

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

Minutes
Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives
February 12, 2013

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 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. For information on the BTF, visit <http://dese.mo.gov/se/btf/>.

The following committee representatives were present:

- Stephen Barr, DESE Representative
- Donna Borgmeyer, Rehabilitation Council for the Blind Representative
- Julie Brown, Public School Special Education Administrators Representative
- Mike Charland, Orientation & Mobility Specialist Representative
- David C. Ekin, Employers Representative
- Doreen Frappier, Parents of blind or visually impaired students attending public school in Missouri Representative
- Deana Griffin, Employers Representative
- Kelly Helmick, Public School Building Principals Representative
- Diana Lawson, Public School Building Principals Representative
- Keith Roderick, Department of Social Services Representative
- Patti Schonlau, Consumer Organization: Missouri Council of the Blind Representative
- Devon Sgroi, Student Representative
- Diane Stockman, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Representative
- Louise Whitworth, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Representative
- Patty Yocum, Missouri School for the Blind Representative

The following committee representatives were absent:

- Ian Shadrick, Institutions of Higher Education Representative

Guest(s): No guests

Patti Schonlau, Chairman, presided and Regina Miller, Administrative Assistant, Office of Special Education, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions: Patti Schonlau

Welcome two new members Dacia Luck, Consumer Organization Representative, Federation of the Blind Representative and Devon Sgroi, Student Representative

1. Roll Call of BTF Members: Mike Charland
2. Review and Approval of February 12, 2013 BTF Agenda:
After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the agenda for today's meeting was approved.
3. Review and Approval of November 13, 2012, Minutes:
After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes for November 13, 2012 meeting were approved.

4. Introduction of Guests/Visitors and Public Comments: Patti Schonlau
5. Presentation: David C. Ekin, President and CEO, St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired, St. Louis, MO and Employer Representative on the Blind Task Force (Handouts provided) Website: www.slsvdi.org
Non-profit organization providing:
 - Regional itinerate visual services
 - Low Vision Clinic for older adults and children referred by area school districts.
 - Low-vision optomologists and therapists that travel throughout the state periodically.
 - Functional Assessments
 - Training and purchasing of technology for the home.
 - Support for attendance to various camps in the summer.
 - Opportunities for students once a year to go to Alabama to Space Camp.
 - Activities and functions for low vision students (Friday evening chat and party groups at the Delta Gamma Center)
 - Summer Transition Employment Program: a three week residential program open to families throughout the state and housed at Webster University offering Pre-dorm and apartment living training.
 - STARS Program (Specialized Technical and Adaptive Resources for Students) providing adaptive tech training, in-home ADL providing independent living skills training, works with the Missouri Assistive Technology through the TAP program, offer monthly small group on Saturdays for 8-14 year olds for ADL aspect
 - Saturday, May 18, 2013, 6-9 p.m. – “A Night at the Arch”. See arch@slsvdi.org for more information. The Arch will not be open to the general public during this time.
6. DESE Update: Dr. Stephen Barr (Handouts Provided)
 - Blind Skills Specialists – Currently having difficulty getting applicants for the vacant BSS position. We will likely move the position to the SW-RPDC where more applicants seem to be available.
 - Speech-Language Pathologists – It has been difficult for SLP- Assistants to be licensed and as such the total number of licensed SLP-As available to work with schools throughout the state is insufficient. Changes to licensing may help encourage more potential SLP-As to become licensed
 - Currently working in tandem with several other organizations to get program started to encourage more candidates to become licensed
 - Providing information to districts to encourage them to consider hiring SLP-As
 - Districts will need to contact universities/colleges and find out what students have taken the necessary courses and have been certified that are currently eligible to apply for the position. With a more hands on approach over the next year, our hope is that colleges and universities will try to push these students to get certified right away.
 - Regulations – Part B: Currently back to the joint committee after several delays for discussion and changes. Current state plan is operational though many pieces were changed to be compliant with federal law.
 - Part C: Went to state board and forwarded to the joint committee.
 - Both Part B and Part C State Plans and Performance Reports were submitted to the US Department ahead of schedule. Currently available online at <http://dese.mo.gov/se/SPPpage.html>
 - FERPA – Files for foster children with disabilities can be shared more readily with those individuals that are involved in issues related to that foster child.
 - IEP Guidance Team Trainings – February 28, 2013 – Webinar addressing considerations you will need to make to ensure a more informed decision regarding MAP-A eligibility.

