

AMESVI SPRING CONFERENCE 2017

CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATION

Increase knowledge

Enhance teaching

Improve outcomes

April 7th, 2017

8:15 am - 3:30 pm

Holiday Inn

265 Lakeside Ave, Marlborough

We are pleased to provide a day of workshops focusing on collaboration with related providers to increase knowledge, enhance teaching, and improve student learning.

The annual AMESVI business meeting will take place immediately following lunch. Hear an update on the status of the association including a summary of the work of the Board this past year.

For those of you who may want to stay overnight at the hotel, a block of rooms has been reserved for conference participants for Friday night. The cost is \$89/night with complimentary breakfast. Please mention AMESVI Spring Conference when making your reservation.

Schedule

8:15-9:00 Registration and Vendor exhibits

9:00-10:30 Opening Sessions

Session 1: A Collaborative Approach to Addressing the Visual Needs of School Children - Maximizing School Success by Maximizing Vision

Dr. Theresa Ruggiero O.D., FCOVD, Northampton Vision Specialists

An estimated eighty percent of learning takes place through the visual system. Subsequently, vision has significant potential to enhance or impede academic progress and success. How can we work together as a team to address the visual needs of school-age children? This talk will include an overview of Developmental Optometry and Optometric Vision Therapy.

Session 2: Optimizing Orientation & Mobility Instruction & Learning

Dr. Mary Talbot-Fox, Ph.D., School Psychologist, Perkins School

Dr. Talbot will focus on cognitive, social-emotional, and behavioral factors, which are important for vision professionals to know about when working with students. She will discuss the strategies that may be helpful in addressing specific student issues and will collaborate with the group on scenarios encountered in their own work.

10:30-11:00 Break Vendor Exhibits

11:00-12:00

Workshop 3: The Role of Occupational Therapy for Students with Visual Impairments in School Settings.

Patricia Kennedy, OTD and Erin Rodriguez, MS, OT, Brockton Public Schools

This workshop is designed to discuss the role of school-based occupational therapy in working with children with visual impairments, ocular motor impairments, visual perceptual, and visual motor difficulties. The intersection between and collaboration of occupational therapists and TVIs leads to better treatment strategies and accommodations within school settings. This workshop will introduce some treatment strategies that will assist with visual issues as well as fine motor, visual perceptual, and visual motor skills.

Workshop 4: Collaboration Strategies for the O&M Specialist

Swimming - Stephanie Chmielinski, COMS

When writing skill based IEP goals, have you considered that the location for the "unit" could be in a local YMCA or community center pursuing a recreational activity

with your student? Stephanie will present specific lifelong recreational activities like swimming and yoga that can advance mobility skills through body alignment and positioning. Accessing local or agency funding for these recreational activities will also be discussed. In the spirit of collaboration, she will also present examples of how other professionals on the IEP Team contribute to making a recreation "unit" more than just fun and mobility.

Adaptive Physical Education – Megan O’Connell-Copp, Perkins School for the Blind

Adaptive physical education teachers and orientation and mobility specialists can work together to create inclusive, collaborative programs for students that result in shared skills and a positive learning environment. This presentation will include ideas and implications of physical education activities and how they can positively impact orientation and mobility skills for students. In addition, ideas about how the adaptive physical education teacher and orientation and mobility instructor can collaborate on the IEP and class activities will be addressed.

12:15-1:30 Lunch/Business Meeting
Vendor Exhibits

1:45-3:00

Workshop 5: Panel Discussion - Ideas for Working Collaboratively with Team Members for Positive Outcomes for Students

Moderator: Mara Evans, TVI

This panel of vision professionals will share the various ways they collaborate with optometrists, low vision specialists, occupational therapists, classroom teachers, related service providers, and families. Panel members will be asked to share insights as to ways to better collaborate and communicate with team members in these situations.

