



Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council
1706 E. Elm Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
573-751-8611/800-500-7878/573-526-2755 (FAX)
Kit Stahlberg, Chairperson
Vicky Davidson, Executive Director

www.moddcouncil.org

Eric R. Greitens,
Governor

Justice for Carl DeBrodie

For more than 30 years, Developmental Disabilities Councils have played a critical role at the State and Federal levels in helping all States and Territories develop, improve, and expand the system of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. The council's mandate is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration in all aspects of community life.

The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council is gravely concerned by the untimely death of Carl DeBrodie and will continue to follow reports of what his lived experience may have been like living in a system that allegedly seems to have failed him on so many levels.

The Council takes the position that people with disabilities have the right to be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Missouri must develop ways to prevent the abuse of people with disabilities and ensure that they can report abuse and have their reports taken seriously, treated appropriately, and investigated fully.

Data reflects that people with disabilities are far more likely to be the victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation than those without disabilities. Disturbingly, the abuse of people with disabilities is less likely to be reported to authorities and, when reported, is less likely to result in criminal investigation and prosecution. The Council has been following Carl DeBrodie's story and has high expectations that once all investigations are completed that there will be justice for Carl and that there will be necessary systemic changes implemented so that others may avoid such a gruesome death and lived experience. Waiting for justice and expecting real systems change, the Council is dedicated to working collaboratively with stakeholders to create a better system and more inclusive society for those with disabilities.

To learn more about what the Council is doing to address abuse, neglect, and exploitation, please review our position papers and projects at the links below.

- MODDC's Victimization Awareness Campaign, "It's Happening", <http://www.andwecanstopit.org/>
- MO-Wings (Missouri's Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders), http://www.moddcouncil.org/?page_id=whatsnewstory&id=39
- First Responder Disability Awareness Training, http://www.moddcouncil.org/?page_id=whatsnewstory&id=58
- MODDC's position paper on Personal Safety and Well-Being, <http://www.moddcouncil.org/uploaded/SES%20-%20Missouri%20DD%20Council%20Personal%20Safety%20Paper%20-%20FINAL.PDF>
- MODDC's position paper on Self-Determination and Guardianship, <http://www.moddcouncil.org/uploaded/SES%20-%20Missouri%20DD%20Council%20Guardianship%20Paper%20-FINAL.PDF>