



Minnesota DeafBlind Project News

The weather is getting colder...

What an incredible autumn we have had! As the weather gets colder and we start spending our evenings staying warm with hot beverages and cozy blankets, I am looking forward to slowing down and taking a deep breath and trying to fully embrace and enjoy this holiday season. I wish the same to you and yours!

I hope you have all had an energizing and collaborative school year thus far. Fall can be a time of big transition for many, whether moving to a new teacher, changing interveners, or starting at a new school. Through all of this, we continue to look for opportunities to share resources, provide information and connect with families. Check out the opportunities below and as always, please reach out with any questions or schedule a one-on-one call with me!

- Brandy

612-638-1505 (voice calls)

612-217-2211 (text only) brandy.sebera@brightworksmn.org



Find and follow us on
Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube

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MNDBP Highlights



From left: Brandy Sebera, Ann Mayes, Carolyn Monaco & Deanna Rothbauer



Kim Simshauser is a Minnesota teacher who holds educational licenses in both deaf/hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired.

Intervener Training

Our annual Intervener Training Series is underway! In late October, Carolyn Monaco joined us from Toronto, Canada to share her knowledge and expertise!

Weekend one was an Introduction to Deafblindness and Intervention.

Kim Simshauser presented for the second weekend of training in November on Hearing and Vision Loss, the Impact of Deafblindness. What a passionate presentation!

There are 24 new interveners joining us this cohort and several others finishing up the series they began last school year. The Minnesota DeafBlind Project is looking forward to continuing an incredible 6 weekends of learning!

Interveners...

... are individuals with specialized training to work with children and youth who have combined hearing and vision loss (deafblindness) and work in a 1- on-1 relationship with children and youth who are deafblind

.... provide access to information that others get through hearing and vision.

If you would like more information about interveners and how to talk to your team about considering the need for an intervener for your child, please email brandy.sebera@brightworksmn.org



Upcoming Events



Family Learning Community (virtual):

December 14, January 11

Lunchtime 11:30-12:30 or evening 6:30-7:30 Join us for this great opportunity to connect with other Minnesota families who have children with combined hearing and vision loss. DeafBlind resources and tools will also be shared!

All registered families will receive a unique Family Learning Community mug to fill with their favorite beverage and bring to the meeting.

[Register >](#)

Moms' Retreat (in-person)

March 15-17, 2024

Join the Minnesota DeafBlind Project (MNDBP), DeafBlind Services Minnesota (DBSM), and fellow moms of children who are deafblind ages birth up to 22 for a weekend of relaxation, learning, and most importantly, connection!



[Register >](#)

Winter Party (in-person)

January 28, 2024, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The MNDBP and DBSM are hosting a FUN Winter Party for families in Arden Hills. Join us for an afternoon of crafts, winter activities, and a hot cocoa bar!

[Register >](#)

Family and Intervener Appreciation Picnic (in-person)

June 1, 2024 (Save the date!)

Come to beautiful Island Lake in Shoreview and enjoy a catered meal and many fun activities with other MN families who have children with combined hearing and vision loss. Hosted in collaboration with DBSM.

Registration information will be sent out later this spring.

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Updated MN DeafBlind Brochure!

The Minnesota DeafBlind Project recently updated our tri-fold brochure! A huge THANK YOU to the families who graciously shared photos of their child with us!

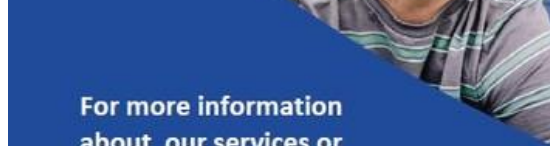
We are happy to announce that these brochures are available electronically in 5 languages! You can find all brochures at www.dbproject.mn.org



Support for infants, children and youth who have a combined hearing and vision loss



Minnesota DeafBlind Project



For more information about our services or deafblindness, visit our website:

www.dbproject.mn.org

To request a hard copy, email brandy.sebera@brightworksmn.org





RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT



Minnesota Access
Alliance

Accessible Arts & Culture Events (local to Minnesota).

The Minnesota Access Alliance (MNA) provides [an event calendar](#) for patrons who use accessibility accommodations such as Audio Description, Captioning, ASL interpreting and Sensory-friendly accommodations.

You can also receive a monthly calendar email which includes a wide range of upcoming events (some of which are not included on the calendar above). Email info@mnaccess.org and indicate your interest in signing up for the mailing list.

The **Technology Training Access Program (TTAP)** is a grant-funded program from the MN Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division specifically for Minnesotans with deafblindness. TTAP provides financial assistance so that deafblind adults and families with deafblind children can access deafblind-related training and technology as needed. The program operates statewide and serves approximately 40 people each year. As a self-directed program, consumers accepted for the program are able choose from allowable services and/or equipment that will help them maintain or increase their independence and participation in the community. Families determine what they need and then complete a purchase agreement detailing what is needed, costs, and goals.

Funding is currently available, and the program is accepting applications. While funds are limited each year, the program budget is renewed annually. Families can access it as needed—you can come back to the program over the years, or even during the current year, for new requests as needs develop and change.

Parents interested in accessing the program for their child should contact **Christy Leach** at christy@yourfse.com or via phone at **612-272-5233** for a copy of the program guidelines and an application.