

"Focus" on Vision Impairment & Blindness Conference **13th Annual**

Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Intellectual Disability & Vision Loss

March 14, 2018

8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, MA

Welcome Remarks: Jane F. Ryder

Acting Commissioner

Department of Developmental Services

Keynote Speaker: Zach Rossetti, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

School of Education Boston University

"Friends Matter: Promoting Authentic Social Opportunities for All"

Remarks at Lunch: Paul Saner

Commissioner

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Awards at Lunch:

Mark Holt "Gift of Lunch"

Paul McDade "Focus" Award for Distinguished Service

Paul McDade "Focus" Award for Distinguished Leadership



"Focus" on Talent!!! Special Closing Performance

A Very Special Thank You...

Lead Sponsor:

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Sponsors:

Perkins School for the Blind

DDS Southeast Region Training Council

Friends:

New England College of Optometry

Shriver Clinical Services

To Our Exhibitors Including:

Vendors:

BAUM (USA) Inc.

The Carroll Center for the Blind

Disabled Persons Protection Commission

Easter Seals Massachusetts

HumanWare

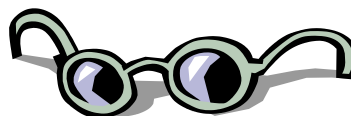
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program

**New England Consortium for Deafblind Technical
Assistance and Training**

Perkins eLearning

Prevent Blindness Children's Vision Massachusetts



A Very Special Thank You...

To Our Exhibitors Including:

Literature Table:

Eye Care America
Hadley School for the Blind
Independent Living Aids
MaxiAids
National Eye Institute
National Institute on Aging
and more...

Poster Displays:

My Touch Poster

Uzo "Amaka" Mogor, RN, BA, BS, MBA
Nurse Consultant, Dept. of Developmental Services

Environmental Recommendations for Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Bianca Fillion, M.Ed., COMS

Rehabilitation Teaching (RT)/Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT): What Is It and How Can It Help Your Consumers?

Carolyn Ovesen, M.Ed., COMS, COTA/L
Rehabilitation Teaching Supervisor, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Utilizing Music as Relaxation

Lisa A. El-Lakis, MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist

Autism

Yashira Correa
People, Incorporated - Fall River

Dreams That You Dream

Laurie Mathews, Adult Services
Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover

Introducing our Keynote:

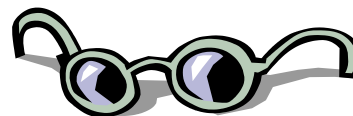
Zach Rossetti, Ph.D.

Zach Rossetti, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Special Education in the School of Education at Boston University. A former elementary school special education teacher and inclusion facilitator from New Hampshire, Dr. Rossetti's research focuses on social interactions and friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities in inclusive settings, specifically the contexts and dynamics of such relationships and how educators may facilitate social opportunities. His research also examines the experiences of families with children with IDD or ASD by centering on sibling roles and relationships, as well as family experiences with school collaboration and community participation.



Dr. Rossetti is on the editorial board of *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* and *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*. He received his master's degree (M.Ed.) in Special Education-Severe Disabilities from the University of New Hampshire and his doctorate (Ph.D.) in Special Education from Syracuse University.

In addition to the keynote, Dr. Rossetti will also be presenting the concurrent session, "Friends Matter: Promoting Authentic Social Opportunities For All".



Conference Agenda "At-a-Glance"

8:00 – 8:25	Registration / Vendors Open / Refreshments
8:25 – 8:30	Opening Remarks
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome Remarks
8:45 – 9:45	Keynote
9:45 – 10:00	Break / Exhibits Open
10:00 – 11:00	1 st Concurrent Session
11:00 – 11:15	Break / Exhibits Open
11:15 – 12:15	2 nd Concurrent Session
12:15 – 12:30	Exhibits Open
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch & Award Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Holt Gift of Lunch• Paul McDade "Focus" Awards for Distinguished Service and Leadership
1:30 – 2:00	Dedicated Time for Exhibits Session
2:00 – 3:00	3 rd Concurrent Session
3:00 – 3:15	Break / Refreshments / Exhibits Open
3:15 – 3:45	"Focus" On Talent!!! (Performance) / Raffle

Four Points by Sheraton Norwood

1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike

Route 1 (18 miles south of Boston)

Norwood, MA 02062

Phone: 781-769-7900

www.fourpointsnorwood.com

Please see page 12 for a full listing of directions.

