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*NEW JERSEY STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
1100 RAYMOND BOULEVARD
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102*

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 1980 - JUNE 30, 1981

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INTRODUCTION

The major objective of the Commission is to provide an array of services to blind and visually-impaired citizens of the State of New Jersey effectively and efficiently. State and Federal appropriations increased by only 9.8 per cent from 1980 to 1981 and because of inflation increases, this severely hampered the continuation of the same level of services. The Commission continued to clarify the extent of its problems of organization and funding allocations. Federal funding limitations (Federal funds constitute approximately 50 per cent of the Commission's budget) particularly effected the Rehabilitation and Education Services of the agency. Some of the problems have been clearly identified, especially in the area of Fiscal and Management and program organization and corrective measures have already been initiated. Included in this is the implementing of more modern and sophisticated accounting techniques, and the increase in staff in the Fiscal and Management Operations section to meet current demands.

STATISTICS

The agency is mandated, by law, to maintain a register of all legally blind and visually-impaired persons which as of June 30, 1980 is estimated at 24,060 persons. Of this total, the Commission's register reflected that there is an estimated

18,547 who are legally blind. As we are in the process of establishing a management information system and recognizing the fact that we are at the present time unable to generate accurate statistics on our client population we are repeating those projections presented in last year's Annual Report. We fully expect that our Annual Report for 1982 will evidence real progress in our attempts to deal with this difficult problem. We are, however, able to provide for 1981 Fiscal Year the number of new cases - 4,935. Although not all of these persons are classified as blind, they all have substantial vision problems. It is also a fact that there is a significant number of blind or seriously visually-impaired persons who do not apply for services. The Commission constantly strives to locate these persons and make its services available to them.

OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

The Commission continued its progress in the areas of financial accountability and the provision of management services during Fiscal Year 1981. Progress in each area was somewhat hampered by the difficulty in accurately projecting Federal appropriations for even a short-term period. The direction of the new administration in Washington was clear, but actual budgeted dollars were not. Fiscal Year 1981 became a period wherein the main focus was to operate within our appropriated budget and to maintain essential services despite a relatively static budget and ever increasing costs of operations.

During the Fiscal Year, the transfer of accounting and management service responsibilities continued to be moved from the Commission's Newark Office to the

Old Bridge Office. The finality of this transition was substantially completed during the Fiscal Year, and the goal is to provide improved financial accountability, advance program budget projections, and necessary management services in order to improve service delivery agency-wide even though the actual "purchasing power" of the agency will undoubtedly continue to diminish. The Accounting Office has adopted methods of budget presentation that more clearly designate Federal appropriations, State appropriations, and direct service-to-client funds. Progress was made during the year in designating specific cost center areas for all Commission operations in order to further refine the accounting for expenditures and the budgeting process for each distinct service delivery and management operation area.

The Commission continued its practice of utilizing the Client Assistance Fund (Welfare Fund) to advantage clients for specific purposes where expenditure of appropriated funds would not be allowed. Although the amounts expended are nominal, \$300.00 maximum per expenditure and approximately \$11,000.00 for the Fiscal Year, this limited use of the Fund allows the Commission to provide specific services to clients often of an emergency nature which the Commission would not otherwise be able to provide.

One difficult but necessary cost cutting action was the move of the Commission's Freehold District Office to the Commission's facility at Old Bridge. This move was extremely difficult and somewhat painful from an agency as well as an individual staff viewpoint, but it illustrated the cooperative effort between the financial area, management services, and direct service personnel necessary to enact such

changes. The move was made with a great deal of personal effort from individuals in each area, and a cost-conscious move was finalized with minimal impact on client services.

Plans were made to relocate the Atlantic City District Office to Pleasantville. The relocation actually took place the beginning of the new Fiscal Year.

A continued effort was made during the Fiscal Year to closely monitor and restrict, where possible, facility costs, out-of-state travel cost, vehicle transportation cost, training cost, and even the costs of such nominal items as office supplies. Great efforts were made in order to ensure that decisions were based on maximum possible impact to client service delivery, the latter being one of the specifically designated priorities of the Department of Human Services during this difficult operating period.

For additional financial information see Appendix A.

Staff Development and Training.

