

1959

A survey of the expressed and apparent rehabilitation needs of blind persons in Portland, Maine.

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1959

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Thesis

A SURVEY OF THE EXPRESSED AND APPARENT REHABILITATION
NEEDS OF BLIND PERSONS IN PORTLAND, MAINE

Submitted by

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(B.A., Adelphi, 1953)

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Education

1959

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CHAPTER I

THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY AND THE METHODS TO BE EMPLOYED

1. Rehabilitation Needs of the Blind

The problem in Portland, Maine.-- For many years there have been two agencies in existence in Portland, Maine, directly concerned with the training, employment and rehabilitation of the blind. Yet, there has been considerable question raised recently by two local organizations, of and for the blind, as to whether these agencies are providing the services which blind people must have to become fully contributing members of the community. Before it is possible to answer any of these questions, it would seem imperative that a study be done to determine both the needs of the blind, as expressed by the blind themselves, as well as the needs which would be apparent to an observer experienced in the field of work for the blind. This study, therefore, will attempt to provide some of the answers to the question - "Are the rehabilitation services available to blind people in Portland, Maine, really meeting their needs, as expressed by them, as well as the needs that are apparent to a trained observer?"

Areas of possible need.-- It will be necessary to first determine the needs which seem imperative for the total rehabilitation of blind persons. We may turn to literature on rehabilitation of the blind to discover three areas which are generally considered essential.

Skill areas.-- The first of these are the skills which a blind person must learn, to compensate for his lack of vision. We will investigate three of these skills: (1) Activities of Daily Living, which deals with the small everyday problems of blindness, such as telling time by touch, locating food on one's plate, etc.; (2) Mobility, one of the most severe losses due to blindness and one which has recently become increasingly recognized as a major problem; and (3) Written Communication, a loss which has for many years been widely recognized, and for which several substitutes exist.

Psycho-Social areas.-- Another general group of needs may be found in the areas of adjustment and integration. Since it is difficult to measure these needs directly in a simple questionnaire, we will cover only the following: (1) Need of social integration of the blind into activities of sighted groups, as measured by the interviewees' own activities in these groups; (2) Need of personal counseling for adjustment to blindness; and (3) Attitude toward blindness, which colors all other responses, and will be used as a validation score. Further information in this area will probably be revealed by the general pattern of responses.

General areas.-- The final group of needs, which are as important in the lives of blind persons as they are in those of the non-disabled, are the following: academic and vocational education, which can be severely affected by loss of vision during the developmental years; financial security; and employment, the final goal of most rehabilitation services. The latter will also be used as a check to determine apparent, but

unexpressed, needs for total rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation facilities.-- As is well known, many of these needs are now being met in various communities across the nation in rehabilitation centers for the blind. We should determine whether there is either expressed or apparent need for such a facility in the Portland area. This might include: (1) an adjustment center, to deal with problems of the total personality reorganization necessary for people who have lost their vision; (2) a pre-vocational training unit in which work tolerance as well as work skills could be built up; and (3) a shelter workshop for either temporary employment of those who can eventually hope to compete in regular industry, or for permanent employment of the severely disabled and multiple-handicapped who feel a need to produce and yet are not physically able to compete.

2. Definition of Terms

Blindness.-- For the purpose of this study, blindness shall be defined as vision of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or field vision restricted to 20 degrees or less in the better eye. This conforms with the term "legal blindness" used by many state and government agencies, including the Library of Congress in screening applicants for talking-book machines, and the Internal Revenue Department for persons requesting an extra tax exemption because of blindness.

Travel vision.-- Travel vision shall be known as vision better than 5/200 in the better eye with best correction, or a field restriction of 5 degrees or less, but still falling within the limits of the above described legal blindness. People with so-called "travel vision" are

generally able to get about without assistance, although a considerable number of these have "night blindness," blindness in bright sunlight, or difficulty in adjusting to sudden changes in light, and under these conditions may experience difficulty in traveling independently.

No travel vision.-- No travel vision will be defined as vision of less than 5/200 in the better eye with best correction or a field restriction of less than 5 degrees, known as "statutory blindness" under the Social Security Act. Most persons with this limited amount of sight have considerable difficulty in traveling independently without the use of a cane or guide dog.

Expressed needs.-- The expressed needs of blind persons shall be those needs which the blind persons, themselves, expressed to the writer during the interview.

Apparent needs.-- Apparent needs shall be considered to be those needs which are either apparent to the observer at the time of the interview, or which become apparent later by a comparison of the various responses of any one individual.

3. Delimitations of the Study

Age, residence and legal blindness.-- Since Portland is the largest urban area in Maine, having a larger number of blind persons in close proximity and readily available for interviewing by the writer, this study shall be confined to persons residing within city limits. It will include only those persons known to be "legally blind" as defined above, and who are presently over fifteen years of age but under sixty-five, to conform with the commonly understood "working age."

Materials.-- The only materials used will be an interview questionnaire to be developed by the writer. ⁵

4. Basic Hypothesis

The needs of blind people in Maine are not being met by existing services and facilities and, furthermore, these people are generally unaware of the nature and extent of services available to the blind in other localities which could reasonably be expected to be available for their benefit.

