



Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS)

Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB)

DeafBlind Advisory Committee (DBAC)

Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2025

Location: 184 Windsor Ave, Windsor, CT 06095 & Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)

I. CALL TO ORDER & COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

Chairperson Hana Tyler called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Communication protocols were reviewed with full interpreter coverage in place.

II. ROLL CALL – COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GUESTS

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Hana Tyler (Chairperson, Consumer), Cheri Byrnes (Deafblind Association of CT), Lisa Flaherty-Vaughn (DBSAN), Jesse Stanley (ASD), Christine Telford.

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Elise Arseneau (Oak Hill School), Kathy Morgan (Parent/Guardian), Eileen Akers (BESB Advisory Board), Tracy Luiselli (National/Regional Organization), Eric Krengel (DMHAS), Tara Brown-Ogilvie (Helen Keller National Center), Sandra Miles (DDS – STS), Barbara Cloonan (Parent/Guardian).

SPECIAL GUEST: Jennifer White Jackson (CAN).

BESB STAFF ATTENDING: Rayah Martin, Alvin Cheng, April Mattoon, Wayne Seidel, Margie Santos, Lisa Drew.

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ed Peliter (CAN), Leroy Terrio (CAN).

INTERPRETER COVERAGE: Rayah Martin (Spotlighter), Karen (Remote ASL), Rivka Hozinsky (Remote ASL), Arkady (Onsite Tactile), Ami Slater (Onsite Tactile), Aish Vincent Kodiveedu (Onsite ASL Support), Ronise Barreras (Remote DBI), Ernest Willman (Remote DBI), Randel Pascall Speights (DBI).

III. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of the June 10, 2025 minutes was tabled to a future meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

SCHEDULED MEETING DATES: December 9, 2025; March 10, 2026; June 9, 2026.

ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM REPORT – MURIEL APARO (BRS): Allocation of \$122,673 fully expended serving 11 consumers. Expenditure covered assessments, equipment, installation, training, travel, maintenance, administration, and outreach (Low Vision Support Group, Eye Health Fair, AT Conference).

VENDOR REPORTS

- *Communication Advocacy Network (CAN)* – Jennifer White Jackson:
- 15 consumers served in July, 13 in August.
- Events included ASL cookouts, focus nights, TVAC events, bingo nights, music classes, library visits, and ADA anniversary activities. Recruitment

via Facebook and booths. Upcoming: Walk-a-thon (Sept 27, 2025) and 20-Year Anniversary (Apr 18, 2026).

- ***CIB – Vendor TBD:***
- No report was provided for this meeting. Vendor to be determined.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MARGIE SANTOS (BESB):

Interpreter services totaled \$925.20: \$472 (ASD), \$453.20 (CO-Sign).

CONSUMER REPORTS

- ***UCP (United Cerebral Palsy of Eastern CT):***

Services for one client – transportation, groceries, recreation. Invoiced July: \$691.55 (not yet paid). No invoices August.

- ***Elizabeth Hilton:***

Services for one client – communication via device, advocacy, recreation (walks). Invoiced July: \$1,165.25 (not yet paid). No invoices August.

V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – HANA TYLER

Chairperson Tyler announced creation of the Interpreting Standards Board (ISB), launching November 1, 2025, to expand the interpreter pool. She expressed gratitude for committee support and shared a personal update.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members recognized Hana Tyler for long-standing service and leadership. Appreciation and best wishes shared.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Drew
ADS-BESB

Appendix A

- ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY
- APR 1, 2025 – JUN 30, 2025 (Quarter 4)

2024-2025 Total Allocation \$122,673

11 Consumers served

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Assessments	\$2,051	\$18,341
Equipment/upgrades/inventory	\$3,571	\$49,496
Installation	\$2,500	\$8,343
Training	\$2,210	\$16,578
Travel/Maintenance/Shipping	\$1,567	\$12,114
Administration cost	\$3,136	\$14,464
Outreach	\$250	\$3,337
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Totals	\$15,285	\$122,673

Outreach

May Presentation– Farmington Low Vision Support Group

June – New Britain Eye Health Fair
Bristol 2 Day AT Conference

Appendix B

DeafBlind Grant Financial Report

Grant Period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Grant Total: \$53,511

Summary Period: July 1 – August 31, 2025

SSP Provider Allocations (No Payments Yet)

Provider	Allocation	Paid YTD	Remaining
Communication Advocacy Network	\$164,000	\$0	\$164,000
CT Institute for the Blind	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
UCP of Eastern CT	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Elizabeth Hilton, Inc.	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000

Vendor Payments to Date

Vendor	Amount Paid
American School for the Deaf	\$472.00
Cosign CT LLC	\$453.20
NWI Global	\$0

Total Expenses: \$925.20

Remaining Grant Balance: \$52,585.80