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STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

317 SAM HOUSTON STATE OFFICE BUILDING
201 EAST 14TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

BURT L. RISLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 14, 1968

The Honorable Don Kennard
Member, Senate of Texas
State Capitol Building
Austin, Texas

Dear Senator Kennard:

To keep you better informed on the services of your State Commission for the Blind, I am enclosing a brochure which sets out the various programs offered to the blind people in Texas.

In order for you to have quick reference to this material, a copy of this brochure is also being sent to your home address.

Through your generous consideration for the Commission, we are able to serve more visually impaired people in our state and offer them better service than ever before.

Your continuous support is deeply appreciated and if any additional information is needed at any time, please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Burt L. Risley".

Burt L. Risley
Executive Director

BLR:djj
Encl.



State Commission for the Blind

Services

Although the Commission makes no direct monetary payments to the individual client, there is a wide range of services which are provided by the agency without cost to the client. Some of the services which are purchased by the agency may be provided without consideration of the client's economic circumstances; whereas, in the case of hospitalization, surgery, and other medical expenses, the client may be expected to bear the cost of these services if he is financially able. Any one or a combination of the following services may become a part of the individual's rehabilitation plan:

1. **Counseling**—Personal counseling, often extensive and intensive, assists the client in understanding the problems he faces because of visual impairment. The counseling is provided by highly trained skillful rehabilitation counselors who are familiar with the problems which are encountered. They assist the client in reaching appropriate solutions to the problems.
2. **Medical Examinations**—A complete eye examination by an ophthalmologist and a general physical examination, as well as other needed medical specialty examinations are provided by the agency for all individuals eligible for vocational rehabilitation. These examinations are necessary for the client and the counselor to reach an understanding of the physical or mental limitations and the medical recommendations for treatment or correction of these conditions.
3. **Physical Restoration**—If the medical examinations reveal a condition which can be improved or corrected through hospitalization, surgery, medical treatment, or prosthetic appliances, the first step is to improve or alleviate the physical or mental limitation. If the condition cannot be corrected medically, the vocational rehabilitation program assists the client in compensating for these limitations through other means.
4. **Rehabilitation Training**—Partially blind or totally blind clients frequently benefit from specialized training programs in a rehabilitation center designed to help the individual learn to use special devices, tools, and aids.
5. **Vocational Training**—The type of vocational training depends on the client's interest, ability, ambition, and motivation. Some are better adapted for on-the-job training to meet the requirements of an industrial occupation. Others can function more adequately in a sheltered workshop. Still other clients are able to function in a clerical or professional occupation. The Commission provides training in trade schools, business schools, colleges, and universities. Services which may be provided eligible college students include tuition, reader service, room and board.
6. **Rehabilitation Teacher Training**—The rehabilitation teacher usually works with the blind person in his home, offering counsel to him and his family in order to develop understanding and acceptance of his disability. Instruction is given to develop special skills in communication, homemaking activities, personal grooming, constructive use of leisure time, and independent mobility.
7. **Occupational Tools and Equipment**—Frequently there is a need for occupational tools and equipment in order for a disabled individual to successfully engage in his occupation. Mechanic's tools, occupational licenses, or specialized equipment, such as mop winders, are examples.
8. **Placement**—The agency has several highly trained placement specialists who devote their full time to contacting employers and finding new job opportunities. The rehabilitation counselors cooperate closely with the placement specialists when the client is ready for employment. After a suitable job has been located, the client is assisted in making application and is placed on the job.
9. **Follow-up**—For a period of several weeks after the client is placed on a job, counselors make frequent contacts with the client and his employer. These follow-up services insure job security.



State Commission for the Blind

The Business Enterprises Program

Another activity of the Commission is the Business Enterprises Program. Under this program qualified blind individuals operate small businesses, receiving supervision and managerial assistance from the agency. Special training is available to assure maximum efficiency in the operation of the business. The agency selects the business location and provides the equipment and an initial stock of merchandise. The operator receives continued supervision and consultation in good business practices and in all aspects of sales promotion.

