

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10-02

WHEREAS, all Kansans who experience blindness or low vision deserve the opportunity to enjoy full employment and independence; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the success of our blind or visually impaired citizens impacts all Kansans, resulting in stronger communities, a viable and diverse workforce and a civically engaged population; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that 34% of Kansans surveyed for the November 2009 Kansas Health Statistics Report reported some degree of visual impairment; and

WHEREAS, Kansans who experience blindness or low vision require specialized support services to be fully employed and live independently; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (“SRS”) desires to develop, implement and maintain community based programs and services to serve the employment and independent living needs of Kansans who experience blindness or low vision.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby establish the Kansas Advisory Committee for the Blind and Visually Impaired (“Committee”) with the following purposes and charges:

1. The Committee will provide advice and counsel to the Secretary of SRS on issues that improve opportunities for employment and independent living of Kansans who are blind or visually impaired.
2. The Committee will serve as an advisory body for SRS and, as such, will advise the Secretary and the staff of SRS in matters affecting policies, programs, priorities and a long-term, strategic direction for the state’s services to Kansans who are blind or visually impaired.
3. The Committee shall act in an advisory capacity and shall do the following:
 - a. Advise the Secretary of SRS on development and implementation of programs, services and initiatives affecting the employment and independent living of Kansans who are blind or visually impaired.
 - b. Review and advise the Secretary of SRS on strategic plans affecting employment and independent living of Kansans who are blind or visually impaired.

- c. Review the status of services provided to Kansans who are blind or visually impaired and make recommendations for needed improvements.
 - d. Provide other information or advice as requested by the Secretary of SRS.
4. On an annual basis, the Committee will submit to the Governor and the Secretary of SRS, a report that overviews the prior year's accomplishments and Committee activities, and outlines recommendations made, actions taken by SRS and priorities for the upcoming year.
5. The Committee shall be composed of:
 - a. A representative of the Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
 - b. A representative of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas.
 - c. A representative of the Kansas State Department of Education with substantial knowledge/expertise in teaching students who are blind or visually impaired.
 - d. A representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas.
 - e. A representative of the Statewide Rehabilitation Council.
 - f. Three representatives of not-for-profit organizations serving the employment or independent living needs of Kansans who are blind or visually impaired.
 - g. A representative of the Low Vision sub-committee of the Kansas Optometric Association or an optometrist or ophthalmologist practicing in Kansas with a Low Vision Specialty.
 - h. A parent of a transition aged youth who is blind or visually impaired.
 - i. A transition aged youth who is blind or visually impaired.
 - j. Three at-large members who are consumers of programs or services designed for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
 - k. The Director of Kansas Rehabilitation Services or his/her designee shall serve in an ex-officio capacity.
 - l. The Secretary of the Kansas Department on Aging or his/her designee shall serve in an ex-officio capacity.
 - m. Any other members as determined necessary by the Governor to achieve the purposes of the Committee as set forth in this Order.
6. The Committee membership shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at his/her pleasure.
7. The Committee shall annually elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson.
8. The Committee shall be staffed by a division housed within SRS.
9. The Committee will meet quarterly on the call of the Chair.

10. Members shall serve without compensation with the exception that expenses incurred in the furtherance of the organization's mission are allowed to be reimbursed with documentation and prior approval. Approved expenses include mileage reimbursement for travel to Committee meetings.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order 10-02, and shall become effective immediately.

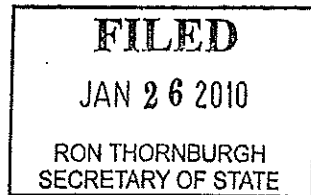
THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

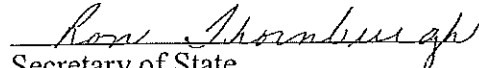
BY THE GOVERNOR

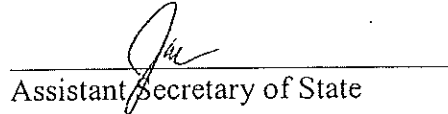


DATED

1-26-2010




Secretary of State


Assistant Secretary of State