

ACVREP NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 28, 2006

ACVREP – The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

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Medicare Demonstration Project Press Release

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Room 303-D
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
Public Affairs Office

MEDICARE NEWS
For immediate release
Contact: CMS Office of Media Affairs
February 22, 2006
(202) 690-6145

MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION TO STUDY REHABILITATION FOR PEOPLE WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced a demonstration project to study the impact of standardized Medicare coverage for rehabilitation services that can be provided in the homes of beneficiaries with a diagnosis of moderate to severe visual impairment that cannot be corrected through conventional means or surgery.

Under the Low Vision Rehabilitation Demonstration project, to be conducted in six (6) selected areas of the country, Medicare beneficiaries with moderate to severe vision impairment will be eligible to receive up to nine (9) hours of rehabilitation benefits when prescribed by their ophthalmologist or optometrist.

“This demonstration has the potential to expand access to quality vision rehabilitation services to more individuals in this vulnerable population and help them to achieve a greater degree of independence and minimize barriers to care,” said CMS Administrator Mark B. McClellan, MD, PhD. “It will put additional resources for rehabilitation in the hands of eye care physicians and consequently improve the quality of life of beneficiaries who are visually impaired.”

To be eligible, beneficiaries must live in one of six (6) demonstration locales and their eye care physician must practice in one of the locales. The demonstration will be conducted in New Hampshire; New York City (all 5 boroughs), NY; North Carolina; Atlanta, GA; Kansas; and Washington State. The demonstration is slated to begin on April 1, 2006 and run for 5 years until March 31, 2011.

Medicare beneficiaries are currently able to receive low vision rehabilitation services under local coverage decisions when they are provided by Medicare qualified therapy providers (generally occupational or physical therapists) under the supervision of a qualified physician. The Low Vision Rehabilitation Demonstration, however, will permit vision rehabilitation to be provided by certified low vision therapists, orientation and mobility specialists and rehabilitation teachers, as well as occupational therapists, in appropriate settings including the beneficiary’s home, without need for the supervising physician to be on the premises.

New ACVREP Board Member - Dr. Kathleen Huebner

Dr. Kathleen Mary Huebner is Professor and Associate Dean for the Graduate Studies in Vision Impairment Department for the Institute for the Visually Impaired and Co-Director of the National Center for Leadership in Visual Impairment located at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. She began working with individuals who are blind and visually impaired in the mid-sixties as the director of the music program at Sunlight House, a summer camp for adults who were blind in Situate, Massachusetts. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Seton Hill University, and both her Masters and Doctorate in Special Education and Rehabilitation from the University of Pittsburgh. Her professional career in the field of blindness started in 1967 in Pittsburgh, PA at the Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind. She has taught Orientation and Mobility, Sensory Training, Concept Development, Social Skills in rehabilitation centers, through community outreach, and served as a teacher of children with visual and multiple disabilities in special schools and itinerant programs in Pennsylvania and New York. She directed a teacher education program in blindness and visual impairment at the State University of New York, College of Arts and Science at Geneseo before joining the American Foundation for the Blind in New York City as a National Consultant where she later became the Director of National Program Services. She has consulted and presented in most states throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Asia and Canada. She has served as a director for Division 17, Personnel Preparation for AERBVI. She is widely published in professional journals and serves on many national committees and organizational advisory boards. She presently serves on the editorial boards for both the Journal of Visual

Impairment and Blindness and the Rural Special Education Quarterly. She has over 60 publications including books and articles in peer-reviewed journals. She has served as a national co-chair for the National Agenda for the Education of Children and Youths with Visual Impairments, Including Those with Multiple Disabilities and continues to serve on the steering committee for the National Agenda. She is also Co-Chair of the International Council for the Education of People with Visual Impairments, North American Caribbean Region. She is the recipient of the 1996 AER C. Warren Bledsoe Award and the 2004 Mary K. Bauman Award from AER. She has received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Seton Hill University.

Dr. Huebner's term will run from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008.

2006 ACVREP Board And Committee Members

Officers

Martin Yablonski, M.Ed., COMS, TVI – Chairperson (NY)
Judy van Naerssen, OTRL, CLVT – Vice-Chairperson (PA)
David Ekin, ACSW, LCSW – Treasurer (MO)
Marshall Flax, M.S., COMS, CLVT – Secretary (WI)
Gina Palmer, M.A., CVRT – At Large Member (AL)

Other Board Members

Anita Arakawa, M.A., CVRT, CLVT (CA)
Kathleen M. Huebner, Ph.D. (PA)
James Kracht, J.D. (FL)
Judith Rutberg Kuskin, M. Ed, J.D. (NJ)
Tom Miller, MSW, ACSW (Washington, D.C.)
Gwen K. Sterns, MD (NY)

