Thursday, November 1st

12:30 PM
Participants for Ridin’ the Rails will meet in the Conference Center lobby for transport to Crestview Station where this presentation begins.

1:00-4:30 PM
The breaks for the afternoon session are left to the discretion of the speakers. “To Go” snacks are provided for those doing activities outside the meeting rooms.

Hatlen Room – Conference Center
The ABCs of Babies
Marjie Wood, COMS

When serving babies and toddlers, COMS are often faced with the questions, “What exactly do you do? Why do you need to be on the Early Intervention team? Why not wait until the child is moving before receiving O&M?” This session will give COMS the tools to work with babies and toddlers and the information which can support them in being an integral part of the Early Intervention team.

Barraga Room – Conference Center
Self-Directed Achievement, Perceptual Development and FlashSonar: How blind people can learn to see without sight
Daniel Kish, President, World Access for the Blind

In this session participants will get an overview of using perception based, achievement oriented methodology to naturally foster the development of self-direction, including perception, intentional discovery, mutual social engagement, and psycho-emotional processes.

Principals of perception based instruction focus on audition, taction, and mutual social engagement. When properly supported, the self-direction systems in the brain of someone with
little or no eyesight can adapt naturally, with little need for structured or regimented contrivances, to process nonvisual information and concepts into dynamic, operational imaging and comprehension - leading to functional, intentional, active movement and environmental interaction with less inconvenience to themselves and others. In order to unfold naturally, the self-directed achievement process needs intense perceptual and social input gained through active, intentional movement and mutual social engagement in order to develop. Our speaker will demonstrate and discuss conditions that foster or disrupt the development of this process, as well as methods for remediation. We show that self-directed achievement is optimized by natural perceptual engagement, rather than structured skills repertoire, and discuss the critically supportive impact of early perception based training, such as cane training, Flash Sonar, and mutual social engagement, along with the disruptive impact of passively imposed methods of guidance and external direction. FlashSonar is an advanced perceptual ability to image the surrounding environment in functional detail by strategically using discrete sonar signals, such as a quiet tongue click. It appears to be most inspiring and motivating in its utility for imaging complex relationships and details from a distance. The speaker will demonstrate advanced perceptual skills, including Flash Sonar. Most importantly, we have fun.

**Fine Arts Building - Auditorium**

**Bioptics and Driving: The COMS Role in Pre-Driver Readiness Skill Development; and Basic Requirements for Driving from a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist Perspective**

Chuck Huss, COMS, and Chad Strowmatt, OTR/L & CDRS

This session led by a COMS, and a certified driver rehabilitation specialist will help participants learn about bioptic driving and role they might play in helping individuals with low vision become drivers. Chuck Huss will discuss how the COMS plays a critical link between the low vision clinician and the driver educator; especially in the areas of basic low vision survival orientation and mobility skills in preparation for driving. Chad Strowmatt will share updated information about what’s suggested or required of novice as well as experienced motor vehicle operators who want to explore or return to driving.

**Meet at Crestview Station**

**Ridin’ the Rail: How to Teach Light Rail**

Jane Lansaw, O&M Specialist, DARS-Division for Blind Services and Chris Tabb, COMS, TSBVI

Ridin’ The Rail is a go-see-do session that will begin at 1:00 PM at the Crestview Railway Station. A brief presentation will be given and participants will have a chance to learn about the talking ticket machines. It will cost $2.75 to ride the train. Then we'll just nip down to the Plaza Saltillo platform on the next Southbound train where we can transfer to the Northbound and conclude the activity back at Crestview with your questions and a discussion about strategies for instructing individuals with visual impairments and blindness about light rail travel.
Thursday, November 1st
5:00-6:00 PM
Meet in Fine Arts Building Lobby

Blindfold Practice
Need to get some hours recorded under blindfold? Sign-up for this structured blindfold practice. Don’t forget your cane and blindfold, and dress to be outside.