In the Staff Development and Training Section, training programs for staff included management development, professional/technical skills, general training programs, clerical training programs, and tuition aid and career development. Statistically, 31 persons were trained in management, 10 in clerical programs and 4 received tuition aid. In addition, the first formal orientation program was held for 64 new staff members which covered every aspect of agency services.

Additions are being made to the audio visual inventory to provide expanded in-house training and improve the quality and availability of audio visual components for training.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION SERVICES

In the agency's Office of Education Services there were 262 new referrals for the year and 196 closures. The number continuing on the register and in school programs in this unit as of June 30, 1981 numbered 1,702. This number does not, however, reflect the fact that 64 cases were closed in early July which in previous years was shown as closed in June. There were also 29 institutional cases closed at the same time which, in fact, would have made the total enrollment at the end of June, 1,675 had this unit followed last year's procedures. This reflects an actual decrease of 27 cases. The classification of these children at year end by school needs is as follows:

<i>Preschool</i>	-	167
<i>Local and School Placement (Elementary and Secondary)</i>	-	749
<i>Special Programs for Multiply-Handicapped</i>	-	202
<i>Special (Separate) Classes in Public Schools</i>	-	47
<i>Residential Schools and Training Centers</i>	-	85
<i>Multi-Handicapped Children at Home</i>	-	6
<i>College and University</i>	-	144
<i>In State Institutions</i>	-	289
<i>Inactive</i>	-	<u>13</u>
<u><i>TOTAL</i></u>	-	<u>1,702</u>

During the year fiscal constraints had a tremendous effect on program services. It was necessary to cut back in funds for reader services to students and also on staff providing specialized services i.e. activities of daily living, physical education, etc. For example, 124 students were disadvantaged by being denied reader services. Also 31

fewer children attended nursery school than in the previous year although the number of preschool children increased from 159 to 167. Due to staff vacancies, approximately 500 children suffered reductions in basic educational services and 150 institutionalized children had no services relative to their visual needs.

An in-service training program was conducted for 341 public and private school teachers with blind and partially-sighted students in their classes. The purpose of the training program was to acquaint them with methods and materials for inclusion in their curriculum for visually-impaired children.

Preschool.

The majority of the children registered in the preschool program are six (6) years of age or younger and have not entered an organized program of education beyond nursery school nor have they been placed in institutions. Though the number of preschoolers increased slightly, it should be noted that fewer children were enrolled in preschool programs. A contributing factor to this unfortunate situation was the necessity for the Office to curtail funding for preschool placements and transportation. Among the major causes of blindness in this group of preschool children were optic atrophy, retrolental fibroplasia, glaucoma, cortical blindness, retinal affections. To be noted is the steady increase in the number of retrolental fibroplasia each year.

Multi-Handicapped Services.

There was a slight increase in the number of children attending residential schools for the blind. The large deficit in funding Education Services was largely attributable to the rapid rising cost of sending children to residential schools. A large percentage of education money was spent on the relatively small number of children attending residential school programs. (\$918,649 as compared to a total Education Budget of \$1,000,000.)

A contingency plan had to be developed for the withdrawal of certain clients attending out-of-State institutions. In January, a cooperative agreement was finalized with the State Department of Education which would require local education associations to pick up partial financial responsibility for clients for the 1981-82 school year. In addition, the Deaf-Blind Program at the Katzenbach School for the Deaf was expanded to provide services to the lower functioning population.

Many children are unable to attend regular school programs because of severely multi-handicapping conditions. However, the nature of their handicapping conditions does not indicate placement in schools for the blind. Although the majority of multi-handicapped students are in local school programs, 159 were placed in special programs e. g. Elwyn Institute, Mercer County Special Services, Camden Development Center, Koehler Center, Essex County Hospital.

Service to children in State institutions declined. The Division of Mental Retardation reduced the population in these institutions. In addition, a staff Instructor serving these children transferred to another section of the department and, due to budget constraints this vacancy was not filled. Concern has been expressed by instructional staff regarding their inability to provide meaningful services to children in these facilities.

Deaf-Blind Programs.

Of the 1,768 children registered, approximately 300 are deaf-blind - 150 living at home and receiving services through their local school districts. The other 150 are institutionalized in various facilities including Woodbridge and Totowa State Schools.

The Commission continues to operate two (2) pre-school programs - one in Toms River and one at Millburn School for the Deaf.

Summer Programs.

