**SSB DeafBlind Committee Meeting Notes**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 4 pm to 6 pm

Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Wendy DeVore, John Filek, Rocky Hart, Kim Johnson, Ann Mayes, Hannah Edwards, Lindsay Escalera

**Absent:** Trevor Turner, Patrick Vellia

**Agenda**

* Check-In with members
* Updates from Organizations
* Group Discussion
* SSB Staff Report
* Tasks for Committee Documents

**Updates from Organizations**

**DeafBlind Committee Chair**

Message reported out to the committee by Lindsay thatTrevor Turner, MN State Council on Disability, is stepping down as chair.

**MN DeafBlind Project** (Ann)

Collaboration for Summer Transition Program (STP). Next steering committee meeting Jan. 17, 2024 at 11 am to 12 pm. Brainstorming DB Track for STP. Ann will check and see if outside agencies can join in.

**Hellen Keller National Center** (John)

Hosted an event at Metro Deaf School (MDS) in St. Paul, MN. This was a collaboration with SSB, MDS, and DBSM. This event was for DB Students who attend MDS and their parents. Topics included self-advocacy, HKNC transition services, DBSM services, and a haptics activity with the game Jenga. Total of 5 DB students plus parents attended.

HKNC has Summer Programs for DB students based out of Long Island.

**Career Ventures Inc.** (Wendy)

April 2024 CVI is having a CARF survey completed in order to recertify CARF accreditation.

**DeafBlind Services MN** (Kim)

Vision Loss Resources (VLR) is increasing their DB capacity and figuring out ways to serve more DB individuals.

DBSM is looking to hire more staff intervenors.

Collaboration with MN DB Project, will be hosting a Winter Party for families.

Hosting art event “I Am A Artist” quarterly. Will display in the hallway at VLR by having a visual and tactile art exhibit.

**Group Discussion**

Question about summer program internships now that Blind Inc. services are on hold. SSB Summer Internships discussions have started with Shane, SSB Transition Coordinator, and SSB Navigators. Hannah Edwards, SSB Staff, willing to provide support to STP for DB students.

Intervenor & Support Service Providers (SSP) roles. Intervenors in the school setting under the guidance of certified teacher. Provides support throughout the day. Model is to do with, not for. Intervenors attempt to step back and allow for some independence. SSP – supports a self-determining adult and provides access to their environment.

DB individuals need support with providing access to the work community with soft skills training, modeling and opportunities to practice these skills in real time. DB young adults need more time and training to learn vocational skills with training in place.

Other states (Illinois) have a Vocational Access Service Provider role that can assist individuals on the job. How can this be created? Where can staffing be found? For individuals that need supported employment, do long term county services fund this kind of service? SSB Employment Specialist, Hannah, provides similar support in her role. Is this something that SSB can provide, a Vocational Access Service Provider?

**SSB Staff Report** (Lindsay)

No new DB data numbers for this quarter. Lindsay will request data for current quarter and will email out to DB Committee Members once obtained.

A request was made to see if data could be pulled on customized employment vs competitive employment. Lindsay will ask about this request.

**Tasks for Committee Documents**

Discussion to have all documents in one place for the committee members to have access to documents, running/standing agenda items, goals and priorities list. This will need to be accessible to all members. Suggestions for Google Drive, MS Teams, MS One Drive. MS Teams is not accessible to even one. State emails do not work with Google Drive. Possibility of MS One Drive. Lindsay will look into this. Currently documents and conversations occur via email.

**Next Meeting Date:**

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 4 pm to 6 pm meeting via Zoom.