Committees

Low Vision Therapy Committee

Marshall Flax, M.S., COMS, CLVT, Co-Chair (WI)
Judy van Naerssen, OTRL, CLVT, Co-Chair (PA)
Kristin Ellingboe, OTR, CLVT (WI)
Margaret Tomasik, CLVT (PA)
Stephen G. Whittaker, PhD, OT, CLVT (PA)

Orientation & Mobility Committee

Donna Bent, COMS (MA)
Brenda Naimy, COMS (CA)
Rajiv Panikkar, COMS (CO)

Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Committee

Anita Arakawa, M.A., CVRT, CLVT, Chair (CA)
Amy Freeland, CVRT (MI)
Gina Palmer, M.A., CVRT (AL)
Susan Ponchillia, Ed.D., CVRT (MI)
Diane Weiss, CVRT (NY)

Continuing Education Committee

Karen Seidman, Chair (NY)
Don Golembiewski (WI)
Cheryl Richesin (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)
Wendy Stoltman (CO)

ACVREP Exams Will Be Administered In Conjunction With The 2006 AER International Conference

If you will be attending the 2006 AER International Conference in Snowbird, Utah, July 14-19, we will be administering our exams on July 19th from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. If you would like to take one of our exams, please make sure that you submit an eligibility application and applicable application fee first (\$25.00 for AER or AOTA members, \$40.00 for non-members). We will then send you an Exam Registration Form to complete and submit, with the \$100.00 exam fee, at least three weeks prior to July 19th. Please ensure that you state the type of exam accommodation you need, if any. For additional information, contact Sharon L. Mikrut at 520-887-6816 or smikrut@acvrep.org.

New CE Application Packet Now Available On ACVREP Website

The new Continuing Education (CE) application packet is now available on the ACVREP website (www.acvrep.org) under the “Download” page. Although some minor changes have been made, the major change is that CE providers no longer have to submit CE Presentation Information Sheets, resumes or CVs. Instead, they simply need to complete a two page Attestation Form. This form requests the CE provider to attach a list of the names of the conference/workshop planning committee members and a list of the names of the presenters, their presentation titles, and their phone numbers.

The electronic CE application will be posted on the “Download” page within the next week. This form is the actual application only; not the entire application packet.

ACVREP Board Of Directors Approves Changes To Vision Rehabilitation Therapy’s Eligibility Criteria For Category 3 Applicants – Implementation Date Is July 1, 2006

The Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT) Committee is pleased to announce the new revisions for Category 3. Historically, the intent of Category 3 was to (1) enable the agency trained VRT professionals, with experience in VRT, the opportunity to become certified based on experience, and (2) enable professionals with similar educational degrees the opportunity for certification based on relevant formal education and employment experience. Although, occasionally, we receive applications from these two areas, the majority of the applicants are now coming from varied experience, education, and employment backgrounds. Because quality standards are a priority, and our mandate is to establish a minimum standard of both academic and skills training that we would be able to support, the VRT Committee has revised Category 3 in order to clarify objectives necessary for taking the certification examination. We

have significantly increased the number of hours of experience for our Category 3 applicants as this will help to ensure the standard of care that we need professionally.

In the past, Category 3 applicants had to possess at least a Bachelor's degree (or foreign equivalent, as verified through an independent credential evaluation company) in any field, submit documentation attesting to their knowledge in the required 15 core domain areas, and complete a 350 hour internship under a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT).

At their October 2005 meeting, the ACVREP Board of Directors discussed Category 3 and approved the following changes:

1. The Body of Knowledge (found in the VRT certification handbook) and 15 core domain areas were condensed into one document, titled "Body of Knowledge Core Domain Areas." As a result, there are now the following 16 core domain areas.

1. Knowledge of the Blindness System.*
2. Medical Aspects of Blindness and Low Vision.*
3. Professionalism and Practice Methods.*
4. Personal Management.*
5. Home Management.*
6. Communication Systems.*
7. Braille and Other Tactual Systems.*
8. Adaptive Computer Technology.*
9. Recreation and Leisure.*
10. Aging and Vision Loss.*
11. Deaf-Blindness.
12. Teaching and Learning Strategies.
13. Psychosocial Aspects of Blindness and Vision Loss.
14. Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired with Additional Disabilities.
15. Research.
16. Orientation and Mobility.

2. **Of the new 16 Body of Knowledge Core Domain Areas listed above, the first ten (#1 - #10, with an * following each area), which are considered VRT specific core domain areas, must be met through formal education (university/college coursework) or ACVREP approved CE programs.** Documentation would include official transcripts or a Certificate of Completion/Attendance.

3. For the last six non-VRT specific core domain body of knowledge areas listed above (#11-#16), applicants can demonstrate knowledge through formal education, ACVREP approved CE programs or other activities. Examples of documentation include course descriptions or course syllabi, certificates of completion/attendance, continuing education (CE) hour information, continuing education unit (CEU) information, etc. Documentation must be provided to verify course content.