22 multi-handicapped students attended a special evaluative and training program during the summer of 1980 at Perkins School for the Blind geared primarily to independent living and vocational skills.

In conjunction with the Office of Rehabilitation Services, summer programs in specialized areas were conducted for 30 college-bound students at Drew University preparatory to college entrance. Students lived on campus; were counseled by Instructors and given training in special areas of need such as Freshman composition, mathematics, preparation of term papers, selection of courses, mobility, activities of daily living, etc. An evaluation and training program for noncollege bound students, was conducted at the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center as a method for preparing these high school students for suitable employment.

230 children participated in summer camp activities at Camp Marcella. The first week was geared again to programs for the most severely multi-handicapped blind children who require one-to-one supervision and who would otherwise have been unable to attend. This year's camping season at Camp Marcella had an increase in numbers of severely multi-handicapped children. As a result, two (2) cabins of severely multi-handicapped children were added to the regular camp program during the first two (2) weeks of regular camp activity. In addition to the regular camping program, there has been a marked increase in overnight camping away from the regular camp site.

Textbook and Material Center.

4,420 braille volumes, 92 reels of recorded material were distributed to students attending schools throughout the State. The number of tape requests continues to decline. Most of these requests are being honored by Recordings for the Blind, Inc., a national

nonprofit agency. This serves two (2) purposes. One, duplicate volunteer transcription is avoided. Two, New Jersey students are able to avail themselves of the full services of Recordings for the Blind, Inc. which includes over 50,000 titles from their master tape library.

Over 650 students were given more than 2,500 educational aids. Major items supplied include Sensory Stimulation Kits to both major institutions and day care centers serving blind and retarded children. Also, the Program to Develop Efficiency in Visual Functioning was supplied to each of the Commission's District Offices and accompanying workshops in its use were given.

OFFICE OF EYE HEALTH SERVICES

Despite the funding shortages of the past fiscal year, as well as the unsettled and uncertain status of the Office of Eye Health Services and its staff during agency reorganization, all services, except one, continued to function with only moderate reductions in some programs. The Community Eye Health Service Program which had, during the previous year, examined 1,648 handicapped and high risk individuals, was the only service terminated in Fiscal 1981. The unit also sustained its record of excellent service despite continuing and long-standing supervisory shortages.

Its function is to prevent blindness, help conserve the vision of New Jersey citizens and restore sight through program demonstrations, as well as through direct assistance to persons requesting surgery and treatment. In addition, this unit is charged with major responsibility for the agency's public education program. Program services include:

1. Case Service - the number of persons served totaled 1,529. Sight was restored or improved for 241 persons.

2. Preschool Vision Detection Program for Amblyopia - In its 16th year, 378 detection programs were conducted. 25,500 children were screened. 2,020 required follow-up for complete eye examinations or treatment.
3. Glaucoma Control Program - the 26th State-wide detection program was conducted under the sponsorship of the New Jersey Medical Society at 90 hospitals. Over 10,521 adults were examined at no cost to them. 471 Glaucoma suspects were identified and referred to the Commission for follow-up.
4. The Traveling Eye Unit provided 207 days of service and 6,080 examinations. Among the "high risk" population groups reached were: 18 senior citizen centers, 17 health service agencies, 14 boarding and nursing homes and hospital facilities, 23 agencies for the handicapped or the retarded, 2 narcotic rehabilitation programs, 11 social service and residential centers, 2 special schools for children, 1 residential program for children and 23 senior housing projects. Highlights of this year's activities include service to 767 residents of the State residential school for the retarded at Woodbridge. Other significant programs for the year included the Home for Disabled Soldiers and needy transients of Salvation Army Centers.

Low Vision Program.

There has been marked expansion in the Low Vision Program services during the past year and a 67 per cent increase over Fiscal 1980 in the number of individuals referred for low vision evaluation. Preliminary data indicates that 80 per cent of clients contacted three (3), and again six (6) months, after completion of low vision services

were still successfully benefiting from the use of their special aids. It was not possible to determine whether or not the other 20 per cent benefited from these aids for various reasons including unable to locate, moved out of State, senility or deterioration of vision.

Diabetic Services Unit.

