Welcome to Your AZ AER Spring Workshop! We hope you enjoy this workshop. If there is anything we can assist you with please seek out a Board Member.

The Board would like to extend a special thanks to the following people:

Katy Porras, from ASDB Tucson Campus for her energetic and efficient collating and stapling skills! Thanks for all the copies, Katy!

Daniel Greene, for keeping us connected, projected and technologically sane!

Your Board:

President: Sandra Stirnweis
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Board Member: Rebecca Hole
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9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

**UEB Overview: Jan. 4, 2016 is Fast Approaching So Let's Get Started**

*Presenter(s) Name:  L. Penny Rosenblum and Jennifer Wheeler*

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) has adopted the Unified English Braille Code (UEB) with an implementation date of January 4, 2016. One of the first steps in the transition process is to familiarize those who are on the "front lines" with the changes from current braille to UEB. Individuals must also learn about the resources available to them through the BANA web site. This session is the first of we hope several that will begin to familiarize those in Arizona with UEB. We will explain the resources available on the BANA web site, go over some of the new rules, and allow participants to have time to practice both reading and writing UEB. Time for discussion and questions will be allocated.

**NMSBVI O&M Inventory**

*Presenter(s) Name:  Ron Later*

The NMSBVI O&M Inventory is a free computer based compendium of the skills that comprise Orientation & Mobility. It is a tool with which O&Ms can measure student progress, plan lessons, record progress and dispatch paperwork such as evaluations, IEP goals, PLEPs, and progress reports.

10:45 AM to 11:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

**Dispelling the Myth about our Role as “Vision Therapists”: What Should our AZ State Position Statement Look Like? Part 2**

*Presenter(s) Name:  Irene Topor, Rajiv Panikkar, Julie Bader, Susan Greer, Pam Kelk, Megan Mogan, Tracy Mosbarger, DeEtte Snyder*

A task force was formed after the November 2013 AER presentation on what to do about referrals of learners to TVIs who do not meet the AZ state statute criteria for services provided by a TVI but are recommended to have vision therapy. To respond to this issue, the members of the task force will report the findings of their research and how it fits into a preliminary draft of a position statement. AER members will have a chance to review this draft statement and can give further input during this panel discussion.
The Arizona Talking Book Library

Presenter(s) Name: Christine Tuttle

The Talking Book Library, www.azlibrary.gov/braille, provides, as a free public service, for the visually impaired and physically disabled. An introduction of the service will inform the audience regarding qualifications, registration, the materials available, and alternative formats for virtual access. All equipment and materials are sent to and from, free of charge, by the US Postal Service.

Youth, Transition & Adult Programing – It’s All About Choices

Presenter(s) Name: Shannon Kemlo and Lenetta Lefko

Why encourage students to take part in a summer program? With transition from school to adulthood being a challenge for all students, Transition programs are an integral part in the success of students who are blind/visually impaired.

1:15 PM to 2:15 PM Concurrent Sessions

Round Robin AER Division Discussion Groups

As professionals working in the field of visual impairment, we often find ourselves faced with unusual or difficult challenges related to our unique positions and responsibilities. Just as often, we learn valuable lessons from our experiences and develop specialized expertise that can be shared with others to help them solve problems and meet challenges. The round robin discussions offered during this session are intended to provide workshop participants with the opportunity to share experiences with each other, ask questions, provide solutions, and build professional relationships that will help strengthen and empower them in their work.

Itinerant/Educational Curriculum Division Discussion
Multiple Disabilities and Deaf-Blind Division Discussion
Orientation and Mobility Division Discussion
Infant and Preschool Division Discussion
Information and Technology Division Discussion
Rehabilitation Counseling, BEP, and Employment Services Division Discussion
Low Vision Rehabilitation Division Discussion
Updates from the AFB Leadership Conference 2014

Panel updates from the American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference (AFBLC) 2014. Topics will include the following: technology, education, employment and leadership. Information from the Helen Keller Services for the Blind will also be shared.

Making the iPad Educationally Relevant (and Fun!)

Presenter(s) Name: Jennifer Wheeler

The iPad has opened up new worlds of opportunities for students with visual impairments. But how often is it truly used to support academic progress, especially for students with multiple disabilities? This session explores ways to turn the iPad into a truly educational tool that emphasizes individual strengths, builds conceptual foundations, reinforces classroom training, addresses specialized needs, and delivers content in fun, interactive ways that will leave students asking for more.
Julie Bader is a certified teacher of Students with Visual Impairments for Chandler Unified School District. She has taught students with special needs in Arizona for over thirty years. Julie taught students of all ages in a self-contained setting in Tempe Elementary District for 13 years before her introduction to working with youngsters with hearing and visual impairments as a Parent Advisor with Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind's Parent Outreach Program. Upon completing her studies at the University of Arizona, Julie taught students throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area for 12 years as an Itinerant Teacher for the Foundation for Blind Children. Three years ago, she established VIP Educational Services where she still works as an independent contractor.

