

# Hand in Hand

**Agenda** DRAFT

Missouri School for the Blind

3815 Magnolia Ave

St. Louis, Missouri 63110

October 19-23, 2026

Join us for a comprehensive training experience for families, educators, and community partners working with children with dual sensory loss. This 4-day workshop includes presentations from experts in the field, hands-on simulations, and personal testimonies. You will leave with a greater understanding of the perspective of DeafBlindness, evidence-based intervention strategies, and a trove of resources to help you implement what you learn.

Presenters: Susan Bashinski, Beth Jordan, Ashley Foley, Rubecca Wilson, Sara Couch, Jane Herder, Dena Molen

Registration Link

## Hand in Hand St. Louis AGENDA

### Monday October 19

#### Day 1

8:00-9:00 Housekeeping/introductions

9:00-10:30 When my student has vision and hearing concerns/DeafBlind

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Auditory Systems with Vision Concerns/DeafBlind

12:00-12:30 Working Lunch, Intervener information

12:30-1:30 Ropes Course 2:00-3:30 Deaf Culture

3:30 Questions and Dismissal

# Tuesday October 20

## Day 2

8:00-8:30 Review one-minute papers and overview of the day.

8:30-9:00 Action: Box of DeafBlindness

9:00-10:30 Hearing Assessments, IFHE, FLE

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Access to Touch

12:00-12:30 Working lunch, MoSPIN

12:30-2:00 Teaching Gestures With Learners Who are DeafBlind

2:00-2:15 Break

2:15-3:30 Teaching Gestures With Learners Who are DeafBlind

3:30 Questions and Dismissal

# Wednesday October 21

## Day 3

8:00-8:30: Review one-minute papers

8:30-10:00 DeafBlind Instructional Strategies

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:15 Social Skills

11:15-12:00 Communication Bubble

12:00-12:30 Working Lunch, MIRC

12:30-1:30 Communication Overview

1:30-2:15 Communication Tools/AAC

2:15-2:30 Break

2:30-3:30 Communication Matrix

3:30 Questions and Dismissal

# Thursday October 22

## Day 4

8:00-8:30 Review one-minute papers and overview of the day

8:30-9:30 Calendars and Routines

9:30 -10:00 Difference Interpreter, Intervener, SSP

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-12:00 Intro to haptics/TASL

12:00-12:30 Working Lunch/HKNC Services

Interveners ( )

12:30-2:00 O & M for the DB/Simulation

2:00-2:15 Break

2:15-3:30 Parent and DeafBlind adult panel

3:30 Questions and post test

## Your Presenters

**Dr. Susan M. Bashinski** is a retired Professor of Special Education Interim Dean of the Graduate School at Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Missouri. She has more than 40 years' experience working with learners who experience multiple disabilities, including deafblindness. Throughout her career, Susan's scholarly activities have been associated with learners who experience multiple disabilities and require significant support. This focus is reflected in both her work as a teacher educator and researcher. Susan's work is grounded in educational practice. She not only has a passion, but believes she also has a professional responsibility, to conduct pragmatic research and to work diligently to try and translate research findings into effective everyday practice—and then share those through the classes she teaches and workshops she presents for families.

Dr. Bashinski has directed numerous US federal and state grants in low-incidence disabilities and deaf-blindness, including personnel preparation, research, model in-service training, and assistive technology. Dr. Bashinski has extensive experience in providing professional development and technical assistance nationally and internationally, particularly in the areas of augmentative and non-symbolic communication for learners who have low-incidence disabilities, including deaf-blindness. Her research interests and areas of expertise include early communication, gestural communication, and language development; learners who experience CHARGE syndrome; augmentative communication; and cochlear implants for

learners who experience deafblindness, with numerous publications and presentations related to these topics.

**Wilson** recently earned her PhD on Curriculum and Instruction, MS in Education of the d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing from Missouri State University, and a BS in Communications, Sciences, and Disorders from the same university. She is a certified teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing and a certified ASL interpreter. has worked as an educator of the d/Deaf and hard of hearing for 10+ years. She has worked as a classroom teacher for a district program and as an itinerant teacher serving an entire district. She also provides early intervention services for the d/Deaf and hard of hearing population. is a consultant and instructor with the Missouri DeafBlind Project since 2018. 's previous career was as a chef. She worked in Arizona for seven years in various restaurants, and in Alaska for one year where she worked on a train. She enjoys cooking, reading, and traveling. She is also an active member of the d/Deaf and hard of hearing community, and volunteers her time to several organizations.

**Couch** has been a practicing Speech-Language Pathologist for over 20 years with additional experience in Early Intervention and Deaf Education. Her concentration of practice has primarily consisted of pediatric speech and language with a concentration in Augmentative and Alternative Communication. She is an AAC specialist with experience in providing therapy for individuals with complex communication needs (ages 0-21), AAC assessments, and training to families, educational teams, and community partners regarding AAC practices. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, live music, and spending time with her partner and 16-year-old daughter.

**Jordan** is the Great Plains Regional Representative for the Helen Keller National Center, serving people who have both vision and hearing loss and their families. She also provides training and technical assistance to agencies/organizations. Her region includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Ms. Jordan has worked in this capacity for over 30 years.

Ms. Jordan received her Master of Education degree from the University of Arkansas majoring in rehabilitation counseling and independent living with an emphasis in deafness. Prior to her work at HKNC, she worked as a VR counselor with a deaf caseload in Pasa , Texas. Ms. Jordan is a certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC). She resides in Olathe, Kansas.

### **Foley**

Foley MS is the project coordinator for the Missouri DeafBlind Project. She has been in this position since 2024. Before starting at Missouri School for the Blind Outreach, obtained a masters degree in international politics from Missouri State University. She has worked for several nonprofits dedicated to improving services for underserved populations such as refugees, veterans, and persons with developmental disabilities. She is currently pursuing a certification in assistive technology instruction from the University of

Massachusetts Boston. She loves to travel and experience new adventures and cultures. Her happy place is somewhere in nature with a good book.

### **Herder**

MA, MEd, is the Director of Outreach at Missouri School for the Blind and Project Director of the Missouri DeafBlind Project. came to the Outreach Department at Missouri School for the Blind in 2017. has 30+ years as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialist in Missouri, Colorado, and New Mexico. She has an additional graduate degree in Technology in Schools and endorsement from the University of Northern Colorado in multiculturalism. She is certified as Library of Congress Literary Braille Transcriptionist, Certification in Deafblindness from Texas Tech University, Perkins-Roman CVI Endorsee, and Certified in Elementary Education. is an adjunct professor at Missouri State University in their Master of Science in Education (MSEd) Special Education: Blindness and Low vision program. She loves her son, coffee, candy, and tennis.