We look forward to seeing you on March 14th!!!

"Focus" on Vision Impairment & Blindness

8:00 – 8:25 **Registration / Exhibits Open / Refreshments**

8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome Remarks:**
Jane F. Ryder
Acting Commissioner, DDS

8:45 – 9:45 **Keynote: Zach Rossetti, Ph.D.**

" Friends Matter: Promoting Authentic Social Opportunities For All"

Friendships are personally valuable and developmentally important relationships for all people, yet friendships between individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) remain infrequent. Extant research indicates that (a) opportunity barriers may play a more prominent role in friendship development than the social skills of individuals with IDD, and (b) when friendships between individuals with and without IDD have developed, direct support from educators, staff, and/or families has been a critical facilitator. Thus, this keynote presentation shares personal stories of social successes and challenges, as well as research-based strategies to promote authentic friendship between individuals with and without IDD.

9:45 – 10:00 **Break / Exhibits Open**

10:00 – 11:00 **Concurrent Sessions**



**A. Floppy Eyelid Syndrome and Other Eyelid Malpositions:
Systemic Associations, Treatment Options, and How the Eyelids
Affect Visual Function**

Presenter: Blair K. Armstrong, MD
Boston University Eye Associates
Dir., Oculoplastic, Orbital, and Reconstructive Surgery Service

Description: The eyelids and periocular structures have an important role in protecting and lubricating the eye. There are various malpositions that can occur with aging, eye rubbing, or that can be associated with other systemic disorders. These can cause significant discomfort and affect visual functioning. This presentation will address the various options that are available to improve patient's discomfort and optimize visual function.

10:00 – 11:00 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

B. Incorporating Literacy Throughout the Day for Individuals Who are Visually Impaired with Additional Disabilities or Deafblind

Presenters: Sharon Stelzer, M.Ed
Marguerite Tibaudo, M.Ed
Perkins School for the Blind, Deafblind Program

Description: The presenters will discuss best practices for incorporating literacy in various activities for individuals who are Deafblind or Visually Impaired with additional disabilities. The presenters will show examples of literacy in a variety of activities. How to adapt literacy materials for activities relating to the Expanded Core Curriculum will also be discussed.

C. The Importance of collaboration between Physical Therapy and Orientation and Mobility as Individuals with Intellectual Disability and Visual Impairment Age

Presenters: Georgia Wattendorf-Guiney, M.Ed., COMS
MA Department of Developmental Services
Lynn Watras, PT
Edco

Description: As individuals with intellectual disability and vision loss age they are likely to experience deficits that affect their mobility. The focus of this session will be the importance of the relationship between the Orientation and Mobility Specialist and the Physical Therapist while assessing and modifying plans for individuals as they experience the aging process. The use of mobility aides such as gait belts, walkers, and wheelchairs will be discussed. The significance of maintaining the individual's maximum level of independence will be a focus.

D. Tech for Everyday Life

Presenters: Lauren Coen-Iltis, M.Ed. COMS
Huyen Tran Vo, M.Ed.
Perkins School for the Blind

Description: Looking for ways to keep your clients with vision loss engaged? Do you need to tools for communication and literacy? Come learn about the basics of Accessibility with iOS applications on the iPad and iPhone that can expand horizons for clients and staff alike.

10:00 – 11:00 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

E. Friends Matter: Promoting Authentic Social Opportunities For All

Presenter: Zach Rossetti, Ph.D.

Description: Building from the keynote presentation, this session will focus on individualized application of research-based strategies to promote authentic friendship between individuals with and without IDD. It will provide a framework for evaluating an individual's social context and for increasing and improving social opportunities.