This program is financed through state, federal,

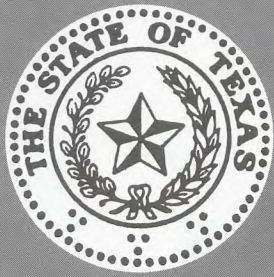
and local funds and owes much of its success to the cooperation of public facilities, private businesses and industry. Concession stands, which represent the majority of the businesses, serve the public and at the same time make it possible for qualified blind persons to enjoy economic independence. Greater employment opportunities for all disabled individuals are made possible through this program. This program tends to break down popular misconceptions about the "helplessness" of the disabled by bringing the general public into greater contact with successful rehabilitants.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The vocational rehabilitation program is designed to assist visually impaired Texans in developing their maximum potential—physically, mentally, socially, economically, and vocationally. To reach this goal, it is necessary to consider all of the assets of a person as well as the resources of his community. There are unfortunately widespread misconceptions about the vocational capabilities of individuals with severe visual limitations. Although the Commission conducts continuing activities to educate the public about the vocational capabilities of the visually disabled, the best antidote to popular misconception still is the visually impaired person who has been successfully rehabilitated. During recent years visually disabled rehabilitants have been employed in several thousand different occupations. The present trend is for more thorough training and employment in higher level occupations. Professional, clerical, and skilled occupations are becoming more available for the visually impaired.

Eligibility

To be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services, the individual must have a visual impairment which constitutes a vocational handicap, and there must be some expectation that he will benefit from services. It is not necessary that a person be legally blind or totally blind to be eligible. Many are eligible who have a relatively minor visual impairment as a result of a progressive condition which would cause more serious impairment or blindness if it were not treated or corrected. Others may have a visual impairment which is a handicap in one occupation but which would not represent an employment problem in some other occupation. In any case the rehabilitation counselor considers a number of factors before making a determination as to whether a client is or is not eligible for services.



State Commission for the Blind

Rehabilitation Teacher Program

The State Commission for the Blind presently employs sixteen professionally trained teachers who are a part of the rehabilitation team. It is the job of these workers to assist with adjustment problems of the adult blind and teach them the basic skills necessary for such adjustment. In addition to complementing the work of the rehabilitation counselors, these rehabilitation teachers also offer counseling and guidance services and instruction to senior blind citizens of the community who are beyond the age group reached by most other services of the agency.

Rehabilitation teachers keep informed regarding community resources from which additional help may be available. They assist in orienting newly blinded persons to their environment. They encourage participation in community activities, give instruction in various types of crafts for hobby and profit, and recommend aids and appliances suited to the special needs of the blind. They teach communicative skills such as Braille, typing, scriptwriting and telephone dialing, as well as techniques involved in meal planning, marketing, cooking, sewing, ironing and other homemaking responsibilities. They encourage independence, and offer counseling and guidance in mobility, personal grooming, table etiquette and other demands of daily living. They are experienced in working with volunteer groups whose assistance is invaluable.

The agency's rehabilitation teachers are stationed in Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Harlingen, Houston, Kerrville, Lubbock, Odessa, San Antonio, Tyler, Waco and Wichita Falls, although in most instances they also travel outside their immediate metropolitan areas to serve clients in other communities. For example, the Lubbock rehabilitation teacher spends one week each month in Amarillo; the rehabilitation teacher in Harlingen makes regular trips throughout the Rio Grande Valley; the Odessa rehabilitation teacher works also in Big Spring, Midland, San Angelo and surrounding territory; and the Tyler rehabilitation teacher does a great deal of traveling throughout his East Texas district.

The majority of the agency's rehabilitation teachers are blind which enables them to establish rapport and exemplify through their own experience what can be accomplished by the blind. Those who are sighted extend this service into rural areas.

Although the rehabilitation teacher program of the State Commission for the Blind has expanded significantly within recent years, some areas of the state still remain out of range of this service. Consequently, future plans call for employment of additional rehabilitation teachers as funds permit.



State Commission for the Blind

Talking Book Machine Service

A specially designed portable phonograph, known as a talking book machine, is distributed in Texas by the Commission for the Blind for the Library of Congress. Talking book records are distributed in Texas by the State Library to holders of this talking book machine. Both the machine and records are free of charge and are handled by the postal department postage free.

