

“What's New “on the Streets? Quick Build, APS Lawsuits, Trapezoids, Floating Transit Stops, BRTs LPIs, Bikes, Quiet Cars”.

Presented by: Wendy Scheffers, TSVI/O&M retired; and Linda Myers, TSVI/O&M lecturers Emeritae, O&M Program, San Francisco State University.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

Come learn about what’s new on the streets (since the 2012 publication of TAPS) and how they impact people with visual impairments. Topics will include Quick Build infrastructure, APS (lawsuits, “accessible message only” APS), tactile walking surfaces (trapezoids), floating transit stops, BRTs, signal timings (LPI), bike infrastructure, and quiet cars.

“Workshop 1: Uncontrolled Crossings”.

Presented by: Dona Sauerberger, MA, COMS.

Format: Presenters will be on Zoom; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program: Bring your thinking cap and join us in learning and practicing the skills our students need so they can deal with crossings with no traffic signal or stop sign! You can attend Part 2 without attending Part 1. In Part 1, we're excited to introduce a streamlined process to help students recognize whether they have enough warning of approaching vehicles to be confident that it's clear to cross (a Situation of Confidence) or not (a Situation of Uncertainty). This process took 20 years to simplify (no more TMAD!) and includes a flowchart. See if you can develop an intuitive understanding of your crossing time! Part 2 follows up with analyzing the risks of crossing in Situations of Uncertainty, and the skills students need for detecting vehicles and judging gaps to cross safely in Situations of Confidence.

“Meaningful O&M for Students with Multiple Disabilities”.

Presented by: Stephanie Herlich, TSVI/O&M, Assessment Center Coordinator, California School for the Blind.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

Do you have a student with a visual impairment and additional disabilities? Do you ever wonder if and how you could be providing O&M to this or similar students? In this workshop, we will talk about assessments, qualifications, and areas of instruction for students with multiple disabilities. We will also look at several case studies and brainstorm possible IEP goals and services.

“Go, Go, O&M Gadgets”.

Presented by: Shelby Zimmerman, MA, COMS, TSVI, GDMI and Allison Mello, MEd, TSVI, California School for the Blind.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

Assistive technology continues to be an integral part of our students' success. It is ever-changing and infused into all areas of our students' lives, including O&M. This presentation

will discuss the latest and greatest assistive technology and how it can be used to create meaningful O&M lessons.

“The Latest Advancements and Teaching Tools in Accessible Navigation, Indoors and Outdoors”.

Presented by: Mike May, Navigation Technology Advisor for the American Printing House for the Blind; and Jerry Kuns, BA, MS, Consultant.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

Several technologies and techniques are essential for the accessible navigation toolbox. Picking the best tools and knowing how to teach them is critical to their effectiveness. This presentation will address these points, starting with a 45-minute classroom session using embossed tactile maps and the new Monarch dynamic tactile display, followed by traveling the routes using GoodMaps Outdoors. What navigation tools are available? What are their strengths and weaknesses? What are important techniques for teaching and learning accessible navigation? Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing and footwear.

“In, On, Under- Who’s working on this?! A Guide to Interdisciplinary Collaboration Between the O&M and SLP”.

Presented by: Tamar Solomon, MS, CCC-SLP and Stacey Colley; MA, COMS.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

What do Speech and Language Pathologists even do? You might be surprised to learn that you have similar goals! Be prepared to become an expert on the impact that blindness and visual impairment have on social and language development. Listen to specific case studies, from CSB, and discover ways to mutually support assessment, program creation, and goal development. Learn how you too can work with an SLP to become a collaborative super team!

“Nature as a motivator in everyday O&M”.

Presented by: Joe Dlugo, TVI, COMS, CATIS, OSPI Mentor Teacher, Washington State School for the Blind.

Format: TBD

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

In this presentation, we're exploring the amazing impact of bringing nature into our everyday O&M lessons. While the usual focus of O&M is on city streets, sidewalks, and all things traffic-related, we can't ignore the incredible world of nature that surrounds us during outdoor sessions. It's here where a vast range of sounds, sights, smells, and textures is waiting to amplify the learning experience. We'll show you how embracing nature in O&M lessons can boost independence, forge deeper connections with the environment, and take those overall mobility skills to the next level.

“An Interdisciplinary Mobility Service at a Guide Dog Organization – Guide Dogs for the Blind’s O&M Immersion Program”.

Presented by: Marc Gillard Grad. Dip. O&M, COMS, GDMI; Stephanie Zabitz, MA, COMS, GDMI; and Maura Wong-Cooper, MA, COMS, CATIS.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

Guide Dogs for the Blind, (GDB) with the assistance of its partner agencies, provides an immersive 1 or 2-week O&M training program which emphasizes non-tactile O&M skills and concepts important but not limited to guide dog travel. Since 2016, over 230 clients have been trained. It has become apparent that many clients have other needs besides O&M which aren't being met in their communities. Some applicants require an interdisciplinary approach which incorporates specific blind rehabilitation and allied health services to achieve their O&M or guide dog mobility goals and achieve improved health, well-being and independence. This presentation will explain the reasoning behind GDB establishing the first interdisciplinary mobility service at a guide dog organization in the United States and will describe the process and outcomes so far.

