

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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives
February 9, 2016

For information on the BTF, visit <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels>.

Members in Attendance:

Karla Arnold	June Lenk
Geoffrey Barney	Bonnie Lenz
Stephen Barr	Marilyn Nickolaison
Ellen Clapper	Reeda Rippee
Linda Coccovizzo	Shari Scott
Dacia Cole	Louise Whitworth
Stacy Hamlett	
Kelly L. Helmick	

Guests/Presenters:

Anthony Blades	Carrie Ragsdale, MPACT
Darla Butcher	Keith Roderick, RSB

Members Not in Attendance:

Donna Borgmeyer	Diana Lawson
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Copies of handouts and presentations for this meeting are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/blind-task-force-btf>

Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions – B. Lenz, Vice Chair called meeting to order at the Howerton State Office Building, 615 Howerton Ct., Room 202, Jefferson City, Missouri at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken by Dacia Cole. Louise Whitworth requested that the following individuals be removed from the roll call listing: Jenny Mascheck; Kelly Helmick and Keith Roderick.

Approval of Agenda – Louise Whitworth made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Reeda Rippee seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes – Reeda Rippee made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dacia Cole seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

WIOA/Transition Presentation – Keith Roderick, Management Analysis Specialist, Family Services Division, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind presented information on WIOA and Transition Services. To review the presentation, go to: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/blind-task-force/btf-meeting-agendas-minutes-handouts>

MPACT Presentation – Carrie Ragsdale, Program Specialist, Missouri Parents Act (MPACT) For more information go to <http://missouriparentsact.org/>

Bylaw Changes – Regina to make changes in the following areas of the Bylaws and send out to members with RSVP announcement for May, 2016 meeting.

- **Quorum:** Wording would establish the definition of a quorum based on those present rather than on a percent of the membership. Majority ruled in favor of proposed change and motion carried at November meeting.
- **Sec. 4. TERM OF MEMBERSHIP.** Members will serve for an initial term of three years, serving up to two consecutive terms. If after the two consecutive terms the member wishes to continue to serve, and there is no proposed new member for a vacancy, the member may continue for a third consecutive term. Representatives of DESE, DSS, The Missouri School for the Blind, the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind, and both Consumer groups shall serve until a replacement is appointed by their organization.

Tour of Center for Braille Narration at the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City, MO.

- Submit list of attendees at least a week in advance providing full name and date of birth to Ellen Clapper.
- Will meet from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Howerton Building and then travel to prison and tour the facility from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Lunch will not be provided.
- Those individuals that must use a long cane for assistance will be accommodated.

Working Lunch (Continued discussion and Q/A from presentations)

DESE Update – Stephen Barr, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Special Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

- **Budget**—Received Governor's recommendations based on our proposals. Met with House Budget on Wednesday evening and will meet on Tuesday, May 9, at 2:00. So far all items related to blind skills specialists and readers for the blind remain intact.
- **Every Student Succeeds Act**—ESSA—which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
 - Changes from a 1% proficiency cap to a 1% participation cap. MO currently has about 1.3% to 1.5% of students taking the test.
 - Removes the term "Highly Qualified Teacher" but leaves a requirement to be appropriately certified in the subject and grade level of instruction. This is not necessarily clear for SpecEd teachers and will require some decisions in each state.
 - Adds a lot of requirements for reporting information to the public through the state report card and the local report cards.
 - Will require us to calculate and report proficiency percentages for each identified sub-group
 - We are awaiting regulations to help guide the process.
 - There is a provision for the Secretary of Education to allow states to submit a consolidated application but the requirements and timelines have not been released.
 - The Omnibus Budget bill essentially delayed full implementation of the law except there is no change to the requirement to identify buildings in the 2017-18 school year-- 5% lowest performing Title I buildings and the buildings failing to show progress for underperforming subgroups.

BTF Member Updates/Comments:

- **Current vacancies** - 1-Parent of blind or visually impaired students attending public school in Missouri; 1-Public School Special Education Administrators; 2-Employer; 3-Students

Committee and Standing Committees

Regina to update current listing to send out to members with RSVP for May meeting.

- **Academic and Vocational Services** – New members – Karla Arnold and Ellen Clapper
- **Children's Vision Summit** – Chairperson – Ellen Clapper or Successor; New Members- Dacia Cole and Ellen Clapper
- **Rules** – New member – Stacy Hamlett
- **Student Achievement** – New members – Karla Arnold, Shari Scott

Current Workshops/Events 2016

- **April 1, 2016:** NFB State Convention: Tech in our World, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte at 417-836-5490 or jituarte@missouristate.edu
- **April 19, 2016:** Power-Up: AT Assessment Matching Assistive Technology to your Student with a Visual Impairment in St. Charles, MO, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte at 417-836-5490 or jituarte@missouristate.edu or DJ Butcher at 417-836-8872 or butcher2@missouristate.edu
- **May 19, 2016:** Preparing Transition for a student with a visual impairment from ECSE to Kindergarten, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or jituarte@missouristate.edu
- **May 20, 2016:** iPad Accessibility for Parents of Students with a Visual Impairment, Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte at 417-836-5490 or jituarte@missouristate.edu or DJ Butcher at 417-836-8872 or butcher2@missouristate.edu

Contact: Julie Anderson-Ituarte, 417-836-5490 or jituarte@missouristate.edu or DJ Butcher, 417-836-8872 or butcher2@missouri.edu regarding these additional opportunities:

- Vision Education Professionals (VI PRO) Group Monthly Meetings,
- SW Blindness Skills Professional Program – SW RPDC, MSU
- Spring Focus: Assistive Technology
 - 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 2nd Tuesday of each month at Lewis & Clark Middle 4:30

Comments from the public - No public comments.

Agenda items for next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2016

- Discuss ideas for the next Children's Vision Summit
- Will meet at Howerton Building, Room 202 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and will travel to prison for tour from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Adjournment – Bonnie Lenz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dacia Cole seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.