

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

Minutes  
Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives  
May 8, 2012

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
- Kyle Borah, Student 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
- 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
- Ian Shadrick, Institutions of Higher Education Representative
- Louise Whitworth, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Representative
- Patty Yocum, Missouri School for the Blind Representative

## **The following committee representatives were absent:**

- Juliet Salih, Consumer Organization: National Federation of the Blind Representative
- Diane Stockman, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Representative
- David Wilson, Public School Special Education Administrators Representative

**Guests:** Ginny Williams, MOSPIN (Missouri School for the Blind)

Patti Schonlau, Chairman, presided and Lina Browner, Executive Assistant, Office of Special Education, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions: Patti Schonlau

1. Roll Call of BTF Members: Lina Browner
2. Review and Approval of May 8, 2012, BTF Agenda:  
After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the agenda for today's meeting was approved.
3. Review and Approval of February 9, 2012, Minutes:  
After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of last meeting were approved.

4. Missouri Statewide Parent Involvement Network (MOSPIN) Presentation: Ginny Williams provided information and a brochure <http://msb.dese.mo.gov/Outreach/documents/MoSPINbrochure.pdf> on the MOSPIN program. MOSPIN is a free statewide home-based program which provides services to families of children who have visual impairments by utilizing trained parent advisors. The program which has been in existence since 1987, receives referrals from First Steps, Early Childhood Special Education, Parents as Teachers, Head Start, etc.
5. Membership Updates: Patti Schonlau  
Task Force vacancies yet to be filled are as follows: Two (2) Student slots; one (1) Employer slot; and one (1) Parent slot. Will soon have an employer appointed.
6. DESE Update: Stephen Barr
  - DESE is restructuring the statewide system of supports in an effort to reduce duplication in school districts. Performance results for students with disabilities is being reviewed and analyzed. DESE will identify approximately 370 schools and will train RPDC staff to provide supports to teachers. The “consolidated work” will connect to professional learning communities and positive behavior supports. This will be a good opportunity to really improve performance outcomes for students with disabilities. The North Central Regional Resource Center will be assisting DESE with the development of the training curriculum and materials.
  - Legislation – SB 595 is a bill sponsored by Senator Krause which is intended to change the due process three member hearing panel to a hearing commissioner instead. It made it through the senate and will be voted on in the House. DESE is not opposed to this legislation because there is a perception that the Department is biasing the results (from both sides - parents and districts). DESE would continue to provide the funding and training.
  - The Part B and C applications have both been sent to OSEP.
  - Several charter schools in St. Louis (Imagine Schools) are closing, affecting approximately 4,000 students. The children will attend either St. Louis City School District, another charter school, or a private school.
  - The state budget is still being finalized.
  - Summer Workshops:
    - SW PBS Summer Institute, Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach – June 18-20
    - Transition Summer Institute, Capitol Plaza, Jefferson City - June 25-27
    - Dropout Prevention Summit, Capitol Plaza, Jefferson City - June 28-29
    - Missouri Improvement Model (MIM) Summer Institute, Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach – July 11-13
    - New Special Education Directors’ Academy, Jefferson City - July 24-26
    - DESE Administrators’ Conference, Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia - July 30-31
  - DESE has submitted a request for a flexibility waiver to the U.S. Department of Education to seek relief from requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. This option would not replace comprehensive reform or remove accountability, but would help support reform efforts underway at the state and local level. Efforts to reauthorize NCLB and its progression of targets towards 100% proficiency in 2014 have not been successful; meaning that soon virtually all schools in Missouri would be labeled as failing under NCLB. The law’s definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) no longer accurately identifies which schools are high-performing and which are in need of additional support and interventions. If granted, an ESEA flexibility waiver from the U. S. Department of Education, Missouri would have more autonomy in guiding improvement efforts in its schools by establishing ambitious, yet attainable, annual measurable objectives using multiple measures for accountability determinations, and ensuring that all students graduate college and career-ready through the professional practice of effective teachers and leaders.

7. Discussion of Committee and Standing Committees

8. Standing Committee Updates: Patti Schonlau

For a current Membership and Committee list go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/se/btf/>.

**Student Achievement: Julie Brown, Chairperson**

*Members: Doreen Frappier, Kelly Helmick, Stephen Barr, Patty Yocum, Kyle Borah, Mike Charland, Ian Shadrick, Louise Whitworth, Julie Salih, Doreen Frappier*

*Charge: To evaluate, determine, and report the degree of academic success of blind and/or visually impaired students in Missouri public schools.*

- The committee asked Stephen if he could invite the blindness skills specialists to attend the August BTF meeting. Janice DeHart, BSS is leaving later this summer and DESE plans to refill that vacancy. The committee would like to better educate districts regarding the services available through the blindness skills specialists. Suggestions including sending a SELS message and contacting LASE. The committee is also working on the questions for the survey that will be sent to special education directors. Patty encouraged BTF members to send her questions they would like included.

