

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

Minutes  
Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives  
May 13, 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 in Attendance:

Dr. Stephen Barr	Dacia Luck
Donna Borgmeyer	Carrie Ragsdale
Doreen Frappier	Keith Roderick
Kelly Helmick	Diane Stockman
Diana Lawson	Louise Whitworth
June Lenk	Patty Yocum

## Members Not in Attendance:

Linda Coccovizzo  
David C. Ekin  
Deana M. Griffin  
Lori Moore  
Reeda Rippee  
Devon Sgroi  
Ian Shadrick

## Comments from the public: No public comments.

**Call to Order/Introductions** – Diana Lawson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Roll call was taken by Keith Roderick.

**Approval of Agenda** – Carrie Ragsdale made a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. Donna Borgmeyer seconded the motion. Agenda was approved with no changes made.

**Approval of Minutes** – Donna Borgmeyer indicated a reference to the sub-committee appointed to review and make recommendations to Linda Baker, Governor's Council on Disabilities, of changes to current Disability website. Reeda Rippee was shown to be the chairperson for this committee in error. Donna Borgmeyer chairs this committee. Doreen Frappier made a motion to approve the minutes from last meeting with the above corrections. Kelly Helmick seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with the above corrections.

**Presentation** – Louise Whitworth, Teacher of visually impaired presented information about Pearson's Testing/School Net Testing. Testing continues for compatibility issues using I Pad, Mac, XP, Windows 7, Windows 8. Many school districts currently are not integrated or updated beyond XP. Issues currently appear to be related to enlarging issues; speed controls; accommodations for varying vision issues and different grade levels; signal strength; student accommodations during testing; practice tests; voice-to-test testing as it relates to speech issues (lisp or stuttering); the need to accommodate all programs and meet standards that would all electronic technology to work smoothly throughout the testing process.

**BTF Member Updates/Comments: Clarification and discussion of "Eligible Student Representative".**

- Transitioning from High School to College
- Can student representative continue on Task Force after graduation from High School and transitioning to college?
- Suggestion to invite student representative back after their freshman year of college as a presenter at one of the meetings to share experiences and issues faced.
- Give student representative option to stay with Task Force and finish out their term?

**WORKING LUNCH – 12:00-1:00** – Julie Anderson, Blind Skills Specialist (BSS) led discussion regarding MO AER. Handout can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/blind-task-force/btf-meeting-agendas-handouts>.

**DESE Update** – Dr. Stephen Barr, Assistant Commissioner, DESE, Office of Special Education

- **Budget:** House and Senate conference
  - 2% reduction
  - Loss of \$4,211 in Blind Student Literacy (BSS) and \$689 loss for Commission for the Deaf.
- **Blind Skills Specialists**
  - Aundrayah Shermer has resigned her Blind Skills Specialist position with Missouri State University.
  - Missouri State requested and received permission to advertise the vacancy.
  - If Missouri State is unable to fill the vacancy we may look at other options.
  - Possible re-defining of boundaries for the BSSs and MSB outreach.
- **Superintendent—Missouri School for the Blind (MSB)**
  - Patty Yocum is retiring.
  - Position has been advertised and applications are coming in.
  - Job description posted on the DESE website under vacancies.
- **Missouri School for the Deaf- MSD**
  - Increased interest in use of data and strategic planning for school, after-school, and outreach.
- **Early Childhood- Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP)—**
  - Training completed with 19 trainers available throughout the state.
  - We believe we will have a process that ensures districts will need to provide funding for cost recovery only

