

ACVREP NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2, 2007

ACVREP – Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

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Congratulations To Those Individuals Who Were Certified Or Recertified For The Quarter Ending September 30, 2007!

The **51** people seeking certification (3 in LVT, 43 in O&M, and 5 in VRT) and **76** people seeking recertification (9 in LVT, 56 in O&M, and 11 in VRT) listed below were recently approved by the ACVREP Board of Directors. The ACVREP Directory of Certificants will be updated and all paper certificates will be mailed today.

CERTIFICATION

Low Vision Therapists

Kerry Lueders
Nancy Prussing
Bonnie Smith

Orientation and Mobility Specialists

Mary Baumann

Jessica Black
Caitlyn Blodget
Erin Buckley
Joseph Buffomante
Grace Bullen
Allison Conway
Louise Cook
Jennifer Coy
Deborah Crosby
Charles Davis
Ross DeForrest
Gale Delaney
Kathleen Gabriel
Tim Grice
Kassandra Heil
Melanie Hertling
Christina Honeycutt
Faith Horter
Cynthia Iskow
Kevin Jernigan
Ronita Jones
Lori King
Kimberley Lambe
Warren Love
Judy Lucius
Lea Ann Myers
John Neely
Meredith Newhouse
Kerri Norrick
Cecilia Onaiyekan
Michael Plansker
Helena Roberts
Ana Roe
Barbara Runco
Sharon Scherbarth
Yasmin Schmalix
Derrick Smith
Robin Theryoung
Adrienne Thompson
Deborah Trout
Tzeng-haw Yen
Anne Zanger

Vision Rehabilitation Therapists

Joy Boyer

Marcie Brink-Chaney
Thomas Hicks
Robin Illers
Michael Riley

RECERTIFICATION

Low Vision Therapists

Renee Abernathy
Kathleen Buskirk
Bryan Gerritsen
Jennifer Kaldenberg
Dae Shik Kim
Susan Kimbrough
Christopher Newton
Barbara K. Pitt
Gale Watson

Orientation and Mobility Specialists

Cindy Adair
Cheryl Baker
Lori Bashore
Susan Bradley
Jadwiga Brown
Lohren Caceres
Carrie Chowning
Sherri Clemmons
Sharon Coutu
Jo Croft
Stanley Dahm
Janice Day
Annetta Downing
Susan Friedman
D. Jay Gense
Marilyn Gense
Tim Gerhardt
Gretchen Good
Phyllis Gunderman
Julie Haase
Diane Hansen
Carol Hotta
Pamela Hudson
Amy Johnson
Doreen Kennedy

Paula Kosior
Maryanne Laubner
Sylvia Leggett
Rebecca Leng
Gayle Lyon
Melvin Marx
Elaine McHugh
Sarah McIntyre
Doug McJannet
Scott Meyer
Lori Miller
Klaus Mittelstadt
Nicole Myers
Gerald Niedermaier
Amy Ormerod
Teresa Osborne
Christie Overton
Ruth Portonova
Cynthia Reed-Brown
Dorinda Rife
Ann Rose
Suzanne Secrist
Emily Simone
Melissa Stafford
John Staren
John Stevenson
Wendy Stoltman
Rae Teats
Tara Travland
Anna Vrba
Kimberly Walsh

Vision Rehabilitation Therapists

Stacy Blackwell
Jocelyn Castillo
Stanley Dahm
Carol Eaton
Edward Gervasoni
Kay Hervey
Amy Johnson
Raedine Listopad
Sandi Postle
Gloria Rodzielowicz
Kimberly Walsh

Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project Update – PLEASE READ

Roxann Mayros from NCPABVI forwarded the following message to me:

I am excited to update you on the following issues regarding the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project:

As most of you know, our industry is in the midst of a 5 year demonstration project to establish the cost of Medicare reimbursement for the services of ACVREP certified vision rehabilitation professionals. Six of our member agencies are participating - Lighthouse International, Center for the Visually Impaired, Metrolina Association for the Blind, New Hampshire Association for the Blind, Envision, and Community Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted.

