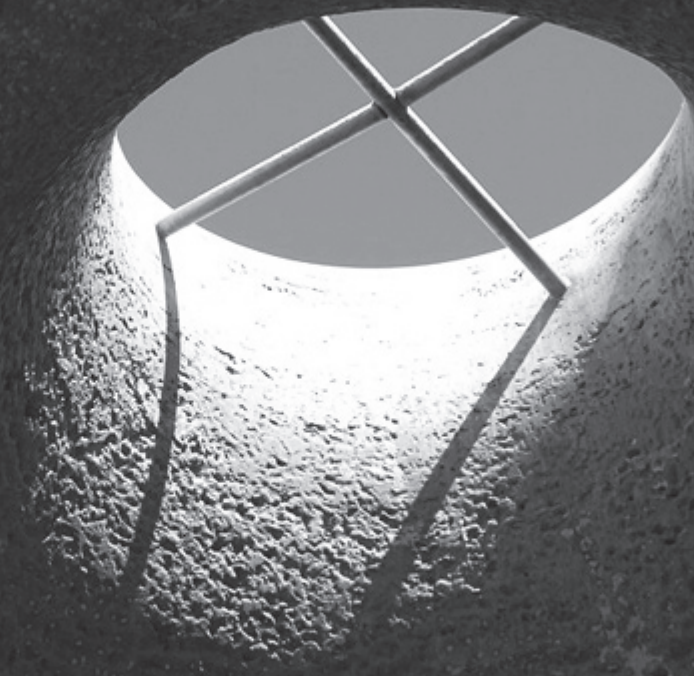


*acknowledging
Manifestation for any Murder
the out our Council: — Testifying in our
of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing them
the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, and
has our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate
He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt
desolation and tyranny, already begun with
Citizens taken Captive on*

2012 Annual Report



Fiscal Year July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

New Mexico Commission For The Blind
and
New Mexico Commission For The Blind
State Rehabilitation Council



NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

2200 Yale Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
(505) 841-8844
FAX (505) 841-8850

December 15, 2012

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Governor of the State of New Mexico
State Capitol Building, Fourth Floor
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Governor Martinez,

In accordance with Section 28 7 15 through Section 28 7 23 NMSA 1978, the Commission for the Blind submits its Annual Report for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. Our accomplishments include:

- The Commission is first in the nation for clients who exit our program relying on their earnings as their primary source of income,
- The Commission is third for the percentage of clients with competitive employment outcomes,
- The Commission is tenth for client starting wage compared to average state wage.

The Commission is committed to the goal of helping blind persons become self-supporting and participating members of society. The following report details the ways in which we accomplished this goal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg D. Trapp".

Greg D. Trapp, J.D.
Executive Director



NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

2200 Yale Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
(505) 841-8844
FAX (505) 841-8850

December 15, 2012

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Governor of the State of New Mexico
State Capitol Building, Fourth Floor
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Governor Martinez,

Pursuant to Section 105(c)(5) of the Rehabilitation Act, the State Rehabilitation Council of the Commission for the Blind submits its State Rehabilitation Council Annual Report for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. Our accomplishments include:

The Council helped the Commission revise the Strategic Plans for both the agency and Orientation Center;

The Council made policy recommendations that resulted in several revisions to practices and policies, including the Manual of Operating Procedures;

The Council helped the Commission to revise and adopt new goals and priorities as a part of the State Plan and Strategic Plan.

The following Annual Report details the accomplishments of the State Rehabilitation Council and the Commission for the Blind.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernadine Chavez".

