



Greater Kansas City Deafblind Task Force



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The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, #H326T130018. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government, Project Officer, Susan Weigert.



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The Mission of the Greater Kansas City Deafblind Task Force is to assist individuals with deafblindness and their families in achieving full access to the community through collaboration.

The Greater Kansas City Deafblind Task Force holds certain fundamental beliefs:

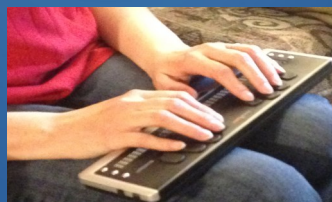
- Deafblindness creates unique needs for individuals with deafblindness and their families;
- Individuals with deafblindness and their families have a right to quality of life reflecting dignity, self-respect, autonomy, personal choice, and community integration well as the right to the supports that embrace these values; and,
- The community's vision creates the future.

WHO ARE WE?

The Task Force's membership includes individuals with deafblindness, their family members, and representatives from educational and adult service agencies that support individuals with deafblindness.

The Task Force meets monthly to address unmet needs of individuals with deafblindness in our community.

The Task Force also communicates with other task forces and teams throughout Missouri to replicate solutions and supports.



A *partial* list of agencies participating on the Task Force includes:

- Alphapointe Association for the Blind
- MERIL is a community-based, non-residential program
- EITAS is the Developmental Disabilities Services Board of Jackson County.
- Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
- Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project
- Missouri Assistive Technology
- Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Children's Center for the Visually Impaired
- The Whole Person
- Community Advocates and Self-Advocates

WHAT IS DEAFBLINDNESS?

The term "deafblind" does not always mean totally blind and totally deaf. Most people who are deafblind have some hearing and/or some vision. This combination results in unique challenges that require unique solutions.

HOW COULD WE HELP?

- Identify service and funding agencies
- Make referrals for professional and counseling services
- Assist in transition planning
- Advocate and collaborate with decision-makers and policy-writers to create solutions to barriers.
- Encourage self-advocacy



For additional information, please contact:

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Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project

<http://msb.dese.mo.gov/outreach-services/assistance-project.html>