5. Procedure for Collecting Data

In order to obtain the necessary data on the needs of blind persons in Portland, Maine, the following procedure was used.

1. An interview questionnaire was developed covering such topics as Activities of Daily Living, Mobility, Written Communication, etc., using questions which can be easily answered with a check mark.
2. Lists of known blind persons were obtained from local, state and federal agencies, after securing permission for the release of information from confidential files.
3. These lists were checked to determine which of these persons fall within the already set limitations of age, vision, and residence. Since many of the records will not include all of these factors, a personal contact may be necessary for this determination.
4. A letter was sent to each interviewee stating the purpose of this study and requesting his cooperation.

5. Individual interviews were arranged with each of the interviewees by appointment.
6. The validity of these responses was determined by checking one against another, and also against the known or observed facts in each case.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

1. The Maine Institution for the Blind

Rehabilitation of the blind in Maine had its beginning in 1905 when the Maine Institution for the Blind in Portland was chartered as an institution established "for the instruction of the blind."^{1/} Two years later, in 1907, the State Legislature appropriated funds to the Maine Institution for the Blind for the purpose of establishing and maintaining an institution which would provide "practical instruction in some useful occupation conducive to his or her self-support."^{2/} Any legally blind person over eighteen years of age who was a resident of Maine was to be eligible for these services, and maintenance was to be provided during the period of instruction, which was not to exceed three years. The Institution was also given the legal authority to facilitate the circulation of books, to promote visits to the aged or helpless blind, and to use any methods necessary to "ameliorate the condition of the blind."^{3/} From that date until the present, the Maine Institution for the Blind has received a regular biennium appropriation from the State.

^{1/} State of Maine, Office of Secretary of State, 1905, Recorded Vol. 1, page M, under Chapter 57 of the Revised Statutes.

^{2/} Laws of Maine, 1907, Chapter 14, p. 1440.

^{3/} Loc. cit.

During the following period, something must have happened to the idea of furnishing only training in work which these people could carry on in their home communities, and providing temporary residence, because in 1923 the Legislature passed an act changing the charter of the Institution to read, "to provide a home for them during such period of instruction and for such longer period as may be deemed necessary by the directors of said institution."^{1/} Another act changed the board of directors to include a majority of board members appointed by the Governor, including the State Superintendent of Schools, and State funds were to be given to the Institution only on the basis of this majority.^{2/}

The Maine Institution for the Blind through the years developed a workshop program which produced brooms and mattresses, and caned chairs. At one time its clientele was up to about forty-five blind residents and workers, but during the years fewer and fewer people entered the institution, for in 1952 the number of residents had dropped to twenty-one, and at present is about seventeen. The mattress department was discontinued approximately ten years ago and at present employment consists of broom-making and chair-caning only. The seventeen residents, only about twelve of whom work in the shop, receive board and room which is charged to the State of Maine on a per diem basis, and average about \$4 - \$6 a week wages.

^{1/} Laws of Maine, 1923, Chapter 84 of Private and Special Laws.

^{2/} Laws of Maine, 1923, Chapter 96 of Private and Special Laws.

The physical facilities of the Maine Institution for the Blind consist of two buildings in a central location in Portland; a workshop building of three floors built in 1907, and a modern residence building which can very adequately serve over thirty persons.

2. State Services for the Blind

In 1931, the State Department of Health and Welfare was established by law ^{1/} and took over the administration of financial assistance to the needy blind under the Social Security Act. In 1941, the Welfare Law was amended ^{2/} to provide a program of service to all blind persons and a new program was instituted in March, 1942, under the Department of Health and Welfare and called the Division of Services for the Blind. This division continued to grow until in 1955 the State plan was revised in accordance with Public Law 565.^{3/} At that time the Division consisted of five major programs: (1) Medical Services, a program of prevention of blindness based on financial need; (2) Vocational Rehabilitation Services, in accordance with the State and Federal policies; (3) Placement Services, to assist visually handicapped persons to find employment; (4) Home Teaching, the instruction of the adult blind in their homes in Braille and other skills; and (5) Education of Blind Children, in both public and residential schools for the blind; as well as being the agency for the distribution of talking-book machines. At present, the staff of Services for the Blind in Maine consists of three vocational rehabilitation counselors, two educational counselors for blind children, one

^{1/} Laws of Maine, 1931, Chapter 216, Article III, page 219.

^{2/} Laws of Maine, 1941, Chapter 276, Section 1.

^{3/} U. S. Law, 1954, Public Law 565, Chapter 655, Section 2759.

placement counselor, one home teacher, a vocational rehabilitation supervisor, and a director of the program.

3. Studies of the Two Agencies

Study by Mr. Salmon.^{1/} In 1944, at the joint request of the Board of Directors of the Maine Institution for the Blind and the State Commissioner of Health and Welfare, Mr. Peter J. Salmon, Consultant from the Industrial Home for the Blind in Brooklyn, New York, did a study of these two agencies to evaluate their programs and make recommendations for future development. After studying the facilities and the staff of the two programs, and pointing out their problems as well as their strengths, he made the following recommendations: That the Maine Institution pay its workers in proportion to their productive capacity by setting up a schedule of price rates; determine the actual cost of board and room and require that each resident pay for his maintenance from his wages, and that those unable to do so should be advised to apply for Aid to the Blind; and give up its per capita subsidy from the State, to make this payment possible.

