

# TASK FORCE ON BLIND STUDENT ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL PERFORMANCE BLIND TASK FORCE (BTF)

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives  
November 3, 2015

A regular meeting of the committee representatives of the Task Force on Blind Student Academic and Vocational Performance Blind Task Force (BTF) was called to order at the Secretary of State Office Building, Room 139, Jefferson City, MO 65109 Jefferson City, Missouri at 10:00 a.m. pursuant to the notice sent to all directors in accordance with the bylaws. For information on the BTF, visit <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels>.

### Members in Attendance:

Geoffrey Barney  
Stephen Barr  
Ellen Clapper  
Kelly Helmick  
Diana Lawson

June Lenk  
Bonnie Lenz  
Reeda Rippee  
Shari Scott  
Louise Whitworth

### Guests

Julie Anderson-Ituarte  
Anthony Blades  
Darla Butcher

Jennie Mascheck  
Ginny Williams, MOSPIN

### Members Not in Attendance:

Karla Arnold  
Donna Borgmeyer  
Linda Coccovizzo  
Dacia Cole  
Marni Nickolaison

### Welcome and Introductions: *Diana L.*

*Welcomed Ginny Williams, MOSPIN, Ellen Clapper replacing Keith Roderick as DSS representative on the Blind Task Force.*

### Roll Call: *Diana L.*

### Review and Approval of November 3, 2015 Agenda: *Diana L.*

Motion to accept Agenda made by B. Lenz – no changes; seconded by J. Lenk Motion carried.

### Review and Approval of August 4, 2015 Minutes: *Diana L.*

Motion to accept minutes made by R. Rippee – no changes; seconded by S. Scott. Motion carried.

### Blind Skills Specialists November Reports:

- *Anthony Blades, Northeast RPDC, Truman State University (Handout)*
- *Julie Anderson-Ituarte, Missouri State University*
- *Annette Miller, Missouri School for the Blind*
- *Jeanne Mascheck, Missouri School for the Blind*

**Presentation: Parent Training Program, Ginny Williams, MOSPIN**

<http://msb.dese.mo.gov/outreach-services/mospin.html>

**Proposed Bylaw Changes: Diana L.**

• **Quorum – Article IV: Sec. 3. QUORUM**

- Current Wording: “No business of the Blind Task Force shall take place without a quorum present. A quorum shall be constituted by the presence of a majority of the currently occupied seats on the Blind Task Force.”
- Proposed wording change: “A quorum shall consist of the members present. A quorum must be present in order for business to be conducted.”
- This wording would establish the definition of a quorum based on those present rather than on a percent of the membership.

Motion made to accept wording and make change as discussed.

J. Lenk made motion. Motion seconded by L. Whitworth. Majority ruled in favor of proposed change. Motion carried.

• **Term of Membership**

- Opened floor for discussion to allow members to serve longer than 2 terms consecutively if they so choose.
- Recommendation to remove term limit all together.
- Contingencies recommended. If there is a qualified nominee available to take the slot once term limit is reached, they will be given the opportunity to fill the vacancy.
- R. Rippee appointed to develop wording to submit to Stephen Barr for review by legal counsel and approval.
- Will table further discussion and motion to approve for February 2016 meeting.

Additional discussion was presented to the members related to Parent/Student consideration to fill current Student vacancies (3). D. Lawson asked for open discussion. No opposition to proposal. Majority ruled in favor of proposal.

**Discussion of proposed tour of Center for Braille Narration at the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City, MO: Diana L.**

- Security clearance is mandatory.
- No limit in number of persons in tour group.
- Recommended that individuals carry only their car keys and drivers license for identification purposes into the facility. No electronic devices will be allowed.
- Dress conservatively
- Proposed that the tour be in conjunction with spring meeting on May 10, 2016. Meet from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Howerton Building, Room 202 for regular meeting. Adjourn at 11:00 a.m. and travel to prison for tour at 12:00.
- Further discussion and final arrangements tabled for February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**TVI Evaluation Discussion: L. Whitworth**

- Portfolio Plan – Personally have maintained for two years to show progress of student and professional growth as a teacher.
- Positive feedback regarding monitoring by administrators. Gives administrators opportunity to familiarize themselves with the classroom setting and the students become more comfortable and excited about what they are learning and accomplishing.
- Districts need to utilize TVI's more.
- Good example of how to evaluate your students to show growth in key areas.
- Vermilion Association for Special Education (VASE)  
<https://sites.google.com/a/vase.k12.il.us/home/home>

**Braille Literacy Discussion: L. Whitworth**

- Braille is auditory, visual and hands on.
- Shared various ways that she teaches and encourages the use of Braille in her classroom to her students.
- Braille Clubs
- Braille is NOT old school! Don't let it disappear. Find fun ways to incorporate Braille into your classroom.
- B. Lenz – Website called Braille Bug: <http://braillebug.afb.org/>

**BTF New Members/Vacancies/Updates: D. Lawson**

- Map: <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/btfmap.pdf>
- Flyer: <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/BTFflyer.pdf>
- Nomination Form: <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/btfnomform15.pdf>
- Members are continuing their efforts to make contact with perspective candidates.

