



# CONFERENCE EDITION, 2014 DBMAT: "DO WITH NOT FOR"

**41st Annual Family Conference  
~ September 26-28, 2014 ~  
Camp Young Judaea (CYJ)**

Dear DBMAT families and the professionals who serve our DB family members,

This has been an extremely busy time for the DBMAT Board Members, as we have switched our Annual Family Conference location to Camp Young Judaea (CYJ), which is more centrally located in Wimberley, Texas. The location and available weekend also required DBMAT to adjust the date of our Family Conference from mid-October to the end of September. Even with all these changes, the DBMAT Conference Committee has worked hard to plan a weekend that will be beneficial to all attendees.

With our Family Conference being held at Camp Young Judaea (CYJ), there will be a few rules that must be followed by all attendees, or Camp Young Judaea reserves the right to terminate our contract for future years. Here is the main rule that we ask everyone to follow:

1. Camp Young Judaea is a Jewish facility located in Wimberley, Texas. CYJ hosts a variety of organizations during the spring, fall and winter months and are extremely accommodating, but they require that their dining hall, kitchen area and attached meeting hall (this is just one building only) remain "kosher" at all times. What this exactly means for everyone attending the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual DBMAT Family Conference, is that **absolutely no food or drink of any kind** can be brought into the dining hall/kitchen area or main meeting hall at any time during the weekend. Note: This includes gum, candies, mints, and outside drinks etc.

CYJ will be preparing all of our meals on-site in their kitchens and will see to it that the "kosher" standard is followed. Drinks will be located in the cafeteria and DBMAT will be placing CYJ approved "kosher" snacks on the tables in the meeting hall for everyone to enjoy. Please feel free to help yourselves to the snacks on the tables. Since this is our 1<sup>st</sup> year at Camp Young Judaea, this will be an adjustment year. CYJ is very excited to have DBMAT and are willing to help us make this transition as easy as possible.

Note: You are welcome to bring any special foods or drinks for you or your family members, but it must be kept either in the parent's room or the Nurses' Lodge. It cannot be brought into the dining hall/kitchen or meeting hall.

## **~~Things to Consider Before You Register~~**

We all have the best of intentions when making plans to attend an event such as our conference. Here are some things we ask you to keep in mind:

1. Contact your DARS case manager immediately about assistance for fees and travel expenses.
2. If you need to cancel, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195.
3. Don't miss the chance to have fun, and learn from our wonderful speakers!!
4. **REGISTER EARLY!!!!**



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## NOTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

DBMAT is pleased to have a variety of speakers that will focus on the life of a DB person and learning "To Do With, Not For". David Wiley will present a brief overview of "Intervenor 101" which will focus on the school years followed by a parent panel discussion on what happens when their child transitions out of school – life after school? Don't miss out – register today!!!!

This weekend is co-sponsored by the Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT), Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS-DBS) and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Deafblind Outreach. DBMAT appreciates their support for our families. The DBMAT Conference Planning Committee is diligently working to bring about a relaxing, fun-filled, learning weekend for all of our conference participants at our new camp, Camp Young Judaea located in Wimberley, Texas. This conference is designed for families of children & adults who are deafblind with multiple disabilities and the professionals who serve them.

**Please read all the enclosed information, fill out and return all necessary forms by August 25, 2014 to our Conference Registrar: Christine Givens 22910 Briarhorn Dr., Spring, TX. 77389**

***If your child/family member is a client of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, (DARS), Division for Blind Services, please contact their Program Specialist prior to registration.***

Conference contacts are:      **Susie: 432-935-3900**  
   **Christine: 281-370-8195**  
   **Rosa: 915-595-3853 (Spanish Speaking)**

### **Business Meeting**

DBMAT's Annual General Membership and election meeting will be held during this conference weekend on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at Camp Young Judaea. According to DBMAT's by-laws, the DBMAT general members should be notified in advance of the general membership meeting about the nominees for the upcoming Board of Director vacancies. The Nominating Committee, appointed by your president, presents the following nominees for the 2014-2016 terms:

Secretary:	Denise Sewell	Member-at-Large:	Gina Sotiropoulos
Member-at-Large:	Robbie Caldwell	Member-At-Large:	Christine Givens



Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted until 5:00 PM on the Saturday before elections. Only paid members of DBMAT can vote. Become a member today!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**DBMAT Vision: Quality intervener services are provided to all deafblind individuals lifelong.**

**Method:** *DBMAT will work with Texas State Agencies and schools to increase the availability of skilled intervener services.*

### **For Your Information**

*(Please read carefully and keep for reference)*



## DBMAT Awards:

Each year, DBMAT is pleased to recognize outstanding members with the following awards.