He also recommended, among other things, that the price of products be more in line with competitive prices, that new equipment be purchased, and the shop be rearranged for mass production, and that the Institution should develop training facilities for blind persons sent to it from the State on a tuition basis.

^{1/} Peter J. Salmon, "Review and Recommendations -- Maine Institution for the Blind, Portland, Me., and the Program for the Blind under the Dept. of Health and Welfare, Augusta, Me.," August 10, 1944.

Mr. Salmon suggested that Services for the Blind employ at least four home teachers, set up a Home Industries program, allow Aid to the Blind recipients an incentive allowance to encourage employment, and cooperate with the Maine Institution to determine the best type of training which could be provided at the Institution.

These recommendations were presented to both the Maine Institution for the Blind and State Services for the Blind but, as far as can be determined, no action was taken.

Study by Mr. Redkey.-- In 1952, at the request of the Maine State Department of Health and Welfare, a survey was done of both the program of the Department of Health and Welfare, Services for the Blind and that of the Maine Institution for the Blind in Portland by Mr. Henry Redkey, Specialist in Rehabilitation of the Blind from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Washington, D. C. ^{1/} After studying both programs, Mr. Redkey recommended that the Maine Institution for the Blind and the Services for the Blind pool their resources to establish a rehabilitation center for the blind, whose purpose would be to furnish blind people with increased opportunities to be self-reliant. This would not be a vocational training center but an adjustment center which would help blind people overcome the handicaps of blindness, and participate more fully in the life and work of the community. After discussing the advantages that such a center could offer to the blind residents of Maine, Mr. Redkey suggested the following basic agreements be made: That the Institution (1) furnish board and room to the full extent of its capacity

^{1/} Henry Redkey, "Report to the Maine State Dept. of Health and Welfare and the Maine Institution for the Blind" unpublished paper read at a meeting at the Maine Institution for the Blind, Portland, on Jan. 6, 1953.

for center clients; (2) cease to admit any new person for employment in the workshop program but continue to serve present residents; (3) review the rate of reimbursement by the state for room and board and adjust it to the actual cost of providing that service; (4) make one floor of the shop building available for center activities; (5) remodel that floor to fit it for offices, shops, and other activities; (6) feed and house rehabilitation center clients separately from residents of the home; and (7) to publicly give credit to the State Department for its part in the cooperative program.

He further recommended that the State Department (1) station a rehabilitation team at the Institution to conduct a full day's program, five days a week for center clients; (2) that with the exception of one person responsible for off-duty recreation, rehabilitation personnel not live at the Institution; (3) assume full responsibility for admissions and discharges of clients for the center program, and for the conduct of these clients; (4) pay the Institution an equitable rate for the room and board of center clients out of funds appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose; and (5) publicly give credit to the Institution for its part in the cooperative program.

Mr. Redkey also drew up a suggested plan of action for the recruiting and training of staff, as well as the planning and financing of such a center within the Maine Institution.

These recommendations were presented to the Board of Directors of the Maine Institution for the Blind in January, 1953, by Mr. David Stevens, Commissioner of Health and Welfare, with the suggestions that if the Institution desired to undertake this change in program, they should

have a resolve presented to the Legislature by a member of the Portland delegation and strongly supported by both the Institution and Portland citizens. If the Institution decided against accepting this plan, no further action should be taken by the Department of Health and Welfare. During the discussion which followed, there was apparently some reluctance on the part of the Board toward any change in their program. They were not fully convinced that the workshop program could not be modernized, and there was also some question about the legal aspects of this action on their present endowment fund, as well as possible future bequests. Also, an important member of the Board was not present and it was felt that he should be contacted before any changes were made.

No decision was made at this meeting and since the resolve had to be prepared immediately and presented to the Legislature, which was then in session, time passed and no action was ever taken on these recommendations.

4. Recent Developments

An organization for the blind.-- In 1957, a group of blind and sighted persons interested in promoting the best interests of the blind, formed an organization in Portland called the "Friends of the Blind," and were chartered as a non-profit organization later that same year. One of its first official acts was to request a local survey group to study the needs of blind persons in the Portland area. At that time the survey group could not promise to undertake this project for at least several years because of previous commitments.

The "Friends of the Blind" have since sponsored monthly social

group meetings for the blind and have maintained a constant contact with the Maine Institution for the Blind, repeatedly pointing out the need of rehabilitation facilities in Portland.

An organization of the blind.-- Another organization, The Maine Fraternal Association of the Blind, which has been in existence for over fifty-five years, mainly as an insurance benefit and welfare group, has recently become actively engaged in promoting better opportunities for blind persons in Maine. In March, 1959, through a letter sent to the Governor and all the legislators, they put themselves on record as supporting an improved workshop and an adjustment center for the blind in Portland, and offered their support to the Maine Institution, should it undertake such a program.