Jule Beilfuss, M.Ed., TVI has worked with students who have a variety of impairments ages 0-21 since 1984. She has been in the field of visual impairment since 1987, currently working as a Preschool Teacher in the ASDB/FBC Cooperative Preschool for the Visually Impaired at the Foundation for Blind Children. Jule has worked with children of various developmental ages who have cognitive, orthopedic, and sensory issues including deafblindness. Jule is finishing the Intervener Program through the AZ Deafblind Project to further her training to teach students with deafblindness. Her passion is working with preschoolers who have multiple impairments.

Susan Greer started at the Arizona State Schools for the Blind as a teacher for children with visual impairments and emotional disabilities ages 5 - 12. In 1975 Susan started the Parent Outreach Program for the Visually Impaired and traveled throughout Arizona from Douglas to Bullhead City, and from Kayenta to Yuma. She traveled 3 out of 4 weeks a month. After two years of traveling, Susan started and supervised the Visually Impaired Preschoolers Center (VIP) here in Pima County and served children 0-5.

Becky Hole has been a teacher for 22 years. She received her undergraduate degree in Physical Education and Adapted PE from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. In 1991 she moved to Yuma and worked as an Adapted PE teacher for 8 years in the Crane School District. After becoming certified as a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, through the University of Arizona in 1999, she began working for ASDB/Southwest Regional Cooperative as an itinerant TVI. In 2003 Becky became a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist from the University of Arizona. Then she earned a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership/Principalship from Northern Arizona University in 2009. Becky currently works as a CTVI, COMS and Supervising Teacher at the Southwest Regional Cooperative. She has been an AER member since 2002.
**Pat Jung**, M.A., has taught for almost 30 years in the fields of Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, Multiple Disabilities, and Deafblindness. She has worked with children from birth through 21. In addition to itinerant teaching for VI and HI, Pat currently works with the Arizona Deafblind Project. She can assist with any student that is on the Deafblind Registry. Besides working in the classroom, Pat trains educational teams, medical professionals, University students, families, and special groups interested in learning about how to provide for the various needs of an individual with a dual sensory impairment.

**Pam Kelk:** started her career as special needs preschool teacher working with students with moderate and severe disabilities. At one point, all the students in her class had visual impairments so she decided she better learn a little more about how to meet the needs of these students. This process led her to the visual impairment program at the University of Arizona where she completed her masters in August 2008. She has worked at Desert Valleys Regional Cooperation ever since as a certified teacher of the visually impaired, and in the last two and a half years as a supervising teacher.

**Shannon Kemlo** has been working in the field of blindness for 15 years. She originally started in the field in Scotland working at the Highland Society for the Blind. Shannon is currently working with the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired as the Children and Youth Services Team Leader where she coordinates the Steppin Out program – a post-graduation residential program for young adults moving into either college or the work force. She co-ordinates the Ready Set Go summer program with Lenetta Lefko, a six week residential Transition program currently in its seventh year.

**Ron Later** is an O&M/TVI at the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Alamogordo, New Mexico. He went through Dr Jane Erin’s TVI program at the University of Texas at Austin and began working as an itinerant TVI in 1994. He went through an O&M program at Stephen F Austin State University and became an O&M in 1998. He has developed the O&M Inventory as well as several other O&M and TVI tools, such as The 'Shroom, the DIMC, and Braille Drum.
Lenetta Lefko was introduced to the field of blindness in 1995 when she began working on the ASDB main campus as part of the VI residential program. In January of 2013 she began working at SAAVI - Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired as an itinerant O&M and Rehab Teacher. Lenetta co-coordinates the Ready Set Go summer transition program for youth with Shannon Kemlo. Lenetta has given presentations for conferences, most recently at the International Orientation and Mobility Conference in New Orleans. She has provided inservices, as well as trainings and presentations to outside agencies such as Border Patrol and TROT. She continues to learn and grow by attending conferences, reading literature and having an open mind to all the possibilities!

Anna Miller received a Bachelor of Arts in Family Studies and Human Development from the University of Arizona in 2001. She then began volunteering at the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI), and subsequently returned to the U of A for graduate work in Rehabilitation Counseling. While in her masters program, Ms. Miller completed a counseling practicum at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind of which she is an alumnus. Upon receiving her counseling certification in 2005, Ms. Miller was employed at SAAVI for five years where she taught group and individual classes in a variety of subjects such as job readiness and retention, adaptive daily living skills, and access to technology. Upon receiving her certification in 2010 in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and co-building a sister agency for SAAVI in Yuma, Arizona, Ms. Miller accepted a promotion to act as the lead administrator for the SAAVI Yuma campus in 2011. While she loved her work at SAAVI, Ms Miller was also pining for the Southern Arizona monsoon season, and returned to Tucson where she has worked for the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration as an itinerant Rehabilitation Instructional Specialist.