Friday, November 2nd
8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Fine Arts Building Lobby

Exhibits
Please take time to visit our vendors. This year our vendors include:

- Guiding Eyes for the Blind
- HumanWare
- Leader Dogs for the Blind
- Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Curriculum Department and Outreach Programs – New TAPS Curriculum available for sell throughout the conference

8:00-9:00 AM
Cafeteria
Coffee
Enjoy a free cup of Joe outside the cafeteria (weather permitting – inside if not) or for a reasonable fee buy an espresso, latte or cappuccino from the Wildcat Coffee Cart located outside the cafeteria.

9:00-10:00 AM
Fine Arts Building Auditorium
The Perceptual Imaging System and Mobility
Daniel Kish, President, World Access for the Blind

Under development of self-direction seems common but unnecessary among blind people, and often leads to passive dependence and under-achievement. We demonstrate and discuss conditions that foster or disrupt the development of the process of self-directed achievement, as well as methods for remediation. We show that self-directed achievement is optimized by natural perceptual engagement, rather than structured skills repertoire. Emphasis is given to the activation of the imaging system as suggested by recent brain scan studies. Hands on demonstrations of FlashSonar imaging and its application to freedom of movement are provided.
10:00-10:15 AM
Fine Arts Building Auditorium
APH Talking PC Maps
Terrie Terlau, Adult Life Project Leader, American Printing House for the Blind

This short session will share information about the APH Talking PC Maps and their use in orientation and mobility. Other APH products of interest to O&M instructors will be shared.

10:15-10:45 AM
Cafeteria
Break
Please join us for coffee and a light snack provided by HumanWare.

10:45-11:30 AM
Fine Arts Building Auditorium
Taking Action on the Issues – Part I
Marjie Wood, COMS/AER Past Division 9 Chair

This session, which will conclude on Saturday, briefly discusses the issues facing professionals in the field of orientation and mobility. Participants will learn about issues from a national, state and local level in preparation of completing Part II of this session which will focus on finding strategies for addressing these issues.

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Lunch
There are many great restaurant options in any direction you go from the TSBVI campus. A listing of these options is provided in your packet.
1:30-3:00 PM Breakout Sessions

**Fine Arts Building Auditorium**

**Providing O&M to Individuals with Visual and Multiple Impairments and Other Individual with Unique Challenges**

Tracy Halleck, COMS/Stephen F. Austin State University

This presentation looks at changes in the field of Orientation and Mobility due to the change in the population being served. Modifications and strategies for working with students with additional disabilities will be presented in conjunction with videotapes of COMS working with children with visual and multiple impairments.

**Hatlen Room – Conference Center**

**O&M in Nursing Homes and Other Institutional Settings**

Toby Penington, COMS, Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center

Many O&M specialists are asked to contract with state facilities or nursing homes in regards to a blind student residing in that facility. On most occasions, the O&M specialist is only a consultant and has limited involvement with the student and even less time for follow-up. This session will describe the pros and cons of contracting with State Facilities, how to write a training objective that will be functional and effective, how to train direct-care staff and professional staff and what to expect when contracting at a state facility or nursing home.

**Barraga Room – Conference Center**

**Driving with Bioptics: Basic visual and other characteristics for driving; teaching commentary driving skills to potential bioptic driving applicants; and on-road driving with low vision and bioptic lens systems – Part 1**

Chuck Huss, COMS, and Chad Strowmatt, OTR/L &CDRS

In this session, participants will gain understanding in the various aspects of visual and other types of functioning and their application and impact on the driving task. They will also gain insight into how best to teach low vision students to learn to use their remaining vision, what and where to look, and why during the driving task. The discussion will also focus on when it is safe to continue driving versus giving up the keys. This session continues at 3:30 PM.