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**Christian Knapp, The Great Motivator Award** – awarded to a deafblind individual

**Everett Bryan Award** – awarded to a professional who serves in/with deafblindness.

**Olivia Cruz Award** - awarded to a family who has done a lot for deafblindness.

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Please email your nominations to any of the Awards Committee members by August 25, 2014.

Committee members are:

Vivecca Hartman @ hartmanfam28@sbcglobal.com;

Gina Sotiropoulos @ ginagale62@sbcglobal.net;

Cyral Miller @ cyralmiller@tsbviedu;

Melanie Knapp @ Rmknapp14@gmail.com.

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### IMPORTANT: Forms

Pre-registration by the **deadline of August 25, 2014** is required in order to attend this learning weekend. The **Conference Registration Form** must be filled out by both the families and the professionals who plan to attend. The **DBMAT Child Information Form and Weekend Medication Sheet must be completed** by the parent(s)/guardian(s) **for each child/family member (disabled & siblings)** you plan to bring and have listed on the registration form. **(Please make copies of these forms and complete one for each child/family member.)** All campers must be accompanied by a family member or guardian. If your child/family member is a client of DARS or DBS, please clear your travel reimbursement & registration fee with their Program Specialist before registering for the conference. Note: If you plan to bring a nurse, attendant, or any individual who is not a family member to care for your disabled child/family member during the weekend, please be sure to include the individual's name and phone number on the **DBMAT Child Information Form**. A background check is required on anyone caring for your child/family member who is not a family member.

### On-Site Check-In

Onsite check-in is required on Friday Night, between 6 - 10 P.M., for all participants planning to stay on the campgrounds. In order for families to complete the intake process, you must plan to arrive on site **after 6 P.M. and prior to 10 P.M.** In consideration for the other families, check-in volunteers, childcare workers and nurses, this ruling must be courteously followed. There will be a sandwich/snack available for everyone between these hours. **\*\*\*Please note child care will not be available until 8 p.m. \*\***This will allow all volunteers to check in and be available for campers.

### Accommodations

Camp Young Judaea, located in Wimberley, Texas, is a lovely campsite that offers various sleep accommodations. Please be prepared to share these air conditioned rooms with others. If you choose to stay offsite, your room accommodations are at your own expense. Rooms, meals and childcare are furnished onsite for families. Families are encouraged to opt for the 24-hour respite care available. Rooms and meals are provided to professional participants onsite.

### Creature Comfort

Although there are various sleep accommodations with A/C, this is a campsite! Camp Young Judaea is accessible with designated vehicle parking areas. Drop-off and registration will be available in the main building located in front of the circle drive. There is limited outdoor lighting so ~ **please bring flashlights to maneuver after dark**. Be prepared to bring pillows, sheets, blankets, towels, face cloths, soap, shampoo, casual clothing, swim suits, sun block, swim towels and closed-toe shoes for yourself and each of your family members. **(Be sure to pack the belongings for those staying in the 24 Hour Kid Kamp separately.)** Bring an alarm clock for your awakening. We start our activities **early** each morning with a family & friends breakfast. Bring any other special items you or your campers' need, particularly their medications and instructions, toys, napping stuff, etc.



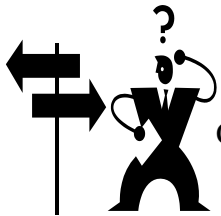


### **Art Exhibit - "Open to All"**

The ART Exhibit is open to everyone who would like to enter! It is time to pull out those creative ideas or pieces you have in whatever art form and DISPLAY them for others to experience. Whether the form: PAINT, SCULPT, KNIT, CROCHET, MOSAIC, DRAW, OR BUILD YOUR ART.....WE WANT IT! All art will be displayed Saturday in the main meeting hall. Your creations will also be showcased and you can donate your exhibits to the LIVE AUCTION on Saturday night, if desired, otherwise please be responsible for taking it home.

