

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

Minutes  
Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives  
August 7, 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
- Donna Borgmeyer, Rehabilitation Council for the Blind Representative
- Julie Brown, Public School Special Education Administrators Representative
- Doreen Frappier, Parents of blind or visually impaired students attending public school in Missouri Representative
- Kelly Helmick, Public School Building Principals Representative
- Patti Schonlau, Consumer Organization: Missouri Council of the Blind Representative
- Ian Shadrack, Institutions of Higher Education Representative
- Diane Stockman, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Representative
- Louise Whitworth, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Representative
- David Wilson, Public School Special Education Administrators Representative
- Patty Yocum, Missouri School for the Blind Representative
- Deana M. Griffin, Employer Representative

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

- Mike Charland, Orientation & Mobility Specialist Representative
- David C. Ekin, Employers Representative
- Diana Lawson, Public School Building Principals Representative
- Keith Roderick, Department of Social Services Representative
- Juliet Salih, Consumer Organization: National Federation of the Blind Representative

**Guests:** Jennie Mascheck, Missouri School for the Blind, Outreach Services, Aundrayah Shermer, Blindness Skills Specialist, Missouri State University, Anthony Blades, Blind Skills Specialist, Northeast Regional Professional Center, Truman State University

## **Copies of handouts used during presentations can be found at**

<http://dese.mo.gov/se/btf/BlindTaskForceMeeting-Aug72012.html>

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

## **Welcome and Introductions: Patti Schonlau**

1. **Roll Call of BTF Members:** Regina Miller
2. **Review and Approval of August 7, 2012, BTF Agenda:**  
After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the agenda for today's meeting was approved.
3. **Review and Approval of May 8 Minutes:**  
P. Yocum noted that the Committee information contained on pg 3 of the minutes were switched around. After no further discussion, motion was duly made to accept minutes once this correction has been made. Motion seconded and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

#### 4. **Blindness Skills Specialists Presentation:**

Aundrayah Shermer, Blindness Skills Specialist Southwest Regional Professional Development Center, Missouri State University, Anthony Blades, Blind Skills Specialist, Northeast Regional Professional Center, Truman State University, Handout can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/se/btf/BlindTaskForceMeeting-Aug72012.html>

#### 5. **Membership Updates: Patti Schonlau**

- Kyle Borah, Student Representative has graduated from high school. Thank you letter sent dated August 6, 2012.
- Department has requested that Juliet Salih be dropped from membership. Recently employed and unable to take leave to attend meetings at this time. Letter sent dated August 13, 2012.
- Current vacancies: Three (3) parent slots and three (3) student slots to be filled.
- The nomination form can be found at <http://www.dese.mo.gov/se/btf/documents/se-ep-btfnomform.pdf>

#### 6. **DESE Update: Stephen Barr**

Handouts can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/se/btf/BlindTaskForceMeeting-Aug72012.html>

- Budget – Though currently intact, anticipate reductions in federal funding across state agencies and school districts.
- IDEA remains a preferred program from the federal viewpoint.
- Staff reductions at DESE are highly probable.
- ECSE Waiver highlights major changes. (Handout)
  - Do not have to identify schools that are in school improvement, corrective action or restructuring. (Around 170 buildings currently identified for Priority/Focus status compared to 600 buildings previously under AYP).
  - State no longer has to identify districts that need corrective action.
  - Intent is to get a better focus of resources and make state and federal systems much more aligned.
  - The Waiver allows the school improvement funds and grants to be used for either the Priority or the Focus buildings.
  - New set of annual measurable objectives (AMOs) have been established.
  - Highly Qualified Teachers – there's no longer a requirement for the district to write a plan of improvement.
- Consolidating Work – MO Statewide System of Support
  - Keep elements of the Statewide Support System in every region. Look at key indicators.
  - Teaching and Learning strategies using publication by John Hattie from New Zealand as primary source of focus. Helping teachers work together using formative assessment data
- Senate Bill 595 – Change from a three-member panel to the Administrative Hearing Commission. DESE will continue to be responsible to the federal government for the conduct and timing portion, but all due process requests will be heard by the Commission.
  - Helps remove DESE from the perception of bias and will expedite the hearing process.
- New Assessments – strategies for helping visually impaired students are being considered by the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium as they develop their new assessment program.
  - Will allow an assigned test administrator to help students who are visually impaired to participate in the on-line assessments which will be scored almost immediately.
  - The Oregon model requires districts to have computers for both the administrator and the student.
  - Would require training ahead of time for students and administrators.
  - We need to start thinking about the district, state and federal roles.