- Smarter Balance – New statewide assessments coming in 2014 – 100% Technology based. Districts are completing technology surveys and participating in pilot assessment to help them determine their readiness for administering these assessments in the future. We are expecting an answer soon as to what the technology will be recommended to allow blind students to participate in the on-line assessments.
7. BTF Membership Update – Current vacancies: 2 – Student; 2 – Parent; 1 – Education Administrator. Two members have possible candidates for these vacancies.
8. Standing Committee Updates
- Academic and Vocational Services: Working on Children's Vision Summit
 - Children's Vision Summit:
 - Members discussed issues related to logistics, registration, program flyer, posting to MSB website.
 - Once program finalized will send to BTF members.
 - Please notify Patty Y. of changes or additions that will need to be made to the Summit program.
 - Need to add address for Stoney Creek Inn along with perhaps a map, phone #, and website address.
 - Information ready to put into FINAL program format. Keith R. will be working on the formatting of the Summit program.
 - Reviewed final program schedule for CVS.
 - Dacia L. suggested that microphones be provided for the larger rooms to be used at the presenters discretion.
 - Louise W. will provide crayons and coloring pages for the children who will be attending with their parents. Day Care WILL NOT be provided. Patty S. will also make inquiries as to provisions that can be made for the children to occupy themselves during presentations.
 - Louise W. has volunteered her daughter if we should need help with the children.
 - Doreen B. is responsible for arranging booth space for vendors who wish to set up during the Summit. Following is a list of vendors that have been contacted and an (*) indicates that they have agreed to provide a booth:
 - Children's Center for the Visually Impaired
 - Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments
 - Lighthouse for the Blind
 - *Missouri Council for the Blind
 - Missouri Deaf-Blind Association
 - *National Federation of the Blind of Missouri
 - Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
 - St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired
 - *Wolfner Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped
 - Missouri Guide Dog Users
 - Adaptive Telephone Equipment Program
 - Springfield Association for the Blind
 - University of Missouri-Columbia / Adaptive Computing Technology Center
 - *Dave Wilkins - Nanopack
 - Kevin Hughes – Human Ware
 - AlphaPointe Association for the Blind

- American Printing House for the Blind, Materials Center
 - *Missouri School for the Blind (Will need 3 tables)
 - *Governor's Council on Disability
 - *MPACT (Missouri Parents Act)
 - Statewide Independent Living Council
 - Missouri Association of Blind Students
 - Doreen Frappier – MOAPVI
- Donna B. has given a deadline of February 28 to respond and will also send out a follow up email this week to those listed above.
 - Patti Schonlau and Patty Yocum will be doing a “walkthrough” meeting with a representative at Stoney Creek today at 2:00 p.m. Other members were invited to join them if they wished.
 - It has been suggested that while there today, they should also discuss the possibility of providing a separate room where booths can be displayed.
 - Patti S. will do the day's wrap up and provide an evaluation to the participants.
 - Door prizes – Cardinal Tickets, Starbucks Gift Cards. Additional suggestions were made for door prizes by members.
 - If a participant should need special arrangements for lodging, they are to call Diana Lawson who will refer them to Patti S.
 - 25 Rooms are currently blocked for use during the Summit. Registrants are to call and make reservations on their own.
 - Registration Table will be manned by Diana Lawson.
 - Those wishing to assist with setting up tables, exhibits, packets, etc., please arrive at Stoney Creek by 8:00 a.m. on the 23rd.
 - Registration form will be made available online on the MSB website at:
<http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/2013VisionSummitReg1.pdf>
 - Deadline for sending all materials to Regina Miller to be placed on a jump drive is March 31, 2013.
 - Introduction of Speakers to be done by assigned Blind Task Force members. Patty Y. made note of those assignments during the meeting.
 - It was suggested that we might consider sending written invitations to the legislators to attend the Children's Vision Summit.
 - Doreen Frappier has volunteered to assist Donna B. with exhibits.
 - Diana L. will arrive at 8:00 a.m. to set up registration table. D. Stockman and K. Roderick have also indicated that they will arrive at 8:00 a.m. to assist.
 - Nametags will be given out as participants register that day.
 - Registration Deadline: March 28, 2013 for Meal Count. Members agree however that registration can remain open past that date until all slots are filled if necessary.
 - David E. will provide tote bags for participants.
 - It has been suggested that meal tickets be distributed to participants as they arrive and register. Someone will then collect those tickets as people arrive for lunch.

- Rules: Working on Children's Vision Summit
- Student Achievement: Working on Children's Vision Summit

9. Current Workshops: See <http://www.dese.mo.gov/se/btf/BLTFMinutes.html> for complete list.

10. Regina will send out a reminder of April 23, 2013 Conference call meeting as time draws closer. Regina has asked that the meeting coordinator please provide an agenda for this conference call that can be posted in accordance with Sunshine Law.

11. Agenda for April 23, 2013 Conference Call – will focus primarily on the Children's Vision Summit.

Motion to Adjourn – Motion made – Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.