Please Share with families:

Hello all! Here is the agenda for the Missouri parents seminar, which will be held at the Missouri Federation of the Blind state convention, at the Double Tree hotel in Springfield, 2431 N. Glenstone Avenue. We will have two speakers, and some Q&A time. Our Cane Drivers group, a group of blind teens ages 13 through high school graduation, will be working with us and welcoming new teens. while parents listen to the speakers, teens will be encouraged to talk with our cane drivers, and make their very own Mancala game. There will be activities for young children as well.

Friday, April 1, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Missouri Parents of Blind Children Group, Linda Coccovizzo, Chair – Glendalough I (B)

Speaker #1:

Carla Keirns, the mother of a blind second grader, a member of the NFB Kansas City Chapter, and a member of the national board of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children. She comes to you as one who has experienced many struggles and triumphs, making sure her child is receiving a free and appropriate education. Carla has spent countless hours working with other parents of blind children to navigate the IEP.

Speaker #2:

Svetlana Ehlers, from Kansas City.

Svetlana is a young lady who is passionate about helping other students with disabilities become successful like her. Over the past couple of years, Svetlana has held leadership positions in three different student-led organizations. In these roles, she has the privilege of leading students with visual impairments, multiple disabilities, and typical students from across the Midwest. She has learned the challenges that students face when well-meaning teachers and parents fail to set high enough expectations to truly push them out of their comfort zones. Although lacking vision herself, she has developed a vision of independence for her fellow students.

In this presentation Svetlana will be talking about structured discovery. You will walk away knowing what structured discovery is, how to apply the concept, and the amazing impact that it can have on your child.

The parents seminar will be streamed. It will be in more of a webinar form, so I will try and have a text and email for those who will be participating virtually to send questions. I definitely encourage you to attend in person if you can, to meet and mingle with families. The list of supplies to make the Mancala game at home with us will be listed at the bottom of this message, for those who cannot join us in person.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in Springfield!

Items on the convention agenda taking place after the parents seminar that may be of interest:

8:00 PM Student Led IEPs – Dakota Ragsdale and Carrie Ragsdale Regional Coordinator Missouri Parents Act – Glendalough I (B)

9:00 PM Missouri Association of Blind Students Seminar —Seyoon Choi, President – Glendalough I (A)

Game supply list:

•egg carton (paper cartons work best)

•beans/beads/rocks (jelly beans might be fun)

•tape/glue

•scissors

For Zoom meeting information, if you are not able to attend, email me at:

[linda@coccovizzo.com](mailto:linda@coccovizzo.com)