

AEROGRAM

Spring 2024

Board News

As we move into 2024, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our 2021-2023 board members Andrea Jarrett, Heather Reynolds, Melanie Sargent, and Missy Wilson, and introduce the newly elected 2024-2026 board members.

2024 AERO Board

Executive Board

Dan Kelley, President

Heather Geiser, Secretary

Staci Wills, Treasurer

Stephanie Welch-Grenier, Past President

Board Members

2022 - 2024	2023 - 2025	2024-2026
Alisha Waugh Kristen Callahan	Wendy Bumbico Jenny Krantz Elli Kalas Abby Schwartz	Dr. Jim Pietrzycki Kallie Poast Dan Watson Lindsay Wollet

AERO Division Chairs

Education and Curriculum: Mary Beth Kelty

Information & Technology: Dan Kelly

Low Vision Rehabilitation: Open

Multiple Disabilities, Deafblind, and Early Intervention: Wendy Bombico

Orientation and Mobility: Dr. Pie

Vision Rehab Therapy: Stephanie Welch-Grenier

Physical Activity & Recreation: Open

Itinerant Personnel: Staci Wills

Neurological Visual Impairment: Tanya Tiegler & Lisa Milliron

Committee Chairs

Communications & Publications: Staci Wills

Grants, Awards & Scholarships: Open

Public Policy: Stephanie Welch-Grenier

Membership: Dan Kelley

Please reach out if you are interested in taking on a leadership role in AER Ohio.

2024 AERO Board Meetings

March 20, 2024 June 19, 2024 September 18, 2024 December 18, 2024

All board meetings are held via Zoom.
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Board meetings are open to all AERO members. If you are interested in joining us, please email info@aerbv.iohio.org and a link will be emailed to you.

AERO Committee News

Communications: Please continue to check the AERO [website](#) for news and updates.

Public Policy & Advocacy: New Ohio Dyslexia Support Law Requirements

The Ohio Dyslexia Committee has determined that teachers must complete 18 professional development instructional hours that align with the new dyslexia guidebook requirements. This includes Teachers of the Visually Impaired. The public policy committee received clarification from ODE regarding PD deadlines. Please see the schedule given to us from the Dyslexia Administrator:

Dyslexia Professional Development Requirements

Any intervention specialist serving students in grades K-12 must complete the PD requirement. The timeline varies by age band, however. Those serving students in K-1 should complete by the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, those serving students in grades 2-3 should complete by the beginning of the 2024-2025 year, and those serving students in grades 4-12 should complete by the beginning of 2025-2026 year.



Scan the QR code to the left for more information about this requirement on the ODE website under [Dyslexia Supports](#) where you can also download a copy of the [Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook](#).

Questions specifically regarding the Ohio's dyslexia support law or guidebook can be sent to Dyslexia@education.ohio.gov.

We encourage all TVI's to reach out to the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce, LPDC, and/or your supervisor for free training options.

AERO Division News

Vision Rehabilitation:

April 14th - 20th is Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Appreciation Week! Please help recognize your local VRT's for the work they do. You can also share a thank you through social media at #VRTWeek

As of January 2024, AER VRT Division 11 released their 5-year strategic plan to strengthen and grow the field. The committees are currently looking for fellow VRT's to help with small projects over the next 5 years. If you are interested, please reach out to the committee of your choice. 5-Year Strategic Plan Committee Chairs:

Field and Public Awareness:

Frankie Marcille fmarcille@visionsvcb.org

Meghan Fink mfink@visionsvcb.org

Strengthening the Field of VRT:

Jennifer Ottowitz jottowitz@colled.msstate.edu

Policy and Funding:

Cathleen McGuire cmcguire@visionsvcb.org

You can also help support the field and get connected to VRT's across the globe through social media. Join our community of dedicated professionals and see what we are up to:



Instagram: <https://instagram.com/recruitcvrt?igshid=NmNmNjAwNzg=>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RecruitCVRT>

Independent Living Services for Older Blind Ohioans:



Do you know someone that is over the age of 55 and living with a visual impairment?

If so, call OOD: BSVI at 800-282-4536 and ask to speak to an ILOB team member.

For more information:

- Download the Independent Living Services for Older Blind Ohioans [flyer](#).
- Learn about ILOB services in the overview video on [YouTube](#).

Neurological Visual Impairment:

Great opportunity for CEU's or ACVREP credit!