4. **Applicants must now successfully complete at least a 1,000 hour "discipline specific, supervised practice (internship) that includes, but is not limited to, direct service hours, and related phone calls, meetings, observations, report writing, etc."** The practice must be supervised by a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT), whether the internship is on-site or off-site.

The following items remain the same:

1. The applicant must still submit official transcripts documenting at least a Bachelor's degree (or foreign equivalent, as verified through an independent credential evaluation company) in any field.
2. The applicant must still submit a "*Clinical Performance Evaluation*" form completed by the CVRT practice supervisor at the end of the internship.
3. The applicant must still sign a written statement agreeing to uphold high ethical and professional standards (found on the second page of the VRT Eligibility Application).
4. Once determined eligible to sit for the exam, the applicant must still pass the VRT written exam demonstrating knowledge of VRT principles and applications.
5. Once the applicant has passed the VRT exam, s/he must then apply to and be approved by the ACVREP Board of Directors for certification for a five year period.

Should you have any questions regarding the above changes, please contact Sharon L. Mikrut at 520-887-6816 or smikrut@acvrep.org.

PLEASE NOTE: The new eligibility criteria for Category 3 is not effective until July 1, 2006. The new VRT Eligibility Application and VRT Certification Handbook, reflecting these changes, will be posted on the "Download" page of the ACVREP website (www.acvrep.org) in March 2006. The old application and handbook will remain on the "Download" page until July 1, 2006.

RehabGadget Website

I am an O&M instructor for a not-for-profit in central New York State and I was also trained on the job to be a rehabilitation teacher's assistant. In teaching low-vision rehab, I was constantly challenged to create materials for individuals with low vision to use, so I thought that it would be a good plan to share some of those ideas with others. As such, I created a web page with some of these ideas on it for other rehabilitation teachers to use with their consumers. I then advertised the web page on the O&M listserv and started a RehabGadget list. To join, all one must do is send me an email at ssor@twcny.rr.com, stating that s/he would like to join the RehabGadget list. Each time I add something new to the list, either from my creations, or from any suggestions made to me by other professionals, I send out an email to everyone on the list to let them know about the new item. Many of the items are large-print materials I created using Microsoft Word -- Font charts, phone-books, Bold-lined paper, blood sugar charts, graph paper, etc. Other items include a way to mount an Infila needle threader to make it more easy to use, low-tech liquid level indicator and a medications organizer. The website is: <http://ssor.net/Rehabgadgets/>

Vision Specialist Program Refunded

The RRTC on Blindness and Low Vision received funding from the Rehabilitation Services Administration for the Vision Specialist in Vocational Rehabilitation graduate certificate program. The \$100,000 award will provide funding for the program for the next 5 years. The 2006 class is scheduled for March 20-May 26.

The purpose of the program is to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors and graduate students in VR programs with the expertise to address issues specific to vision impairments. Students receive a stipend which includes tuition and fees, per diem for university housing and meals, and a travel allowance.

The program consists of four courses for 12 graduate-level credit hours: (1) Rehabilitation for Persons who are Visually Impaired, (2) Resources for Persons who are Visually Impaired, (3) Computer Access Technology for Persons who are Visually Impaired, and (4) Special Project in Rehabilitation of Persons who are Visually Impaired. For more information, visit our Web site:

<http://www.blind.msstate.edu/Vspecialist1.html>

Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Master's Degree Program

San Francisco State University (SFSU), in partnership with Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., is the first university in the world to offer a Master's level degree in Guide Dog Mobility. This unique program prepares Guide Dog Mobility Instructors (GDMIs) with the skills to train both dog guides and people with visual impairment in the use of a dog guide.

Program Options: SFSU offers two programs:

1. **Master of Arts Degree in Special Education** (emphasis in Guide Dog Mobility)
2. **SFSU Graduate Certificate in Guide Dog Mobility**

Dual Certification: SFSU also offers Dual Certification in **Guide Dog Mobility and Orientation & Mobility**.

For more information, contact the program at 415-338-1245 or mobility@sfsu.edu. Or, see website at: www.sfsu.edu/~guidedog

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Mesa, Arizona

Mesa Public Schools in Mesa, Arizona is looking for an Orientation and Mobility Instructor to provide training in methods of travel to students with blindness or visual impairment, grades preschool through 12th grade. Typical duties include assessment, consultation, instruction of independent travel, preparation of lesson plans, and documenting student progress. This is itinerant work and travel is required. Minimum qualifications include a Master's degree in O&M and must be eligible for Arizona teacher certification. Preference may be given to a candidate with dual certifications (CVRT, TVI, CRC, etc). For information, contact Alberta Longacre at 480-472-0727.

Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist Job Opening – San Diego, California

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT ASF#06-006

NOTE: This announcement is open to the general public and permanent VA employees eligible for promotion, reassignment, or change to lower grade based on their current appointment eligibility. Incumbent is eligible for health and life insurance benefits, vacation and sick leave accrual. **APPLICANTS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN.**

OPENS: 02-09-2006

CLOSES: 03-2-2006

POSITION: Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS), GS-601-11/12

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: GS-12

DUTY LOCATION: VA San Diego Healthcare System – Social Work Service, San Diego County, CA

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: One

SALARY: GS-11: \$55,053 - \$71,572 per annum
GS-12: \$65,984 - \$85,775 per annum

DUTIES: Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS) meets the special needs of our visually impaired population; to facilitate and enhance the accessibility of vision screening, low vision training and blind rehabilitation services to this population through outreach services. The incumbent manages and provides direct blind rehabilitation training services to eligible beneficiaries. The incumbent is a multi-skilled and experienced blind rehabilitation instructor who has advanced technical knowledge and competencies in at least two of the following disciplines at the journeyman level: orientation and mobility, living skills, manual skills, and visual skills. A BROS has been cross-trained to acquire broadly based knowledge in each of these Blind Rehabilitation Center disciplines, plus computer access training (CAT). BROS represents a treatment option in the continuum of care for visually impaired veterans. Identifies, assesses, trains, manages and provides follow-up for clients using clinical resources of the facility. The incumbent is an active member of the interdisciplinary Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST), and interacts with all relevant services in the medical center, agencies of the VA and the community. In concert with VIST and other facility resources, the BROS is responsible for identifying beneficiaries who have blind rehabilitation training potential. Consults with VIST, VA and community clinics, VA and community Blind Rehabilitation Centers, state and local agencies and other community resources to locate potential qualifying patients. Selects, interprets and adapts traditional strategies in order to meet client needs. Develops an individualized rehabilitation-training plan for each client with rehabilitation potential. Consults with State, local and regional resources for information. Rehabilitation training will be designed to shorten waiting time and minimize use of the inpatient treatment at a Blind Rehabilitation Center. Maximizes client's rehabilitation potential by utilizing a wide variety of complex training aids and devices. Works closely with local VIST, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service and the local regional state rehabilitation agencies to fabricate, prescribe and obtain equipment for clients during their rehabilitation training. The incumbent administers a blind rehabilitation training program by creating necessary local policies, projecting and administering budgets, maintaining equipment and supplies, documenting treatment, outcomes and workload, writing reports, scheduling patients, traveling to and transporting patients during treatment/training, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS: Degree: major study in an academic field related to the health sciences or allied sciences appropriate to the work of the position. Plus one (1) year of specialized experience, equivalent to the next lower grade level, that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. Must possess a valid Driver License.

BASIS OF RATING: Qualified applicants may be evaluated on knowledge, skills, and other factors as measured by the following job-related elements and must be addressed as part of the application package:

1. Ability to teach in blind rehabilitation disciplines (skill areas).

2. Ability to organize, coordinate and manage the activities of the Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient program.
4. Ability to use assessment techniques in skill areas (orientation/mobility, living skills, low vision, manual skills, computer access training) to determine the rehabilitation needs of blinded veteran patients.
5. Ability to provide counseling to blinded veterans concerning blindness related issues.

NOTE: Targeted positions; (a) selection does not guarantee promotion to the target grade or any intervening grade, if appropriate; (b) all legal and regulatory requirements for promotion to the next higher grade must be met; and (c) subsequent promotion to the next higher grade is dependent on the selectee's demonstration of the ability to perform the duties of that grade to the satisfaction of the supervisor and the availability of enough work at the next higher grade to support the target position.

SUBSTITUTIONS: Permissible substitutions for experience (education and training) may be reviewed in Human Resources Management Service, Room 1545. See Qualification Standards Operating Manual.

TIME-IN-GRADE REQUIREMENTS: GS-11 and GS-12: One (1) year at or equivalent to the next lower grade level

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: This agency provides reasonable accommodation(s) to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: All qualified candidates will receive consideration based on merit and qualifications without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, politics, physical handicap, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

HOW TO APPLY: Comply with VAMC/HRM INST. 030104, Instructions to Applicants

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Read the job announcement, the eligibility, and qualification requirements for the position for which you are interested. If you feel you meet those requirements, comply with the following applicable instructions:

1. PERMANENT VA SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM EMPLOYEES:

- a. Submit completed VAF 5-4078 by the closing date of the announcement. VAF 5-4676a, Employee Supplemental Qualification Statement, and VAF 5-4667b, Supervisory Appraisal of Employee for Promotion will be completed for all Wage Grade positions, and for GS positions when rating and ranking procedures are required.
- b. Ensure that your Official Personnel Folder (OPF) is up-to date. Training or job experiences not recorded in your OPF should be documented on OF-612 or resume, and must be included with your application package for submission by the closing date of the announcement. This will assure that all your experiences, education, and qualifications are considered. A separate copy of this package should be submitted for filing in your OPF.