Bernadine Chavez
Chair
State Rehabilitation Council

Contents

- Commission 5
- State Rehabilitation Council 6
- Mission Statement 7
- Introduction / Blind New Mexicans Served 8
- State Rehabilitation Council Goals and Priorities 9 - 10
- Vocational Rehabilitation 11 - 12
- Transition Services 13
- Orientation Center 14 - 15
- Students in Transition to Employment Program 16
- Assistive Technology 17
- Holloman Air Force Base Switchboard Operation 18 - 19
- Business Enterprise Program 20 - 21
- Skills Center 22
- Independent Living / Older Blind 23
- Newsline for the Blind 24
- Emergency Eye Care 25
- Expenditures and Revenues 26
- Organizational Chart 27

Commission



Arthur A. Schreiber
Chairperson, Albuquerque



Greg Trapp
Executive Director, Albuquerque

Commissioners

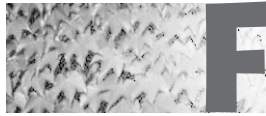


Dallas Allen
Commissioner, Albuquerque



Helen Savoie
Commissioner, Alamogordo

State Rehabilitation Council Commission for the Blind



For the State Fiscal Year July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, and the Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012

New Mexico Commission for the Blind

Director

Greg Trapp, Executive Director Albuquerque

Commissioners

Arthur A. Schreiber, Chairperson . . . Albuquerque

Dallas Allen Albuquerque

Helen Savoie Alamogordo

Council Members

Bernadine Chavez, Chairperson ♦ Albuquerque

Kelly Burma, Secretary ♦ Albuquerque

Greg Trapp, Executive Director ♦ Albuquerque

Lucy Birbiglia ♦ Albuquerque

Dallas Allen ♦ Albuquerque

ShaRon Dandy ♦ Albuquerque

Brianne Kotschwar ♦ Albuquerque

Larry Lorenzo ♦ Albuquerque

Treva Roanhorse ♦ Window Rock, AZ

Arthur Schreiber ♦ Albuquerque

Linda Thayer ♦ Las Vegas

Adelmo Vigil ♦ Alamogordo



Bernadine Chavez
SRC Chairperson

Mission Statement



Our mission is to enable persons who are blind to achieve vocational, economic and social equality by providing career preparation, training in the skills of blindness, and above all, promoting and conveying the belief that blindness is not a barrier to successful employment, or to living an independent and meaningful life.



Introduction

The Commission for the Blind provides vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to persons who are blind, enabling them to become more participating and contributing members of society. Blind people lead normal lives, have families, raise children, participate in community activities, and work in a wide range of jobs. They are secretaries, lawyers, teachers, engineers, machinists, scientists, supervisors and business owners. The real challenge is to educate blind people about their own potential and to educate society about the capabilities of persons who are blind.


The Commission believes blind people are normal, and blindness, in and of itself, should not keep a blind person from leading a productive life. The Commission provides services that

enable blind persons to enhance their abilities and assume roles in the community as working, taxpaying, and contributing citizens.

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is created pursuant to the federal Rehabilitation Act. The SRC works in close partnership with the Commission by helping to formulate vocational rehabilitation policies and priorities. The primary product of this partnership is the State Plan, which is developed jointly between the SRC and the Commission. The SRC and the Commission have collectively developed the following programs and services, and achieved the ensuing accomplishments:

Blind New Mexicans Served	
FISCAL YEAR 2012	
Vocational Rehabilitation Program	386
Assistive Technology Service	1930
Independent Living / Older Blind Program	534
Students in Transition to Employment Program	46
Technology for Children Program	45
Emergency Eye Care Program	36
Business Enterprise Program	33
Adult Orientation Center	19

State Rehabilitation Council Goals and Priorities



A. Increase the number of consumers served through enhanced outreach activities; including media outreach, collaboration with eye doctors, and the use of the Technology for Children program to conduct outreach to school districts.

B. Enhance the number and quality of employment outcomes of transition consumers by providing assistive technology where appropriate as a part of an individualized plan for employment, by providing assistive technology through the Technology for Children program, and by conducting educational activities to increase awareness and use of Braille, including Braille math.

C. Enhance the number and quality of employment outcomes achieved by consumers by providing services in a way that genuinely honors the “informed

choice” provisions of the Rehabilitation Act, enabling Commission consumers to have the opportunity to obtain employment at higher levels of compensation.

D. Enhance the number and quality of employment outcomes achieved by consumers by providing a quality Newsline system that gives consumers access to employment listings, news, and other important information.

E. Enhance the number and quality of employment outcomes by using the Skills Center to meet the needs of vocational rehabilitation consumers, as well as potential vocational rehabilitation consumers, in a way that is creative and innovative.

