



## MISSOURI DEAF-BLIND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Professional Development Course: **HAND IN HAND: 2019-2020**

### UNDERSTANDING DEAFBLINDNESS FOR EDUCATION TEAMS

#### SERVING STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND

This course, totaling seven days throughout the academic year, provides instructional strategies and practice specific to educational teams of students with deafblindness. The course combines three face-to-face instructional sessions, follow-up mentoring provided by a specialist in the field of deafblindness and the development of a student profile.

**Dates:** Session I: November 4-5, 2019

Session II: January 8-10, 2020

Session III: April 9-10, 2020

**Location:** Drury Inn & Suites St. Louis Forest Park

2111 Sulphur Ave, St. Louis, MO 63139

**Times:** 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

**Lodging:** A block of rooms have been reserved at the training location. Several hotel options are in the area. We do not endorse any particular site.

#### **Target Audience:**

The target audience is the educational team of a student with deafblindness (the student's parent(s), teacher, classroom paraprofessional, therapists, etc). As many members of a student's team as possible - particularly parents/guardians - are encouraged to participate in the course. One member of the team must attend all sessions of the course and is responsible to share information to other team members. Individual teachers serving students with deafblindness are encouraged to register.

The course is designed to have direct application to students with deafblindness; therefore, all teams/participants should be currently serving a student (birth through twenty-one) with deafblindness or planning to serve a student with deafblindness to transition into their program.



Each team will need to complete and return the Team Registration Form. Any special supports requested need to be clearly described on the Team Registration Form. Once each team is registered, the Missouri Deaf-Blind Project will contact the team with more information regarding the course. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 25, 2019.**

#### **Release of Information:**

Each team must secure a signed release of information from their student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) giving permission for the following:

#### **Learning objectives:**

- Essential information about vision and hearing loss and how these losses affect students with deafblindness.
- Interrelationship of communication and movement.
- Basic nature of communication and how students develop the ability to communicate.
- How communication development is affected by deafblindness.
- The importance of assisting students with deafblindness to develop lifelong communication skills for full community participation.
- How a student's knowledge of body concepts and the environment can be affected by deafblindness.
- The importance of teaching students with deafblindness to become aware of their surroundings and to move or be guided purposefully and safely.
- Necessary components for successful transition into new settings for a student with deafblindness.
- The importance of technology and how it impacts students with deafblindness.

#### **Course structure:**

This professional course uses a combination of presentations, simulation, group discussion with instructors and other course participants, development of student profile and follow-up mentoring.

The course is arranged and sequenced in the following manner:

#### **Session I:**

Teams will be provided with set of the course's text: *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies*. Through lecture,



hands-on activities, discussion and team time, the participants will begin to learn about the dynamics of deafblindness and how to apply acquired knowledge to the student they are serving. Teams will participate in identifying the unique needs of their student and will begin to develop a student profile. The session will end with each team developing an Action Plan specific to their student's education or environment. As part of the action planning process, each team will be assigned a mentor. The mentor will support the teams in the implementation of their action plan and in the application of the knowledge they acquired from the course.

### **Session II:**

Participants will be provided with in-depth instruction on communication and the vital role it plays in the education of students with deafblindness. Participants will also become acquainted with a variety of tools used to assess the communication needs of students with deafblindness. This session will consist of lecture, discussion, hands-on activities and continued work to develop the student's profile. The session will end with each team developing an Action Plan specific to their student's education or environment.

### **Session III:**

Participants will be provided with instruction on additional assessment tools, interveners, orientation and mobility and Haptic Communication. This session will end with each team's completion and brief presentation of their student profile. A final Action Plan will be established and follow-up mentoring will be scheduled if necessary.

### **Mentoring:**

Each team will be assigned a mentor from MoDBTAP. The mentor will be available to the team to answer questions and provide support between each session. Scheduled mentoring sessions will be based on the needs of the team and student. Mentoring sessions may take place by phone, email, video conference or on-site.

### **Instructors:**

Megan Burgess, B.S., TRS, SSP, Deaf-Blind Project Coordinator, Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project, Saint Louis, Missouri

Karen Carl, MEd, VI & Deaf-Blind Certified, Educational Specialist, Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project, St. Peters, Missouri



Mandy Clayton, B.S, Deaf-Blind School Support Specialist, Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project, Saint Louis, Missouri

Jane Herder, MA, MEd, TVI, COMS, Deaf-Blind Project Director, Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project, St. Louis, Missouri

Melissa Moore, B.S, TVI, MoSPIN Lead Parent Advisor/Family Engagement Coordinator, Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project, Saint Louis, Missouri

Pam Shatto, MA CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, Communication Specialist, Kansas City, Missouri

Rubecca Wilson, M.S., CED, Deaf Educator, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist, Springfield, Missouri

### **Course fees and costs:**

There is no registration fee for the course.

The Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project (MoDBTAP) will provide each team with one set of **Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies** and **Remarkable Conversations**. Upon completion of the course, the books become the property of the school district. If a team withdraws from the course, all books and resources must be returned to MoDBTAP.

### **Travel and Lodging:**

Team members: Are responsible for their own travel costs, meals and lodging (if needed).

Parents/Guardians:

- Traveling over 50 miles: MoDBTAP may reimburse parents/guardians for the cost of their lodging (that is, only state government rate plus taxes). Any additional charges to the room (such as in-room movies) will not be reimbursed. For more details please contact Megan Burgess: [Megan.Burgess@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Megan.Burgess@msb.dese.mo.gov).
- Mileage: Parents/guardians will be reimbursed the current allowable state rate per mile (between their homes and training site) round trip.
- Stipend: MoDBTAP may provide the parents/guardians with a stipend of \$50 for day 1 and \$60 for each of the days 2 -7 for their participation.
- MissouriBuys: If reimbursement is approved by the Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project, parents/guardians must complete registration with the State of Missouri vendor process in MissouriBuys.



## Ordering additional copies of *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies*:

To order additional sets, request the following: *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies* (Catalogue number: 101). The cost per set is approximately \$175.00 plus shipping.

Hope Publishing

1856 North 1200 East North Logan, UT 84341 (435) 245-2888

[hope@hopepubl.com](mailto:hope@hopepubl.com)

## Course Credit (Optional):

Two graduate credits for the Hand In Hand course are available through Lindenwood University. The cost for the two graduate credits is \$150 and is payable to Lindenwood University. Team members wishing to take this course for the credit can register during the final session. The Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project will not reimburse participants for this fee.

## Course Accessibility:

Requests for supports (interpreters, braille, large print, etc.) must be indicated on each team's Registration Form and received by **October 11, 2019**.

The Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project will not be able to provide *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies* in talking book, braille or any other format.

*Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies* is not available in any other media than print. However, handouts and other materials will be transcribed or enlarged.

Translation and/or Interpreting services will be secured by the Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project, if needed.

Participants wishing to bring their own personal interpreters may do so, at their own cost. Only interpreter's services secured by the Project will be paid for by the Project.

Any special supports requested need to be clearly described on the Team Registration Form.

Unless the Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project is given reasonable time to secure special requests, they cannot guarantee to meet them.



**For More Information:**

Contact Megan Burgess, Deaf-Blind Project Coordinator:

[Megan.Burgess@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:Megan.Burgess@msb.dese.mo.gov) or (314) 633-1587.