of their advocacy efforts. It's not required, it just makes it easy when there is open communication.

Beatty then gave an update regarding his work with Senator Bacon and changing the statute regarding GCPD. Things are moving along and hopefully a bill will be introduced in the next few months. He also updated members regarding his work with Patrick Beatty, from Ohio Jobs and Family Services, and MBIWD.

Public comments started next. The first guest was Sara Elek from Huntington Bank. She is the head of a Business Resource Group called Adaptability. Huntington is looking to improve their interactions with PWD. Council members shared ideas and resources.

Dave Owen and Kristen Dare introduced themselves. They are from Cleveland Ohio and works for Vocational Services Unlimited, an agency that helps find employment for people with disabilities.

The last guest introduces herself as Christine Kristanich from CareGiver Homes. Caregiver Homes are a private provider of what is called structured family living services. It is a residential model for people with DD or the elderly. A person choses to live with their primary caregiver. Peggy Martin of DODD recommended that she attend a meeting. Their website is [www.Caregiverhomes.com](http://www.Caregiverhomes.com)

## LUNCH RECESS

Upon returning from the lunch, the Council discussed the next meeting. It was decided to have a two day meeting but change the first day to Monday, March 3 to meet at OOD and the second day would be participation in the DD Advocacy Day. All members were reminded to register for that event if they planned on attending.

New members spent a few minutes giving their initial reactions to council and the ideas that have been presented. They all stated their excitement and eagerness to move forward. Rob Glenn and others were very interested in doing some more strategic planning for council goals. Some other ideas given were rotating meeting sites to get more public comment; recruiting new members with diverse backgrounds; gathering data on issues; using GCPD as a mentoring opportunity; writing white papers regarding disability issues, developing an outreach plan and working with veterans.

The last thing discussed with new members was the different types of awards that GCPD gives and examples of past winners.

## MEETING ADJOURNED