2. OTHER APPLICANTS: VRA (Veterans Recruitment Appointments), VEOA (Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1988), TRANSFER or REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBLES, PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC (for temporary positions) submit one of the following:

- a. OF-612, Optional Application for Federal Employment and OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment, or;
- b. A resume or any written application format of your choice, which must include at minimum the items of information requested on OF-612 and OF-306. Forms may be accessed at www.opm.gov.

3. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATIONS:

- a. **VRA** - Veterans must attach a copy of the most recent DD Form 214 that indicates the type of discharge received.
 - b. To claim 10-point veterans preference, attach a copy of the Civil Service Preference Letter ("802 letter") issued from the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office within a year from the closing date of the announcement.
 - c. **VEOA** - Veterans who have been separated under honorable conditions from the armed forces with substantially three or more years of continuous active service. Veterans must attach a copy of the most recent DD Form 214, which indicates the type of discharge received.
 - d. **TRANSFER OR REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBLES** - Must include a copy of the most current SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action), which identifies transfer or reinstatement eligibility.
 - e. **PERSON WITH DISABILITY** - Must attach a copy of Schedule "A" certificate from The Department of Rehabilitation for the State of California within a year from the closing date of the announcement.
 - f. **ALL APPLICANTS** - In cases where college level education is used as the basis to be eligible to apply or qualify for a position, you must attach a school transcript **or** a completed OPM Form 1170 for verification of college courses/degrees. Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications (particularly positions with a positive education requirement.) Therefore, applicants must report only attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Applicants can verify accreditation at the following website: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>. All education claimed by applicants will be verified accordingly.
- 4. DRUG TEST:** All applicants tentatively selected for VA employment (in a testing designated position) are subject to random urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Applicants who refuse to be tested will be denied employment. Appointment to the position will not be effected upon a verified positive drug test.

5. NOTE: Applications will be accepted for posted announcements only, and must be **received by 4:00 PM on the closing date** of the announcement. The application must contain the position title,

corresponding announcement number, signature, and date. Applicants must meet all eligibility and qualification requirements as of the closing date of the announcement. Documents required by these instructions and in the announcement must be submitted by the closing date. Applications and any attached material will not be returned. Do not submit original documents that you may need in the future. Mail application to:

VA San Diego Healthcare System
Human Resources Management Service (05)
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161

Call (858) 552-8585, ext. 3401, for additional information.

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Los Angeles, California

Would you like to make a positive difference in a child's life? Junior Blind of America is seeking a highly motivated Orientation and Mobility Instructor to work at our Nonpublic Special Education School. Junior Blind of America provides services to students that are multi-disabled and blind or visually impaired. Excellent schedule, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT: Special Education School (an individualized, non-academic school for students, ages three through 22, who are multi-disabled and blind/visually impaired).

Qualifications: Bachelor Degree in a related field. Must have a California Specialist Credential in the Clinical or Rehabilitative Services, Orientation and Mobility Field. Masters degree preferred but not required. Valid driver's license and good driving record. Must have great interpersonal and communication skills.

We offer an excellent benefits package which includes vacation, sick days, holidays, pension and 403 (b) plans.

Submit resume and letter of interest to:

Junior Blind of America
5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Fax: 323-296-0424
E-mail: hrdept@juniorblind.org
Visit us at: www.juniorblind.org

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Los Angeles, California

The Junior Blind of America in Los Angeles, California is currently seeking a mature individual to provide orientation and mobility (O&M) services to adult trainees in the Davidson Program for Independence (DPI). The work schedule is Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Major Responsibilities: Assess students' orientation and mobility skills and develops a plan to address the students' orientation and mobility needs. Develops and carries out a program of individualized

instruction that may include pre-cane skills, cane skills, and indoor travel. Teaches all types of skills a student will need outside the campus/home, i.e., crossing streets, identifying safe crossings with and without traffic lights, identifying traffic flow, shopping (malls and grocery), etc. Instructs blind and visually impaired adult students requiring knowledge of how to best use of buses, light rail, Metrolink Para transit (all forms of public transportation). Emphasizes the effective use of any residual vision, tactile and other sensory modes, and reinforces learning associated with other areas of instruction. Makes careful observations and evaluations, concerning student's progress and maintains appropriate records. Prepares reports and goals for each student. Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications: Master's degree in orientation and mobility from an accredited college or university. Must be at least 21 years of age and possess a valid California driver's license and clean driving record.

Benefits: Vacation, Holidays, and Sick days; Health, Medical and Life Insurance; 403(B) Tax Sheltered Saving and 401(K) Pension Plan; Section 125a Cafeteria Plan; and Fitness Center.

Submit resume and letter of interest to:

Ken Metz, Director Of the Davidson Program for Independence
Junior Blind of America
5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Fax: 323-296-0448
Voice at 323-295-4555, ext. 255
E-mail: hrdept@juniorblind.org
Visit us at: www.juniorblind.org

Instructional Services Coordinator Job Opening – Cincinnati, Ohio

Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired was founded in 1903. Today, 102 years later, Clovernook provides comprehensive rehabilitation services including training and support for independent living, orientation and mobility instruction, vocational training, job placement, counseling, recreation, and youth services in two locations—Cincinnati, Ohio and Memphis, Tennessee. We are dedicated to promoting independence and fostering the highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities.

