

Report for Blind Task Force meeting November 12, 2013
MSU Blindness Skills Specialist July 2013 to current
Julie Anderson-Ituarte

Note: Purpose is to report the number of contacts includes direct face to face meeting in the school district or scheduled phone conference. It does NOT include any follow up phone calls or emails. The number of contacts is in parenthesis after each district name.

1. To act as a **resource for school districts** under the regional office of professional development with regard to eligible students;

Developed resource materials for school districts. At this time, the documents include:

- a. BSS first newsletter
- b. Frequently Asked Questions
- c. Submitted request and documents to re-develop website. (in process)
- d. Developed plan for online webinars: (in process)

Documents sent include the following Categories:

- a. Academic and intellectual Assessment (10)
 - b. Implications of Eye Conditions – ONH (8), CVI (6), Albinism (3), Foveal Hypoplasia (1), Aniridia (2), Nystagmus (5), Cone-Rod Dystrophy (2), Achromotopia (1), and ROP (1)
 - c. Infant/toddler Information developmental milestones, fine motor and gross motor activities (6),
 - d. Calendar Systems for children with severe disabilities (3):
 - e. Creating Active Learning Spaces (4)
 - f. Assistive Technology (28): IPad, Braille Displays, Braille Note
 - g. Sample FVA formats (8)
 - h. Braille Related Topics: braille readiness, how to determine if a student is a braille reader, braille rules, suggestion from braille activities, braille curriculum, strategies for struggling readers
 - i. Braille fundamentals curriculum
 - j. Abacus instruction
2. To make **programming and placement recommendations** to schools under the regional office of professional development using assessments and information developed within the IEP process;
 - a. Assessments – FVA/LMA/O&M: Springfield (7) and Rolla (4)
 - b. AT Trials for grants: Springfield (5); Fair Gove (1), Willard (2)
 - c. Transition: Fair Grove and Willard
 - d. Developing IEP: Fair Grove, Niangua, Rolla, Willard, Liberty
 - e. Active Learning Spaces: Clever, Ozark
 - f. Calendar Systems: Clever, Niangua
 - g. Implications of Vision Loss: Rolla, Cabool
 - h. Service needs and placement: Willard, Niangua, Rolla

- i. Braille: Liberty; Willard, Springfield, Niangua
 - j. Access to online curriculum programs: Clever, Springfield, Ozark
 - k. Online curriculum Springfield, Clever, Ozark
 - l. Smarter Balance Questions: 16 questions
3. To provide **in-service training** in alternative techniques of blindness to **classroom teachers and teachers' assistants** for the blind engaged in the education of eligible students;
- a. Braille Note: Springfield (8) Paraprofessional, braille transcriber, VI
 - b. iPad with voice over and braille display: VI/O&M (27); paraprofessional (3)
 - c. Use of cane for students who use wheelchairs: (2) Willard
 - d. Introduction to Braille Springfield (3)
 - e. Use of CCTV's: Springfield (5) paraprofessional & special education teacher
 - f. Introduction to Abacus: Springfield, (5) para and special education teacher
 - g. Use of Zoomtext: (2) Springfield paraprofessional
 - h. Tactual Calendar Systems: (2) Niangua paraprofessional and Clever
4. To provide **parents** of eligible students with referrals and information regarding services available within the state; Referrals to the following:
- a. Lighthouse – CLVP (6)
 - b. Lighthouse – Continuing Education Grant (4)
 - c. MSB Tech It Up (3)
 - d. Spacecamp (2)
 - e. Bookshare (4)
 - f. SOAR (2)
 - g. Learning Ally (2)
 - h. Camps (3)
 - i. Braille Materials – Braille Institute, Seedlings,
5. To **coordinate services** available from other **entities** who serve eligible students **and the families** of eligible students;
- a. VRCO: 10 TVI's each month for meetings in SW Missouri
 - b. MSB – APH Materials Center: Niangua
 - c. MSB – List of Service Personnel: Rolla, Cabool, Niangua
 - d. Braille Institute: Coordinate Regional Braille Challenge
 - e. Lighthouse: (7)
 - f. Alphapointe: Kansas City VI Professional Group formed - 68 TVI/O&M in KC areas toured the facility. Discussion of available transition and K-12 services.
 - g. CCVI: Meeting to schedule future collaboration opportunities. (8)
 - h. AER: On committee for Missouri AER conference
 - i. MO Assistive Technology Reimbursement Grant: Assisted 6 schools with trials. Provided 27 TVI/O&M with information about the grant process.
 - j. Bookshare: (6)
 - k. Wolfner Library Services: (8)
 - l. Adult Mentors / speakers: Springfield (2), Private School (1)
 - m. NanoPac: Arranged meeting with Nanopac – (2 families)

6. To assist and **support local school districts** in providing special education and related services for eligible students;
 - a. Rolla, Fairgrove, Niangua, Conway, Clever, Rogersville, Liberty, Ozark, Springfield, Clever, Cabool, MountainView Birchtree
 - b. Participate in Braille MAP review

7. To support the **application of appropriate technology** in the education of eligible students;
 - a. Braille Note Training: Springfield (8 sessions)
 - b. Ipad training: Springfield (3 sessions), Fair Grove (4 sessions)
 - c. Kansas City: 1 session (17 TVI/O&M 1 paraprofessional)
 - d. Braille Displays: Springfield (3)
 - e. CCTV's: Willard, Springfield, Rolla

8. To contribute to the development and implementation **of in-service training, regionally and statewide**, which responds to the needs of educators, other professionals and parents pertaining to the needs of eligible students, which include, but are not limited to, high expectations with regard to academic and vocational performance, facilitation of the discussions of Braille instruction during IEP conferences, introduction of appropriate technology, development of blindness skills and daily living skills.

- a. Vision Screening for Nurses at VRCO: 10
Schools: Republic, Ozark, Nixa; Willard
- b. Designing Instruction for students who are visually impaired:
SW Area Schools at VRCO: Adrian; Aurora; Clever; Webb City; Dallas County; Logan-Rogersville; Pierce City; Webb City; Reeds Springs; Conway - Laclede Co R-1; Crane; Vision Rehab Center; Cassville; Willard; Lebanon; Senath; Jefferson City; Laquey; Republic; St. Elizabeth; School of the Osage; Otterville; Rockwood; Eldon, Washington;

KC Area Schools at Alphapoint: Moniteau; USD 259, CSE #4, CCVI, Tipton, Sherwood Center, Adrian, Blue Valley, North Nodaway, Park Hill, Kearney, Harrisonville, Knob Noster; Liberty; Blue Springs; KSSB; Hope Academy; Independent Schools; Independence, USD 500; Warrensburg; Holton
- c. Designing Instruction for students who are visually impaired and multiple disabilities: 35 in Rolla area
Schools at Rolla RPDC: Niangua; Fair Grove; Rolla; Iron C4; Special School District; Liberty; Farmington; Lakeland, Central R3; Camdenton; Mountain View; State Schools – Sky view; Waynesville; Southern Boone County; Rockwood; Branson
- d. Kansas City Professional Group: 13 in October and 17 in November. Scheduled another meeting December 4, 2013 – Ipad 2 with braille displays.

Total Numbers:

VI Teachers: 19

O&M: 9

SPE teacher: 29

Classroom teacher: 17

Students: 12

Paras: 21

Rehab: 2

Administrators: 15

Related Service Provider: 3

Parents: 13

Totals: 140