

About DBMAT

DBMAT was first envisioned by parents and professionals in 1973. The rubella epidemic of the 1960's resulted in many children born with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. Parents and professionals developed an organization which would assist in dealing with the children's challenges as well as advocating for their needs. DBMAT Board positions are filled by parents or siblings of those with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. Our annual conference is attended by parents from around the state as well as professionals from state agencies, educational and national organizations. These groups stay in contact year round to advocate, educate and assist.

DBMAT VISION

DBMAT is currently working in a number of ways to improve access and quality of intervener services. Our goal is to ensure that qualified interveners are available to deafblind individuals of all ages. An intervener is a person with specialized skills and training who provides direct support to a person with deafblindness. They help the person with deafblindness interact with their world. The most famous example of an intervener was Annie Sullivan who worked lifelong with Helen Keller.



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DBMAT AIMS TO :

- Improve the quality of life for all Texans who are deafblind with multiple disabilities.
- Ensure that all persons who are deafblind are provided necessary support services from the age of diagnosis. We do this through advocacy with the federal and state legislature and educational systems.
- Provide support and training to all parents of deafblind children so that they can meet the needs of their children and families.
- Improve the working conditions of those who work with people who are deafblind with multiple disabilities. We advocate so that these dedicated and caring individuals are provided with the tools to do the job. This includes adequate training, professional recognition, and commensurate salaries. DBMAT is funding a limited number of scholarships for people who are working as interveners.

How you can help...

Join: There are regular or associate memberships. These guarantee you mailings of our newsletter and notice of any DBMAT events including the annual conference.

Donate funds: Donations are used for conference organization, our Intervener Scholarship Fund and advocacy activities.

Join one of our subcommittees: Send an e-mail to our president to let him know you want to participate in any of these committees: conference planning, publication-internet, assistance to families, legislative activities or budget-fundraising.

Advocate: Lend your voice as we advocate for people who are deafblind with multiple disabilities.

THE TEXAS INTERAGENCY DEAFBLIND TASK FORCE

was founded and is co-directed by DBMAT. This group allows professionals and parents to discuss new issues and solve specific problems in the field of deafblindness.



THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

is held by DBMAT for families of persons with deafblindness and multiple disabilities. The conference receives major support from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), Texas Deafblind Project of the Texas School for the Blind and the Texas Department of Rehabilitation Services (DARS).

THE NEWSLETTER is published 3 times a year to get the word out about deafblindness, new services, accomplishments and new ideas in the field.

SUPPORT TO PARENTS is provided by experienced and trained "Parent Regional Coordinators" throughout Texas who are available with counseling and advocacy assistance.

ADVOCACY from DBMAT is responsible for the development of the Deafblind Program which is now located at DADS. This program started as 3 small group homes for children who were aging out of the school system. Over time, DBMAT worked with the state to develop this program into the country's only Deafblind Medicaid Waiver. Parents of DBMAT noted that they wanted more choices than group homes and more flexibility in service delivery. This waiver is a model program which continues to improve with time.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check type of membership:

Regular (Persons who are deafblind, their parents/guardians/extended family members and adult siblings)

Associate (Persons who work with the sensory impaired and supportive community members)

Annual Dues: \$10.00 per individual

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Date of Form Completion _____

Child/Adult with Sensory Disabilities:

Name _____

Birth Date _____ Sex _____

Is she/he presently being served? Yes No

Program Name _____

Address _____

As an Associate, my occupation is:

Program _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Contributing Sponsor:

Amount of Gift _____

As a Contributing Sponsor, I am interested in DBMAT because: _____

Send receipt for gift to above address.

Please make checks payable to DBMAT.

Mail with application to: _____

C. C. Davis (DBMAT Membership Coordinator)

Helen Keller National Center

South Central Regional Office

12160 Abrams Road, Suite 620

Dallas, TX 75243

(972) 490-9677(V/TDD/VP) (972) 490-6042 (Fax)

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Contact DBMAT

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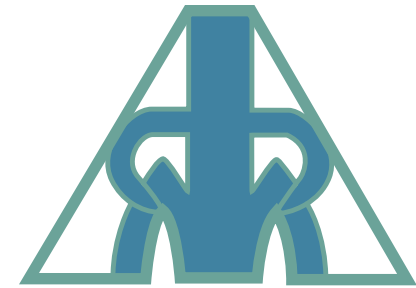
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THE DEAF-BLIND
MULTIHANDICAPPED
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

**We advocate for all persons
who are deafblind
multihandicapped
of any age
and their families**