Clovernook is currently looking for an Instructional Services Coordinator in our Cincinnati, Ohio location. The candidates must possess or must be actively pursuing a dual certification in Orientation and Mobility and Vision Rehabilitation Therapy from ACVREP. The Instructional Services position will coordinate the youth program, develop and implement consumer's training goals, and educate others in community on topics related to blindness. A post-offer, pre-employment drug screening and background check is required along with a valid driver's license (with no more than 5 points on driving record) and an insured, reliable car available for on the job use.

Interested candidates may submit a resume and cover letter to Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 7000 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati OH 45231, fax 513-728-6229, or email kweaver@clovernook.org.

Vision Rehabilitation Specialist (Independent Living Skills Instructor) Job Opening – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oklahoma League for the Blind has a job opening for a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist. The salary is \$28,000.00 to \$35,000.00, depending on qualifications.

Job Duties: Responsible for teaching adaptive skills needed for independent living in areas of personal management, household management, communication, education, leisure activities, orientation and movement in the indoor environment, and use of low vision devices and training techniques in itinerant and center based settings; assessing and evaluating the independent living needs and abilities of individuals with impaired vision for meeting immediate and lifelong goals; developing individualized rehabilitation teaching plans in conjunction with the learner; coordinating the implementation of the Rehabilitation Teaching service plan; teaching problem solving and resource utilization, including the acquisition of adaptive equipment; performing related case management and record keeping tasks; facilitating the psychosocial adjustment to vision loss for agency consumers; facilitating support group meetings; organizing monthly agency recreational outings; facilitating agency youth programs; and other duties as assigned.

Education & Experience: Bachelor or Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Teaching and current ACVREP certification as a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist or three (3) years experience as a rehabilitation teacher with current ACVREP certification or a combination of education and experience in related fields and willingness to obtain ACVREP certification.

To obtain additional information, contact Glenda Farnum, CVRT, Director Programs & Services, Oklahoma League for the Blind, 501 N Douglas Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73106; 405-232-4644 or gfarnum@olb.org.

Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Opening – Memphis, Tennessee

Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired was founded in 1903. Today, 102 years later, Clovernook provides comprehensive rehabilitation services including training and support for independent living, orientation and mobility instruction, vocational training, job placement, counseling, recreation, and youth services in two locations—Cincinnati, Ohio and Memphis, Tennessee. We are dedicated to promoting independence and fostering the highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities.

Clovernook is currently looking for a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist in our Memphis, Tennessee location. The ideal candidate will possess a valid certificate in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy from ACVREP or is actively pursuing certification. A post-offer, pre-employment drug screening and background check is required along with a valid driver's license (with no more than 5 points on driving record) and an insured, reliable car available for on the job use.

Interested candidates may submit a resume and cover letter to Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 7000 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati OH 45231, fax 513-728-6229, or email kweaver@clovernook.org.

AER Executive Director - Alexandria, Virginia

The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) is an international membership organization of professionals who provide services to people with visual impairments.

Reporting to the board of directors, the Executive Director is responsible for planning, developing and managing the activities of AER with an annual budget of \$830,000 and a staff of 4. The salary range is \$65k - \$80k.

The candidate must have a Bachelor's degree and at least 2 years experience in management or directorship of a membership or non-profit organization. AER seeks an Executive Director who is an excellent communicator, skilled at fiscal management and human resources, and able to facilitate interagency cooperation.

Effective presentation and public relations skills are essential. An awareness of issues relating to people with disabilities is desired. The Executive Director will need to travel and participate in weekend meetings and events.

For a detailed job description, go to the AER website at www.aerbvi.org.

Qualified candidates should submit a letter of application and resume by email to edjob@aerbvi.org. No faxes will be accepted. All applications must be received by 9:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

Blind Rehabilitation Specialist Job Opening – Washington, D.C.

SALARY RANGE: 65,048.00 - 84,559.00 USD per year

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0601-12/12

POSITION INFORMATION: Full-Time Permanent

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: NONE

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Washington, D..

The incumbent serves as the subject-matter expert in blind rehabilitation training at the DC VA Medical Center, independently planning, designing and conducting activities of the program. The incumbent is organizationally aligned under the VIST Coordinator, which is aligned under the VA Medical Center's Chief, Social Work Service and the Chief of Staff. The facility is located in NW Washington, DC, offers free parking and is an easy commute from Maryland, DC and the Virginia suburbs, with subway and Metro bus service from the nearby Brookland Subway Station.

KEY REQUIREMENTS:

- U.S. Citizenship
- Background and/or Security Investigation required.
- Must pass pre-employment examination.
- Designated and/or Random Drug Testing required.