**Silverrain Room – Conference Center**

**Self-Directed Achievement, Perceptual Development and FlashSonar: How blind people can learn to see without sight – Part 1**

Daniel Kish, President, World Access for the Blind

In this session participants will get an overview of using perception based, achievement oriented methodology to naturally foster the development of self-direction, including perception, intentional discovery, mutual social engagement, and psycho-emotional processes.

Principals of perception based instruction focus on audition, taction, and mutual social engagement. When properly supported, the self-direction systems in the brain of someone with
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3:00-3:30 PM
Conference Center Lobby
Break
Please join us for a light snack provided by Guiding Eyes.
3:30-5:00 PM Breakout Sessions

Fine Arts Building Auditorium

Introduction to the 3rd Edition of TAPS: An Orientation and Mobility Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments

Deborah Sewell, Curriculum Director, TSBVI and Rona Pogrund, PH.D., COMS, Associate Professor, Texas Tech University

The 3rd Edition of TAPS: An Orientation and Mobility Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments is finally ready! In this session the lead authors will give an overview of this book, emphasizing the changes made and new additions.

Hatlen Room – Conference Center

O&M Training in the San Antonio Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center

Esteban Zuniga, COMS, VRT, Polytrauma Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS) Program, San Antonio, TX.

In this presentation, the unique vision deficits due to blunt trauma, blast victims, and other combat related incidents will be discussed. The PRC utilizes a transdisciplinary approach which includes orientation and mobility, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech, and a medical physician. The goal of the presentation will discuss the role of the O&M Specialist in working with Veterans/Service Members with vision loss due to Polytrauma as part of a transdisciplinary team and the methods used to accomplish the developed goals.

Baraga Room – Conference Center

Driving with Bioptics: Basic visual and other characteristics for driving; teaching commentary driving skills to potential bioptic driving applicants; and on-road driving with low vision and bioptic lens systems – Part 2

Chuck Huss, COMS, and Chad Strowmatt, OTR/L &CDRS

This session is a continuation of the 1:30-3:00 PM session.

Silverrain Room – Conference Center

Self-Directed Achievement, Perceptual Development and FlashSonar: How blind people can learn to see without sight – Part 2

Daniel Kish, President, World Access for the Blind

This is a continuation of the 1:30-3:00 PM session.

5:30-7:00 PM

SWOMA Happy Hour

Join your colleagues at the Holiday Inn for a drink and light snacks before exploring Austin or heading out for dinner.
Saturday, November 3rd
8:30-10:00 AM Breakout Sessions

**Fine Arts Building Auditorium**

**Using Sign and Foreign Language Interpreters in O&M Instruction**
*Marian Small, COMS and Bob Chessey, COMS*

Presenters will discuss using an interpreter from their collective experiences and suggest strategies to anticipate common challenges with interpreters, how to conduct an interview with a potential interpreter BEFORE beginning training. Session will also discuss how to locate interpreters. Also discuss suggestions for setting up a contract for interpreters.

**Hatlen Room – Conference Center**

**Getting Comfortable with Your Trekker Breeze and Incorporating It into Your O&M Lessons**
*Rebecca Kilian-Smith, TVI/COMS*

This program is for a novice Trekker Breeze user, or someone who just needs help with ideas of how to use it more efficiently on mobility lessons. The participants will need to bring along an updated Trekker Breeze along to the session.

**Barraga Room – Conference Center**

**Making the Mountain of Paperwork into a Molehill**
*Stephanie Isbell, TVI/COMS and Melanie White, COMS*

Today we are inundated with paperwork. Most of us are trying to accomplish this in an itinerant position. Learn how to do lesson plans and daily notes in an Excel file. As itinerants we do not always have access to a computer, so learn how to use Dropbox to access your paperwork from any computer.

**Silverras Room – Conference Center**

**The ABCs of Babies – Part 1**
*Marjie Wood, COMS*

When serving babies and toddlers, COMS are often faced with the questions, “What exactly do you do? Why do you need to be on the Early Intervention team? Why not wait until the child is moving before receiving O&M?” This session will give COMS the tools to work with babies and toddlers and the information which can support them in being an integral part of the Early Intervention team.