In the Diabetic Services Unit primary attention this year has been placed on developing and coordinating, in conjunction with the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, screening programs throughout New Jersey to detect diabetic retinopathy among juvenile diabetics. These screening programs have proven worthwhile, since there has been detection of previously undiagnosed signs of diabetic retinopathy in approximately 15 per cent of those examined. This involved a great deal of organizational effort with professional societies, medical specialists, hospitals, and agencies. Progress has been made with programs established or in their initial stages in various areas of the State. In addition, this Unit has been an active participant in the New Jersey State Diabetic Coordinating Council which is part of a nation-wide, Federally supported undertaking to assess incidence, research, and resources available in the field of diabetes and to plan responses accordingly throughout the United States.

Migrant Program.

Children and adults were provided with appropriate follow-up in those cases where pathological conditions were identified. The number of persons screened totaled 1,152. Of this number, 486 positive conditions were identified, 253 received prescription lenses or medication and 35 were referred for further ophthalmological care. There has been a decrease in the number examined for several reasons including the decline in the migrant population and difficulty in securing ophthalmologists. (This situation was alleviated later in the year with the increase in payments to doctors.) Some reductions were also

the result of improvements in record keeping, criteria for examinations, and liaison with local representatives of the Department of Education's Migrant Health Program.

Public Education.

Some 16 exhibits, 15 lectures and 1 radio broadcast reached many thousands of persons this year as part of the department's public relations/education program. In addition, over 21,000 pieces of agency and eye health literature distributed and films on eye care were shown to 10,121 persons.

OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICES

In April 1981 the Commission launched the Office of Social Services. At this time 15 Rehabilitation Teachers, 15 Aides, and a Supervisor were transferred from the former Home Service Department to the newly organized Office of Rehabilitation Services; this in order to improve team service to clients. The Office of Social Services will undertake agency-wide Intake responsibilities as well as expanded case work services.

Statistics indicate that Home Service-Social Services provided service to 5,620 persons as compared with 5,796 persons served in Fiscal 1980. This is gratifying inasmuch as it was anticipated that the transfer of the instruction service would impact more seriously on the total amount of service delivered by Home Service-Social Service.

Ongoing difficulties in maintaining the Title XX level of service have been compounded by registration and fiscal procedure changes. To determine Title XX eligibility an interviewer screened each client with whom an Intake interview was conducted. The survey revealed 67% of the 280 newly registered clients were Title XX eligible.

Independent Living.

Several problems have limited the Commission's ability to carry out its Independent Living Program - a program responding to Title VII (Independent Living Rehabilitation) of P. L. 95-602. At present the Commission is involved in the administration of an Independent Living Grant being carried out by two (2) agencies - Handicapped Independence Program in Bergen County and Disabled Information, Awareness and Living in Passaic County. These programs, in addition to providing information and referral services, offer opportunities for groups of clients to be advantaged by extensions of Commission services in Rehabilitation Teaching and Orientation and Mobility.

Limitations in staff availability, but, more importantly the lack of funding by Congress for Title VII programs has greatly hampered development of this program. It should, however, be noted that this agency has always offered services designed to enable clients to live independently, services which are only now envisioned, under Title VII, for persons suffering from other types of severe disability.

Social Services.

The Office of Social Services provided service to 49 clients in State institutions. 20 of these were interviewed by Social Workers for Intake interview and/or assistance with adjustment problems or in securing agency or community services.

In-service training programs were presented by teams of Social Workers and Rehabilitation Teachers in 54 nursing homes and long-term care facilities. The objectives of this program include early detection of visual problems; development of constructive attitude toward blindness and visual impairment; dissemination of information regarding eye care; guidance for facility personnel working with visually-impaired residents to enable them to gain or maintain independence in their daily activities.

Talking Book Service.

In connection with its responsibilities as the machine lending agency for the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Commission, through the Office of Social Services, assigned 12,147 Talking Book Machines and cassettes to blind residents in the State who thus are able to listen to recorded books. The total number now in use State-wide is 15,847.

OFFICE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

In the Office of Rehabilitation Services a total of 1,027 clients was served; 188 persons were placed in competitive employment; 111 were rehabilitated as homemakers for a total of 299.

The economic situation has not improved in the past year. Rampant inflation with costs, of even basic necessities, spiralling ever upward continues to plague the program. With the target population becoming more severely disabled and, in many instances, less capable, the task facing staff becomes more complex and difficult as each year passes. - Even utilizing modern technologies, placements are much more difficult to effectuate, take much longer, timewise, because of the need for more extensive or detailed training, concentrated guidance and extended counseling.