Present status of the problem.-- In March, 1959, a meeting was held between the Boards of Directors of the Friends of the Blind, the Maine Fraternal Association, and the Maine Institution for the Blind, at which time it was pointed out that blind persons wish to be independent--not objects of charity. As a result of this meeting, the Board of Directors of the Maine Institution for the Blind held a special meeting and voted unanimously in favor of hiring a professional worker to act as executive director and attempt to make the necessary changes in the Maine Institution so that it will better serve the needs of blind people in Maine.

CHAPTER III

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

1. General Background Information

The survey group.-- A total of sixty blind people were found in Portland, Maine, who fell within the limitations of legal blindness and the age and vision requirements. Of these, fifty-seven were seen and interviewed by the writer. Of the three who were not seen, one was in a veteran's hospital, one had suffered a heart attack the day before, and one, who resided in an institution, was unable to be interviewed because the writer was refused admittance. The blind people contacted were all extremely cooperative and apparently interested in helping with this study.

Of the fifty-seven people seen, thirty-seven, or 65 per cent, were males, and twenty, or 35 per cent, were females. Thirty-three of these people lived with their families, nine lived alone, seven were residents of the Maine Institution for the Blind, five lived with their parents, and three had other living arrangements. Of the total group, twenty-nine were married, twenty single, and eight classified themselves as divorced, separated or widowed.

Extent of disability.-- Twenty-seven people, or about 47 per cent, admitted to disabilities other than blindness, and twenty-nine, or about 51 per cent, stated that they had no other disability. Only one was

uncertain. Of the group, thirty-three, or 58 per cent, had no travel vision, and twenty-four, or 42 per cent, had vision sufficient to travel. When asked if they had ever had their hearing tested, thirty-eight, or 67 per cent, responded that they had, eighteen said no, and one was unsure. This may seem rather high, but from the replies it would be difficult to ascertain how many of these people have really been given an audiogram or a complete hearing examination by an otologist.

Age at onset.--

Table 1. Age at Onset of Blindness of the Study Group

	Blinded under 1 yr.	Blinded age 1-16	Blinded age 16-45	Blinded age 45 or over	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Number...	13	9	23	12	57
Percent..	23	16	40	21	100

From the above table, it can be seen that twenty-two persons, or 39 per cent of the group, lost their vision before the age of sixteen, although only 13 or 23 per cent, can be considered congenitally blind. One may wonder what effect this early loss of vision has had on normal growth and development, especially in the areas of educational achievement and emotional adjustment. Twelve, or 21 per cent, of this group have no travel vision.

As is to be expected, the largest percentage, 61 per cent or thirty-five persons, lost their sight after age sixteen. These can be considered the "blinded adults." However, only twenty-one of these, or

37 per cent of the total group, have less than travel vision, and might benefit from rehabilitation centers for the newly blinded adult with little or no vision.

2. Needs in the Skill Areas

Expressed needs in A. D. L.-- In Activities of Daily Living, the twelve questions covered small tasks in which blind people often experience difficulty. All persons who are regularly employed experienced no difficulty with these items, felt adequate, and desired no further training.

Table 2. Responses of the Survey Group to Questions on Their Performance of 12 Items

Performance	Number	Percent	Feel Adequate?	Want Training
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Perform all 12 items adequately..	38	67	38 yes	38 no
Difficulty with 1 - 4 items.....	15	26	14 yes 1 uncertain	14 no 1 yes
Difficulty with 5 - 8 items.....	4	7	3 no 1 uncertain	4 no

Of the fifteen people checking from one to four items which they are unable to perform satisfactorily, two were never employed, three are presently unemployed, three are housewives, six are at the Maine Institution for the Blind, and one is employed part-time but is the one person who wishes training.

Of the four people who experienced difficulty with five or more items, two were never employed and two are presently unemployed. Three of these four people are living on Aid to the Blind pensions, and the other person receives another type of pension which he states is adequate. Two of these people live with their families, one boards with friends, and the other lives alone. All are in their fifties or sixties.

Apparent need in A. D. L.-- It would seem apparent that there is much greater need in this area than the blind persons themselves suspect. Of fifty-seven people interviewed, only one feels the need of training in this area, although of the total group only eleven are regularly employed. Yet, there are twenty-eight people who would like employment but are presently either unemployed or working in a shelter workshop, as housewives, or in part-time employment. Most of these people are living with their parents or families and may feel totally adequate in this situation. The observed needs in this area would be, therefore, rather high and include at least the twenty-eight people desiring regular employment, who should receive training in these skills long before competitive employment is considered. One also wonders whether the inability to perform in this area has not contributed to the high unemployment rate of the group. It might be further noted that none of the people who checked skills which they were unable to perform are presently competitively employed.

Expressed needs in mobility.-- Since there are many methods by which a blind person may travel, we will divide these into three sections: the most recently developed methods, guide dog and Hoover technique,

which stress safety and freedom of movement; the traditional methods, white cane and human guide, which require little training and allow less independence; and travel alone with no type of assistance, using residual vision.