11:00 – 11:15 Break / Exhibits Open



11:15 – 12:15 Concurrent Sessions

A. Binocular Vision Dysfunctions: Diagnosis and Treatment in Those with Developmental Disabilities

Presenters: Kathleen O'Leary, O.D., F.A.A.O., Assistant Professor
Anne Reuter, O.D., Assistant Professor
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences,
School of Optometry

Description: Binocular vision dysfunctions can affect those with intellectual disabilities. We will identify specific binocular vision problems and how these can impact one's life. A discussion on how we test for these problems will also be discussed. There are different treatment options for binocular vision problems. Specifically we will focus on vision therapy as a treatment.

B. Adapting Books for Low Vision or Tactile Users

Presenter: Janet Bentley, M.Ed., COMS
Crystal Springs Inc.
Carroll Center for the Blind

Description: For individuals who are visually impaired or blind there is a reduced exposure to books and a lack of readily available materials. This presentation will give strategies on how to make books or materials so individuals or students can experience the story or topic along with everyone else. Strategies include modifications to text, pictures, adding textures and/or objects to the books. Directions, examples and resources will be given.

11:15 – 12:15 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

C. **CVI: Best Practice for Visual Access**

Presenter: Ellen Cadigan Mazel, M.Ed., CTVI, CVI Endorsed Professional
Perkins School for the Blind, CVI Program Manager

Description: Individuals with cortical/cerebral visual impairment have unique visual behaviors that can range from very limited visual abilities in all areas to more subtle difficulties with lower visual field, difficulties with complexity, difficulties with facial recognition and lack of distance curiosity. After functional visual assessment around these unique visual behaviors, we can use what we know about these functional vision results to build accessibility and improve visual function matched to the assessed needs.

D. **New Products and Services**

Four different companies/agencies will discuss the services and products they provide, including assistive technology, that are helpful to individuals with visual impairment or blindness and those who support them.

- BAUM USA Inc
- Disabled Persons Protection Commission
- HumanWare
- Perkins e-Learning

PLEASE NOTE: CEU's are **not** offered for this session.

E. **Safely Supporting the Visually Impaired in the Aquatic Setting**

Presenter: Susannah Sapir
Owner, Well Adapted Trainings

Description: If you support visually impaired swimmers this is the training for you. Learn how to foster a safe swimming experience for both staff and swimmer by identifying ways to increase safety prior to swim, during swim and post swim. Topic areas include what to bring, how to identify an ideal swim environment, how to reduce fall risks, tips on navigating and safely swimming in indoor pools as well as "what to expect" with solutions for each of these scenarios.

12:15 – 12:30 Exhibits Open



12:30 – 1:30 Lunch & Award Presentations:

Remarks: Paul Saner, Commissioner, MCB

- Mark Holt "Gift of Lunch"
- Paul McDade "Focus" Award for Distinguished Service
- Paul McDade "Focus" Award for Distinguished Leadership



1:30 – 2:00 Dedicated Vendor & Poster Session!!!

We listened to you!!!

We have again scheduled more time after lunch for meeting our Exhibitors, viewing the Posters, and networking.

Enjoy!!!

2:00 – 3:00 Concurrent Sessions

A. Clinical Diagnosis of CVI: Perspective From an Optometric Low Vision Clinic

Presenter: Barry S. Kran, OD, FAAO
Professor, New England College of Optometry
Clinic Director, NE Eye Perkins Low Vision Clinic

Description: This presentation will provide the audience with an understanding of CVI, the diversity of presentation and the diagnostic issues involved in making the diagnosis. Concepts such as approach to care, vision function and functional vision and use of surveys will be detailed. A patient example will be provided.