In 2006, the National Vision Rehabilitation Network (the organization that deserves all of the credit for promoting and the ultimate implementation of the Low Vision Demonstration Project) ceased to exist because they were successful in achieving their mission. At that time, NCPABVI's Board of Directors voted to assume responsibility for oversight of the Project for three reasons - 1) to assist those member agencies participating in the project, 2) to foster a dialogue between the various organizations interested in supporting the Project, and 3) because the success or failure of the Project could impact Federal funding in the future.

Not unexpectedly, many issues arose during implementation of the Project, all of which had significant impact on those NCPABVI agencies. In addition, it didn't take long to discover inherent design flaws in the project that not only discouraged participation, but outright, prevented reimbursement for quality services.

I am proud to announce that due to a joint effort between the agencies providing services under the Project (listed above), the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Representative Capuano (Massachusetts), Senator Sununu (New Hampshire), and NCPABVI, we have just received notification that Medicare will revise the Project to include changes that we believe will improve opportunities for participation. These include:

1. Removing the limitation of 9 hours of services within 90 days and only once in the lifetime of the client. This provision will be abolished.
2. Each client will be allowed to receive twelve hours of vision rehabilitation services annually.
3. Seven counties in New York will be added (currently limited to the 5 New York Burroughs) – Westchester, Nassau, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, and Suffolk.
4. 477 additional zip codes (31 counties) will be added in Georgia (currently limited to a very small pocket of Metro Atlanta).

These four items do not represent the entire spectrum of changes that NCPABVI requested, but we believe we received important concessions from Medicare that will allow for increased participation by vision rehabilitation professionals, and most importantly, to create an environment that will allow for consistent quality services to be provided under the Project.

Roxann Mayros, CEO
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Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project Update Webcast – PLEASE READ

This notice is to inform members of the Low Vision Rehabilitation Network (LVRN) that the September 20, 2007 CMS Low Vision Demonstration Project Update Webcast has been archived and is available to be viewed on the LVRN. Jim Coan, Project Manager for the CMS Low Vision Demonstration Project, discussed important changes to this project that low vision service providers should be aware of. You are encouraged to view this presentation by logging onto the LVRN at <http://www.lowvisionproject.org> and filling out the log in information in the upper right hand corner of the screen. If you have forgotten your user name and/or password click on the tool bar where it says How To Use This Site, and follow the appropriate instructions. Once logged on the LVRN, click on Medicare Updates and follow the instructions for accessing the webcast. You are encouraged to use the Forum feature of the Medicare Update to express opinions, seek advice or pose questions related to this topic. Thank you for your interest in the LVRN. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Jim Deremeik at 410-502-6431 or jderemeik@jhmi.edu.

The AER University Review Committee Wants Your Input

The AER University Review Committee has set up a listserv for individuals interested in getting updates about the committee's progress in putting together a recommendation for the revision of the AER university review process. The committee has been meeting twice a month since the beginning of the year to collect information on how university review is handled by other organizations as well as recommendations in the literature about this process. At the beginning of September, the committee started making decisions about the new review process that will be recommended to the AER Board. We are interested in sharing the decisions as they are being made and hearing from any AER member or stakeholder in our sister organizations who might have input regarding the decisions we are making. It is important to this committee that our recommendations be based on as wide of a range of views as possible. If you are interested in receiving updates, please contact Sara Sellers at sara@aerbvi.org and in the subject line write "Add

Me to the AER-URC Bulletin list.” Please share this announcement with members of our organization and with any individuals who might be interested in receiving listserv updates.

AER William & Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship Program & Douglas C. MacFarland Stipend Program

AER’s Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for the William & Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship, which helps to support two legally-blind individuals who are enrolled in a college or university program. In addition, they are also accepting applications for the Douglas C. MacFarland Stipend. Up to five members may be selected for these stipends, which assist in defraying the cost of attending the AER International Conference. For an application or additional information, please visit AER’s website at www.aerbvi.org. Please note that the submission deadline is February 15, 2008.

