

**CLASS TITLE: SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR
THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

Class Code: 02834300

Pay Grade: 25A

EO: B

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To plan, supervise, review and coordinate the work of a group of specialists and support staff engaged in providing direct service to all blind and visually impaired residents of Rhode Island in one of such programs as: mobility practices, orientation techniques, consultation to nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities, braille instruction and other comparable activities, and maintenance of the official state register for blind residents of Rhode Island; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general supervision of a superior with latitude for the exercise of initiative and independent judgement; through regularly scheduled conferences, work is reviewed for conformance to established principles, policies and procedures and for compliance with assignments and instructions.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Plans, organizes, assigns and directs the work of a staff of specialists and support staff; work is reviewed for conformance to established principles, policies and procedures; supervises various phases of the staff development for individual and group improvement.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To plan, supervise and review the work of a staff engaged in rehabilitation, teaching and orientation and mobility including Peripatologist and Rehabilitation Teacher of the Blind.

To assist in developing needs and techniques for locating persons in need of rehabilitation of the blind.

To determine appropriateness of individuals for service via the functions of screening, intake and referral.

To perform program evaluation of vocational rehabilitation performance.

To maintain register of blind and visually handicapped individuals.

To coordinate and statistically code data from ophthalmological and medical consultations on a monthly basis.

To act as liaison for ophthalmologists and optometrists and other public and private agencies.

To provide information on visual impairments to the general public and to perform public relations of the state agency for the blind and visually impaired.

To instruct subordinates concerning services for rehabilitation teaching and orientation and mobility cases.

To confer with a superior regarding desirable changes in the standards of the program and to plan and recommend such changes.

To prepare special studies and reports.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES: A thorough knowledge of the principles and methods used in rehabilitation teaching and orientation and mobility; a working knowledge of braille methods and techniques of reading and writing; a thorough knowledge of available community resources; a working knowledge of educational techniques utilized in a rehabilitation program for the blind or visually impaired; the ability to deal with blind and visually handicapped clients, public and private

agencies, associates and the public in general; a thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of peripatology including but not limited to balance, posture, gait and kinesiology; a thorough knowledge of the long cane and the various techniques used in safe independent ambulation including rhythm, timing and diagonal and two point techniques; a thorough working knowledge of concept development and sensory training such as tactile awareness and interpretation, spatial orientation, sound patterning, sound localization and distance estimation and judgement via auditory input leading to efficient effective travel from residential settings to more complex city environments; a working knowledge of the mental and social problems, potentialities and limitations encountered in the education, training, instruction and orientation of blind children and adults in the community; the ability to consult with medical and paramedical specialists in the field of rehabilitation of the blind; a working knowledge of guide dogs and electronic travel aids for the blind including the laser cane; a thorough knowledge of the programs available to multiply impaired and mentally retarded blind individuals; a working knowledge of low vision aids for the visually impaired; a thorough understanding of medical terminology related to eye diseases; the ability to plan, supervise and review the work of others; the ability to develop and maintain an effective public relations program; the ability to make studies and prepare reports; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Such as may have been gained through: possession of a Bachelor's Degree with a specialization in rehabilitation of the blind, including and/or supplemented by courses in orientation and Mobility and Rehabilitation teaching; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: employment as a rehabilitation teacher, orientation and mobility instructor of rehabilitation counselor in a public or private agency.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

Class Created: April 27, 1986

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