2:00 – 3:00 Concurrent Sessions (continued)

B. Recreation: Improving Quality of Life Outcomes: How to Have Fun While Building New Skills

Presenters: Marie Hennessy BA, MS

New England Ski For Light

Meg Robertson BS, MA, COMS

Director, O&M Department, MA Commission for the Blind

Description: Come and learn about how recreational activities can enhance the quality of life for Individuals with ID. We will be sharing experiences regarding different recreational activities within the community. Discussion will include how to support individuals in having more choices to access a variety of different and sometimes nontraditional recreation options and pursuits.

C. Communicating with Individuals Who Are Deafblind

Presenters: Sharon Stelzer, M.Ed

Marguerite Tibaudo, M.Ed

Perkins School for the Blind, Deafblind Program

Description: The presenters will discuss best practices when communicating with individuals with dual-sensory impairments. These practices will surround communication techniques, teaching strategies, accommodations, and environmental considerations.

D. New Products and Services

Different companies/agencies will discuss the services and products they provide, including assistive technology, that are helpful to individuals with visual impairment or blindness and those who support them, including:

- The Carroll Center for the Blind
- Prevent Blindness America Children's Vision Massachusetts

PLEASE NOTE: CEU's are **not** offered for this session.

3:00 – 3:15 Break / Refreshments / Exhibits Open



3:15 – 3:30 "Focus" On Talent!!!

A special musical performance will put the finishing touch on the day!

3:30 - 3:45 Closing Remarks

RAFFLE Wonderful PRIZES!!! Must be present to WIN!

DIRECTIONS

Four Points by Sheraton Norwood
1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike
Route 1 (18 miles south of Boston)
Norwood, MA 02062
Phone: 781-769-7900
www.fourpointsnorwood.com

From Boston and points North

Take I-93 South which turns into I-95 (Route 128) North.
Take Exit 15B, Route 1 South toward Norwood.
Travel 4.5 miles, the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel & Conference Center will be on your right after the Staples Plaza.

From the West

Follow Mass. Turnpike (I-90) East
Take Exit 14 onto I-95 (Route 128) South. (Note: From the West, this Exit is number 14, from the East, it is number 15.)
Continue South to Exit 15B. Route 1, Norwood,
And proceed as above.

From Providence, TF Green Airport & points South

Take I-95 North to Exit 11B, Neponset Street, Norwood.
Drive 7/10 of a mile and turn left onto Dean Street.
At traffic light, turn left onto Route 1, heading South.
The Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel & Conference Center is on your right after the Staples Plaza.

From Logan Airport

Exit airport, follow signs through Williams tunnel (toll) to I-90 /I-93 South. Follow signs for I-93 South about 7 miles.
I-93 South turns into I-95 (Route 128) North.
Proceed on I-95(Route 128) North to Exit 15B, Route 1 Norwood.
Travel Route 1 South 4.5 miles to the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel & Conference Center, located on your right after the Staples Plaza.

We look forward to seeing you on March 14th!!

Be sure to check out the "Focus" website: www.mass.gov/dds/visionloss

The "Focus" website is a resource of the MCB/DDS Partnership Project created to raising awareness of services and information for individuals with intellectual disability and vision impairment, legal blindness or deaf/blindness.

MCB/DDS Services & Resources

Learn about Certified Orientation & Mobility Services, the American Printing House for the Blind Federal Quota Account, and other initiatives focused on the needs of individuals with intellectual disability and vision loss.

Eye Care, Safety & Finding an Eye Care Provider

Find an eye care provider near you; review the DDS Vision Care Guidelines; discover tips for keeping eyes safe and reducing glare, learn how to best prepare for eye exams and eye surgery; see how vision can be affected by specific eye disorders; focus on nutrition for eye health, vision and aging eyes, and more!

Everyday Life

Discover useful strategies, including orientation & mobility techniques; communication and recreation resources; browse catalogs specific to items for individuals with vision loss; and more!

Students

Explore specialized resources available to students with vision loss and their families to promote education, healthy vision, and a smooth transition to adult life.

Connect

Read inspiring stories of individuals with vision loss; check out the Focus Blog, discover answers to frequently asked questions, and connect with us!