MAJOR DUTIES:

The incumbent will manage and provide direct blind rehabilitation training services to soldiers at the Military Treatment Facilities (MTF): Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center-Bethesda, as a part of the Seamless Transition program. The incumbent initiates services while the service member is in the MTF and coordinates with Visual Impairment Service Team (VIST/BROS) at the VA facilities that will be accepting these veterans for on-going care. As appropriate, makes referrals to the VA Blind Rehabilitation Program through the local VIST Coordinator or other community resources. The incumbent identifies, assesses, trains, manages and provides follow-up for those veterans that will receive on-going care at the Washington, DC VA Medical Center, or who remain at the MTF for prolonged periods of time. Works closely with the VA/DOD Seamless Transition Liaisons in transitioning these service members to VA care. The incumbent is a member of the interdisciplinary Visual Impairment Service Team (VIST), and interacts with Rehabilitation Medicine, Audiology, Social Work, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids and other Services and agencies of the VA, the MTFs and the community. Uses objective and subjective assessment tools and methods requiring broadly based advanced knowledge in low vision, orientation and mobility, living skills teaching, manual skills and other associated disciplines. Incumbent develops an individualized rehabilitation training plan for each client with rehabilitation potential, identifying achievable and measurable goals and outcomes. Recognized as the subject-matter expert in blind rehabilitation training at the DC VA Medical Center, and independently plans, designs, and conducts activities of the blind rehabilitation program. works with a diverse population having multiple physical, psychosocial problems, which in part can be resolved through successful rehabilitation training. Creates new, or modifies special training materials, devices, training strategies and approaches as required by the unique challenges of individual clients in a wide range of environments. As case manager for contract or fee basis services, incumbent is responsible for the quality and quantity of services provided to clients and the management of expenditures of medical center resources. Has frequent contacts with Seamless Transition Liaisons, VIS Team members, VHA Blind Rehabilitation staff, VA and with military treatment facilities staff and other health care providers, state rehabilitation officials, community agencies, veteran's service organization representatives, and other members of the community at large. Also has frequent contacts with clients, their families and others in an instructor/provider-client relationship. A positive attitude is essential to this position and the ability to motivate clients and their families is paramount in this highly visible and sensitive position and role where the incumbent can influence opinions of a wide variety of individuals and groups relating to blindness and the public image of the VA.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Qualifications will be determined in accordance with the criteria established in the Group Coverage Qualification Standards Handbook for General Schedule Positions in Professional and Scientific Positions and in the Individual Occupational Requirements for the General Health Science Series.

To meet the basic requirements, you must have the following:

Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree that included a major field of study or specific course requirements in an academic field related to the health sciences or allied sciences appropriate to the work of the position. You must submit proof of your education with a transcript or list of courses with credit hours, major(s), and grade point average or class ranking. We will be unable to return these to you. You can receive credit for education received outside the United States if you provide evidence that it is comparable to an accredited educational institution in the United States when you apply.

In addition to meeting the basic entry qualification requirements, applicants must have one (1) year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the next lower grade level. Specialized Experience is that experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the GS-11 grade level. You must have one year of specialized experience at a level close to the work of this job that has given you the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities required to successfully perform. Typically we would find this experience in work within this field or a field that is closely related.

You must be a U.S. citizen to qualify for this position.

After appointment, you will be subject to random testing for illegal drug use.

A background security investigation will be required on all new hires. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.

Applicants for this position must pass a pre-employment medical examination.

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:

You will be evaluated to determine if you meet the minimum qualifications required; and on the extent to which your application shows that you possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities associated with this position as defined below. When describing your knowledge, skills, and abilities, please be sure to give examples and explain how often you used these skills, the complexity of the knowledge you possessed, the level of the people you interacted with, the sensitivity of the issues you handled, evidence of your success (such as accomplishments, awards received), etc.

1. Ability to teach blind rehabilitation disciplines (skill areas).
2. Ability to organize, coordinate and evaluate the activities of the Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Program.
3. Ability to communicate orally and in writing.
4. Ability to use assessment techniques in skill areas (orientation/mobility, low vision, living skills, manual skills, computer access training) to determine rehabilitation needs of blinded and low vision veteran and service member patients.
5. Ability to provide counseling to blinded veterans and service members concerning blindness related issues.

BENEFITS:

You may participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, with costs shared with your employer. More info: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#FEHB>.

Life insurance coverage is provided. More info: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#life>

Long-Term Care Insurance is offered and carries into your retirement. More info: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#ltci>

New employees are automatically covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). If you are transferring from another agency and covered by CSRS, you may continue in this program. More info: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#retr>

You will earn annual vacation leave. More info: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#VACA>

You will earn sick leave. More info: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#SKLV>

OTHER INFORMATION:

This job is being filled by an alternative hiring process and is not in the competitive civil service.