**DESE Update: S. Barr****Legislature:**

- Budget — Budget approved by State Board of Education and sent to the Governor's Office. Blind Skills Specialists, Readers for the Blind and State Board Operated Programs are all in the budget at current levels. Budget request to increase salaries for teachers at the State Board Operated Program.
- MO Interagency Transition Team (MITT) –Resource Profile: A quick reference for services available to persons with disabilities.  
<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-ep-mitt-interagency-transition-team-projects-profiles.pdf> .
- State Profiles  
Grads360 (<https://osep.grads360.org/#program>)  
Developed by OSEP to allow the public to review each state's profile—plans, annual determinations, data, etc.
- USDE—John King will be replacing Arne Duncan as Secretary of Education for the remainder of the administration's term.
- Learning Collaboratives  
<http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/effective-practices/collaborative-work>  
Formed by the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) intended to focus and support state implementation of their State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIPs). MO will participate in the Results Based Accountability (RBA) (not a SSIP area).
  - Will audit Early Literacy and Graduation Post-Secondary Outcomes.
  - Will meet 1-2 times a year with teleconference/webinar activities in between.
  - The Office of Special Education is also participating with the Office of Quality Schools in a collaborative regarding school improvement.
- MO-CASE  
Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to address issues related to dyslexia. Will provide support and resources in the areas of academics, behavior, and social-emotional at several levels. DESE will provide research and training for districts to consider for their classrooms to better support students who have a medical diagnosis of dyslexia but who may not have an IEP.
- IEP Facilitation  
<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-admin-seap-iepfacilitation.pdf>  
Pilot to support a neutral facilitator to help parents and schools through difficult IEP meetings. The Office of Special Education will train a few facilitators and then piloting this fall and spring. We are getting help from other states and CADRE. Illinois is allowing us to send 3-6 pilot facilitators to their training Oct. 28-30, 2016. The pilot period will be run between November – April. We contracted with four facilitators who were trained the last week in October in Illinois. The following districts have agreed to participate as pilot districts:
  - Farmington - Ashley Krause (MO-CASE)
  - Springfield - Phyllis Wolfram (MO-CASE)

- Clark Co R-1 - Susan Rossmiller. (MO-CASE)
- North Kansas City School District - Jennie Gaddie (MO-CASE)
- Reeds Springs – Liz Smith
- Jackson – Beth Emmendorfer(MO-CASE)

**Assessments:**

The ACT is one tool used to measure college and career readiness.

- 2014-15 school-year - first time the state offered a one-time administration of the exam to all 11th-grade students in the state. Will be offered to 11th graders during the 2015-16 school year.
- Data released to the public reflect only the 2015 graduating seniors and do not include 11th-grade scores from the spring of 2015.
- Released 2014-15 report of students who completed 12th grade and graduated who at some point had taken the ACT. The graduated report uses the last assessment taken as opposed to the best score.
- More Missouri graduates took the exam in 2015 than in 2014 while scoring higher than the national average, according to data released. This may be happening nationally—more students and a greater percentage of students taking college preparatory exams.
- Class of 2015:
  - 49,640 students took the test (77 percent of graduating class) compared with 48,864 in 2014.
  - Since 2011, Missouri has seen a 2 percent increase in graduating seniors who have taken the exam.
  - The percent of Missouri students meeting readiness benchmarks continues to exceed national averages on all four measures:
    - English, mathematics, reading and science.
  - The 2015 average composite score of 21.7 remains higher than the score of 21.6 Missouri maintained from 2005-2013.
  - Missouri remains above the national average of 21.0.
  - Ninety-one percent of Missouri graduates who took the ACT indicated they wished to pursue post-secondary education.
  - Missouri graduates also outscored the national average in percentage of students achieving college readiness benchmarks in each subject area:
    - English, 71 percent; higher than the national average of 64 percent
    - Reading, 51 percent; higher than the national average of 46 percent
    - Math, 44 percent; higher than the national average of 42 percent Science, 42 percent; higher than the national average of 38 percent
    - All four subject areas, 30 percent; higher than the national average of 28 percent

**MAP:**

- First year of fully on-line MAP assessments seems to be going very well. In the first assessment of new standards in English language arts and mathematics, Missouri students' results were higher in nearly every category than results from field tests administered in 2014.
- This was the first year the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests were administered online for grades 3 through 8. End-of-Course exams for high school students have been computer-based since 2010.
- Statewide results are based on the required assessments:
  - English language arts and math for grades 3-8
  - Science for grades 5 and 8
  - Algebra 1, English II, Biology I
  - American Government
- These are the percentages of Missouri students in all grades who scored proficient or advanced:
  - 59.7 percent in English language arts
  - 45.2 percent in math
  - 56.7 percent in science
  - 63.4 percent in social studies

## Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)

<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-admin-seap-dlm-presentation.pdf>

### Discussion of committee and standing committees: *D. Lawson*

*(Academic and Vocational Services, Children's Vision Summit, Rules, Student Achievement)*

Tabled for February meeting.

