

GCPD

Ohio | Governor's Council on
People with Disabilities



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Messsage from the Chair



Matthew Sauer, Ph.D. - GCPD Chair 2014

Dear Colleagues and Friends,
Welcome to the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD). We are a 21-member advisory council commissioned by the Governor to facilitate change for Ohioans with disabilities. Each year brings new opportunities for GCPD to further educate and advocate; develop partnerships at the local, state and national levels; promote equality, access and independence; develop employment opportunities; and promote the value of diversity, dignity and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

2014 was a year of real progress and accomplishment for GCPD, but also one of loss. We will miss former staff member Larry McCartney, who passed away in November. He was a wise advisor and stalwart advocate of people with disabilities in Ohio. We will also miss outgoing council member Shari Cooper, and we thank her and other former members for their service. We had an impressive Youth Leadership Forum, with over 40 delegates from Ohio. We want to thank Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and our private donors for their support of this important, life changing event. Our members continue to work with the local disability organizations in their communities and to share their concerns with the Governor. We continue to recognize exemplary employers, organizations, law enforcement and legislators as we strive together toward the goal of community inclusion and employment for people with disabilities. We look with confidence to 2015 with continued partnerships, new members and renewed energy.

*Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Sauer, Ph.D.*

Year in Review



Members of Council



Members, Christine Brown & Christine Huggins



Staff members Donna Foster & Larry McCartney



Education Committee Members

The GCPD is tasked, by statute, with advising the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly on issues that affect Ohioans with disabilities. The council vigorously took up Governor John Kasich's challenge to focus on employment issues, and with the support of Director Kevin Miller and the OOD staff, was able to have a very productive year. The GCPD averaged 12 members during 2014. These members were challenged to have monthly contacts with at least two local disability related organizations. In addition to this community involvement, members were busy attending legislative events, meeting with their representatives, and representing the GCPD and the disability community at local events. Examples of member involvement included participation on the Governor's Employment First Council, the Olmstead Task Force, the Ohio Disability and Health Program's Disability Committee Planning Group, the Dyslexia Association of Ohio, Emergency Preparedness and Management for Ohioans with Disabilities, Law Enforcement Training Associations and Veteran's organizations. Members conducted trainings regarding Medicaid Buy-In for workers with disabilities, self-advocacy, voting and meeting with legislators. They also promoted the GCPD through outreach and social media.

Forty-four student delegates and peer mentors from across Ohio attended the 16th annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for students with disabilities on August 3 – 6, 2014, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. YLF Forum included sessions on a variety of topics including: leadership, civil rights, disability history, advocacy, job interviewing skills, adaptive technology and voting. Participants and volunteer staff visited the State Capital and met with leaders in the community and government. Delegates completed a “Personal Leadership Plan” to help them with reaching goals in education, employment and community life. In addition to the working sessions, a mentoring event was held where the student delegates and peer mentors had the opportunity to choose four or five career fields and meet with mentors in each of those fields. After full days of learning, everyone had the opportunity to socialize and have fun with scheduled activities such as swimming with members of The Ohio State University Swim Team, a dance with a live DJ, playing board games and a movie night. The week concluded with a talent show that showcased the talents of the group. There was singing, dancing, poetry, comedy and so much more. The whole week was a great success and showcased the young leaders building their skill sets and developing friendships that will last a lifetime.

Megan Zahneis

To paraphrase one of my favorite authors, I “fell in love (with YLF) the way you fall asleep: slowly, and then all at once”.

For the first time in my seventeen years, I didn’t have to worry about being “different”. The truth is, we’re all different here at YLF. And I actually felt like I belonged this week.



ship Forum



Who Participates in YLF?

- High School Juniors and Seniors who have disabilities and who:
- Demonstrate leadership potential,
- Demonstrate involvement in the community or extra-curricular activities,
- Demonstrate the ability to interact effectively with other students & are representative of Ohio in terms of geographic region, gender, and ethnicity

ANNUAL AWARDS



GCPD 2014 Annual Award Winners



Austin White, Award Winner of
2014 Karla M. Lortz Scholarship



GCPD Member, Chuck Beatty,
presents the Legislator of the Year
Award to Senator Kevin Bacon

- **Accessible Medical Services Award**
Fire Chief Richard A. Braun
- **Accessible Parking Enforcement Award**
Hocking College Police Department
- **Advocacy Award**
Best Buddies Miami University
LC in Aktion
- **Employer Of The Year Award**
The Kroger Company
AMC West Chester 18
- **Karla M. Lortz Scholarship**
Austin White
- **Legislator Of The Year Award**
Senator Kevin Bacon
Representative Fred Strahorn
- **Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award**
Maradythe Stern

2014 Members of GCPD



CHAIR

Matthew Sauer, Ph.D., Cincinnati, Ohio

MEMBERS

Sean Bailey, Georgetown, Ohio

Victoria Baker-Willford Racine, Ohio

Charles Beatty, Mason, Ohio

Christine Brown, Columbus, Ohio

Bryan Grubb, Marysville, Ohio

Robert Glenn, Worthington, Ohio

Christine Huggins, Marietta, Ohio

Melinda Kale, Rudolph, Ohio

Marshall Kimmel, Bidwell, Ohio

Harry Prestanski, West Chester, Ohio

Robert Thurman, New Albany, Ohio

Staff

Donna Foster-Sillanpaa, Ability Advocate

Larry J. McCartney, Ability Advocate



150 E. Campus View Blvd., Ste. 300
Columbus, OH 43235

Mailing address:

400 E. Campus View Blvd., 3GC
Columbus, OH 43235-4604
800. 282. 4536, ext. 1391,
614. 438. 1391, or
614. 515. 6024 VP

www.gcpd.ohio.gov