



"More Than Meets The Eye"

April 7, 2010

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Kristy Nichols, Secretary
Department of Social Services
State of Louisiana
P. O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Nichols:

Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center provides rehabilitation, vocational training, and other exclusive services for the underserved blind and deaf-blind population of our state. We take pride in our specialized expertise for providing services to these individuals in order for them to gain independence and be integrated into society. Job-ready consumers are able to gain employment after receiving our vocational training, which greatly improves their quality of life.

Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center currently has two effective contracts and provides training and services on a fee for service basis for the vocational rehabilitation program with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. These contracts aid us in providing said services:

1. Older Blind grant for persons 55 and older who are blind which is funded by Title VII, Chapter 2
2. Support Service Provider(SSP) grant from Louisiana Commission for the Deaf for deaf-blind individuals

As per your request, I am writing this letter in support of the transfer of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services' vocational programs from the Department of Social Services to Louisiana Workforce Commission. Since both programs have similar goals placing individuals into jobs, I feel this would be an asset to persons with disabilities entering the workforce. I am particularly optimistic about the possibilities of increasing our ability to place these individuals with the backing of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

As far as the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf moving under the Department of Health and Hospitals, this may be helpful in securing additional funding for such services as Support Service Provider (SSP), under Medicare and/or Medicaid.

Affiliated Blind of Louisiana, Inc.
T r a i n i n g C e n t e r

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Again, I am optimistic about the possibilities to better service blind and deaf-blind individuals under these two departments. Please contact me at the number on this letterhead if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Blanchard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Lynn Blanchard
Executive Director