Supervisor/Instructor Blind Rehabilitation (Living Skills) Job Opening – Palo Alto, California

The Western Blind Rehab. Center (WBRC) has a position open for a Supervisor/Instructor Blind Rehabilitation (Living Skills). The incumbent will supervise, provide instruction, and administer the Living Skills (rehabilitation teaching) Department in a 32 bed comprehensive residential blind rehabilitation program. Salary Rate: \$61,221 - \$95,394 (dependent on experience). Hiring bonus may be available. Must have a Master's degree or higher in Rehabilitation Teaching. WBRC is a part of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and is located in Palo Alto, CA. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Jessen, Director of Blind Rehab. Services, at 650-852-3431 or e-mail at Elizabeth.Jessen@va.gov. Government jobs are posted on the <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/> or <http://www.usajobs.gov> website. Search for occupation under Blind Rehabilitation to find the latest openings. This position will be open until filled.

Supervisor/Instructor Blind Rehabilitation (Visual Skills) Job Opening – Palo Alto, California

The Western Blind Rehab. Center (WBRC) has a position open for a Supervisor/Instructor Blind Rehabilitation (Visual Skills). The incumbent will supervise, provide instruction, and administer the Visual Skills Department in a 32 bed comprehensive residential blind rehabilitation program. Salary Rate: \$73,337 - \$95,394 (dependent on experience). Hiring bonus may be available. Must have a Master's degree or higher in Blind Rehabilitation or allied health and experience working in the area of low vision training. The WBRC is part of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in Palo Alto, CA. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Jessen, Director of Blind Rehab. Services, at 650-852-3431 or e-mail at Elizabeth.Jessen@va.gov. Government jobs are posted on the <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/> or <http://www.usajobs.gov> website. Search for occupation under Blind Rehabilitation to find the latest openings.

Blind Rehabilitation Specialist (Manual Skills) Job Opening – Palo Alto, California

The Western Blind Rehab. Center (WBRC) has a position open for a Blind Rehabilitation Specialist Instructor of Manual Skills. The Manual Skills Department at the WBRC utilizes a variety of craft and woodworking exercises to teach patients with vision loss how to maximize their other senses and learn adaptations for the safe use of tools and doing home maintenance. This treatment area promotes self confidence and how to overcome perceived barriers. The incumbent will provide rehabilitation training in a 32 bed comprehensive residential blind rehabilitation program. Salary Rate: \$50,599 - \$79,590 (dependent on experience). Hiring bonus may be available. Candidates must have a degree in Blind Rehabilitation or an allied health profession. We will provide on the job training for incumbents. The WBRC is located in Palo Alto, CA. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Jessen, Director of Blind Rehab. Services, at 650-852-3431 or e-mail at Elizabeth.Jessen@va.gov. Government jobs are posted on the <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/> or <http://www.usajobs.gov> website. Search for occupation under Blind Rehabilitation to find the latest openings. This position will be open until filled.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Leader Dogs For The Blind, Rochester, Michigan

Leader Dogs for the Blind, located in Rochester, MI, has a full time opening for an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. This position is responsible for the delivery of Orientation and Mobility services to Leader Dog consumers, employees, associated professionals, and the community. This position also actively participates as a member of a multidisciplinary team providing other assistive technology and mobility services to consumers. Leader Dog offers a state of the art accelerated mobility training to our consumers as well as new services, such as Trekker GPS training, and other exciting extended services. Duties for this position would include but not be limited to: Assessing consumer orientation and mobility levels, determines needs, recommends services, and conducts training to meet needs. Providing field services to O&M consumers in home, school and work environments. Providing other assistive technology instructional services to consumers, including GPS and other adapted devices. Participating in the ongoing development and implementation of all O&M consumer and professional related services and training materials.