Table 3. Travel with Recently Developed Methods

Method of Travel	Number	Percent	Travel Adequately?	Want	
				Training?	Employed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Hoover Technique..	4	7	4 yes	4 no	2 yes 2 no
Guide Dog.....	2	3.5	2 yes	2 no	1 yes 1 no
Guide and Hoover Technique.....	2	3.5	1 yes 1 no	1 no 1 yes	1 yes 1 no

Of the four people who travel by the Hoover technique, one was trained at Avon, one at St. Paul's, and two at the Industrial Home for the Blind. One of these persons has very recently returned from his training at the center and, though presently unemployed, may find employment in the future. Of the two people who travel with a guide dog, one received his training from the Seeing Eye and the other from Second Sight. The two people who travel with a combination of Hoover technique and guide, both received their training from Services for the Blind. One completed his training and is presently employed, the other did not complete training, wants more, and is unemployed.

A total of eight persons, or 14 per cent of the total group, use

one of these two methods of travel. It might be pointed out that 50 per cent of these people are employed.

Table 4. Travel with Traditional Methods

Method of Travel	Number	Percent	Travel Adequately?	Want Training?
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
White Cane	9	16	6 yes ----- 2 no ----- 1 don't know ---	6 no (1 yes (1 don't know 1 don't know ---
Human Guide	14	25	4 yes ----- 7 no ----- 3 don't know ---	4 no (2 yes (3 no (2 don't know (2 don't know (1 no
Guide & White Cane.....	1	less than 2	1 yes -----	1 no

The employment status of the group who travel with a white cane is as follows: one employed part-time, one housewife, two at a shelter shop, 4 unemployed and one never employed. Those who use a human guide list themselves as: one employed part-time, five housewives, 2 at a shelter shop, 3 unemployed and three never employed. The one person who uses a combination of methods is unemployed.

Twenty-four people, or about 42 per cent, of the total group use the white cane and/or a human guide as their method of travel. Of this group, none is regularly employed, and only two of the twenty-four are

employed part-time.

Table 5. Travel Alone, with Residual Vision

Number (1)	Percent of Total (2)	Travel Adequately? (3)	Have Travel Vision? (4)	Want Training? (5)
24	42	19 yes -----	(16 yes ----- (3 no -----	(15 no (1 yes 3 no
		1 no	1 yes	1 yes
		4 don't know	(3 no ----- (1 yes -----	(2 no (1 don't know 1 yes

Of the three persons who travel alone and feel adequate, although they do not have "travel vision," one is unemployed, one employed part-time, and one is employed regularly at this time although his vision is failing steadily.

Of this group of twenty-four persons, seven are regularly employed, ten unemployed (four of these have never been employed), three work in a shelter workshop, three are housewives, and one is employed part-time. The rate of employment for those who travel alone is about 29 per cent. Of the eighteen people who travel alone but have "travel vision," six, or about 33 1/3%, are employed--three at a shelter workshop, three homemakers, and six are unemployed (four of these are under age twenty-two and have never worked, and two of these are now attending school).

Only one person is unable to travel because of a secondary disability. He is unemployed.

The entire group was asked whether they were able to go anywhere

they wished with their method of travel. Forty-eight, or 84 per cent, say that they go anywhere. Four, or 7 per cent, are uncertain of their ability to go where they wish--three of these four do not desire training and one would like training. Five, or about 9 per cent, say they cannot go anywhere they wish--one wants training, one is uncertain, two do not want training, and one is unable to travel at all because of a secondary disability.

Apparent needs in mobility.-- Persons who travel by means of the Hoover technique or a guide dog apparently have the best chances for employment since 50 per cent of this group is employed. Persons who travel alone, even though they have what is known as "travel vision," are only 33 1/3% employed, and of all the persons who travel alone only 29 per cent are employed. None of the people who travel with a white cane or a guide are employed. It would seem to be apparent that a need exists for more training of blind persons in travel with the Hoover technique and guide dog. The cane travel, especially, might benefit those with "travel vision" who have difficulty in certain lighting, but too much sight to obtain guide dogs.

Expressed needs in written communication.-- This will include methods of written communication used by legally blind persons, such as the reading of newsprint, large print, and braille and the writing of longhand and braille, as well as standard typing.

Table 6. Needs in Reading Skills

	Read Newsprint	Read Large Print	Read Braille	Read Braille Poorly	Want Braille Instruction
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Number...	7	18	19	13	14
Percent..	12	32	33	23	25

Of the people who read Braille at all, one received instruction from St. Paul's, one from the Industrial Home for the Blind, thirteen from Services for the Blind, twelve from Perkins, and five learned from other sources. Of the total group, twenty-three, or 40 per cent, are unable to read adequately in any of the above methods.

Table 7. Needs in the Writing Skills

	Write Longhand	Write Braille	Type Well	Type Poorly	Want Typing Instruction
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Number ...	23	16	26	8	18
Percent...	40	28	46	14	32

Of the people who can type, one received instruction from St. Paul's, one from Avon, six from public school, eighteen from other sources, two from Perkins, four from Services for the Blind, and one from the Industrial Home for the Blind. Of the total group, seventeen persons, or 30 per

cent, are unable to write using any of the above methods.

Apparent needs in written communication.-- It would seem apparent that there is much greater need in the areas of Braille and typing instruction than is expressed by the blind persons themselves, since such relatively large numbers of blind persons are unable to read or write. It is true that the reading needs of these people may be met, in part, by "talking books," but there is no such substitute for the three types of writing skills.