F. Enhance the number and quality of employment outcomes by utilizing the Adult Orientation Center to provide employment

State Rehabilitation Center Goals and Priorities

preparation training for both adults and transition students.

G. Enhance the number and quality of employment outcomes through the provision of independent living services to vocational rehabilitation consumers.

H. Enhance the number and quality of employment outcomes for consumers who are deaf-blind through collaboration and partnership with the Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, including through the delivery of assistive technology to consumers who are deaf-blind.

I. Enhance overall performance and productivity by improving

administrative services and increasing the accuracy and timeliness of the submission of Federal reports.

J. Enhance overall performance and productivity by engaging in activity designed to mitigate and ameliorate the impacts of blindness and visual impairment, and by engaging in outreach and other activities designed to identify additional potential consumers, and by making the public and medical establishment more aware of Commission services.

K. Enhance the number and quality of employment outcomes for consumers by providing enhanced benefits counseling and guidance, with the purpose being to reduce fears related to the loss or reduction of benefits.



Tara Tucker is the owner of Lancaster York Gentlemen's Apparel at 121-A East Palace Avenue in downtown Santa Fe.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program



The Vocational Rehabilitation Program serves persons who are legally blind and certain qualifying individuals with significant visual impairments. The program helps persons to become employed in ways that are appropriate to each individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice. Three-hundred eighty-six persons received vocational rehabilitation services during the course of the year.

Services Administration, Standards and Indicators data, New Mexico ranked at or near the top in the three primary indicators used to measure the performance of vocational rehabilitation programs.

Primary Indicator 1.3: The Commission ranked third for the percentage of consumers with employment outcomes who were competitively employed. According to the ranking, 97.8% of our consumers earned at least minimum wage.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation



Alexandria O'Donoghue is a Human Resources Assistant with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Primary Indicator 1.4: The Commission ranks first for the percent of Individuals with significant disabilities who had competitive employment outcomes, with 100% of individuals having significant disabilities. The Commission shares this distinction with eleven other states.

Primary Indicator 1.5: The Commission ranks tenth for the average starting wage of consumers compared to the average state wage. Our consumers'

starting wage of \$14.16 was 74.4% of the average New Mexico wage of \$19.04.

Indicator 1.6: The Commission ranks first for the comparison of consumers who on exiting the program rely on their earnings as their primary source of income compared to those who relied on their earnings as their primary source of income when entering the program. The percentile difference in New Mexico was 63.1%. Though not a primary indicator, 1.6 measures the difference that Commission services make, and reflects the quality of employment outcomes achieved by Commission consumers. For comparison, Nebraska was at 38.20, Oregon was at 28.33, and Iowa was at 17.36.



Matthew McCurdy is a locksmith and performs a variety of other duties (including linen wrapping, seen here) at the Kirtland Inn, the on-base hotel at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Transition Services

The Commission provided a critical array of transition services to blind children and young adults during the year. The goal was to enhance the quantity and quality of their future employment outcomes. Recognizing the importance of providing transition services as early as possible, the Commission's vocational rehabilitation counselors routinely attended Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, including for students as young as 14. This practice helps provide valuable perspectives, resources, and information to the IEP Team.

The Commission began the process of securing agreements on transition services with local school districts, which are designed to result in enhanced transition services. The Commission also has memoranda of understanding with the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Public Education Department, and the Department of Health, all of which are designed to enhance transition services.

Served by the Technology for Children Program, Jazmin Castillo enjoys reading from her BrailleNote.

Technology For Children

The Commission's Technology For Children program served 45 children during the year. The program provides assistive technology to children who are blind or visually impaired, who are under 18, and who cannot obtain the assistive technology from other sources. The Technology For Children program is designed to help children to achieve the ultimate goal of becoming successfully employed. It also enables the Commission to build relationships with local school districts, to identify transition students, and to provide information about the Commission's vocational rehabilitation services. The program receives funding from the New Mexico Department of Health.