## 8. Standing Committee Updates: Patti Schonlau

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

- **Student Achievement: Julie Brown, Chairperson**

*Members: Doreen Frappier, Kelly Helmick, Stephen Barr, Patty Yocum, 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.*

Nothing to report at this time.

- **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.*

Currently focusing on Children's Vision Summit and working on a piece of that program. Update forthcoming.

- **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.*

Diana Lawson was not present for this meeting. Nothing to report at this time.

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

*Members: Donna Borgmeyer, Kelly Helmick, Keith Roderick, Patti Schonlau, Ian Shadrick, Deana Griffin*

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

**Monday, April 29, 2013**

**Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, Columbia, MO**

**Cost: \$1200**

**Theme: Transition**

- Preparing students for the transition while they are still in High School
- Should not be limited to ages 14-17 only.
- Involve younger children and parents with sessions that would include transition for the younger child.

**Lodging:** Tentatively 95-105 (Be sure to ask for a state rate discount) Consider reserving a block of rooms for a better discount.

**Conference Rooms Available:** Large room will seat 350 with Classroom setup or 400 with Round setup. The Larger room can also be broken into 3 smaller salons if needed. Cost: Large Space: \$800.00 Smaller Salons: \$150.00 each. (\$1250.00)

**Pledged Funds to date:** \$7,000.00

**Keynote Speaker Suggested**

- Karen Blankenship (Ian Shadrick will contact)
- Chip Hailey
- Barbara Mayfield, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, MO
- Jenny Wiggins, Holt Summit (Patti Y. will contact)
- Dennis Atkins, St. Charles, MO (Donna Borgmeyer will contact)
- Pam Stern, Regional Representative NAPVI, Chicago, IL
- Lunch Hour Presentation: Chip Hailey

## **Breakout Sessions:**

- **Presenters:**

- Louise Whitworth
- Pam Thomas, DESE First Steps 573-751-3559
- Michael St. Julien
- Megan O'Rorke
- Barbara Hammer
- Judy Pressburg
- Ian Shadrick
- Anthony Blades
- Aundrayah Shermer
- Betty Davidson
- Tim Cobb
- Patty Yocum
- John Carrey
- David Wilson

- **Topics:**

- Focus on Outcomes
- First Steps to ECSE; ECSE to Kindergarten
- Parent-focused training sessions
- Successful Blind employees in the workforce (Chip Hailey)
- IEP
- Expanding Core Curriculum (Karen Blankenship)
- Parent Liaisons
- Advocacy
- Technology (Ian Shadrick)
- Transition for Middle School Students (Michael St. Julian)  
*Patti will contact*
- O & M: "How to Get Around"
- Braille: College Students and Braille and Audio Learning  
*Diane Stockman will contact*
- MU Blind Students Outreach – Student Orientation  
*Doreen Frappier will contact*
- Support for Teens and Family of Students with Multiple Disabilities including Visual Impairments (Anthony Blade, Presenter)
- For Higher Functioning Students: Working in Advocacy for the Blind (Betty Davidson) 314-989-8251
- Presentation from Lighthouse for the Blind
- Panel Presentation: Perspectives on LRE for Regular Ed and Special Ed,  
*Patty Yocum will contact*

- **Activities for kids**

- Need to involve all ages
- Jennifer Turner, (projects for kids) Louise Whitworth will contact
- Conservation
- Runge Nature Center
- Story Hour (Get HS age and college age students to assist)
- Reading to Rover Program- Doreen Frappier will get more information
- Coloring Pages (APH) ABC Gardens; Mead; Scholastics Louise Whitworth will research

- **Vendor Booths**

Donna Borgmeyer will locate a list of vendors that have been used in the past.