These talking book machines and records are available to all blind or other physically handicapped individuals who cannot use normal printed materials. The machines and records are also available to such institutions as hospitals, schools, retirement homes, and nursing homes for the benefit of eligible persons residing in such institutions.

Certification by competent authority is necessary to establish eligibility. A statement by a physician is preferred whenever an applicant may obtain this without undue inconvenience or expense. Where the physical limitation is obvious or is known to a person who is working in a professional capacity with the applicant, certification may be made by other competent authority.

A wide range of reader interest is represented in the talking book titles, which range from the Bible to the literary classics to the modern detective. Many well-known magazines, such as **American Heritage**, **Reader's Digest**, **Good Housekeeping**, and **Sports Illustrated**, are available.

For Application—

Write to:

State Commission for the Blind
317 Sam Houston State Office Bldg.
201 East 14th Street
Austin, Texas 78701



State Commission for the Blind

Services for Visually Impaired Children

The Commission for the Blind offers two basic areas of services for the visually impaired child. One has as its goal the prevention of blindness and the conservation of sight while the other aids the parent in training and guiding a child who has an irreparable severe visual impairment. The caseworkers maintain a close working relationship with other agencies and organizations offering services to children and with groups and individuals concerned with the welfare of the visually handicapped child.

Early referral of the visually impaired child increases his opportunity for a more rapid and more successful habilitation or rehabilitation.

Eye Medical Services

Eye medical care is offered the visually impaired child to prevent blindness, to conserve sight or to remove an eye condition which causes a cosmetic problem. Available to visually impaired children who reside in Texas and whose parents are unable to meet the costs involved, services are contingent upon the written recommendation of an examining ophthalmologist.

Services include eye examination (except that of a routine periodic nature), eye surgery or treatment, hospitalization and the provision of prosthetic appliances.

Counseling For The Parent Of The Child With A Severe Visual Loss

It is during the child's preschool years and the pre-teen years that the caseworker works with the parent in order to assure greatest possible opportunity for the child to develop the firm foundation upon which he will build his life. The child with a permanent severe visual impairment should be

given maximum opportunity to develop physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

Eligibility

Age—A child may be eligible if he has not yet reached the 7th grade in school. (Persons ineligible for services through the children's program are referred for vocational rehabilitation services provided by the State Commission for the Blind.)

Residence—The child and his parent or guardian must be living in Texas.

Visual Disability—There must be evidence that the child has a severe visual limitation and that this eye condition is permanent.

Services

Medical Examination—Ophthalmological and physical examinations are provided when the family does not have adequate financial resources for purchasing these services.

Counseling—During the preschool years the focus is on maximum growth and development leading to school readiness. The continuing growth and development of the child while in a formal education program may require parental counseling supportive to the child's formal educational experience. Counseling goals include the reduction of the parent's anxieties, fears and misconceptions concerning visual impairment, and the development of an awareness of the child's special needs and a knowledge of training methods to meet these needs. Printed material is distributed and information is provided concerning educational and vocational opportunities, special aids and devices, and services available to visually limited children and adults.

SERVICES FOR VISUALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
Sam Houston State Office Building
201 East Fourteenth Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Referral of Visually Handicapped Child

NAME OF CHILD _____

CHILD'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

SEX () Male () Female RACE _____

NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____
(street or rural route)

COUNTY _____ TELEPHONE _____

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT: (describe) _____

REMARKS: _____

This child is being referred for:

- () Eye medical care
- () Counseling service for parent

Referred by:

Name _____

Agency or organization _____

Address _____

DATE _____

Telephone _____



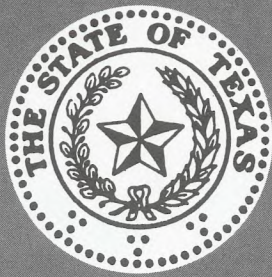
State Commission for the Blind

STATE OFFICE

317 Sam Houston State Office Building
201 East 14th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
GR 5-3811

DISTRICT OFFICES

AUSTIN	602 International Life Building Austin, Texas 78701 GR 5-2947 (512)
James Leverett, Rehabilitation Counselor	
Edwin A. Peters, Rehabilitation Counselor	
(Miss) Louise Munt, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
AUSTIN	University of Texas Box 7639, U. T. Station Austin, Texas 78712 GR 5-4410 (512)
Charles Raeke, Rehabilitation Counselor	
AUSTIN	Mental Health & Mental Retardation Project 104 Lantern Lane Shopping Center 2825 Hancock Drive Austin, Texas 78731 453-7277 (512)
John Lawrence, Rehabilitation Counselor	
Allan Bergman, Rehabilitation Counselor	
Sylvester Smeltzer, Rehabilitation Counselor	
BEAUMONT	398 Pearl Street 704 Goodhue Building Beaumont, Texas 77701 TE 8-5201 (713)
(Mrs.) Cynthia Gutmann, Rehabilitation Counselor	
(Miss) Helen Smith, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
CORPUS CHRISTI	2442 Morgan Corpus Christi, Texas 78405 TU 2-4072 (512)
Carroll Bost, Rehabilitation Counselor	
DALLAS	3515 Swiss Avenue Dallas, Texas 75204 TA 3-1700 (214)
Ovalee Glover, Rehabilitation Counselor	
Daniel Daughtry, Rehabilitation Counselor	
(Mrs.) Glynda Wheeless, Rehabilitation Counselor	
EL PASO	1900 North Oregon Street El Paso, Texas 79902 532-2469 (915)
Robert Washington, Rehabilitation Counselor	
(Mrs.) Arloine Hutcheson, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
FORT WORTH	Guardian Title Building 1612 Summit Avenue Fort Worth, Texas 76102 ED 2-7653 (817)
Charles R. Jackman, Rehabilitation Counselor	
Charles Williamson, Rehabilitation Counselor	
(Mrs.) Constance McDowell, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
GALVESTON	University of Texas Medical Branch 323 Rebecca Sealy Building Galveston, Texas 77550 SO 5-1123 (713)
Gus Georges, Rehabilitation Counselor	



State Commission for the Blind

HARLINGEN	508 Rio Grande Building 106 South A Street Harlingen, Texas 78550 GA 3-9411 (512)
Alfonso Trevino, Rehabilitation Counselor Richard Riley, Rehabilitation Counselor (Miss) Annie Douglass, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
HOUSTON	Old National Life Building 5619 Fannin Houston, Texas 77004 JA 4-2857 (713)
Truett Childre, Supervising Counselor Wolfram Von-Maszewski, Rehabilitation Counselor B. E. Lawson, Rehabilitation Counselor A.B. Goodrum, Rehabilitation Counselor Gerald McBride, Rehabilitation Counselor	
LUBBOCK	912 Great Plains Building Lubbock, Texas 79401 PO 2-0827 (806)
Richard Pflug, Supervising Counselor Bill Winkley, Rehabilitation Counselor Myron Lasher, Rehabilitation Counselor (Mrs.) Opal Bond, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
ODESSA	Petroleum Building 400 West 4th Street Odessa, Texas 79760 337-4491 (915)
Kenneth Hale, Rehabilitation Counselor (Miss) Patricia Gaughan, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
SAN ANTONIO	113-B M and S Tower 730 North Main Avenue San Antonio, Texas 78205 CA 3-5533 (512)
O. C. Davidson, Rehabilitation Counselor Cecil Smith, Rehabilitation Counselor Byron C. Cole, Rehabilitation Counselor (Miss) Evelyn Cross, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
TYLER	Nasworth Building 423 South Beckman Tyler, Texas 75701 LY 2-7241 (214)
W. H. Foster, Rehabilitation Counselor Lynton Smith, Rehabilitation Counselor (Miss) Sandra Weiss, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	
WACO	116 North 25th Street Waco, Texas 76710 752-1871 (817)
Glenn Crawford, Rehabilitation Counselor	
WICHITA FALLS	710 Brooks Place Wichita Falls, Texas 76301 723-4761 (817)
Clarence Jackson, Rehabilitation Counselor (Miss) Betty A. Seiler, Caseworker, Visually Handicapped Children	