Orientation Center



The Orientation Center provided 28 persons with intensive training in the skills of blindness during the year. The Center is a residential program designed to equip blind persons with the skills needed to become employed. The Center has full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and full certification from the National Blindness Professionals Certification Board (NBPCB). The Center is located in Alamogordo and serves persons throughout the state.

in cane travel, Braille, assistive technology, home management, personal management, and industrial arts. Most of these students are newly blinded, and require intensive training to participate in the Commission’s vocational rehabilitation program. The Orientation Center enhanced its exercise program during the year, and now has a gym facility that is equipped with professional quality exercise machines. The gym helps Center students to improve their health and increase their stamina, enabling them to better participate in the Center’s training.

Students at the Orientation Center receive intensive training

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r
s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	

Orientation Center

The Center training is built around the use of sleep shades to eliminate the desire to rely on inadequate or failing vision. By learning effective non-visual techniques, students gain self-confidence and learn how to function as successful blind persons. Once a student has learned the alternate techniques of blindness, he or she is able to decide when and how to use remaining vision.

New Center Director

The Commission hired Lucy Alexander as the Orientation Center Director. Ms. Alexander brought to the Center a strong background in vocational rehabilitation counseling and independent living instruction. She began work in January of 2012.



Lucy Alexander, Deputy Director for the Adult Orientation Center in Alamogordo.

Students in Transition to Employment Program



The Students in Transition to Employment Program (STEP) provides blind students with a carefully monitored and quality employment training experience. Blind students traditionally have not had an opportunity to engage in such work training, depriving them of the important benefits of student employment. STEP served 54 blind students ranging in age from 14 to 21.

Acquiring necessary skills and a positive attitude about blind-

ness are essential for a blind person to achieve the goal of becoming successfully employed. Therefore, the STEP participants engaged in activities designed to reinforce the blindness skills they have learned and to build greater self-confidence. The activities included hiking, swimming, dining out, activities at amusement parks, and excursions to shopping malls. The students also participated in seminars and presentations from successful blind adult role models.



Assistive Technology



The use of assistive technology is a crucial factor in the successful employment of persons who are blind. However, according to a 2000 study, only 24% of persons who are disabled own computers, compared to a national average of over 50%. According to a 2003 study, fewer than 30% of persons with disabilities access the Internet, compared to more than 60% for persons who do not have disabilities. This gap is called the “digital divide,” and is wider for persons with disabilities. The Commission’s assistive technology program is helping to bridge this gap. A blind person must

learn the application, as well as the assistive technology that allows access to the application.

The Commission’s technology specialists provided consumers with assistive technology such as screen readers, Braille displays, screen magnification programs, video magnifiers, and Braille note takers. The assistive technology program conducted 181 evaluations; delivered 185 computers, scanners, printers, and video magnifiers; performed 143 hardware or software upgrades; and provided 118 software or hardware repairs. Tutoring was provided to 1,127 persons.



Holloman Air Force Base Switchboard Operation

RESOLUTION

NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL



Whereas, the New Mexico Commission for the Blind administered the switchboard at Holloman Air Force Base for a period of nearly sixteen years, a period that spanned three decades; and

Whereas, the men and women who worked as switchboard operators at Holloman Air Force Base consistently provided service of the very highest quality to the military personnel at Holloman Air Force Base; and

Whereas, the switchboard operators' thorough knowledge of Holloman Air Force Base and its multitude of operations and programs helped the operators to quickly and efficiently place

military and civilian personnel in contact; and

Whereas, the switchboard operators worked 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, uniting from across the world military personnel and their families; and

Whereas, after such a long and dedicated period of service, the United States Air Force has chosen to consolidate switchboard operations, making the last day of the Holloman switchboard being September 14, 2012; and

Whereas, the Holloman switchboard operation provided a valuable contribution to the national defense, including during both times of peace and times of war: now



Therefore, be it hereby resolved by the Commission for the Blind State Rehabilitation Council, meeting in the City of Alamogordo on this 21st day of September, 2012, that the Council recognizes the outstanding dedication and professionalism of the men and women who have worked as

switchboard operators at the Holloman Air Force Base, and that the Council expresses its profound gratitude and appreciation for the valuable work that they have performed in service of their nation.