### **AUCTIONS ~ Silent and Live**

Now is the time to contact your local merchants, neighbors, co-workers, school chums, friends and family to request donations of new and good used items for our annual auction fund-raisers. Those that have attended these events with us before know there will be many great bargains available for purchase and bidding. Please assist us by **gathering and bringing** several items with you to donate to our auctions. DBMAT appreciates your support. The silent auction items will be located in the Main Meeting Hall. Fun for everyone!



### **Direction Signs**

Camp Young Judaea is located in Wimberley, Texas, about 10 minutes from downtown Wimberley.

Their address is as follows:

121 Camp Young Judaea Dr.

Wimberley, TX 78676

Phone: 512-847-9564

Be sure to check out Camp Young Judaea's website at [www.cyjtxas.org](http://www.cyjtxas.org). A basic map will be included in your Confirmation Letter. Google, Mapquest and GPS will work for directions.

### **Want to become a member of DBMAT?**

To do so, email Christine Givens at the following address: [givens3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:givens3@sbcglobal.net). DBMAT dues are just \$10. per year for both Regular and Associate Members. Payment can be made using Paypal.

We are continuing to update the DBMAT Membership Roster and Listserv so that we can better communicate with our members. The DBMAT Listserv is a convenient way to communicate the issues quickly and it provides the membership the opportunity to communicate with each other on all matters relating to deafblindness. Please take a few minutes to provide Christine Givens, our Membership Chair, with your current information. If you have moved, changed phone numbers – home or cell - changed email address, etc. we need your current information. Please email Christine at [givens3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:givens3@sbcglobal.net) or send information via mail to 22910 Briarhorn Dr., Spring, TX. 77389. Please include your name, complete mailing address, phone numbers and email address.

If you have not paid your annual dues for the past several years, we will be deleting those names from our membership and you will no longer receive the DBMAT Newsletter. If you are still interested in participating and supporting DBMAT, please pay your dues as soon as possible.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**



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### Agenda at a Glance

**Friday:** Arrival & Check-in

**Saturday:**

8:00 – 9:00am	Breakfast	Adults eat in Meeting Hall
9:00 – 9:30am	Welcome & Introduction of Agency's represented  Introduce new Families (pair w/families)	Melanie Knapp & Steve Schoen , DBMAT DADS Medicaid Waivers, DARS, TSBVI Outreach, HKNC National Center
9:30 – 10:30am	<b>Intervener 101</b> <b>Parent Booklet</b> <b>IEP Indicator Pamphlet</b>	David Wiley
10:30 – 10:45am	Break	
10:45 – 11:45am	<b>DADS Update</b> – Waivers and Healthcare	Kathi Montalbano (Sign-up list for questions.)
11:45 – 12:00 noon	Break & clear any remaining questions individually	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	Adults eat in Meeting Hall
1:00 – 1:45 pm	<b>What is life after school?</b> Parent Panel discussing issues encountered by DB individuals and their families when they finally leave school. Vivecca opens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oretha Thomas</li> <li>- Susie Welch</li> <li>- JoAnne Priddy</li> <li>- Cheryl Palasota</li> <li>- Jillana Holt-Reuter</li> </ul>	Parent Panel facilitated by David Wiley
1:45 – 4:30 pm (with breaks as needed)	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS:</b>  <b>Doing With not For/Intervenors:</b> Break-out sessions – Teachers/staff from TSBVI give (school age and younger) presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Calendars 30 min</li> <li>b. Cooking Routines 30 min</li> <li>c. Experience Books 30 min</li> <li>d. Other (i.e. Massage &amp; ECI ideas)</li> </ul> Last 30 minutes for questions and networking.  <b>What is life after school?</b> Dealing with difficulties encountered by DB	

	<p>individuals and their families when they finally leave school. Possible answers and resources available to issues raised by parent panel. State Agency and Provider panel facilitated by David Wiley</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denise Sewell Opens</li> <li>TBA</li> <li>DADS – Kathi Montalbano</li> <li>DARS – Rachel Simpson</li> <li>Perry Lee – Cotina McNeal</li> </ul> <p>(Short presentation by each provider – 20 minutes – followed by 40 minute question/answer period)</p>	
4:30-4:45pm	Break	
4:45 – 5:30pm	<p>Introduce election nominees: DBMAT AWARDS and pictures Committee info &amp; sign-up lists</p>	
5:30-6:00 pm	Break & clear any remaining questions individually	
6:00 – 7:00pm	Dinner – Finalize Silent Auction Bids!!	
7:00 - TBD	DBMAT – Family Fun Activities	
8:00 - TBD	Live Auction	