### 2016 Nominations/Election of Officers: *D. Lawson*

- Chairperson –G. Barney nominated Diana Lawson for a third term. Motion was seconded by L. Whitworth. Diana Lawson accepted. Motion carried.
- Vice Chair – D. Lawson nominated Bonnie Lenz. Motion seconded by L. Whitworth. Bonnie Lenz accepted nomination. Motion carried.
- Secretary – D. Lawson nominated Louise Whitworth. J. Lenk seconded motion. L. Whitworth accepted nomination. Motion carried.

### 2016 Meeting Dates/ Location/Catering: *Diana L.*

D. Lawson made a motion to change the dates of the August and November 2016 meetings to the first Tuesday because this would be a presidential election year. Motion seconded by J. Lenk. The 2016 meeting dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, February 9, 2016
- Tuesday, May 10, 2016
- Tuesday, August 2, 2016
- Tuesday, November 1, 2016

All meetings will be conducted at the Howerton State Office Building, 615 Howerton Court, Jefferson City, Missouri in Room 202. Catering will be provided by Oscar's Diner and refreshments will be provided by Center Court Snack Shop located in the Howerton Building.

**2016 Sub Committees:** *Diana L.* Discussion tabled for February meeting.

### Current Workshops/Events: *Diana L.*

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>November 11-13</b> | VIISA Course I, Session I: Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers (birth through two years) and Their Families with Bess Dennison of Project SKI*HI, Utah State University, Chesterfield, MO, Contact: Annette Miller, 314-633-1589 or <a href="mailto:annette.miller@msb.dese.mo.gov">annette.miller@msb.dese.mo.gov</a>            |
| <b>November 13</b>    | MO Chapter AER Annual Meeting, Columbia   |
| <b>November 12-13</b> | Activity Based Programming for Students with Severe Differences, Kirksville<br>Contact: Anthony Blades, <a href="mailto:ablades@truman.edu">ablades@truman.edu</a>  |
| <b>November 16</b>    | Welcoming Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired into Your Classroom, McDonald County, MO, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or <a href="mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu">jituarte@missouristate.edu</a> or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or <a href="mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu">butcher2@missouristate.edu</a>     |
| <b>December 5</b>     | Parent Support-Open House – Resources for Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired, Springfield, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or <a href="mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu">jituarte@missouristate.edu</a> or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or <a href="mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu">butcher2@missouristate.edu</a> |
| <b>December 7</b>     | Assessing Communication of Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss and Significant Disabilities and Using Results to Plan Instructional  |

Programming with Phillip Schweigert, St. Louis, Contact: Susan Bonner, 314-633-1553 or [susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov)

- January 14** Meeting the Needs of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired and have Additional Significant Disabilities, Springfield, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- January 21** Including Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired in the Math and Science Classroom, McDonald County, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- January 21** Meeting the Needs of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired and have Additional Significant Disabilities, McDonald County, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- January 28** Including Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired in the Math and Science Classroom, Kansas City, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- January 28** Meeting the Needs of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired and Have Additional Significant Disabilities, Kansas City, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- February 2-3, 2016** Hand In Hand for Teams Serving Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss, Session II
- February 4** Meeting the Needs of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired and Have Additional Significant Disabilities, Jefferson City, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- February 11** Meeting the Needs of Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired and have Additional Significant Disabilities, Houston, MO, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- February 18** Including Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired in the Math and Science Classroom, Sedalia Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- February 18** Meeting the Needs of Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired and have Additional Significant Disabilities, Sedalia, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)
- February 28** Parent Support-Matching Assistive Technology to Your Child, Springfield Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu)

- March 16-18** VIISA Course I, Session II: Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers (birth through two years) and Their Families with Bess Dennison of Project SKI\*HI, Utah State University
- April 12-13** Hand In Hand for Teams Serving Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss, Session III
- April 21** Determining AT Needs of Students who are Blind/VI (Part II) with Ike Presley, St. Louis, Contact: Annette Miller, 314-633-1589, or [Annette.miller@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Annette.miller@msb.dese.mo.gov) regarding this additional opportunity: Vision Education Professionals Group, meeting via Adobe Connect, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or [jituarte@missouristate.edu](mailto:jituarte@missouristate.edu) or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or [butcher2@missouristate.edu](mailto:butcher2@missouristate.edu) regarding these additional opportunities:
- Fall focus: CVI; spring focus: JAWS
  - Vision Education Professionals (VI PRO) Group, Springfield 1st or 2nd Friday of each month at VRC 2:00
  - VI PRO Group Kansas City 1st Wednesday of each month at Alphapointe, 1:30
  - VI PRO Group Jefferson City 3rd Friday of each month at Lewis & Clark Middle, 4:30

**Agenda for next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2016**

- WIOA/Transition Presentation, Keith Roderick
- Discussion regarding changes to current bylaws related to Quorum and Term of Membership
- Appoint chairperson's for Blind Task Force Sub-Committees
- Finalize plans to tour Center for Braille Narration at the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City, MO, May 10, 2016, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Diana L. will contact Carrie Ragsdale with MPACT to ask if she would present during the February meeting. TBD

**Motion to adjourn.** D. Lawson made motion to adjourn meeting. L. Whitworth seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.