

The Whole Person's Clark Corogenes played an important role in the development and passing of Missouri's LEAD-K bill. LEAD-K ensures deaf and hard of hearing children in Missouri learn ASL and English in primary school. This is crucial to their future educational and career success. Clark has written a timeline of his work on the bill. Please read and remember that we have the power to effect positive change – Jill Robison, Manager Core Services

## **MO LEAD-K Bill**

### Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids

### **Timeline of History *By Clark Corogenes***

September 2021

Jacob Marshall introduced my wife, Jill, and I to Dr. Juile Holland the founder & director of Parent Leadership Training Institute Kansas City (PLTI-KC). We dedicated our time to learning about how parents can be good leaders in the Kansas City community and participated in a parent leader cohort at the Kansas City Library, Lucile H. Bluford Branch. The library provided us communication access during workshops. We gave up watching the Chiefs games for one year.

Parent Leadership Training Institute Kansas City (PLTI-KC)

Website: <https://www.pltikc.org/>

**May 2022**

My wife, Jill and I completed PLTI-KC training workshops and courses, we graduated from a parent leader cohort. We worked hard researching information, facts, and statistics and developed a community project called Missouri LEAD-K. We learned how to collaborate with political legislators and education advocates to bring focus on improving the educational experience of deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children.

(PLTI 2022 Annual Report)

Website: <https://www.pltikc.org/annual-reports>



**August 2022**

Kendra Burgess, TWP public policy, Juile Hollard, PLTI-KC director, my wife Jill, and I met a local legislator from Kansas City, Missouri state senator, Greg Razor at KC Library Plaza Bunch. We introduced the idea of LEAD-K and explained why most DHH children do not have a strong exposure to early language before starting kindergarten at Missouri public schools and discussed how to introduce LEAD-K during the legislative session.



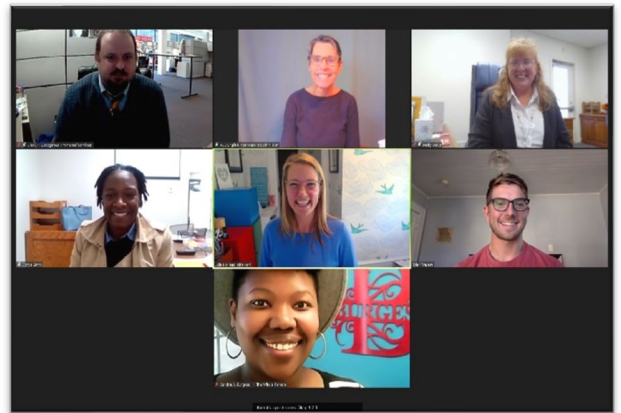
**September 2022**

Kendra Burgess, TWP public policy, Juile Hollard, PLTI-KC director, Sonya Smith, MCDHH Community Advocate, and I met a local legislator from Raytown, MO house of Representative, Jerome Barnes. Jerome has a deaf adult daughter and is a strong advocate for the DHH community. We discussed LEAD-K which Jerome decided to support during the legislative session.



## October 2022

Becky Davis, new MCHDD executive director quickly joined our project of LEAD-K. We spoke with Missouri Senator, Greg Razor's legislative staff member, Tyler Travers and developed a new LEAD-K bill based on two unsuccessful bills from 2017 and 2018.



## November 2022

I led a private docent tour at the Museum of Deaf History, Arts & Culture in Olathe, Kansas. I invited MO Rep. Jerome Barnes' family members, Lauren Athur, MO Senator from KC Northland, Scott Dollar, MOAD of Region 1 Representative in KC, Juile Hollard's family members, Becky Davis, and her older son. They learned about the history of deaf education in America and how LEAD-K bill passed into law in Kansas in 2016.



## October, November, and December 2022

MO legislative staffs, Julie Holland, Becky Davis, and I revisited old bills from MO State archives and collected LEAD-K model bills from the internet, compared them with Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Michigan which passed LEAD K a few years ago. We discussed our visions,



borrowed information from four states' bill model, and adjusted our new MO LEAD-K bill, then sent it to the House of Representatives and Senate to review and give feedback and pre-file bill at 2023 Legislative Session

Internet: <https://www.lead-k.org/>

## December 2022

Rep. Jerome Barnes prefilled in House Bill of 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly  
-House Bill 106

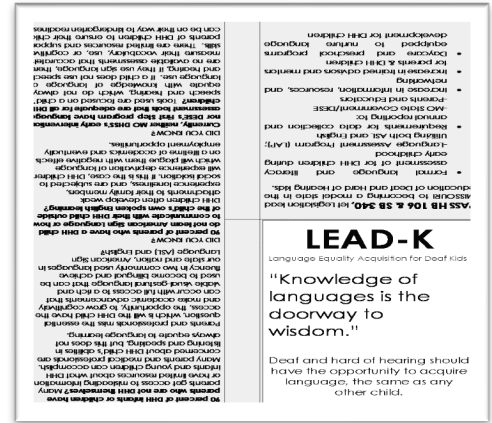
*"Requires the department of elementary and secondary education to establish language developmental milestones for children who are deaf or hard of hearing."*

Sen. Greg Razor prefilled in Senate Bill of 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly  
-Senate Bill 340

*"Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish language developmental milestones for children who are deaf and hard of hearing."*

## January 2023

Becky Davis, MCHDD executive director and I developed a pamphlet explaining: LEAD-K's quick facts and information: why most hearing parents and DHH children are missing the knowledge of how to acquire languages, have weak attachment with their family members and are not well prepared for kindergarten. The pamphlet included assessment data of English language low scores at second grade levels in Missouri.