Bernadine Chavez, Chairperson

Greg Trapp, Executive Director

Kelly Burma, Secretary

Art Schreiber, Executive Committee Member

Christine Hall, Executive Committee Member

Adelmo Vigil, Member

Brianne Kotschwar, Member

Dallas Allen, Member

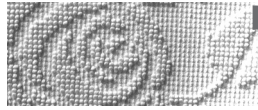
Larry Lorenzo, Member

Linda Thayer, Member

Sharon Dandy Member

Treva Roanhorse, Member

Business Enterprise Program



The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides employment opportunities for blind individuals who wish to operate food service facilities. The BEP is authorized by the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 107 et seq. The BEP has food establishments from small stands, to vending routes, to a full military cafeteria at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. The BEP provides public and government employees with quality food service that is conveniently located within government

buildings. Twenty-five blind persons participated in the BEP program, and vendor earnings were \$4,042,401, contributing \$202,120 in gross receipt taxes to the state.

The Commission Supports National Defense

The Commission operates the Thunderbird Inn and Dining Facility at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. The operator of this facility, Robert Vick, distinguished himself many times by winning the highly prestigious John L. Hennessy award for the “international single-facility category.” Mr. Vick employs approximately 35 persons with disabilities in his facility.



Javier Morales, owner of Morales Vending, services a vending machine along his vending route in downtown Albuquerque. Mr. Morales operates his business as part of the Commission's Business Enterprise Program.

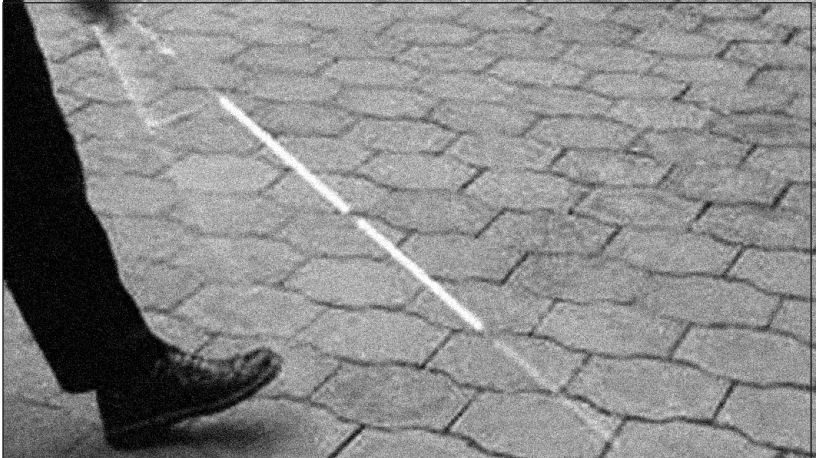
Business Enterprise Program

The BEP also serves the food and dining needs at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Artesia. The FLETC is a residential training center that provides law enforcement training to 91 federal agencies, as well as to local, state, and tribal law enforcement



The Commission gratefully acknowledges the services and contribution of the long-time FLETC manager, Ray Marshall. Mr. Marshall, who passed away on May 13, 2012, was a past member of the State Rehabilitation Council, as well as a past Chairman of the Committee of Blind Vendors.

Ray Marshall



Skills Center



Construction was completed on the Commission's Skills Center in October of 2011, and the Center began serving consumers in November. The Skills Center is a state-of-the-art facility that helps meet the needs of the Commission's vocational rehabilitation and independent living consumers. The Skills Center has classrooms for specific subject areas such as Braille, as well as a large lecture room that is ideal for group meetings.

Located in the Albuquerque office, the Skills Center is in an area of the building that had

once been home to a "sheltered workshop" where blind persons sewed tote bags and made other products that were primarily sold to the federal government. These activities ceased being economically viable with the lifting of federal import restrictions on textile products. By repurposing the space, the Commission is making it possible for generations of blind persons to obtain the training and information that will enable them to become employed and live more independently.



Independent Living / Older Blind

The Independent Living/Older Blind (IL/OB) Program enables blind persons to live independently in their homes and communities. To accomplish this, instructional services are provided directly to blind persons throughout the state, with most persons being served in the home.

The IL/OB program provided intensive training to 533 individuals, and basic services to an additional 331 persons. The majority of persons served were 55 or older.