3. Needs in the Psycho-Social Areas

Expressed need for social integration.-- In the area of social adjustment, the interviewees were asked if they belonged to any groups which they regularly attended.

Table 8. Type of Group Activity

	Attend Sighted Groups Only	Attend Blind Groups Only	Attend Both Blind and Sighted Groups	Attend Neither
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Number....	16	7	25	9
Percent...	28	12	44	16

A total of thirty-two, or 56 per cent, belong to organizations of the blind, and forty-one, or 72 per cent, belong to sighted groups.

Apparent need for social integration.-- Though it appears that the group is well-integrated into community activities because of the high percentage of persons who attend sighted groups, this may be misleading.

Most of the people listed church activities as their only attendance at sighted groups and one may wonder whether the blind persons are really a part of the church group or if they are merely tolerated or maintained in a dependent role.

Expressed need for personal counseling.-- The group was asked if they had ever had the opportunity to discuss personal problems with a professional worker.

Table 9. Need for Personal Counseling

	Number	Percent	Want some (more)	Do not Want Any (more)	Don't know
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Had Counseling...	19	33	3	15	1
Have not had Counseling.....	38	67	13	13	12
Totals.....	57	100	16	28	13

About a third of the group has had some opportunity to discuss personal problems with a professional person, and about 28 per cent (sixteen persons) would like to have this opportunity.

Apparent need for personal counseling.-- Although relatively few people felt the need of counseling, the majority of the group used the survey interview to discuss personal problems with the writer. It seems apparent that there is a much greater need for counseling than the responses would indicate. Either the blind are unaware of their own needs in this area or are unfamiliar with the terminology.

Attitude toward blindness.-- To determine their attitude toward blindness, the interviewees were asked to choose one of the following three attitudes which best expressed their feelings:

Table 10. Attitude toward Blindness

Attitude (1)	Number of Responses (2)	Percent of Total Group (3)
(1) Blind people should not be expected to work.....	0	0
(2) Blind people should work only in shelter employment.....	0	0
(3) Blind people can work if given help and training.....	52	91
Combination of numbers (2) and (3).....	2	3.5
Don't know.....	3	5.5

It seems that the blind, themselves, do not feel that blindness necessarily means dependency or a drastic limitation of vocational goals.

4. General Areas of Need

Expressed need for academic and vocational education.-- In order to determine the true extent of this need, as well as the contributing factors, it was necessary to first obtain background information on education completed.

Table 11. Educational Institutions Attended

	Public School Only	Residential School	"Other"	Combination of Schools	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Number of Persons.....	40	13	2	2	57
Percentage...	70	23	3.5	3.5	100

Only 23 per cent of the group attended residential schools for the blind, although 39 per cent lost their vision before the age of sixteen (Table 1, page 16). One may question the adequacy of the education received by those blind children who attended public schools, since the age of this group indicates that few, if any, attended school recently enough to have had the assistance of an Educational Counselor for Blind Children to make the necessary adjustments.

Table 12. Education Completed

	High School	8th Grade but not High School	Less than 8th Grade	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Number.....	15	28	14	57
Percentage.....	26	49	25	100

Three persons, or a little over 5 per cent, had earned college degrees. All of the group attended school of some kind, although one person completed only the first grade.

Table 13. Need for Further Education

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Academic Education Sufficient?.....	34 (60%)	21 (37%)	2 (3%)
Vocational Training Sufficient?.....	23 (40%)	30 (53%)	4 (7%)
Want More Education/ Training?.....	23 (40%)	30 (53%)	4 (7%)

The persons who replied that their academic education was insufficient averaged about 6.2 years of schooling. The group who were uncertain average 8.5 grades completed.

Of the people who wished further education, sixteen would like more academic education, and twenty want vocational training (although thirty did not receive enough).

Apparent need for academic and vocational education.-- It seems apparent that a fairly large number of people feel their academic education was insufficient. However, since most of these are well beyond the usual age when one receives this type of education, there seems to be some need of adult education in the basic fundamentals. This would, however, be difficult to supply since there is so little available for adults which might be on the level indicated by these people as marking the end of their formal training. In the area of vocational training, there is a majority response that the training they received was inadequate or non-existent. Here there seems to be marked possibility

that these needs could be met by some type of rehabilitation center in which vocational training was also given.

Expressed needs in employment.-- Background information on employment status was first obtained from the group.

Table 14. Present Employment Status

	Regularly Employed	Employed Part-time	Shelter Workshop	Housewife	Unemployed
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Number.....	11	3	7	9	27
Percentage....	19	5	13	16	47

The people presently regularly employed in competitive industry average almost 13.3 years in this employment. Of this group, one found his job through the Maine Employment Security Commission, one was helped by Services for the Blind, and the other nine used friends, relatives, or other means.

Ten of these people got their job as a blind person with the employer knowing the extent of their condition, and one got his job as a sighted person.

Ten of this group state that their employment provides them an adequate income and one says that his income is inadequate. Of these employed people, five do not have travel vision and six have vision sufficient to travel.

