



MISSOURI DEAF-BLIND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Professional Development Course: HAND IN HAND: 2021-2022

Understanding Dual Sensory Loss for Education Teams

Serving Students with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss

This course, totaling seven days throughout the academic year, provides instructional strategies and practices specific to the education of students with dual sensory loss. The course combines three instructional sessions, follow-up mentoring provided by a specialist in the field of deafblindness and the development of a student profile. Due to the hands-on nature of the presentations, Hand in Hand will be offered as an in-person experience only.

Dates: Session 1: January 10 & 11, 2022

Session 2: March 9-11, 2022

Session 3: April 28 & 29, 2022

Times: 8:30am-4:00pm CST (tentative)

Location: Missouri School for the Blind
3815 Magnolia Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63110 (See page 4 for COVID guidelines)

Target Audience:

Educational teams of a student with a combined vision and hearing loss (dual sensory loss), the student's parent(s), teachers, classroom paraprofessionals, therapists, teachers of the visually impaired, teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing, interpreters and interpreting students.

If registering as a team serving a student with a dual sensory loss, at least one member of the team must attend all sessions of the course and is responsible to share information with other team members.

Individual teachers serving students with dual sensory loss or individuals interested in increasing their knowledge of dual sensory loss are encouraged to register.

The course is designed to have direct application to students with dual sensory loss; it is recommended that teams/participants are currently serving a student (birth through 21) with dual sensory loss, preparing to serve a student with dual sensory loss to transition into their program, or are interested in increasing their knowledge in the area of dual sensory loss. Those who are not actively serving a child/student with dual sensory loss will be provided with a case study student for training purposes.

Registration:

Complete and submit the [Hand In Hand Application](#). Requests for access accommodations need to be clearly described on the application.

Registration deadline is December 20, 2021.

Release of Information:

If registering as a team, you must secure a signed release of information from their student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) giving permission to discuss student information.

Learning objectives:

- Essential information about vision and hearing loss and how these losses affect students with dual sensory losses.
- Interrelationship of communication and movement.
- Basic nature of communication and how students develop the ability to communicate.
- How communication development is affected by dual sensory loss.
- The importance of assisting students with dual sensory loss to develop lifelong communication skills for full community participation.
- How a student's knowledge of body concepts and the environment can be affected by dual sensory loss.
- The importance of teaching students with dual sensory loss 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 dual sensory loss.
- The importance of technology and how it impacts students with dual sensory loss.

Course structure:

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

The course is arranged and sequenced in the following manner:

Session I:

Teams will be provided with additional resources and texts such as *Remarkable Conversations*, *Calendars*, and *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 dual sensory loss 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/participant developing an action plan specific to their student's education or environment. As part of the action planning process, each team/participant will be assigned a mentor. The mentor will provide support 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. Participants will also become acquainted with a variety of tools used to assess the communication needs of students with dual sensory loss. 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, Support Service Providers, and Interveners. This session will end with each team's completion and brief presentation of their student profile. Follow-up mentoring will be scheduled, if necessary.

Mentoring:

Each team/participant will be assigned a mentor from MoDBTAP. The mentor will be available to answer questions and provide support between each session. Scheduled mentoring sessions will be scheduled on an as needed basis. Mentoring sessions may take place by phone, email or video conference.

Instructors:

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

Natasha Baebler, MAT, Deaf-Blind Project Coordinator Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project, St. 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, St. Louis, Missouri

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

Rubeca 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 books related to deafblindness. Upon completion of the course, the books become the property of the school district.

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. Participants interested in credit must attend all sessions and can register for credit during the final session.

Course Accessibility:

Requests for supports (interpreters, braille, large print, etc.) must be indicated on the course application and received by **December 20, 2021**.

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

Participants may bring their own personal interpreters at their own cost. Only interpreter services secured by the Project will be paid for by the Project.

Any request for access or accommodations will need to be clearly described on the application form.

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

COVID guidelines:

If attending in person, vaccinations will be required. Please bring your ID and your vaccination card to register at Missouri School for the Blind.

Accommodations requested at least two weeks in advance may be offered on a case-by-case basis for those unable to be vaccinated due to disability. CDC guidelines will also be followed.

For More Information:

Contact Natasha Baebler, Deaf-Blind Project Coordinator:
natasha.baebler@msb.dese.mo.gov or (314) 633-1587.