

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

Minutes  
Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives  
February 11, 2014

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 Howerton State Office Building, 615 Howerton Ct., Room 202, Jefferson City, Missouri at 10 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 Present:

Donna Borgmeyer  
Linda Coccovizzo  
Doreen Frappier  
Kelly L. Helmick  
Diana Lawson

June Lenk  
Reeda Rippee  
Keith Roderick  
Devon Sgroi  
Diane E. Stockman

Louise Whitworth  
Patty Yocum

## Members Not Present:

Dr. Stephen Barr  
Julie Brown  
David C. Ekin  
Deana M. Griffin  
Dacia Luck

Lori Moore  
Carrie Ragsdale  
Ian Shadrick

## DESE Staff Present:

Barb Gilpin

John Stains

Regina Miller

## Guests Present:

Aundrayah Shermer

Julie Anderson-Ituarte

\*To review copies of handouts referenced in the minutes below, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/blind-task-force/btf-meeting-agendas-handouts>

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions** – Diana Lawson brought the meeting to order at 10:00. Keith Roderick conducted Roll Call. Introductions were made acknowledging guest presenters, Barb Gilpin, DESE, John Stains, DESE, and Jackie Coleman, Statewide Trainer for Missouri Connections.

**Approval of BTF Agenda for February, 2014 Meeting** – Diana asked that a presentation from John Stains, DESE, be included in the minutes immediately following presentation given by Jackie Coleman, Missouri Connections. Diana asked for a motion to approve the revised version of agenda. Louise Whitworth made a motion to approve the February, 2014 agenda and Doreen Frappier seconded the motion. All were in favor with no one opposed. Motion passed.

**Approval of BTF Minutes from November 2013 Meeting** – Diana asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2013 meeting. Patty Yocum made a motion to approve the November 2013 minutes and Keith Roderick seconded the motion. All were in favor with no one opposed. Motion passed.

**Jackie Coleman, Statewide Trainer, Missouri Connections Presentation:** *Handouts provided.* Presentation focused on how best to use Missouri Connections to assist with post secondary transitions and how to sign students up to use the program.

**John Stains, Supervisor, DESE/OSE/Effective Practices Section:** *\*Handouts provided.*

- Introduction to Special Education and the eLearning for Educators Portal – Register at <http://www.elearningmo.org/accessing-introduction-to-special-education/>
- . For more information, contact (573) 884-7202 or <http://www.elearningmo.org/>
- TheSource Website – Provides resources for Special Education Professionals and other interested parties. <http://thesource.northcentralrrc.org/>
- MITT Resource Web Portal – For individuals with disabilities who are looking for any level of independent living whether from school age to adulthood. <http://disability.mo.gov/MITT.htm>
- Missouri Transition Planning Resource Locator - <http://dev.dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-ep-tran-plan-resource.pdf>
- Resource List – Doreen Frappier requested that Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) <http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/rsb/index.htm> be added to the Resource List. John will look into updating the list to include RSB information as requested.

**BTF Member Updates/Comments:** Diana reviewed current bylaws. Members are asked to give thought to two issues for further discussion during May meeting: 1) Clarification of “eligible student” and; 2) how many student representatives should be appointed to BTF? Regular attendance to scheduled meetings was also discussed.

**WORKING LUNCH – 12:00-1:00** - Julie Anderson-Ituarte, Blind Skills Specialist, presented TVI's and COM's in Missouri, who they are and where they are currently serving. Document is being updated to include information from the East and Southeast. Regina will send to members once the revision is made. To review a copy of this report, go to <http://dev.dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/IDVisionServicesforBTF-BSS-VS-2-11-14.pdf>

**DESE Update** – Presented by Barb Gilpin, Assistant Director, DESE/OSE/Effective Practices in Dr. Stephen Barr's absence.

