

MISSOURI DEAFBLIND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT
Professional Training Course: *HAND IN HAND: 2017-2018*
UNDERSTANDING DEAFBLINDNESS FOR EDUCATION TEAMS
SERVING STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND

Dates, Location, Time:

The course combines self-studies, homework assignments, and action planning with on-site follow-up mentoring support, and three face-to-face sessions with course instructors. The dates/location/times of the face-to-face sessions are:

Dates: **Session 1, Wednesday through Friday, November 7-9, 2018**
 Session 2, Thursday and Friday, January 24 & 25, 2019
 Session 3, Thursday & Friday, April 4-5, 2019

Location: **Nixa, MO**

Target Audience:

The target audience is the educational team of a student with deafblindness (that is, 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 may register.

NOTE:

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

Course structure:

This professional course uses a combination of self-studies, homework assignments, and action planning with follow-up onsite mentoring, and face-to-face sessions with instructors and other course participants. The course is arranged and sequenced in the following manner:

1. *Registration:* Once each team has decided to attend the course, they will need to complete and return the forms attached to this announcement: the *Team Registration Form* and attached release of information signed by the student's parent(s)/guardians(s). **Registration deadline is Thursday, October 5, 2018.** Once each team is registered, the Missouri Deafblind Project will email each team a confirmation letter with more information regarding the course.
2. *First session:* At that time, teams will be given one complementary set of the course's text: ***Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies***. Through lecture and hands-on activities, the participants will learn about the dynamics of deafblindness. The three-day session will end with each team developing an Action Plan for how the knowledge acquired up to this point will be utilized with each team's student. As part of the action planning process, each team will be assigned a mentor (one of the Hand In Hand instructors) who will meet with the team regularly (face-to-face/ onsite, by phone, etc., based on the needs of the team). This mentoring will support the teams in the implementation of their action plans and in the application of the knowledge they acquire about deafblindness to their students. Finally, the first assignments will be given to the participating teams.
3. *Reading of text, implementation of action plans, and mentoring activities:* During the next few months, each team will review the relevant chapters in the course text; work on the implementation of the action plan developed at the 1st session; complete assignments; and receive support from an assigned mentor. Finally, just before returning for the second onsite, face-to-face session in January, **each team writes a short report/summary on the**

progress of the implementation of the action plan the team developed during the October session.

4. *Second session:* All teams will return for a second session with the instructors. At that time, the participants will learn about communication and the role it plays in the education of students with deafblindness. Participants will also become acquainted with some tools used to assess the communication needs of students with deafblindness. This two-day session will end with each team developing an action plan for how the knowledge acquired up to this point will be applied to the student it serves.
5. *Reading of text, implementation of action plans, and mentoring activities:* For the next few months, each team will review the relevant chapters in the course text; work on the implementation of the action plan it developed at the January session; complete assignments; and receive support from its assigned mentor. Finally, just before returning for the third onsite, face-to-face session in April, each team **writes a short report/summary on the progress of the implementation of the action plan** the team developed during the January session.
6. *Third (and final) session:* All teams return for the third (and final) session. At that time, the participants will learn additional assessment strategies as well as learn how to apply the knowledge and skills gleaned during the course with the student each team serves. The final course assignment will be distributed. This session will end with each team developing an Action Plan for how knowledge acquired during the **Hand In Hand** course will be utilized with its student.

Learning objectives:

The teams will learn:

- essential information about vision and hearing impairments and how these impairments can affect students with deafblindness;
- the interrelationship of communication and movement;
- the 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; and,
- the importance of teaching students with deafblindness to become aware of their surroundings and to move or be guided purposefully and safely
- the 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 fees and costs:

There is no registration fee for the course. In addition, the Missouri Deafblind Project will provide each team with *one* (1) set of the course's textbooks, ***Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies and Remarkable Conversations*** at no cost to the teams.

Team members - *with the exceptions of parents* - are responsible for their own travel costs, and housing (if needed). With the exception of lunch on November 7, 2018, participants will be responsible for all other meals during the three onsite sessions.

Parents/Guardians:

- **Traveling over fifty miles:** The Missouri Deafblind Project 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.
- **Mileage:** Parents/guardians will be reimbursed the current allowable state rate per mile (between their homes and Nixa, MO) round trip.
- **Stipend:** The Deafblind Project may provide the parents/guardians a stipend of \$50 for day 1 and \$60 for each of the days 2 -7 for their participation.

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

The Missouri Deafblind Project will provide each team with *one set* of ***Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies***. **Upon completion of the course, the books become the property of the school district.** At any time, a team withdraws from the course, all books and resources must be returned to the Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project.

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 April session. The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project will *not* reimburse participants for this fee.

Course Accessibility:

Requests for special supports (interpreters, Braille, large print, etc.) must be indicated on each team's Registration Form and received by September 14, 2018

Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies is *not* available in any other media than print. However, overheads, handouts, and other materials will be transcribed or enlarged. The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project will *not* be able to provide *Understanding Deafblindness: Issues, Perspectives, and Strategies* in talking book, Braille or any other format.

Oral and/or sign interpreters will be secured, if needed. Participants wishing to bring their own personal interpreters may do so. The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project will *not* pay for personal interpreters brought by participants. Only interpreters 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 Deafblind Technical Assistance Project is given reasonable time to secure special requests, they cannot guarantee to meet them.

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:

- Sharing information and discussing the student during each of the three sessions, in assignments (when appropriate), and in developing and reporting back on action plans, and, for the
- Mentoring to the team by a Hand In Hand instructor/mentor.

For More Information:

Contact the Project Coordinator: Megan Burgess at:

(314) 633-1587 or

megan.burgess@msb.dese.mo.gov