**10:00-10:30 AM**

**Conference Center Lobby**

Break
10:30 AM-12:00 PM Breakout Sessions

Fine Arts Building Auditorium

Listening Through the yEars: Developmental Stages from Crib to Community
Christy Householter, TVI/COMS and Vonecia Hines, COMS

Participants will learn the development hierarchy of listening and understand how O&M skills are impacted through each stage. Christy will also teach strategies and techniques for teaching listening skills within the natural context of O&M lessons.

Hatlen Room – Conference Center

Travel Training: A Job for COMS?
Vivian Picow, CMTA Travel Trainer, COMS

Vivian Picow has been employed as a Travel Trainer for 2½ years for Capital Metro Transit Authority in Austin. She will discuss how her background as an O&M Specialist applies to serving the needs of people with all disabilities when learning to take fixed route buses. She will share her criteria for people she will serve who are blind and visually impaired and discuss the various types of paratransit service conditions and the purpose and goals of paratransit eligibility.

Barraga Room – Conference Center

Making the Mountain of Paperwork into a Molehill
Stephanie Isbell, TVI/COMS and Melanie White, COMS

The 8:30-10 AM session is repeated in this time slot.

Silverrain Room – Conference Center

The ABCs of Babies – Part 2
Marjie Wood, COMS

This session is a continuation of the 8:30-10:00 session.
12:15-1:30 PM SWOMA Working Lunch

Cafeteria

Taking Action on the Issues – Part 2

Facilitated by Kate Hurst, Statewide Staff Development Coordinator, TSBVI Outreach

In this session participants through a “round-table discussion” will come up with solutions to begin to address issues discussed in the general session on Friday morning. The information generated as a result of these “round table discussions” will be compiled to share with AER, TAER, the Statewide Leadership Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Network, and others who may go forward to take actions that will benefit individuals with visual impairments and the orientation and mobility instructors who serve them. You should have signed up for your preferred issue group when you arrive at the conference. This is the group you will work with during the working lunch. Issues are listed below:

1. Travel training for non-visually impaired individuals
2. Working with visually impaired veterans
3. Contracting for adult rehabilitation agencies (DBS/ Lighthouses/ DADS)
4. Contracting with school districts for O&M services
5. Legal issues: Hours of service
6. Legal issues: Using canes on-campus
7. Legal issues: Liability for transporting
8. Legal issues: Eligibility for services
9. Code of ethics
10. Licensure
11. Analyzing your educational caseload
12. Determining type and amount of service
13. Assessment and curriculum for infants and toddlers
14. Challenges to instruction in the community for school-aged students
15. Paperwork for COMS in school settings
16. Writing and reporting on O&M IEP goals with computer software special education programs
17. Recruitment and retention of personnel
18. Elements of an O&M assessment report
19. How to present the profession to the world at large
20. Services for non-ambulatory individuals (rehab and education)

ALL of the information from ALL of the groups will be shared with you following the conference. You will be given email addresses to share your thoughts on additional topics at that time. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the future of your profession and to the services provided to individuals of all ages with visual impairments. We hope all of you will participate and share your insights whether or not you plan to attend the luncheon on Saturday.
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The SWOMA Planning Committee would like to give special thanks to the following sponsors and supporters:

- Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
- Region 11 Education Service Center
- Region 10 Education Service Center
- American Printing House for the Blind
- Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Division of Blind Services
- Guiding Eyes for the Blind
- HumanWare, USA
- Leader Dogs for the Blind
- Stephen F. Austin State University VI/O&M Program
- Strowmatt Rehabilitation Services
- US Department of Veterans Affairs Polytrauma Unit San Antonio
- West Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services – Bioptic Driving Program

Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Comprehensive, Curriculum, and Outreach Programs