You may fax your applications by or before the close of business on the closing date if it is no more than 20 pages. You may fax to Attention: Shirley Pender, HRMS (05-T2) at (202) 745-8351, but it is your responsibility to ensure that the fax was received by calling to confirm receipt on (202) 745-8208. Otherwise please mail or hand deliver your application by the close of business on the closing date.

The materials you send with your application will not be returned. Send only those materials needed to evaluate your application. Please do not place your application in a notebook or binder.

If you make a false statement in any part of your application, you may not be hired; you may be fired after you begin work; or you may be subject to fine, imprisonment, or other disciplinary action.

You must clearly identify your claim for veteran's preference on your application.

5-POINT PREFERENCE. A 5-point preference is granted to veterans who served prior to 1976 and served at least six months on active duty. Those who served at least two years on active duty.

A 5-point preference is also granted to veterans who served on active duty during the Gulf War from August 2, 1990 through January 2, 1992. The law grants preference to anyone who is otherwise eligible and who served on active duty during this period regardless of where the person served or for how long. Otherwise eligible means that the person must have been released from the service under honorable conditions and must have served a minimum of two years on active duty, or if a Reservist, must have served the full period for which called to active duty.

If you are claiming a 5-point veteran preference please provide a DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or other proof of entitlement. Tentative preference will be granted in the absence of the paperwork.

10-POINT PREFERENCE. You may be entitled to a 10-point veteran preference if you are a disabled veteran; you have received the Purple Heart; you are the spouse or mother of a 100% disabled veteran; or, you are the widow, widower, or mother of a deceased veteran. If you are claiming 10-point veteran preference, you will need to submit an SF-15, Application for 10-point Veteran Preference, plus the proof required by that form.

This position will be filled on a full-time permanent basis. Upon completing any required probationary period, the position will be permanent.

HOW TO APPLY:

You must submit your application so that it will be received by the closing date of the announcement. The application package should include the following: (1) Resume or completed application form; (2) University Transcripts; (3) Written responses to KSAO Rating Factors, and; (4) all current or former federal employees, must submit a copy of their most recent SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action) to show proof of status. To ensure full consideration, it is highly recommended that applicants include all information relevant to the assessment criteria for this position (i.e. VA Form 5-4078, University Transcripts, KSA's, etc.).

Please submit a narrative response to each knowledge, skill or ability listed. Your response should describe what you did, how often you performed this activity, the guidelines available, the complexity of the assignment, and who you performed the activity for or with.

If you are eligible for consideration under a special hiring authority, please indicate this consideration in the cover letter sent with your resume and submit proof of eligibility with your application.

If you are claiming veterans' preference or eligibility for VRA or VEOA, provide basic eligibility information in your cover letter. You will be contacted to request submission of the DD-214 and, if disabled, an SF-15 with letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Hand-carried applications should be delivered to the VAMC (688), Human Resources Management Service (05), Room 1B120, located at 50 Irving St., NW, Washington, DC 20442, and must be received by the closing date of this announcement.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE INCLUDED IN YOUR APPLICATION:

- 1. JOB INFORMATION:** Include on all documents the Announcement number, title and grade of the job for which you are applying.
- 2. PERSONAL INFORMATION:** Full name, mailing address (including zip code), home and commercial work telephone numbers (including area codes); Social security number and country of citizenship; Veteran's preference; reinstatement eligibility (you must attach SF-50 for proof of your career or career-conditional status); and highest Federal civilian grade held (also give job series and dates the position was held).
- 3. EDUCATION:** high school name, city, state, and (zip code, if known) and date you received diploma or GED; Name, city, state, and zip code (if known) of colleges and universities attended with major(s), type and year of any degree(s) received and date(s) received. If you did not receive a degree, show total credits earned and indicate whether semester or quarter hours. Submit copies of transcripts.
- 4. JOB-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE (Paid and/or Non-paid):** Include Job title(s) (include series and grade if Federal) and salary; duties and accomplishments; employer's name and address; supervisor's name and telephone number (indicate if we may contact your current supervisor); starting and ending dates (month and year) and hours per week.
- 5. OTHER QUALIFICATIONS, if applicable:** Job-related training courses(title and year); Job-related skills (i.e., computer hardware/software, tools, machinery, etc.); Job-related certificates and licenses (current only). DO NOT send copies unless required in the job announcement.

AGENCY CONTACT INFO:

Shirley Pender
Phone: 202-745-8208
Internet: Shirley.Pender@med.va.gov

Or write:
Department Of Veterans Affairs (05)
50 Irving St., NW
Washington, DC 20422
US

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT:

Once your complete application is received we will conduct an evaluation of your qualifications and determine your ranking. The most highly qualified candidates will be referred to the hiring manager for further consideration and possible interview. You will be notified of the outcome.

Quote Of The Day!

“A substitute for hard work is worth about one-tenth the real thing.” – Grantland Rice