The IL/OB program includes eight independent living teachers and a deputy director who manages the program. They serve the entire state reaching out to underserved populations in rural areas. They provide training and guidance to

encourage consumers to assume more active and productive lives, including many individuals who are participating in the Commission's vocational rehabilitation program. The instruction includes training in Braille, how to travel using a white cane, how to use public transportation, and personal and home management skills. This latter area can include instruction in meal preparation, diabetes management using non-visual or low-vision techniques, identification of money, the use of Newsline and the State Talking Book Library. The training also includes provision of basic assistive technology devices such as white canes, magnification devices, Braille writing equipment, talking calculators, and Braille or talking watches.



From left to right: Virginia Oberst, Dorothy Schemmer, Doris Taylor, Toni Rael and Bertha Rose, members of the Low Vision Support Group that meets monthly at the Albuquerque office.

Newsline for the Blind



Newsline is a telephone-based system that allows persons who are blind to access a variety of newspapers and publications. The offerings include the Albuquerque Journal, the New Mexico Magazine, Consumer Reports, and the Alamogordo Daily News. The service also includes Que Pasa, the newsletter of the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico, and the State Library Talking Book Newsletter. Newsline readers can also access important information, such as grocery ads, drug store ads, and legal notices. The service is in its 21st year of operation, and has served over 5,000 users.

Using the buttons on a touch-tone telephone, the reader selects a category of the paper,



such as local news, area events, obituaries or grocery ads. The listener can read a story, skip to the next story, raise the volume, or exit the category and choose another category or publication. The reading is done by approximately 75 trained volunteers. The service is available statewide free of charge, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Newsline averaged more than 10,000 calls a month during the year.

The Commission also sponsors NFB-NEWSLINE, an audio information service that provides access to over 350 publications. These include state newspapers such as the Farmington Daily Times, national newspapers such as the USA Today, international newspapers such as The Jerusalem Post, and magazines such as Smithsonian Magazine. NFB-NEWSLINE also provides access to job listings, television schedules, and weather alerts. NFB- NEWSLINE has over 1,100 registered users.

Emergency Eye Care



The Emergency Eye Care Program seeks to prevent blindness and restore vision through medical intervention. The program provides emergency eye surgery to qualifying New Mexico residents who lack the resources to cover the cost of medical eye emergencies. The program assisted 42 patients with sight-saving procedures.

Covered procedures include emergency eye care problems that, if not expeditiously attended to, could result in irreversible vision loss or structural damage to the eye. The majority of procedures are

laser treatments, retinal reattachments, and treatments for acute eye trauma. The program enables patients to receive a continuity of care with an ophthalmologist of his or her own choosing. This program is the only means by which many persons can avoid permanent blindness. Our goal is to return those served to their previous activities and prevent the need for expensive medical and rehabilitative services.



Expenditures and Revenues

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Expenditures

Vocational Rehabilitation	
Assistive Technology	407,133
Consumer Training	209,758
Evaluation and Diagnosis	12,479
Maintenance and Transportation	92,078
Other Consumer Costs	206,588
Counseling and Guidance	1,655,238
<hr/>	
Vocational Rehabilitation Total	2,583,274
Business Enterprise Program	188,745
Students In Transition	44,628
Newsline	108,145
Orientation Center	868,339
Independent Living	737,569
Emergency Eye Care	175,610
Holloman Contract	313,406
Facilities Management	208,192
Administration	1,186,903
<hr/>	
Total Expenditures	6,414,810

Revenues

State General Fund	(1,889,400)
Federal Funds	(4,250,186)
Other Revenue	(499,775)
<hr/>	
Total Revenues	(6,639,361)