Perkins School for the Blind's 2024 CVI Conference: Building Meaningful Recognition

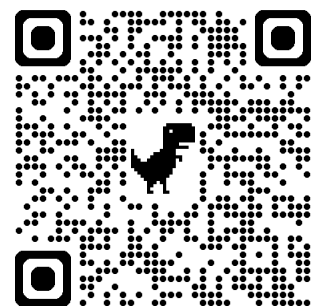
June 23–25, 2024

Tickets are \$549

Plenary Session Recording Packages are available for \$199. Recordings will be sent at the end of summer 2024. In-person attendees will also receive the recordings.

Consider purchasing the recordings to view with your team.
(It is 8 hours of credit)

For more information, scan the QR code to the right or visit the [Perkins](#) website.



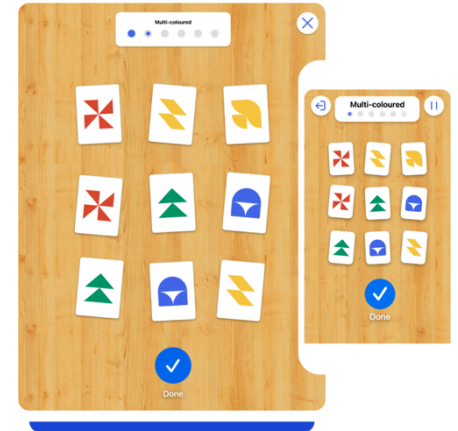
Assessing CVI



Have you used the **Austin Assessment** as a CVI screener for students?

The Austin Assessment is a fun and simple card matching game that is also a screening tool for cerebral visual impairment (CVI) related visual issues.

The Austin Assessment Pro App is for professionals wanting to screen multiple children. This includes teachers, therapists, clinicians and researchers. Along with the screenings, you get corresponding reports and access to the online dashboard for professionals where you can search for reports and export data as a .CSV file. The Austin Assessment for professionals can be used on multiple devices by multiple people.



They added smaller screening packages if you want to try it before making a larger purchase. You can purchase 10 screenings for \$34.

CVI SCOTLAND

Sharing and Developing our Understanding of CVI

Are Cerebral Palsy and CVI connected? It would appear so, and in many ways. Go to CVI Scotland to learn about cerebral palsy and CVI, the key findings that connect the two conditions, and the conclusion that for everyone with cerebral palsy, CVI should be assumed until shown otherwise.

Visit CVI Scotland to read the [Cerebral Palsy & CVI Paper](#)



LOOK: Free Reading Tool

CVI Scotland has introduced *Look*, a reading tool, with multiple functions and settings, designed to make reading easier for people with CVI.

Click the icon to the right or visit CVI Scotland to learn more about this literacy tool for people with CVI.



Save the Date



The Children's Home's Pediatric VIEW will host the 2nd annual CVI Conference.

Innovations in CVI: Navigating Teams & Transitions

October 3rd & 4th, 2024

Sheraton Station Square
300 West Station Square Drive
Pittsburgh, PA

Visit [The Children's Home website](#) for more information.



PCVIS
Pediatric Cortical Visual
Impairment Society

The **Pediatric Cortical Visual Impairment Society (PCVIS)** has launched a beautiful new website with extensive information about CVI.

Visit the newly updated [PCVIS website](#) to learn more.

Education and Curriculum

The National Center on Accessible Educational Materials AEM Center has a page on the website that is dedicated to providing schools with the information they need on how to best coordinate access to accessible materials at all times. The [AEM website](#) has printable documents that TVIs can share with district administrators and/or teachers that explain how accessible materials can be created and/or acquired.

One example of these resources is the document, [Getting Started with Document Accessibility](#).

Technology

Multiline braille displays are now becoming available in classroom across the country. At this time there are 2 options on the market.

- [Cadence braille display](https://www.tactile-engineering.com/) from Tactile Engineering:
<https://www.tactile-engineering.com/>
- [Monarch](https://www.aph.org/mastering-the-monarch/) from APH: <https://www.aph.org/mastering-the-monarch/>

Dan Kelley recently had the opportunity to review both devices and shared that it truly felt like something special to feel animations in braille and have instant access to the tactile graphic. In Ohio, Tactile Engineering has made its presence known with the Cadence when they visited the Ohio State School for the Blind/ODBES in March. After receiving some initial training with the device and the computer interface, Dan was able to showcase multiline braille during Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's visit to the OSSB campus. Currently, OSSB and state-wide services are planning to delve into this new technology and share with colleagues and students around the state. Stay tuned!