Among the entire population there appears to be a desire for greater leisure-time, thus more part-time placements are sought by clients. Persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplementary Security Income (SSI) are less willing to return to the job market. In many of the clients served by the Office of Rehabilitation Services the existence of a visual problem has little to do with their unemployed status.

Social Security Unit.

Social Security Unit.

The Social Security Beneficiary Program (SSI-SSDI) received 1,105 referrals. Of the number reviewed, 868 were found eligible for services. The total number of active cases was 961 with 647 closures. The total number rehabilitated in Social Security Disability Insurance category (SSDI) was 91 and in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) was 27. Technical assistance was requested by this Unit of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. As a result of their studies, record-keeping practices were changed.

Multi-Handicapped Unit.

Multi-Handicapped Unit.

Of all the programs in the Office of Rehabilitation Services, the staff of the Multi-Handicapped Unit provides service to the most severely disabled blind persons. Because of the majority of cases served by this Unit, blindness is not necessarily the most disabling factor, this staff must possess knowledge of all disabilities to a greater extent than the other Counselors in the department. They must also possess skills and patience in working with these persons above and beyond the usual standard if they are to provide appropriate, comprehensive services. 480 individuals received service this year - 56 of whom were placed in appropriate employment.

This year the Hayes Unit at Johnstone Training Center was phased out. The original purpose for its existence was to provide educational and vocational evaluation and training for the visually-impaired and mentally retarded. The phase-out occurred as a result of the breakdown in communications and efforts on behalf of the three (3) entities involved in carrying out the goals prescribed.

Deaf-Blind Services.

Deaf-Blind Services.

On a positive note, the joint venture with the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, programmatically, has provided an excellent program for this Unit's deaf-

blind clients. The deaf-blind specialists remain in contact with the clients and staff of the school and in the coming year, it is hoped to effectuate an even greater liaison function. One specialist is assigned to the provision of services to the deaf-blind clients in attendance. In addition, a project has been undertaken in the past year to create a register of deaf-blind people in New Jersey. It is anticipated that this will be completed in the coming fiscal year. During the past year the functioning of the total deaf-blind program has been reviewed and will be modified in order to provide cohesiveness, accountability, a wider range of services and better integration with facilities dealing with the disabled. Five (5) deaf-blind clients attended a specialized program at the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center.

Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center.

The Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center in Newark, which is a day center, served 96 clients during the year for a total of 4,707 man days. 82 per cent of these clients were in special programs requiring more intensive professional time because of added handicapping conditions which included diabetes, hearing loss, orthopedic handicaps, deafness, multiple sclerosis, etc. 20 per cent were totally blind.

Orientation and Mobility.

To prepare blind people for independence and to cope with the mobility demands in employment situations, specialized Orientation and Mobility training was extended to 1,011 clients. This Unit continues to offer a most crucial service to both blind and partially-sighted persons. Services are extended to deaf-blind students at the Katzenbach School for the Deaf as well as providing limited instruction and evaluation to several State institutions and other special programs throughout the State. This year approximately 54 per cent of the referrals involved individuals with some degree of travel vision.

Career Development Unit.

The Career Development Unit served 69 persons. Nine (9) major employers requested and received assistance in retraining employees who had developed severe eye conditions. Three (3) Job Seeking Skills Seminars were conducted with 41 persons participating. Eight (8) Career Awareness Sessions were held at the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center with 12 to 18 persons in attendance. This program's goal is to have clients reflect on their vocational futures, to pursue job information surveys and job interviews.

The Resource Center is able to provide agency staff with all intra-agency communications in braille or print. A single-type operation on the keyboard of the Maryland Computer makes it possible to print out in print, translate to Grade 2 Braille and produce multiple copies in Grade 2 Braille in a very brief period of time. It has been possible to provide Braille material within a day or two to clients who are relocating into new employment and require items such as telephone lists promptly.

Although the Resource Center is located in a limited amount of space it has conducted many demonstrations of available equipment to employing groups. Of particular interest, is the fact that New Jersey Bell Telephone Company had solicited demonstrations of hi-tech equipment for key personnel. This proved so effective that a similar request was made for a similar demonstration for the entire personnel unit of New Jersey Bell. This is an example of the importance of the Resource Center in communicating to potential employers the adaptive equipment which is available to blind and visually-impaired persons seeking positions in specialized areas.