**Sunday:**

8:00 –9 :00am	Breakfast	
8:30 – 9:15am	DBMAT Business Meeting	DBMAT Board Officers with support from TSBVI and DBS
9:15 – 9:30am	Break	
9:30 – 10:30am	Legislative Update & Action	Ginger Mayeau, The Arc of Texas
10:30 – 11:30am	Guardianship & Special Needs Trust	TBA
11:30 – 12:00 noon	Closing Remarks	Melanie Knapp & Steve Schoen
12:00 – 1:00pm	Pack and Depart (NO Lunch)	



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## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

~ Please print clearly in ink all information that applies ~

### Family Information:

Adult Names \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobil Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Camper with Disabilities** \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Visually Impaired  Hearing Impaired \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of conditions/syndromes \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

### **These Siblings will also attend:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

(T-shirts are sized: **Child** XS, S, M, L or **Adult** S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL. Be sure to specify Child/Adult and size. )

### Sleeping Arrangements:

**Yes!** I / We will be using the sleeping facilities at Camp Young Judaea.

**No,** I / We will be staying off the camp site at my / our own expense.

As an adult, I have a serious sleep anomaly or dysfunction which might disturb others or that requires medical observation by the nurse.

**\*From 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. at Friday night check-in, the following activities will take place:** On Site Check-In, Room Assignments, Conference Packet Pick-up, Child Care Introduction, Sandwich/Snack, and Social Time with others. (We encourage you to come in on Friday Night. Please plan to arrive prior to 10 P.M.)\*

I / We plan to arrive at \_\_\_\_\_ (P.M./A.M.) on \_\_\_\_\_.

Number of people for meals: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

**Be sure to fill out the other side of this form, too.⇒**

**Assistance Needed:**

As a family member, I request (please check one of the following):

- Spanish Interpreter
- Sign Language Interpreter
- No Interpreter is needed for our family

**Special Dietary Needs:**

I have a family member who requires Gluten Free Meals. Please provide name(s) and age(s)

I have a family member who requires Vegetarian Meals. Please provide name(s) and age(s)

As a family member, I request mileage reimbursement for travel.

**PROFESSIONALS ONLY** – Please read and initial. \_\_\_\_\_

As a professional interested in participating in the conference activities, I understand that childcare/travel reimbursement are for families who have members with disabilities. **I will be responsible for my DBMAT registration fee of \$30.00 per person and my own room and board.** I understand that the cost to stay on-site at CYJ is \$161. per person and the cost to come for the day is \$45. per person, per day and meals are included in this price. I can also choose to stay off-site at a hotel which will be at my own expense.

**DBMAT Registration Information:**

<i>Registration Fees</i>	<i># People</i>	<i>\$ Amount</i>
<b>\$ 30.00 per each immediate family member</b>		
<b>\$ 50.00 per each extended family member</b>		
<b>\$ 30.00 per professional</b>		
<b>Totals</b>		

*NOTE:* If you have an open case with DBS, please contact your Program Specialist for financial assistance immediately. Our DBS Program Specialist is: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE:* We encourage all members to attend. If other assistance is not available, limited scholarships are available for direct family members upon determination of eligibility. For more information, contact DBMAT Positive Connection Line at 432-264-6780.

***Method of Payment:***

- Check - Please make checks payable to DBMAT.**
- State is Covering Expenses**

**Return all forms with registration fee to:**

**Christine Givens-DBMAT Conference 22910 Briarhorn Dr., Spring, TX. 77389**

**Registration Deadline Is August 25, 2014**  
**DBMAT CHILD CARE**

**Workers:** Child care workers will provide care for your child/children during the weekend so that you may attend the conference and have social time with other parents and professionals. All workers have background



screenings and are knowledgeable through education, employment or family experience. (Yes, we have a few siblings that come with their unique experience and skills). Our focus is care, safety and FUN! Childcare begins at 8:00 PM Friday and will continue till the end of the conference.

**Activities:** The children will be engaged in fun outdoor activities in a camp setting. The camp offers a basketball court, playground area, arts & crafts room, swimming pool with a slide and lots of games. An air conditioned indoor area is set up with mats and toys for the infants and toddlers. Please bring a playpen, blanket or special toys that your little one may want or need.