Table 15. The Unemployed Group (Total 27)

Status	Yes	No	Part-time Only	Don't Know
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Ever Employed.....	19	8	---	---
Want Employment...	17	5	2	3

Two of the persons "never employed" are currently attending school.

The nineteen people who were formerly employed average about 9.6 years of unemployment. When asked whether blindness contributed to loss of employment, eleven replied "yes," six replied "no," and two did not know.

Of the five people not interested in employment, two were never employed, and the other three list age or physical condition as the reason for their reply.

Table 16. Persons Who Want Employment (Total 28)

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Need Training for Employment?.....	16	6	6
Take Training if Offered?.....	21	7	0
Work an 8-hour Day?	25	1	2
Move for Employment?.....	16	4	8

A total of twenty-eight people stated they are not regularly and competitively employed and desire employment. This includes people who are presently residents at the Maine Institution for the Blind, housewives, or employed part-time.

Apparent needs in employment.-- It seems apparent that although a large group of people feel the need for employment, the majority of these must receive many other services before employment should be considered. The length of unemployment alone would constitute a severe handicap, to say nothing of the loss of job-skills during the years of idleness. If, however, the primary needs of pre-vocational training and adjustment were met, there would then be a substantial need for employment opportunities.

Need of financial security.-- This need is difficult to determine; therefore, questions were asked about the financial status of the family and the adequacy of their present income.

Table 17. Financial Status

	Recipient of Public Assistance	Receives Other Type of Pension (No. P. A.)	Wife/ Husband Works	Other Family Member Works	Resi- dent M. I. B.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Number.....	21	10	14	5	7
Percentage..	37	18	25	9	12

Thirty-six people were not receiving Public Assistance, and of these twenty-one, or 37 per cent, of the group listed their total income as

being adequate, eleven, or 19 per cent, said their total income was enough for only basic necessities, and four, or 7 per cent, said their income was inadequate, (the Public Assistance recipients were not questioned on this matter).

Of the ten who receive some other type of pension, four stated their total income was adequate. Of these four, two had a husband or wife who was employed, one was employed as well as having a pension, and the other one is employed as a housewife but stated the pensions coming into the family were adequate--this is the only one who states that the family is living on adequate pensions. Four out of the ten receiving Social Security or other type pensions feel that their total income is just enough to provide the bare necessities, and one of these has a wife or husband who works. The remaining two said their income was inadequate for the basic needs of their family.

It might be pointed out that the State of Maine through its Public Assistance program, and its financial support of the Maine Institution for the Blind, supplies direct maintenance to about 50 per cent of the blind population of Portland.

5. Need for Rehabilitation Facilities

Expressed need for rehabilitation center.-- The group was asked if they felt a center would benefit them personally. The majority responded that they did not know enough about rehabilitation centers to make any decision.

Table 18. Attendance at Rehabilitation Centers

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Attended Rehabilitation Center	6 (11%)	51 (89%)	---
Interested in Attending Center.....	9 (16%)	8 (14%)	40 (70%)

Of the six who had attended rehabilitation centers, one went to St. Paul's, one to Buckner, three to the Industrial Home for the Blind, and one to Avon. The average length of stay of these six people was 13.3 weeks. When asked if it helped them, five replied "yes" and one said "no." This person is the only one who did not complete training. Of these people, two are employed and four unemployed. One of the unemployed did not complete training and another had completed training too recently to determine whether or not he will become employed.

When asked, two people said they would like more training. One of these did not complete training, and the other is presently unemployed and would like further training on a pre-vocational rather than adjustment level.

Eight people stated that they would not be interested in rehabilitation center training. Four of these people have already been to a rehabilitation center and the other four are regularly employed.

Apparent need for rehabilitation center.-- There is apparent need of a rehabilitation center in Maine, which could meet the expressed needs in A. D. L., mobility, Braille, typing, personal counseling, and

vocational training simultaneously. A center of this type would prepare blind people for employment in a short period of intensive training and greatly lessen the period of dependency on family, friends or the State.

Expressed need for shelter workshop.-- The entire group of people was asked what they felt about five suggestions for the improvement of shelter workshops, and were asked to check the ones they considered to be of benefit to blind people. There was also a sixth space which could be filled in if desired with an additional suggestion. The average number of suggestions checked was just under five for the total group.

Table 19. Shelter Workshop Employment

(1)	Never Employed (2)	Now Employed (3)	Formerly Employed (4)	Now or Formerly Employed (5)
Number.....	40	7	10	17
Percent of Total.	70	12	18	30
Average Length of Stay.....	--	Almost 19 yrs.	5.9 yrs.	11.2 yrs.

The average employee at the Maine Institution is a single male in his forties, blinded before the age of two, with no other physical disabilities. He attended Perkins and completed the seventh grade. He has some travel vision and has been at the Institution almost nineteen years.

Table 20. Interested in Employment at Good Shelter Workshop

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Interested in Employment at Maine Institution for the Blind (if changes made).....	52 (91%)	3 (5%)	2 (4%)

Three were not interested in employment. Two for health reasons and one because of age.

Of the fifty-two people who stated that they were interested in employment at the Maine Institution for the Blind if changes were made, nine are presently regularly employed. Nine are homemakers, four are employed part-time, twenty-one are unemployed, and seven are now working at the Maine Institution for the Blind but are still interested in seeing these changes made.