**Academic and Vocational Services: Patty Yocum, Chairperson**

*Members: Julie Brown, David Ekin, Keith Roderick, Mike Charland, David Wilson, Ian Shadrick*

*Charge: To address transition services, development and educational needs (birth through high school) to assist students and their families in setting goals and implementing strategies through the life continuum, commensurate with the student's aptitudes, interests and abilities.*

- The committee has been reviewing special education student data. There is a bit of a problem with some of the data because of the way it is reported into Core Data. In Core Data, only the primary disability category for each student is reported. If a student has other disabilities, those categories are not reported into Core Data. Stephen handed out a list of available reports from the students with disabilities data. This list is available at <http://dese.mo.gov/se/btf/documents/se-btf-dataonswds.pdf>. Julie requested information on MAP proficiency data, educational environments, and transition. Doreen would like data on graduation rates.

**Rules: Diana Lawson, Chairperson**

*Members: Julie Brown, Patti Schonlau, Mike Charland, Louise Whitworth, Diane Stockman*

*Charge: To work at the discretion of the Blind Task Force (BTF) Chair to investigate and define rules and policies of the Blind Task Force.*

- The committee is working on questions to be used with BTF nominees.

**Children's Vision Summit: Patti Schonlau, Chairperson**

*Members: Donna Borgmeyer, Kelly Helmick, Keith Roderick, Patti Schonlau, Kyle Borah, Ian Shadrick*

*Charge: Plan and conduct the Children's Vision Summit*

- The Children's Vision Summit is tentatively scheduled for April 29, 2013. Doreen asked to resign as the chair of the Children's Vision Summit committee. Patti agreed to take her place as chair of the committee. The committee is working on details of the summit including location, focus, sessions, presenters, etc.

9. Current Workshops/Events in the State - 2012

Date	Title/Contact/Phone
June 22-24	Session I: INSITE Training for MoSPIN parent advisors-St. Louis Contact: Ginny Williams, Lead Parent Advisor, at <a href="mailto:gjinwilliams@aol.com">gjinwilliams@aol.com</a> , 573-295-4808
June 22-24	ASL Camp for Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in Grades K-12, Missouri School for the Deaf-Fulton Contact: <a href="mailto:larry.hoard@msd.dese.mo.gov">larry.hoard@msd.dese.mo.gov</a>
July 7	Usher Syndrome Family Conference-St. Louis <a href="http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5rffa985e9f9f9f&amp;llr=agxycmcab">http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5rffa985e9f9f9f&amp;llr=agxycmcab</a>
July 9-20	Session I: Mission to Mars, Explorations in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired, Missouri School for the Blind-St. Louis <a href="http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/Description032612_000.pdf">http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/Description032612_000.pdf</a>
July 12-15	National Organization of Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH) Conference-St. Louis <a href="http://stx.albinism.org/events/noah-s-14th-national-conference">http://stx.albinism.org/events/noah-s-14th-national-conference</a>
July 23- Aug 3	Session II: CSI Summer, Explorations in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired, Missouri School for the Blind-St. Louis <a href="http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/Description032612_000.pdf">http://msb.dese.mo.gov/documents/Description032612_000.pdf</a>
Sept 13	Welcoming Students with Visual Impairment to Your School-Missouri School for the Blind Contact: Jennie Mascheck, Outreach Services Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov">jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov</a> , 314-776-4320, ext. 1250
Sept 28-30	Session II: INSITE Training for MoSPIN parent advisors-St. Louis Contact: Ginny Williams, Lead Parent Advisor, at <a href="mailto:gjinwilliams@aol.com">gjinwilliams@aol.com</a> , 573-295-4808
October 2-4	Session I: Hand In Hand: Understanding Deafblindness for Education Teams of Students Who Are Deafblind-Columbia, MO Contact: Susan Bonner, Supervisor, at <a href="mailto:susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov">susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov</a> , 314-776-4320, ext. 3255
Jan 15-16, 2013	Session II: Hand In Hand: Understanding Deafblindness for Education Teams of Students Who Are Deafblind-Columbia, MO Contact: Susan Bonner, Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov">susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov</a> , 314-776-4320, ext. 3255
April 8-9, 2013	Session III: Hand In Hand: Understanding Deafblindness for Education Teams of Students Who Are Deafblind-Columbia, MO Contact: Susan Bonner, Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov">susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov</a> , 314-776-4320, ext. 3255

**Announcements:**

Recently, the Missouri Association of Blind Students Division added the Missouri Chapter of NFB. Kyle is one of two board members.

10. The next meeting of the Blind Task Force will be held on August 7, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

11. There being no further business, the meeting was, on motion duly made and seconded, adjourned at 1:15 p.m.