Date	Current Workshops/Events in the State – 2012 Title/Contact/Phone
September 13, 2012	<b>Welcoming Students with Visual Impairment to Your School</b> - <i>Missouri School for the Blind</i> , 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
September 14, 2012	<b>When You Have a Student with a Visual Impairment</b> - <i>Northeast RPDC-Kirksville</i> , register at <a href="http://rpdc.truman.edu">http://rpdc.truman.edu</a>
September 28, 2012	<b>An Introduction to Braille</b> - <i>Northeast RPDC-Kirksville</i> , register at <a href="http://rpdc.truman.edu">http://rpdc.truman.edu</a>
October 2-4, 2012	<b>Session 1: Hand in Hand: Understanding Deafblindness for Education Teams of Students Who Are Deafblind</b> - <i>Columbia</i> , 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
October 12, 2012	<b>An Introduction to the Nemeth Code</b> - <i>Northeast RPDC-Kirksville</i> , register at <a href="http://rpdc.truman.edu">http://rpdc.truman.edu</a>
October 23, 2012	<b>Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI): Visions of Change a National Instructional Partnership with Beth Ramella, American Printing House for the Blind</b> - <i>Missouri School for the Blind</i> , 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
November 2, 2012	<b>MO Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired Fall 2012 Conference</b> - <i>Columbia</i> , contact Lindsay Wayne at <a href="mailto:lwayne@dqckids.org">lwayne@dqckids.org</a>
November 8-9, 2012	<b>Activity Based Programming for Students with Severe Differences Including Those with Visual Impairment</b> - <i>Northeast RPDC-Kirksville</i> , register at <a href="http://rpdc.truman.edu">http://rpdc.truman.edu</a>
November 14-16, 2012	<b>VIISA Course: Serving Preschoolers (3-5) with vision Impairment in Center-based Settings (Session 1) with Bess Dennison</b> - <i>Chesterfield</i> , 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
November 30, 2012	<b>Emergent Literacy for Learners with Significant Disabilities with Tanni Anthony</b> - <i>Columbia</i> , 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
December 1, 2012	<b>Emergent Literacy for Families of Young Learners with Tanni Anthony</b> - <i>St. Louis</i> , 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
December 7, 2012	<b>The Nemeth Code: The Second Chapter</b> - <i>Northeast RPDC-Kirksville</i> , register at <a href="http://rpdc.truman.edu">http://rpdc.truman.edu</a>
January 11, 2013	<b>Braille for the Layperson, Part II</b> - <i>Northeast RPDC-Kirksville</i> , register at <a href="http://rpdc.truman.edu">http://rpdc.truman.edu</a>
January 15-16, 2013	<b>Session II: Hand in Hand: Understanding Deafblindness for Education Teams of Students Who are Deafblind</b> - <i>Columbia</i> , 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
February 8, 2013	<b>The Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairment</b> - <i>Northeast RPDC-Kirksville</i> , register at <a href="http://rpdc.truman.edu">http://rpdc.truman.edu</a>
March 1, 2013	<b>Literacy for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired</b> - <i>Northeast RPDC-Kirksville</i> , register at <a href="http://rpdc.truman.edu">http://rpdc.truman.edu</a>
March 6-8, 2013	<b>VIISA Course: Serving Preschoolers (3-5) with Vision Impairment in Center-based Settings (Session II) with Bess Dennison</b> - <i>Chesterfield</i> , contact Jennie Mascheck, Outreach Service Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov">jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov</a> , 314-776-4320, ext 3255
April 8-9, 2013	<b>Session III: Hand in Hand: Understanding Deafblindness for Education Teams of Students Who Are Deafblind</b> - <i>Columbia</i> , 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

10. The next meeting of the Blind Task Force will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012.

11. Independent Living Resource Center Board of Directors – Donna Borgmeyer  
Donna made members aware of new item coming available just in time for Christmas.  
Cookbooks are available for \$10.00 through ILRC and can be ordered online at  
[www.ilrcjcmo.org](http://www.ilrcjcmo.org) or call 1-877-627-0400.

There being no further business, the meeting was, on motion duly made and seconded, adjourned at 2:00 p.m.