**Membership of Task Force on Blind Student Academic and Vocational Performance  
Assisted by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Office of Special Education  
  
Task Force Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2023**

**Task Force Members Present:**Geoffrey Barney, Kerry Boehm, Jenny Carmack, Rose Ehresman, Carla Keirns, June Lenk, Jonita Scarbrough, Samantha Scott, Louise Whitworth, Yorke, Angie

**Task Force Members Absent:**Terra Coccovizzo, Allison Hayes, Robert Woerther, Sheila Wright

**DESE Staff Present:**Gwen Deimeke, Sunghe Han, Regina Miller

**Guests:**DJ Butcher, Jessica Hall, Jane Herder

Task Force Chairperson, Carla Keirns called the in-person meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum for the meeting of ten members in attendance. The meeting was held in Jefferson City in the Family Support Division Building, 3418 Knipp Drive, 65109 and by Zoom. Carla welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions followed.

**Approval of agenda:** The agenda was unanimously approved by the Task Force.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The Task Force unanimously approved the meeting minutes for August 8, 2023. The approved minutes will be posted on the BTF website.

**Missouri Blind Literacy Study Presentation – Seunghee Han:**Suenghee presented a PowerPoint presentation and discussed background of annual Blind Literacy Report and Data Elements 1-13. PowerPoint will be posted on BTF website.

**Blind Skills Specialist Reports – DJ Butcher, Jessica Hall, Jane Herder**Task force members, DESE staff were provided reports prior to meeting date for review. These reports will be posted on the BTF website.

**DESE Update – Gwen Deimeke**Behavior Intervention Specialists positions have been created in all the regions. They are currently in training (Social Emotional Learning, High leverage Practices, FBA training)

2024 Summer Conferences   
Currently in planning phase. Noted dates are tentative.

* DCI Summit – May 2024
* Transition Training Institute – June 2024
* Special Education Directors Academy (SEDA) – July 2024

An Advisory group made up of parents and educators from our Stakeholder Survey in January had their second virtual meeting on October 12. Survey results were shared on Transition. Those results were followed with breakout sessions where participants answered questions about transition and shared what worked for them and what could be done to transition services in the IEP and other educational processes. The next Advisory Group virtual meeting will be held on February 15, 2024, and the discussion will center around Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Please let Gwen know if you would like to be a part of this advisory group.

**Follow Up – Open Discussion Topics – Carla Keirns**

* TVI Training
* Secondary Disability
* Data – Include students with hearing impairments that are not being reported for services
* Screen annually or semi-annually for children with hearing and visual impairments
* Credentialed Autism Professional Diagnosis wait time
* How can service coordinators be made better aware of what to look for in the area of First Steps?

**2024 Sub Committees: Membership and Chairpersons – Carla Keirns**

* Revisited subcommittee assignments – chairpersons for each committee
  + Academic and Vocational Services
  + Children’s Vision Summit
  + Rules – Nomination for new Chairperson
    - C. Keirns nominated Sheila Wright for Rules Chairperson – seconded by J. Lenk – Nomination accepted and carried. Will update subcommittee listing posted on BTF website.
    - Add TVI/O&M Certification Committee – Suggested that an invitation be extended to include Blind Skills Specialists to participate and offer expertise.

**BTF New Members/Vacancies/Updates – Carla Keirns**

* Regina Miller will research background of definitions for vacancies and send to members for consideration for next meeting February 13, 2024.

**2024 Nomination/Election of Officers – Carla Keirns**

* **2024 Chairperson –** Carla Keirns nominated to continue in role as Chairperson **–** Geoff Barney seconds the nomination – Carla accepts – motion carried
* **2024 Vice Chairperson –** Carla Keirns nominates Rose Ehresman to continue in role as Vice Chairperson – Geoffrey Barney seconds the motions – Rose accepts – motion carried
* **2024 Secretary –** Louise Whitworth nominated to continue in role as Secretary – Carla Keirns seconds the motion – Louise accepts – motion carried

**2024 Meeting Dates/Location or Virtual – Carla Keirns**

* Beginning in 2024 meetings will be held during the second full week – every three months
  + Virtual Meeting – Tuesday, February 13, 2024
  + In-person Meeting – May 14, 2024 – venue to be determined
  + Virtual Meeting – August 13, 2024
  + In-person Meeting – November 12, 2024

**Calendar of Events – Carla Keirns – No report**

**Agenda Items for next scheduled meeting – Carla Keirns**Please email Carla or Regina with suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Next Blind Task Force meeting will be held via ZOOM on February 13, 2024.

Minutes by Regina Miller  
02/09/2024

Approved by Task Force  
02/13/2024