- will have a better idea after the budget process finishes
- Questions remain regarding versions available for Special Education reporting Early Childhood Outcomes ECOs—how we will extract the data, etc
- **EC Braided Funding Pilot**
  - Special Education, Title I and MPP developed draft guidance for schools on how to braid funds for a single classroom concept
  - The following school districts invited to help us go through a pilot year. (St. Charles R-VI, Ritenour, Washington, Belton 124, Springfield R-XII, Reeds Spring R-IV, Greenville R-II, Hannibal 60, Steelville R-III, and Clayton)
  - Test out the guidance
  - Create the automated payment system
- **SPP/APR**
  - Part B and C submitted timely.
- **State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)**
  - Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted timely. Much of the SPDG work captured in the Collaborative Work magazine that has been distributed.
- **State applications for funding for Parts C and B**
  - Provided the required public comment period and forwarded the applications for funding for 2014-15 on time.
- **Preparation for State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**
  - Completed the data analysis (Handout was provided)
  - Expert review of data analysis held on May 1-2 for Parts B and C
  - Requesting on-site review from OSEP in late May or early June
- **Assessments**
  - Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)
    - Completed the second of three assessment windows
    - How will the standard for scoring be set?
    - Cap of 1% statewide
  - Smarter Balanced Assessments
    - Field Test Update--Over 10,400,000 tests have begun and more than 9,800,000 tests have been completed. Also, more than 3,750,000 individual students have begun the field test with over 3,650,000 having completed it.

## **Committee and Standing Committees**

- **Children's Vision Summit**
  - Every 2 years – Next one April 2015
  - Breakout Sessions
  - Parent specific?
  - Title to reflect "Parents"

- Registration
  - Keep it separate (Professionals – Parents)
  - Word of mouth, Facebook
  - SELs, Centers for Independent Living, NFB, MCB, Governors Council of Disabilities
- Themes (Technology, LRE, etc.)
- Focus (Lighthouse program, Beginning Braille, O & M, Introduce Literacy to Your Child, Braille Code (“UEB for You and Me”), Common Core
- Location – Contact Stoney Creek in Columbia, Missouri
- Budget
- Survey
  - Parent participation numbers
  - What do parents need?
  - Options for areas of consideration
  - Committee ideas for breakout sessions – preferences and suggestions (Rank as Top 5)
  - Evaluations – Check results from last survey August 2013
- **Rules**
  - By Laws:
    - “Letter to Commissioner of Education” under Section 5 – Vacancies
    - Final screening and consideration of changes
    - Brainstorm wording
    - Students section (9-12)
- **Student Achievement**
  - Similar change between A & V Services and Student Achievement
  - Motion by Patty Yocum and Dacia Luck to reverse the charges. Motion carried.
  - TVI – Academic – Expand core (Life Skills) visual versus hands on.
  - Educate! Non-vision versus “Seeing”
  - Transition – General versus Special Education teachers.
- **Access to current websites**
  - Firefox, Exploration, Windows 7, Google Chrome
  - Accessing pages
  - Disability website review
    - Redo directory
    - Offer to come to next meeting and present a webinar on how to use.

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

June 20-22	INSITE Training to become a MoSPIN parent advisor
June 20	Functional Vision Assessment/Learning Media Assessment Contact: Anthony Blades, 660-785-7428 or <a href="mailto:ablades@truman.edu">ablades@truman.edu</a>
July 8 – 18	Explorations in Science Technology Engineering and Math for Students who are Blind and/or Visually Impaired Session 1: Fantasy Baseball and Real-Life Mathematics, Grades 8-12 @MSB <a href="http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/STEMSession1_2014.pdf">http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/STEMSession1_2014.pdf</a>

July 21-31 Explorations in Science Technology Engineering and Math for Students Who are Blind and/or Visually Impaired Session 2: Earth Journey, Grades 5-9 @ MSB [http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/STEMSession2\\_2014.pdf](http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/STEMSession2_2014.pdf)

July 21-August 1 National Federation of the Blind Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (NFB BELL) at the Delta Gamma Center in Richmond Heights. This program is for children ages 4-12 years old. Contact: Debbie Wunder at [nfbmissouribell@gmail.com](mailto:nfbmissouribell@gmail.com) or via phone at 573-268-6989

August 1 When You Have a Student with a Visual Impairment Kirksville  
Contact: Anthony Blades, 660-785-7428 or [ablades@truman.edu](mailto:ablades@truman.edu)

Oct 22-24, Jan 27-28 Hand In Hand course for teams serving students with combined vision and and April 21-22 hearing loss Springfield Contact: Susan Bonner, 314-776-4320 or [susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov)

**New Business for next scheduled meeting on August 12, 2014 at the Howerton State Office Building, 615 Howerton Court, Jefferson City, MO, Room 202:**

- Website Access
- Authentication issue

**Adjournment** – Motion made and carried to adjourn meeting at 2:50 p.m.