The Versa-Braille, a computerized word processing system, is another important piece of equipment on hand at the Commission which electronically stores

Braille on cassette tape, thus saving the great amount of space required by hard copy Braille.

The Commission wishes to express its gratitude to the Trustees of the Albert B. Millett Trust of Philadelphia for their generosity in financing the purchase of the above equipment.

Among other equipment identified with the agency's Resource Center is a Kurzweil Reading Machine received by the agency on a grant from the U. S. Department of Education. This machine "photographs" typed printed materials and converts them into synthesized speech. At present the machine is being evaluated for applications to use by blind and visually-impaired staff members of the agency as well as clients.

Vending Stand Program.

57 vending stands were in operation at year end. This program provides one of the most lucrative sources of employment for blind persons in New Jersey. Average net annual earnings for operators were comparable to last year, \$17,000. A program of "Fringe Benefits," funded from the Commission's Vending Stand Administration Fund, for Stand Operators was inaugurated which provides Product and Personal Liability Insurance at no cost to the Vending Facility Operator. Also a payment of \$134.00 to each Operator is now made as a "vacation" benefit.

Home Industries.

Total sales through the Home Industries and Craft Program amounted to \$335,771 - a \$19,647 decrease over 1980. 53 consignors benefited from this program and received earnings of \$95,222. In the department's marketing programs of selected articles to be sold through commercial sales outlets, sales to chains increased in 1981 by 9.6 per cent for a total of \$144,108. This has been a year of transition in this

program. Home Industries is organized into three (3) programs - Pants program (Business Enterprise), homemakers (crafts and sewers), and caners. In the new fiscal year emphasis will be placed on strengthening these programs in the development of a small Business Enterprise Program parallel to the Randolph-Shepperd Vending Facility program. Inventories of supplies and products on hand have been reduced and a Product Review Panel has been developed composed of members from the private business sector as well as agency rehabilitation staff. All products have been repriced to reflect a more realistic cost factor and now carry prices that cover the cost of handling, storage and shipping. Material costs and inflation have also been considered in the current prices.

Contract Shops.

It was with regret that, at the close of the Fiscal Year, the Commission was compelled to terminate its Contract Shop program. This affected the three (3) Shops and the termination of employment of approximately 45 blind and visually-impaired employees and a number of management staff. Without substantial subsidization, the Commission found it economically impossible to continue this program which was originally intended to be a rehabilitation-oriented program of evaluation and training but which more recently became a "terminal" employment situation for many workers. Difficulty in securing lucrative contracts, increasing numbers of severely disabled clients, obvious inflationary factors, are but a few of the elements which contributed to the difficulty in the program. Every effort was made to accommodate displaced clients, either through newly initiated vocational rehabilitation services or, where indicated, through special services which would assist clients in addressing their problems and needs through other community resources. During the last year of their operation the

Contract Shops generated Gross Sales of \$429,005; the Number of Blind Workers Employed were 61; and Total Wages to Blind Workers was \$177,106. Operational costs for the program were \$953,000.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

In cooperation with the Department's Office of State Legislative Liaison, the Program Evaluation Unit continued its lobbying effort in support of the proposed State Use Law S-1673. In addition, with personnel of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation assisted in the revision and updating of standards for rehabilitation facilities in New Jersey.

In Program Evaluation continued with follow-up surveys to clients closed as rehabilitated in order to obtain information on clients satisfaction with services and retention of Vocational Rehabilitation benefits.

In the area of forms design, four (4) new forms were completed for agency-wide use including the Applicant Survey Form (Intake), the new Financial Survey Form, Application for Services as required by Federal regulations, and a new Release Form which was reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's Office.

CONSUMER SERVICES

An office of Consumer Services was instituted this year. Among other responsibilities, the Coordinator of Consumer Services will monitor the agency's response to consumers under the law; will act as advocate, where appropriate for consumers in relation to agency staff; will establish a regular communications network among consumers; will develop increased consumer input through program advisory commit-

tees; and will monitor the Commission's accommodation of its own disabled employees, most of whom quite naturally are blind or visually impaired.

