



January 31, 2023

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Mr. Ryan Gollner, Project Director
Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH)
309 West Walworth Avenue
Delevan, Wisconsin 53115

Dear Mr. Ryan:

On behalf of the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons, it is my pleasure to write this letter supporting the Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP) funding request through the State Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Services and Results for Deafblind Children and National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for Deafblind Children (CFDA 84.326T)

For over ten years, I have had the honor and pleasure to serve on the Advisory Board for Wisconsin's Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP). Below are my observations of WDBTAP's recent accomplishments.

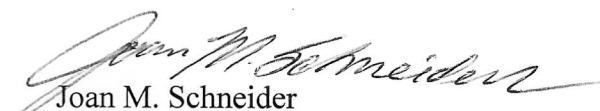
Progress has been made with children and families being exposed to adults who are DeafBlind. This is done via the workshops, Midwest Transition Institute, and the Remarkable Conversations Book Club.

Intervener trainings and credentialing, various consultations, specific trainings such as the DeafBlind criteria form, and general DeafBlind topics trainings to school teams and general public provided the professional development and support needed to serve children who are DeafBlind.

Major milestone accomplishment was the Department of Public Instruction adding DeafBlind as a disability category to their form that drives IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) and services to be provided. This, and the work done to credential staff as intervenors, definitely are measures taken to improve the services and supports for children who are DeafBlind. Then meeting adults who are DeafBlind living productive lives provides hope not only to the child, but also to the family and educators.

The Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project is taking action to address the needs of individuals who are DeafBlind and their families and I would like to see their efforts continue.

In gratitude and respect,


Joan M. Schneider
Executive Director