

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

**Minutes**

**Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives**

November 8, 2011

A regular meeting of the committee representatives of Blind Task Force (BTF) was called to order at Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA), 2100 I-70 Drive, S.W., Columbia, Missouri, at 10 a.m. pursuant to the notice sent to all directors in accordance with the bylaws.

**The following committee representatives were present:** Stephen Barr, Donna Borgmeyer, Mike Charland, Doreen Frappier, Kelly Helmick, Keith Roderick, Patti Schonlau, Ella Wolfe, Patty Yocum, Ian Shadrick, and Diane Stockman

**The following committee representatives were absent:** Trevor Knoblauch, Kyle Borah, Julie Brown, David C. Ekin, and David Wilson

**Guests:** None

Doreen Frappier, Chairman, presided

1. Roll Call of BTF Members: Doreen F.
2. Review and Approval of November 8, 2011 BTF Agenda: Doreen F.
3. Review and Approval of August 2, 2011 Minutes: Doreen F.
4. Introduction of Guests/Visitors and Public Comments: Doreen F.
5. Presentation: Michael St. Julien, Assistant Deputy Director, Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, Field/Transition Services
  - Our goal is to empower visually impaired students with positive role models and skills geared toward preparation for real life. We want to empower them before the world gets to them to tell them "NO", you can't do that, you are blind.
  - RSB works outside the normal range found in the regular special education/school environment. (i.e. vocational and career counseling)
  - RSB collaborates with the school personnel.
  - RSB transition age ranges from 14-24, but the earlier the better for the student.
  - RSB encourages school systems to refer the students to us by age 14.
  - The more developed their social skills are the better their chances for success.
  - RSB may pay for summer programs for students. We use guidelines to determine if a student is eligible to attend summer programs for blind children and teens.
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Services focus on but are not limited to:
    - Visual Impairment/Blind education.
    - Barriers that prevent employment and specific services to overcome those barriers.
    - Bridging the gap between secondary and post secondary transition.
    - Promoting self-advocacy - Knowing their rights, building skills and raising self-expectations to create students that can advocate for themselves.
    - Developing Individualized Plans of Employment (IPEs) geared to help students reach their vocational goals. IPEs include Orientation and Mobility services and helping them to make vocational choices.

Comments:

- S. Barr – More discussion is needed with government and military sectors because at least 90% of the jobs in the military are not combat related. A national network would be helpful to familiarize the students with jobs available to persons with disabilities.

6. BTF Member Updates/Comments: Doreen F.  
Nothing to discuss.

7. DESE Update: Dr. Barr

- Spring MAP Testing Pilots – Students with disabilities are to be in the pilot.
- Accommodations for students with disabilities – The Brailled test is not yet available. The test will still have to be read to VI students.
- DMH, VR and DESE – New grant opportunities for these agencies. Project SMART grants are designed to help communities build the support that they need to improve employability of students with disabilities. These grants are available for school districts and businesses.
- Autism Guidelines – Moving on schedule; lists of strengths and weaknesses. Parents want answers.
- MSIP V – Rediscussion – The comment period has ended and a new set of rules were enacted requiring progress measures – what we've done in accountability and assessment.
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act – Flexibility to allow states to revise accountability system.
- Supplemental education services – M. Charland – How do you know where the services are working without testing and a general lack of control?
- 10X20? Still in operation and it should be driving our support system as far as consistency and adaptability of national versus state systems.
- How do we get better with a lack of a sense of urgency? We have to get our students prepared.

8. BTF Vacancies: Doreen F.

- Doreen indicated the SELs message regarding vacancies did not generate any applications.
- Nomination Forms – Doreen requested that we remove the requirement for a resume and instead let applicants write a letter stating why they are interested in serving on the Blind Task Force. Discussion followed regarding BTF bylaws and the desire to create an interest, not barriers, for participation.
- We do need to maintain professionalism for BTF appointments.
- Dr. Barr indicated he needs enough information from the applicant to guide decision as to their qualifications for the BTF.
- Doreen asked if we perhaps can scale down the nomination process with just the nomination form.
- Dr. Barr will begin accepting nomination forms for review which may or may not include resumes' for consideration for BTF nominations.
- It was mentioned that the BTF nomination form is difficult to find on the current DESE website.
- We have one member who has two (2) consecutive absences with no RSVP or explanation of absence to the Chairperson. Regina is to send a letter to Trevor Knolbock stating that due to these unexcused absences, he has been removed from the BTF.