Workshop 6: O&M Tech—iOS to APH

Michelle Antinarelli, COMS and Aaron Rouby, COMS Carroll Center for the Blind

Capitalizing upon the many apps in iOS as well as the dedicated O&M equipment available through APH, Aaron and Michelle will present a refreshed view of using what is available for teaching O&M concepts and skills, providing travel support for our independent community travelers, and engaging our learners. They will review the “must haves” for your O&M technology tool-box and share what you should consider for iOS apps for teaching and for traveling. Please bring along your favorite O&M teaching or traveling app and why COMS need to try it out.

Presenter Bios

Theresa J. Ruggiero, O.D., FCOVD

Northampton Vision Specialists

Dr. Ruggiero has been in private practice for almost thirty years. At Northampton Vision Specialists, she and Dr. Elizabeth Hannigan provide routine vision care within a developmental/neuro-optometric model. They and their team specialize in caring for children with learning related visual dysfunctions and patients of all ages suffering with the visual consequences of acquired brain injuries such as concussions. The practice provides vision rehabilitation/habilitation utilizing many treatment strategies including therapeutic lenses and prisms, optometric vision therapy, phototherapy and multi-sensory training. Dr. Ruggiero is board certified and lectures extensively to educators and health professionals about many vision related topics.

Mary Talbot-Fox, Ph.D.

Dr. Talbot-Fox is a School Psychologist at Perkins School for the Blind, in the Early Learning Center and Lower School Programs. Mary has an extensive background working with vision educators in a variety of school settings. As the School Psychologist, she works very collaboratively with members of the student's interdisciplinary team that includes vision professionals including Orientation and Mobility Specialists.

Patricia Kennedy, OTD, OT, 4279

Patricia received, from the Boston School of Occupational Therapy at Tufts University, both her Master's Degree in 1993 and her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy in 2007. She has 21 years experience, working in school settings with students with a variety of strengths and challenges.

Erin Rodriguez, MS, OT, 8722

Erin received her BS in Occupational Therapy in 2003 from Worcester State College and her MS in OT from Sargent College at Boston University in 2007. She has experience with both pediatrics and geriatrics. Her pediatric experience includes working in specialized schools for children with severe special needs and currently she is working for the Brockton Public Schools.

Stephanie Chmielinski

Stephanie has been a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist for over 25 years. She has worked in agencies and also private contracting. When planning for lessons for school age students, Stephanie has been creative in finding community activities and funds that support both recreational fun while advancing mobility skills. Stephanie is the current Treasurer of AMESVI and former Treasurer of AER O&M Division.

Megan O'Connell-Copp

Megan is an adapted physical education teacher at Perkins School for the Blind. Megan, a graduate of the SUNY Brockport Adapted Physical Education program, has taught adapted physical education for 17 years in schools for the blind and schools for the deaf. During her tenure as an APE teacher, Megan has coached a

variety of sports, developed and facilitated Camp Abilities' programs, and conducted recreation and outdoor education programs for kids of all abilities in schools and in the community.

Michelle Antinarelli

Michelle Antinarelli is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist with more than sixteen years in the field, providing itinerant services to children in school districts in central and eastern Massachusetts. Currently, she is the Director of Education and Community Services at the Carroll Center for the Blind. Michelle has held positions on the Board of Northeast AER, AMESVI, and currently serves on three committees for National AER. She is the mother of two grown daughters with oculocutaneous albinism, as well as mini-horses, rabbits and cats.

Aaron Rouby

Aaron Rouby is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist providing services to teenagers and adults in a residential, rehabilitation setting at the Carroll Center for the Blind. He enjoys teaching everything from the most basic cane skills to a client at the beginner level, to complex routes involving public transportation and GPS to clients who are more advanced. He is particularly passionate about helping clients stay active and learn new types of recreation, such as how to run with a human guide, how to hike with trekking poles, and play adapted games like frisbee golf. Aaron is a new member of the AMESVI board representing the Greater Boston area.