Becca Wise (Educational Interpreter) and Jill Kelch (Teacher for the Visually Impaired)

Debbie Gorby (Educational Interpreter) and Trish Hutchinson (Itinerant Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) with Presenter Jason Herbers and ProTactile ASL Deaf Interpreter Annie Welch relaying environmental information on Jason's back.

The Pro-tactile (P-T) American Sign Language (ASL) workshop was held at Hopewell Center Ohio Region 14 on October 5, 2019. The workshop was a collaborative effort between Hopewell Center Ohio Region 14, The OCDBE is the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education and Systems Development and improvement Center, University of Cincinnati.

The workshop was presented by Jason Herbers. During the workshop, participants who work with Deaf Blind (D/B) students all learned how to apply the 8 principles of Pro-tactile ASL. They learned how to help staff in the districts that we service to learn how to effectively communicate directions within an environment, and describe various objects to an individual/student who is both deaf and blind..

The Pro-tactile movement was developed by two Deaf/Blind women, AJ Granda and Jelica Nuccio. The Deaf/Blind's P-T language has been around since 2007 but with research as recent as 2010, it had been granted status as a full language containing its own grammatical structure, rules, and syntax. This is thanks to the work done by AJ Granda, Jelica Nuccio and Dr. Terra Edwards. The P-T movement started in Washington state because of the large population of D/B people in the Seattle area and has since been making its way across the country.

Currently, in our region we have had an increase in Deaf/Blind students. This has resulted in our agency taking a proactive approach to better help D/B learners of all ages. Our region currently has 7 school age Deaf/Blind students registered in the Ohio Deaf Blind Census. To register a child with a combined vision and hearing loss, go to www.ohiodeafblind.org and click on Register/Update a Child's Record