Training & Events

Learn about conferences and workshops related to vision care and vision loss; access downloadable resource handouts and the Let's Walk Together Human Guide video; sign up to receive email notification of upcoming events!



Registration Information

1. Please fill out the attached form and return BY February 24, 2018 to:
Sandra Faulkner / Shriver Clinical Services Corporation
Wrentham Developmental Center, PO Box 144
Wrentham, MA 02093
2. For questions regarding Registration, please contact Sandra:
Sandra.M.Faulkner@massmail.state.ma.us or phone 508-384-5679.
3. Please make check payable to: **Shriver Clinical Services Corporation**
4. Refunds: We regret that refunds cannot be given after February 15th 2017, unless by notification from us to you that your check (# and amount) will be returned to you. This refund protocol will also be used if conference capacity is reached at the time we receive your registration and payment.
5. Continuing Education Information:
Application for 4 hours of Continuing Education has been submitted to:
Academy for Certification of Vision Rehab. & Education Prof. (**ACVREP**)
Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (**CRC**)
An application has been made for 4 **CECs** for Social Workers.
MA Board of Registration in Nursing: 4 contact hours will be granted.
Questions: EKing@massmail.state.ma.us
NECO/NEEI has applied for 4 hours of **MA CE** approved credits.
Questions: Barry S. Kran, O.D.: Kranb@neco.edu
Perkins Training Center will award 5 Professional Development Points (**PDPs**)
Questions: Teresa.Pagliuca@Perkins.org
Please indicate your choice of CEUs on the registration form.
6. Scholarships are available for individuals with intellectual disability and their families (priority given for the Southeast Region).
Information: Dianne.Rodrigues@massmail.state.ma.us
7. Reduced room rates of \$115.00 per night, exclusive of taxes, will be available at the Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, phone: 781-769-7900. Please mention Shriver Clinical. Rooms at this rate are held until February 7, 2018 and subject to availability.
8. This Registration Brochure and Form can be downloaded from the "Training" section of DDS Vision Loss website: www.mass.gov/dds/visionloss and from the "Perkins Training Center Schedule" on the Perkins website: www.perkinselearning.org/events-monthly
9. Questions please contact: Lisa.DiBonaventura@state.ma.us or 508-384-5539.



Please Register Early!!!

Registration Form

Please return this form by February 24, 2018
Register early if you can!

"Focus" On Vision Impairment & Blindness

Wednesday March 14, 2018 - Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, Massachusetts

Name: _____

Agency Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Can we share your contact information with sponsors? Yes ___ No ___

Lunch Choice: If no choice is indicated, the Vegan lunch will be ordered.

- ___ **Grilled Chicken Breast:** topped with ratatouille (onion, eggplant, zucchini, tomato, basil, garlic and spices). Served with seasonal vegetables and roasted potatoes.

OR

- ___ **Spaghetti Squash:** with lentil polenta topped with tomato, basil, and garlic (**Vegan & Gluten Free**).

Special Accommodations Needed*: _____

*** For Interpreting Services, please let us know by February 10, 2018**

Concurrent Session Selection: Circle the letter of the 3 you plan to attend.

10:00 - 11:00	11:15 - 12:15	2:00 - 3:00
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D

Please circle the type(s) of CE you will be requesting:

ACVREP

CRC

CEC

Nursing CEU

MA CE

PDP

Conference Rate with Lunch:

General Admittance postmarked by 1/31/18:	General Admittance postmarked after 1/31/18	Physician (MD, DO, OD)
\$55.00	\$65.00	\$110.00

Check enclosed: yes ___ no/reason why _____ **Amount:** _____

Please make check payable to: **Shriver Clinical Services Corporation** and mail along with this form to: Sandra Faulkner / Shriver Clinical Services
Wrentham Developmental Center, PO Box 144, Wrentham, MA 02093

Thank you for your support!

Lisa DiBonaventura, MA, COMS
Statewide Director for Vision & Loss Services, DDS
WDC, 131 Emerald Street, PO Box 144
Wrentham, MA 02093