“SEED Self-Defense”.

Presented by: Richard Warner, Advanced Instructor, Strive4You/SEED program.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

How to use your body and your voice effectively in Self defense. How O&M teaching and Self-defense have similar goals. Learn coordination and posture, and how they are important. This presentation includes guided instruction and practice. Wear comfortable clothes. The SEED (Safety Education Empowering Defense) program was developed to endorse and provide safety education and adapted self-defense tactics within the community of individuals with low vision. SEED emphasizes the importance of advancing a culture with safety and security for all. Our self-defense program implements a holistic circle of services training body, mind, and spirit to prepare for and act on threats to personal safety. The SEED safety education curriculum works to create positive conditions in awareness of the unique challenges faced by individuals with low vision. SEED's goal is to teach a principled approach to recognizing, analyzing, and responding to potentially threatening situations through this twofold method.

“Hands-on Introduction to Reading Tactile Maps using TMAP”.

Presented by: Frank Welte, Senior Accessible Media and Braille Specialist, SF Lighthouse for the Blind; Greg Kehret, Director, Media and Accessible Design Lab

Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired; and Jerry Kuns, BA, MS, Consultant.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

Tactile Graphics Literacy is an important skill that will contribute to the success of today's blind and visually impaired students, both inside and outside of the classroom. Participants will Learn essential techniques for reading tactile graphics in general and tactile maps in particular through hands on exercises focusing on TMAPs, a unique form of tactile street maps. Each participant will receive a presentation packet to keep. A working knowledge of braille is recommended.

“Workload Analysis: Introducing the VISSPA (Visual Impairment Scale of Staffing Pattern Analysis)”.

Presented by: Adrian Amandi, MA, TSBVI, Director of the California Education Resource Center; and Rona Pogrund, PhD, Professor in the Special Education Program in the College of Education and Coordinator of the Program for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments at Texas Tech University.

Format: Mr. Amandi will present in-person, and Dr. Pogrund will present virtually.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

Determining how many students should be on your caseload is not as simple as choosing a number. Direct service and collaborative consultation responsibilities, preparation, assessment, travel, and more, must be taken into consideration when determining what will make up a complete workload. Learn about a new workload analysis tool, the VISSPA (Visual Impairment Scale of Staffing Pattern Analysis) to determine your workload as an O&M specialist, including how to present solutions to your team and administrators with the goal of creating a more balanced approach to services and your life!

“Family Integration Program: What does a collaborative transition process look like in a blind rehabilitation facility for students attending the Orientation Center for the Blind”.

Presented by: Julie Hahn.

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

What does a collaborative transition process look like in a blind rehabilitation facility for students attending a rehabilitation facility like the Orientation Center for the Blind (OCB)? At OCB, the Family Integration Program (F.I.P) gives students’ family/guardians the opportunity to discuss the students’ progress with OCB’s onsite rehabilitation counselor, teachers and Department Of Rehabilitation (DOR) counselors. During zoom conference meetings, family /guardians view pre-recorded videos of their loved ones independently performing tasks learned in Cooking, Daily Living Skills and O&M. The Braille teachers and Computer teacher will also be present in the meetings to provide feedback concerning their classes. The videos provide some context as well as give rise to an exchange of observations, ideas, and feedback. Most of all, the collaboration may assist in the smooth transition home upon the completion of the program so that the students’ skills of independence will continue to be encouraged. Oftentimes, families encounter various challenges and may find it difficult to support their loved ones during this transitional period. In addition, DOR counselors often need support in learning what additional resources their consumers may still need after completing OCB. Most importantly, during the Family Integration meetings students are provided opportunities to speak about their overall progress during their training at OCB. The meetings hold larger spaces for students to speak about challenges, achievements and most importantly, specific tasks that students would like to continue to independently practice at home.

“Navigating the VA System of Care : Who Qualifies, and What Services Are Available?”

Presented by: Lindsay Haas, MA, COMS

Format: Presenters will be in-person; workshop available to in person and remote participants.

Brief Description of Presentation for the printed conference program:

Do you work with adults and have a client who is a Veteran but is not receiving services through VA? This presentation will address who qualifies to receive services at the VA, how a person enrolls with the VA, and the blind rehab services available to Veterans. The presentation will highlight the different programs available through inpatient and outpatient services. The presentation will provide education on the role of the Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator, the Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist(BROS), Low Vision Clinics, and Blind Rehab Centers within the VA system of care.