We are looking for an enthusiastic team player with a Bachelor's degree and graduate of an AER recognized O&M curriculum (required), Master's degree preferred. Must have proper and current ACVREP certification. At least two years of professional experience in O&M strongly preferred. Must have interpersonal skills and the ability to instruct individuals who are visually impaired in a respectful and effective manner. Must have a thorough knowledge of orientation and mobility principles and techniques, and maintain current certification in O&M. Must have aptitude for and ability to develop and administer new programs as well as develop and modify curriculum design. Must have aptitude and ability to use assistive technology such as JAWS, GPS, etc. Must possess a

valid driver's license and/or the ability to travel as needed for the job. Must be able to walk distances consistent with delivery of mobility training in a variety of weather conditions and be able to work outside of normal business hours to meet consumer needs.

Leader Dogs for the Blind has competitive salary offerings and excellent benefits that include medical, dental, 401K and life insurance. Salary range is \$35,400 to \$53,000, based on experience. Please apply online at www.leaderdog.org or send a cover letter and resume to humanresources@leaderdog.org or mail to Leader Dogs for the Blind, Attention: Human Resources. P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI, 48308.

Rehabilitation Counselor-A Job Opening – Albuquerque, New Mexico

New Mexico Commission for the Blind is seeking a full-time Rehabilitation Counselor-A (job ID – 10481). Pay Grade – 65. The salary range for this position is \$30,534 - \$54,308 per year (14.68 - \$26.11 per hour). Offered salary is determined based on education and experience qualifications. Agency Mission & Description: Our mission is to enable persons who are blind to achieve vocational, economic and social equality by providing career preparation, training in the skills of blindness, and promoting and conveying the belief that blindness is not a barrier to successful employment or to living an independent and meaningful life. Purpose of Position: Provide vocational rehabilitation counseling/transition services (adjustment counseling, career assessment, education/training, planning) to blind/visually impaired high school/college students in the Albuquerque area. Position serves as agency transition services coordinator. Educational requirements: A Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Sociology, Psychology, Guidance & Counseling, Social Work, Mental Health, Special Education or Vocational Counseling is required for this position. Experience: 1 year counseling experience in Sociology, Psychology, Guidance & Counseling, Social Work, Mental Health, Special Education or Vocational Counseling. A Master's degree in Rehab. Counseling will meet education and experience requirements. Employment Requirements: Applicants with only a Bachelor's Degree in one of these fields will have four years to attain the Master's Degree, at Commission expense. Bargaining Unit Position: This position is covered by a collective bargaining agreement and all terms/conditions of that agreement apply and must be adhered to. Working Environment: Office setting with regular travel required.

To apply for this job, email your resume to Kelly Quintana, HR Administrator, at Kelly.Quintana@state.nm.us. You must include the following in your transmittal message in order to receive consideration: "Rehab Counselor, ID 10481". For further questions, contact Linda Thayer at 505-425-3546.

Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Opening – Allentown, Pennsylvania

The Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Allentown, Pennsylvania is growing and we are looking for ACVREP certified professionals to join our team. Earlier this month, we moved into a new, larger building that is allowing us to expand our

services. We are adding a full low vision clinic, a technology center, and an aids and devices store. It is an exciting time!

We currently have an opening for an ACVREP certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist. Other ACVREP certified professionals are encouraged to inquire as we continue to expand our services, and preference would be given to dual certification. We are looking for individuals who enjoy working with a dynamic team in our facility and in the community. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package, opportunities for professional growth, and a great working environment.

Allentown is the largest city in the Lehigh Valley, a beautiful region of Pennsylvania that offers a blend of metropolitan culture, outdoor activities, and rural serenity. Located just a short distance from Philadelphia, New York, and the Pocono Mountains, it is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

Interested applicants should send a resume or curriculum vitae to John Ford at jfordabvi@verizon.net.

Quote Of The Day!

“Character is power.” – Booker T. Washington