## January and February 2023

Thomas Green, a strong advocator in DHH communities and I met and gave pamphlets to house representatives and senators, we spoke with them about our experience and explained why DHH children & hearing parents need an information resource, language development milestones, and literacy in ASL and English. We provided language assessments and data collected for annual reports to parents or family members before sending to MO DESE. We encouraged them to support HB 106 and SB 340 of LEAD-K.



## February 2023

Becky Davis, and I met a Rep. Bard Pollitt, Elementary and Second Education Committee chairperson. He has resisted HB 106 because he believed that DHH children should learn English through lip reading, speech language therapy, and Signing Exact English (SEE) and challenged us about what is the difference between English and ASL. We provided data showing the difference between ASL and English. And showed that DHH children can and should learn both languages.



Rep. Bard Pollitt decided to take HB 106 to the house committee on elementary and secondary education and to open a hearing for the public on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. I met with a House ADA Coordinator to ensure effective communication in the hearing and requested 4 ASL interpreters and a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI).

## February 2023

LEAD-K Bill of Senate Bill 340 referred to Senate education and workforce development committee. They did not progress LEAD K and dropped it from the Senate's calendar.

## March 2023

Deaf communities, advocates, and hearing parents appeared at public hearings in the house committee on the department elementary and secondary education at MO State Capitol. They dedicated their support and shared testimonies of need for the LEAD-K Bill. Rep. Jerome Barnes was leadership. Ante Čolić, MCDHH commissioner and I provided strong presentations and short answers to questions from the house education committee. However, many oral educators from St. Louis, audiologists,



speech-language pathologists, and the Alexander Graham Bell Association for Deaf expressed their opposition to the LEAD K bill. This opposition is based on their belief that DHH children should learn lipreading and speech instead of ASL.

*“Deaf and hard-of-hearing Missourians and educators say children can often have “language deprivation,” meaning they don’t know as many words as they should.”* By Rep. Jerome Barnes



Missouri Independent website:

<https://missouriindependent.com/briefs/missouri-set-to-establish-developmental-standards-for-deaf-children/>

### March 2023

Rep. Bard Pollitt, Chairperson and 14 Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education members voted AYE 15 to 0 to support LEAD-K. A victory to open paths for deaf communities, advocates, hearing parents and educators.

### March and April 2023

Paul Kail, MOAD President and I worked hard to spread a LEAD-K flyers to 163 House of Representatives and 34 Senate’s assistant offices in the MO State Capitol. We shared short question and answer sessions to educate them.

### Missouri can be 22nd State in the Union!



**PLEASE MOVE HB106 TO THE HOUSE FLOOR TO DEBATE & VOTE!**  
**Our Deaf & Hard of Hearing children's future depend on this!**  
**Your actions will brighten their future!**

Thank you from Missouri Deaf Community!

### April 2023

LEAD-K Bill referred to the house Regulatory oversight committee for review. I met Rep. Kurtis Gregory, Chairperson, and former MU football player. I had a fantastic opportunity to formally meet Missouri governor Michael Parson for a short conversation about LEAD-K Bill. We discussed why DHH children need strong exposure to early languages before starting

kindergarten. Governor Parson informed me that he will be happy to give full support and is ready to sign LEAD-K bill into the law.



### April 2023

The regulatory oversight committee voted AYE 8 to 0 to support LEAD-K and send the bill to the House of Representatives floor for the next open discussion and possible vote.

### May 2023

The House of Rep Leader decided to not take the LEAD-K Bill to open discussion and dropped from the House of Representatives' calendar. Rep. Jerome Barnes and Senator. Greg Razor worked together to amend the LEAD-K Bill onto House Bill 447. Rep. Davidson Bishop then sponsored House Bill 447.

Sen. Greg Razor debated with their peer senators on the Senate Floor about the LEAD-K bill. Final vote 33 AYES to 0 in support of House Bill 447. The bill was then referred to the House of Representatives. Rep. Jerome Barnes and Rep. Davidson Bishop opened the debate, final vote Ayes 130 to 24. House bill passed and was delivered to Governor Parson's office.



Missouri Legislature Session of 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly completed on Tuesday, May 30, 2023

### Thursday, July 6, 2023

Michael Parson, MO Governor signed House Bill 447 and LEAD-K are victories for DHH Missourians.

1. MO House Rep. and Senate pre-filed Bills: HB 106 and SB 340 for 2023 Legislative Session
2. MO House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education: finally passed 15-0
3. MO House Rules and Regulatory Oversight Committee: finally passed 8-0
4. MO Senate Floor (LEAD-K amended on House Bill 447): finally passed 33-0
5. MO House of Representative: finally passed 130-24
6. MO Governor signed HB 447 into the law.
7. MO law will be effective on August 28, 2023



8. MO DESE will establish seventeen advisory committees to select new assessments / milestones.
9. MO DESE will new language and literacy development in MO statewide as start with 2024-25.  
(MO Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education)