9. Review of Missouri Annual VI/Blind Literacy Study 2010 - Discussion
- Did it capture all Missouri students with visual impairment?
  - Students versus I-Disability – Is there a solution? The differences between the two are evident.
  - Page 7 – Pre-school “non-readers” have been more accurately identified compared to 2009 study. APH registration included a descriptor to accurately identify non-readers and pre-readers for the pre-school age group.
  - APH Registration – It is important to have all VI students on the APH Register because it affects federal funding to the state.
  - Data Element 6 on Page 9 – Breakout data regarding certificated VI teachers, working in the field (09-10, 88, 29 OSB) – Actually teaching Blind/VI Students? School districts are pulling newly hired VI personnel into different areas of need within the district. Cross-Categorical people – Based on DESE requirements – 50% VI. There are people certified but are not teaching. Should ask if certified or not. Are you currently teaching Visually Impaired students more than 50% of your time?
  - Ian pointed out that teachers of visually impaired frequently are also involved in O&M training for VI students. There is a significant shortage of teachers of the visually impaired (TVIs) in the state of Missouri as well as a shortage of certificated O&Ms. This O&M shortage could also be identified and reported on in the future.

10. Standing Committee Updates

- Introduction of new member – Diane Stockman, Teacher of Special Education Students in the St. Louis area.
  - Regina is to send new email for Julie Brown to members.
- a. Academic and Vocational Services: Patty Y.  
Nothing to report
- b. Children’s Vision Summit: Doreen F. – Funding
- RSB can contribute \$3,000
  - Talk to other organizations
  - Need to identify “funded sources” for BTF.
  - NCB – group with a common goal
  - We need to go through the same paces that we have in the past.
  - Cost for last year’s summit for 150 participants - \$27,000-\$28,000.
  - Write letters requesting sponsorship
  - Sponsors pay for rooms (meeting rooms, lodging) – participants pay for meals?
  - High Cost items include conference equipment (screen, projectors, microphones)
  - Hotel costs have skyrocketed.
  - Scholarships?
  - Group effort – who has helped in the past?
  - Many of the participants are from St. Louis area. Spread it out.
  - One day Conference – 9 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. wouldn’t give parents enough time to network. Lunch and dinner are good times to “network”.
  - Round table discussions – what percent of parents would participate?
  - Target group – (Guest speaker and time of year)
    - Spring would bring more parents (April)
    - Fall would bring more educators (October)
  - Saturday Session? – 9-5 specifically geared to parents. Will lose professionals/educators.
- c. Rules: Patricia S. - Nothing to report.
- d. Student Achievement: Julie B. - Nothing to report.

11. 2012 Nominations/Elections of Officers: Doreen F.

- Effective as of February meeting
  - Patty Schonlau – Chairperson
  - Keith Roderick – Vice Chairperson
  - Mike Charland – Secretary

12. Current Workshops/Events within the State

- November 9 – TADPOLE and TOAD: Tools for Assessment and Development of Visual Skills  
MSB and the National Instructional Partnership of American Printing House for the Blind  
Contact: Yvonne Ali at [Yvonne.ali@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Yvonne.ali@msb.dese.mo.gov); 314-776-4320, ext. 3256
- November 16-18  
March 28-30, 2012 VIISA Course I: Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Vision Impairment and Their Families  
Contact: Jennie Mascheck at [jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov); 314-776-4320, ext. 1250
- February 9 -10, 2012 Emergent Literacy for Young Learners and Learners with Significant Disabilities  
Friday – Columbia, MO – For professionals  
Saturday – St. Louis – For parents
- March 15, 2012 – Person Centered Planning  
Kansas City, MO  
Professionals and Families of VI/Deaf Blind
- “Get Your Motor Running Conference” – 60 Attendees in the Occupational Therapy field – Need to create a listserve for these professionals.

13. 2012 Meeting Dates:

- Second Tuesday
- February Meeting – Cancelled last 2 years due to inclement weather.
- Suggestion was made to conduct February meeting via conference call. February 14, 2012
- May Meeting – Second Tuesday – May 8th
- August Meeting – First Tuesday – August 7th
- November Meeting – Second Tuesday – November 13th
- Continue to use HoneyBaked Ham as caterer.
- Continue to use MSB facilities for meetings.
- Regina will send an email requesting use in 2012 to coordinator.

14. Agenda for February Meeting:

Conference Call

Meeting Adjourned – 12:53 PM