There was recently a news story from Central Indiana in which students from the Indiana School for the Blind were able to [use Cadence to experience the solar eclipse](#).

Orientation and Mobility

Save the Date
Thursday, May 23, 2024
Virtual O&M Cocktail Party



The Ohio Orientation and Mobility Division will be holding a virtual “cocktail party” on Thursday May 23, 2024, from 5-6 p.m. During this virtual meeting you will get to reconnect with mobility specialists from across the state of Ohio, hear about the fall conference and plan for discussions on future topics. There will be trivia and prizes and maybe a few surprises. So...grab a cocktail and [log in on May 23](#).

If you have resources you would like to share or topics you would like your O&M Division to address in the near future, please feel free to [email the O&M Division](#), Dr. Pie.

Itinerant Personnel Monthly Networking Meeting

AERO is building an itinerant community for our school-age providers!! Feel free to join your colleagues from across the state to discuss, collaborate, share ideas, and network the **2nd Wednesday of each Month from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm via Zoom!** If you are interested in attending, please email Staci Wills at aerbviohio@gmail.com to receive monthly registration and informational emails.

Last Networking Meeting for the 2023-2024 school year will be:
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Topic: CVI and the LMA; What are we doing?

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Grants, Scholarships & Awards

We encourage everyone to consider nominating one of your students, colleagues, or peers for an award in 2024. Help AERO celebrate the amazing people across the state. Please check out our [updated website](#) for more information about upcoming awards and scholarship opportunities.

Awards

Nomination Deadline August 1, 2024

- The J. Kenneth Cozier Award
- The Judy Cernkovich Excellence in Education Award
- The AERO Student of the Year Award
- The AERO Special Recognition Award

Grants & Scholarships

See the [AERO website](#) for information about our scholarships and grants.

- Personal Preparation Scholarship - \$500
- David H. Newmeyer Member Grant - \$250

Resources from Across the Field

As AERO continues working on statewide collaboration, we encourage each person and organization to email information about your programs, training opportunities, and events to info@aerbviohio.org and AERO will continue to spread the word about activities around the state.



Shawnee State University Teacher of the Visually Impaired program information: Are you interested in advancing your teaching career and learning to support the unique needs of children who are blind or visually impaired? Shawnee State University offers a 22-credit hour program of graduate level coursework leading to licensure as a teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI). To view the full flier, please follow this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eDwwPbPnJENLrKmtgh6E5QOEejhGYL-J/view?usp=sharing>



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

The Ohio State University offers a variety of educational programs for individuals looking to work with students and individuals with visual impairments.

Programming ranges from licensure only programs to undergraduate and graduate degree options.

If you are looking to add a credential, continue your education in the field of teaching students with visual impairments, or know an individual that would be great for our field, please check out the links below and spread the word.

- Visual Impairment Education Minor:
<https://ehe.osu.edu/program/visual-impairment-education-minor>
- TVI Licensure Only Program:
<https://ehe.osu.edu/license-only-programs/teaching-visual-impairment>
- Primary Education (P-5) with Visual Impairment License, BS in Education:
<https://ehe.osu.edu/undergraduate/early-childhood-education-visual-impairment-licensure>
- Visual Impairments, MEd:
<https://ehe.osu.edu/graduate/master-education/visual-impairments-med>
- Orientation & Mobility
Program: <https://ehe.osu.edu/license-only-programs/orientation-and-mobility>



Hadley School for the Blind: If you have not visited Hadley recently, then you're probably missing out! Hadley has updated their website and now offers a series of free self-paced workshops on Daily Living, Adjusting to Vision Loss, Recreation, Technology, Braille, and Working. They also offer monthly discussion groups for educators, family members, and individuals with vision loss. All workshops and discussion group information can be found under the "Learn" tab at <https://hadley.edu/>.

Inclusive and Accessible Playgrounds

Are you looking for resources to share with a family? Accessible Playgrounds now has a state specific playground directory that lists playgrounds that have inclusive and accessible features. To find a playground near you, visit www.accessibleplayground.net

Vision Refer

An online, HIPAA compliant patient referral system that helps optometrists and ophthalmologists refer their patients to blind rehabilitation services directly through their offices. Agencies who want to receive referrals must register with Vision Refer directly. Please visit www.visionservealliance.org/visionrefer to learn more.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Dan Kelley, 2024 AERO Board President.

dankelley148@gmail.com