Organizational Chart

COMMISSIONERS

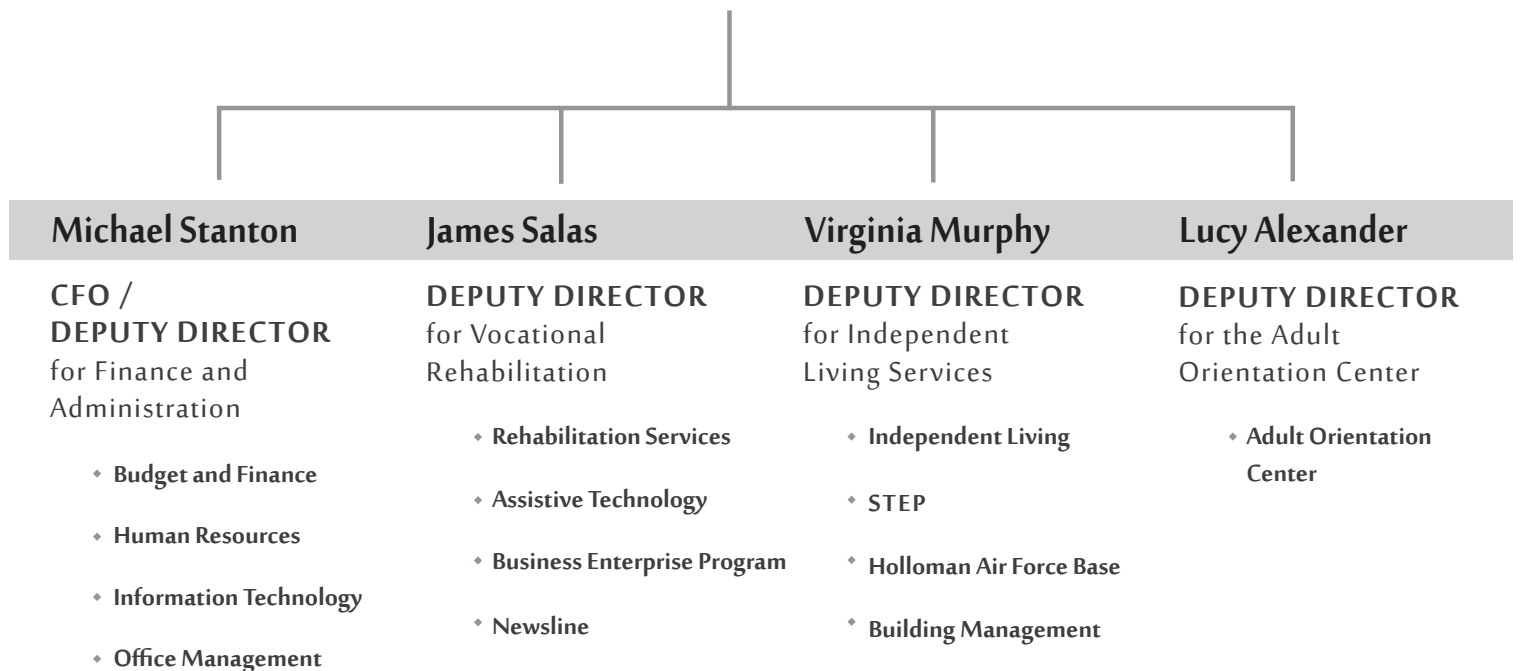
Arthur A. Schreiber, Chairman

Helen Savoie, Commissioner

Dallas Allen, Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greg Trapp, J.D.



Statewide Office Locations

New Mexico Commission for the Blind

Administrative Office

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East
Building 4, Suite 100
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-476-4479
toll free 888-513-7968

Albuquerque Office

2200 Yale Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
505-841-8844
toll free 888-513-7958

Alamogordo Orientation Center

408 North White Sands Blvd.
Alamogordo, NM 88310
575-437-0401
toll free 888-513-7967

Farmington Office

3535 East 30th Street, Suite 212
Farmington, NM 87401
505-327-3031
toll free 888-513-7964

Las Cruces Office

277 E. Amador, Suite 101
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-524-6450
toll free 888-513-7960

Las Vegas Office

2505 Ridge Runner Road
Las Vegas, NM 87701
505-425-3546
toll free 888-513-7963

Roswell Office

400 North Pennsylvania
Suite 900
Roswell, NM 88201
575-624-6140
toll free 888-513-7961



Copies of this annual report are available in Braille,
large print and electronic format by contacting:

New Mexico Commission for the Blind

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East

Building 4, Suite 100

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

505.476.4479