Megan Mogan is a Speech-Language Pathologist at the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind-Tucson campus. She studied Communication Disorders at Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois and received a Master's degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences from the University of Arizona. Megan works directly with students on functional, early communication development. She is a regular contributor as a blogger for the Paths to Literacy website through Perkins School for the Blind. She became an Intervener Trainer for the Arizona Deafblind Project's Intervener TEAM Training Program in 2012.

Tracy Mosbarger: is a Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired for the Scottsdale Unified School District. She started her work 17 years ago as a TVI and COMS in Cortez, Colorado. She worked for the Southwest BOCS in Cortez for about 5 years before taking a position as an Itinerant Outreach TVI/COMS for New Mexico Schools for the Blind. After working for New Mexico for 4 years, she went into her own private contract service position in Colorado. She provided contract VI, CLVT and O&M services for students 3-21 for the San Juan BOCES in Durango, CO, Uncompahgre BOCES in Ridgway, CO, and the San Luis Valley BOCES in Alamosa, CO.
Rajiv Panikkar was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Rajiv has been working with students with visual impairments and additional disabilities since 1987. He started at the Perkins School for the Blind as a houseparent (residential manager) and teacher aide. He received his Master’s degree at the University of Northern Colorado. He has had numerous experiences in residential schools, public schools and at the University of Colorado as an Assistive Technology Specialist. He is certified as a CLVT, COMS and TVI.

Ruth Parsons is a Certified Teacher of Visually Impaired students, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, and a certified Supervisor. She started volunteering at ASDB in 1981 and was hired in 1987. Ruth has had many different position during her time with ASDB and is currently the Director for Eastern Highland Regional Cooperative.

Dr. Rosenblum is an Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies at The University of Arizona where she joined the faculty in August 1999. She prepares teachers to work with students with visual impairments (TVIs) and has previously coordinated teacher preparation programs in Arizona and Nevada. In March 2012 she became the Project Director for an Institute of Education Sciences (IES) federal project, AnimalWatch-VI Suite: A comprehensive program to increase access to math for students with visual impairments.

As a person with low vision Dr. Rosenblum is able to share first-hand information with future teachers about the impact of a visual impairment on the lives of children and adults. Dr. Rosenblum has been a teacher of students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities in Pennsylvania (2 years), South Carolina (3 years), and Arizona (3 years). She is especially interested in the social aspects of having a disability and in how best to prepare teachers to meet both the academic and social needs of children.

Diane Shifflett is a teacher of students with visual impairments and certified orientation and mobility specialist. She has taught a range of students -- from elementary to post-graduate -- at the Arizona State School for the Blind. Prior to moving to Arizona, she taught English in Japan and Alaska. She also worked as a newspaper and radio reporter in both Alaska and Arizona. She received her Masters Degree in Special Education and her Orientation and Mobility certification from the University of Arizona. Her interests are in transition services, student media and leadership, and braille.

DeEtte Snyder is a teacher of students with visual impairments and has taught a range of students over her career spanning 20 years. She received her Masters Degree from Portland State University. Currently she is a doctoral student at the University of Northern Colorado. When she finishes her Ph.D. she hopes to prepare future teachers in working with students with visual impairments including multiple disabilities. Her interests are in professional development, early childhood education and family supports.
Sandra Stirnweis is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (WMU) currently at the Southern Arizona Association for the Blind’s (SAAVI) Phoenix office. She has more than 25 years of experience in teaching orientation and mobility to a wide variety of ages and abilities. She is a frequent presenter at workshops at local national and international levels. Ms. Stirnweis firmly believes in mentoring and has worked with O&M practicum and intern students for more than 20 years.

Dan Standage is a U.S. Marine, and one of only a handful of visually-impaired veterans in the field of blind rehabilitation. His passions are Apple products, assistive technology, and disability advocacy. He has a bachelors in rehabilitation and masters in Visual Impairment (O&M) from The University of Arizona.

Irene Topor is an associate professor of practice and prepares teachers to work with blind and low vision students. She teachers the basic and advanced low vision, methods, and observation/practica and internship courses at the U of A. Irene has low vision therapist and teacher certification in elementary education and visual impairment. Christine Tuttle earned her Masters of Library Science, MLS, at the School of Information Resource Library Science, SIRLS at U of A, Tucson. For the last four years, Christine has been the Special Services Supervisor and Outreach Librarian at the Talking Book Library. Christine’s favorite reads are mysteries and biographies. Christine continues to serve the public in order “that all may read”.

Jennifer Wheeler is a Certified Teacher of Visually Impaired students, orientation and mobility specialist, and assistive technology specialist for Desert Valleys Regional Cooperative. She served for 8 years at the Foundation for Blind Children in the media, adult services, preschool, and itinerant departments, and continues to support FBC’s braille, remote instruction, recreation, and college prep services. Jennifer completed her vision resource studies through the University of Arizona and is pursuing continuing education through the University of Northern Colorado. She is especially interested in promoting the use of assistive technology for students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities, and training teachers to more effectively support their diverse and unique needs.