This year there was passage of legislation providing "non-drivers licenses" identification cards for the use of blind and other physically-handicapped persons who are not qualified to secure regular drivers licenses. This is a program which the Commission and its consumers have been striving to achieve for a number of years. The drivers license has become a universal form of identification and enables these handicapped persons to complete a simple transaction such as cashing checks and provides them with the same ease of identification available to nonhandicapped persons.

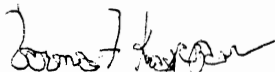
VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The principal role of the Supervisor of Volunteers is to coordinate the activities of volunteers associated with the agency, arrange for recruitment, training, evaluation, and awards programs. The Ninth (9th) Annual State-wide Awards Day and Luncheons were held to give recognition to volunteers in the various sectors of the State. Three (3) - separate luncheons were held throughout the State. 230 organizations and 2,663 volunteers provided 28,815 hours of service to the agency. In the Office of Education Services 441 volunteers provided 22,112 hours of service in brailleing, thermoforming; taping, proofreading, binding of textbooks, duplication of books and the making of educational aids. 1,476 volunteers assisted the Office of Eye Health Services in the preschool screening program and with the Mobile Eye Unit at screenings. Other volunteers assisted in sales conducted by the Home Industries Department. It has been estimated that the monetary value of the services of these volunteers approximates \$159,528 for 28,815

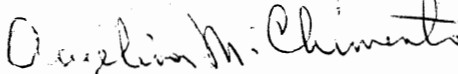
hours of service. The Supervisor of Volunteers is also responsible for educating the public on the various service programs of the Commission including the preparation of agency exhibits for presentation at special meetings and conferences. All methods are employed to make the public aware of the variety of programs available within the agency.

The year as a whole was a fruitful one in spite of the many changes in programs, fiscal constraints and the challenge to staff in adjusting to change. Attitudes modify as time progresses and the results of constructive change become evident. Had it not been for the continued commitment, competence and dedication of staff the task of fulfilling the obligations of the Commission in its service programs to its consumers would indeed have been hampered. The Director, Board and staff of the Commission are grateful to its consumers of services as well as its State and Federal associates for their cooperation, patience and diligence during these times of growth and change in the many areas of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Mrs. Norma F. Krajczar
Executive Director



By: Angelina M. Chimento
Administrative Assistant

AC

December 20, 1981

NJ COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED
SUMMARY OF STATE & FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1981

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>STATE APPROP.</u>	<u>STATE EXPENDED</u>	<u>FEDERAL GRANTS</u>	<u>FEDERAL EXPENDED</u>	<u>STATE & FEDERAL APPROP.</u>	<u>TOTAL STATE & FEDERAL EXPENDED</u>
<u>HABILITATION/REHABILITATION</u>						
Salary	1,237,795.00	1,226,963.10	1,699,821.00	1,627,616.47	2,937,616.00	2,854,579.57
Non-Salary	255,441.40	244,918.28	41,000.00	40,700.33	296,441.40	285,618.61
Service to Clients	500,000.00	406,689.44	1,423,000.00	891,250.53	1,923,000.00	1,297,939.97
TOTAL	1,993,236.40	1,878,570.82	3,163,821.00	2,559,567.33	5,157,057.40	4,438,138.15
<u>INSTRUCTION & COMMUNITY</u>						
Salary	766,550.00	764,827.16	304,695.00	292,896.66	1,071,245.00	1,057,723.82
Non-Salary	158,399.25	150,726.88	-0-	-0-	158,399.25	150,726.88
Service to Clients	1,075,622.00	998,777.53	-0-	-0-	1,075,622.00	998,777.53
TOTAL	2,000,571.25	1,914,331.57	304,695.00	292,896.66	2,305,266.25	2,207,228.23
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Salary	163,319.00	162,788.51	533,000.00	531,786.07	696,319.00	694,574.58
Non-Salary	132,480.00	127,379.16	675,304.90	550,278.36	807,784.90	677,657.52
TOTAL	295,799.00	290,167.67	1,208,304.90	1,082,064.43	1,504,103.90	1,372,232.10
GRAND TOTAL	4,289,606.65	4,083,070.06	4,676,820.90	3,934,528.42	8,966,427.55	8,017,598.48

Data based on Treasury Report "Account Status" as of 11/30/81. The Fiscal Year is not completely closed in that some obligations are still in process.