### **Childcare groups:**

- **Infant/Toddler Day Care:** Infant – 3 years have supervised activities with toys and outdoor fun. Parents are requested to bring toys that their child likes. Children will sleep with their parents.
- **Day Activity Kid Kamp:** 4 years and older participate in group activities including basketball, playground fun, arts & crafts, swimming and lots of games. Children will sleep with their parents.
- **24 Hour Kid Kamp:** 4 years and older participate in group activities including basketball, playground fun, arts & crafts, swimming and lots of games. Children will sleep with child care workers in cabins that are within walking distance of adult sleeping area.

**Cabins:** Children will be assigned to workers in cabin groups. Cabins are integrated with your children who are disabled and their siblings. Groups are made with consideration to gender, age, and activity level. Use the back of the Child Information Form to make special request such as friends who want to be together, etc

**Parent Contact:** During the weekend, the workers and nurses try their best to not bother parents during meeting times. We want you to have this time to focus on learning, sharing information, connecting with other parents and socializing. If it becomes necessary to talk to parents, Gay will send a text message asking a question or requesting you to meet at a specific place. Be sure to include your mobile number on the Child Information Form.

**Dining:** There will be two dining areas at the camp. Only kosher food is allowed in the main dining room area. If your child needs special food that is not kosher, or food that you have made at home, he/she will eat in the dining area at the nursing lodge. Their food can be stored in the nursing lodge that comes equipped with a refrigerator and microwave. Food can be brought from the main dining area to the nursing lodge if necessary.

**Pictures:** One of the workers will be assigned to get pictures of your child during the weekend participating in activities. If you bring a flash drive, your pictures can be uploaded and ready for you to take home.

**Nursing care:** Three nurses will be at camp to provide first aid, administer medications, treatments, tube feedings, do catheters etc. Although there will be a nursing lodge, it is not stocked with medical supplies other than a basic first aid kit. Please bring what your child needs.

### **Medication and Equipment:**

Parents must bring all medications including PRN's and any medical equipment that your child/children will need. This includes but not limited to: applesauce or pudding (if needed to take meds), nebulizer machine, oxygen, inhalers, g-tube supplies (including extra g-tube/button if needed), suction, suction catheters, saline, urinary catheters, tube feedings/formula, prosthesis, hearing aid, basic hygiene items, bedding, diapers, dressing supplies, diabetic supplies, etc.

### **EPI (Epinephrine) Pen**

This is in an outdoor setting so if you or your child has any allergy that may be life threatening (anaphylactic) whether it is food, animals, bugs/insects etc. Make sure you bring your EPI (epinephrine) pen. It is better to be prepared than not to have it, if needed. The nurse will work with you on meds, treatments etc.

### **Prescription Medication**

Bring medications in the original medication bottles from the pharmacy if they are prescribed from a doctor. Nurses cannot give medications that are in baggies, etc. It is fine to separate medication in box/med minders but it is still necessary to bring the prescription bottle so medication and dosage can be verified.

### **Child Care Information Form:**

- Make as many **copies** as you need. Complete a Child Information Form for each child (disabled or sibling).
- Use ink and print the information clearly.

### **Weekend Medication Form**

- Make as many **copies** as you need. Complete the Weekend Medication Form for each child (disabled or sibling).
- Use ink and print the information clearly.
- The nurses will review the form when you register at camp so do not be concerned if the medication changes after submitting this information.
- List all medications that you will be bringing for your child. Include: name, dosage, frequency (how many times per day), route (by mouth, per feeding tube etc.).
- In the space provided, list the times you give medication. The nurses will try to administer medication as close to the time given as possible. Times may vary to coordinate the schedule, groups, and number of children. If it is essential for the medication to be taken at a certain time, specify that at the bottom of the form and explain.
- If you have special instructions, use the space provided and the back of the form.

**Questions / Contact:** Before the weekend, if you have questions or special requests regarding childcare, you may contact Gay via email at [gaybellamy@me.com](mailto:gaybellamy@me.com) (preferred) or call (210) 865-3231. During the weekend, if you are needed, Gay will send text messages directly to you or a meeting facilitator.

### **DBMAT Child Information Form** (Please Print Clearly in Ink)

Name of parent attending camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_





Conference, 2014 Edition

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- DBMAT Child Information Form and Weekend Medication Sheet

**Deadline: August 25, 2014**

**Space is limited so send in your registration early!!**

**DBMAT: September 26-28, 2014**

***Space is limited so send in your registration now!***

**(When copying this conference newsletter for others, please include all pages and information.)**