- Changes to Part C and Part B state plans – Final set of changes approved during December 3, 2013 meeting of the State Board of Education. Once reviewed/approved by Joint Committee for Administrative Rules (JCAR) will forward to Secretary of State for publishing.
- Changes to regulations governing administration of Sheltered Workshops – Final set of changes approved during December 3, 2013 meeting of the State Board of Education. Once reviewed/approved by Joint Committee for Administrative Rules (JCAR) will forward to Secretary of State for publishing.
- SPP/APR for Part C – State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted on time. APR for Part B – Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted on time.
- Applications for Part B and C funding – Applications for funding the 2014-15 school year forwarded by OSEP. Applications posted for public view. Submission deadline is April 21, 2014 for Part C and May 12, 2014 for Part B.
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) field testing
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) - Become familiar with the “Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Implementation Guide”. <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>
- Search for new Superintendent at Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD) – Hope to complete interviews by the end of February.
- New First Steps System Point of Entry (SPOE) contracts – In process of soliciting bids and awarding contracts beginning July 1, 2014.
- Collaborative Work (CW) – Major initiative to improve student performance. Summary to be sent to participating schools and districts.

**Committee and Standing Committees** – Diana reviewed current sub-committee listings, assigned new members to a sub-committee. Two temporary committees have been established to address specific concerns as follows:

- Sub-committee to review and make recommendations to Linda Baker, Governor's Council on Disabilities, of changes to current Disability website. Members are Donna Borgmeyer, Keith Roderick and Reeda Rippee. Reeda Rippee will act as chairperson for this committee. Committee progress will be reviewed during the May meeting.
- Sub-committee to review MissouriConnections website and make recommendations to Jackie Coleman, Statewide Trainer. Members are Reeda Rippee, Louise Whitworth and Doreen Frappier. Louise Whitworth will act as chairperson for this committee. Committee progress will be reviewed during the May meeting.

Academic and Vocational Services: Chairperson – Louise Whitworth

Membership: Dacia Luck, Carrie Ragsdale, Patty Yocum, Keith Roderick, David Ekin, Ian Shadrick, Devon Sgroi

Children's Vision Summit: (April, 2015), Chairperson – Keith Roderick

Membership: Doreen Frappier, Kelly Helmick, Ian Shadrick, Donna Borgmeyer, Deana Griffin, June Lenk, Patty Yocum, Carrie Ragsdale

Rules: Chairperson – Linda Coccovizzo

Members: Diane Stockman, Louise Whitworth, Diana Lawson, Reeda Rippee, Lori Moore,

Student Achievement: Dacia Luck

Membership: Carrie Ragsdale, Lori Moore, Kelly L. Helmick, Patty Yocum, Dr. Stephen Barr, Ian Shadrick

To view a complete list of newly appointed sub-committee members/chairpersons, go to [http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-ep-2014\\_btf\\_subcom.PDF](http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-ep-2014_btf_subcom.PDF)

#### **Current Workshops/Events in the State: 2013-2014**

To view the listing of current Workshops/Events/Programs, go to

<http://dev.dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-ep-21114-btf-EventsCal.pdf>

#### **New Business for next scheduled meeting on May 13, 2014:**

- Julie Anderson, Blind Skills Specialist (BSS), to discuss MO AER.
- Louise Whitworth to present information regarding Pearson's Testing or School Net Testing
- Diana Lawson to open discussion to define/clarify "eligible student" representative for Blind Task Force membership; number of students to appoint to BTF and whether we should be more specific as to age or grade level (Middle, High School, College Age)
- Diana Lawson will discuss amendments and adding additional committees.
- Add Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) to the DESE Resource list. John Stains, DESE
- Discuss sending out survey to the 200 email addresses currently being maintained by Diana Lawson and collected during the Children's Vision Summit in April 2013 requesting feedback as to possible options to consider while planning 2015 Children's Vision Summit.
- Reeda Rippee, Louise Whitworth and Doreen Frappier to discuss with members findings while reviewing MissouriConnections website. Possible recommendations will be directed to Jackie Coleman for consideration. Will also review current Blind Task Force web page on DESE.
- Keith Roderick, Reeda Rippee, Donna Borgmeyer to discuss Disability website issues which will include, but are not limited to, St. Louis and Kansas City currently showing "No Services Available".

**Adjournment** – Diana Lawson made a motion to adjourn. Louise Whitworth seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned. Next scheduled meeting will be May 13, 2014 at the Howerton Building, Room 202.