This seems to indicate that a total of twenty-five people might immediately benefit from changes if they were made--the twenty-one unemployed and the four part-time employed, and that in the future the nine who are presently homemakers might be interested when their family no longer needs their immediate attention. Also, the nine now regularly employed might benefit from a shelter workshop if for any reason they were no longer able to continue their present employment.

Of the ten people who were formerly at the Maine Institution for the Blind, one is not interested in employment at the Maine Institution for the Blind, two are regularly employed, but interested if changes are made, and they need employment in the future, two are homemakers but also

might be interested, one is part-time employed but interested, and four are unemployed. These four people average eleven years of employment at the Maine Institution.

Thus, there is a possibility of seven experienced workers returning to the Maine Institution for the Blind now if changes are made--the four unemployed, the one part-time employed, and the two homemakers.

Table 21. Interested in Terminal Workshop

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know	Not Asked
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Would hope to remain indefinitely in shelter workshop.....	12 (21%)	25 (44%)	11 (19%)	9 (16%)

It is interesting that a large number (twenty-five) would prefer to use the workshop as a step in the direction of regular employment. Most of the people who said they would prefer to remain in the workshop added that it was too late in their life to make any radical change, and that they would be content with a job they could do until they reach retirement age. Others mentioned a secondary disability which limits their vocational goals.

Apparent need for shelter workshop.-- It seems that a large number of blind persons are unemployed and are unable to find work of any kind. Many of these people have not worked for many years and also have secondary disabilities which would limit their vocational opportunities. Others have never been employed, or have not been trained in a vocation. It would seem apparent that a good shelter workshop program would provide

opportunities for employment and increased self-reliance for many people who are now considered unemployable, and that it might easily become the stepping-stone to regular competitive employment for at least part of its blind workers.

6. Additional Needs in the Field of Work with the Blind

The final section of the survey allowed persons interviewed to make any comments or suggestions they wished on what they felt was most needed in the field of work with the blind. Of the fifty-seven people interviewed, thirty-six, or about 63 per cent, made some suggestions. The greatest number of these concerned shelter workshops. Ten people stated that a good workshop should be available. Several had additional comments--one stated it should be a sub-contract shop, two mentioned that "a decent wage should be paid," one stated there should be a variety of jobs, and one person suggested that the Maine Institution for the Blind should make changes in its staff, living conditions and services to better benefit the blind.

The next highest response was given in the area of employment. Nine people stated there should be more employment opportunities for the blind and one person added that blind people should be given a chance to show what they can do. In this general area, there were also additional suggestions--two people stating that there should be more vending stands, one person suggesting more blind people be employed by the State of Maine, and one person suggesting a store which would sell blind-made products.

The third highest area was in that of pensions for the blind. Eight people felt that the pensions given to blind persons should be more

adequate, although four of these qualified this statement by specifying that these higher pensions should be only for those unable to work. Also, one person commented that we should not allow blind people to beg on the streets but should give them enough money to live on.

Six people felt the need of a rehabilitation center, and two of them added that facilities of this type should be nearer and more readily available. There were also several other suggestions which might be considered to be under this general heading. Three people stated there should be more vocational training and one of these felt that it should be given at a vocational rehabilitation center for the blind. Two people felt that instruction in cane travel should be available. One felt that an optical aids program would be helpful, and another felt that more and different kinds of aids and gadgets should be developed to help the blind. One person suggested group instruction in Braille and typing. One person stated that there should be more assistance given to the young blind persons to help them lead a normal life. One person also suggested more training in the basic skills to help blind persons become independent. And one person felt there should be more help given to blind persons with emotional problems.

In the area of public education and information, six persons said there should be more public education about blindness and one commented that it should particularly emphasize that the blind persons wish to be independent. Three other persons stated that there should be more education of employers--one person commenting that they should be helped to realize that blind people are good workers, and one person stating that

this education of employers should be done by the State. Also, one person felt there should be more publicity in general on where blind people can turn for help of any kind, and another person felt that there should be more publicity on the services available through Services for the Blind.

In the area of recreation, five persons suggested that a good recreation program would be helpful, and one of these felt that this should be in a separate building. Also, in this same category, one person suggested a summer camp for adults over forty.

In the area of legislation, two persons said there should be new and helpful legislation for the blind and pointed out the needs in the area of voting laws, property taxes and personal taxes. Also, under this same category, one person suggested that employers who hire the handicapped should be given some kind of tax relief as an incentive to hiring, and one person suggested that Social Security Disability should allow a blind person to earn \$1,200 a year--the same as recipients of Old Age Insurance.

In the area of education, two suggestions were made--one that there should be more and better education of the blind, and one that there should be more training and education of blind children in their home communities.

There were two separate suggestions which apparently deal with special privileges. One person felt that blind people should be able to purchase medical supplies at cost, and one thought that reduced rates in taxis and buses should be given to blind people.

Two recommendations were made in the area of Braille. One person suggested a clearing house for Braille books, and one felt that more music should be Brailled.

A final suggestion, which seems to fit under none of the above categories, was that the blind, themselves, should be asked what they want and need.

There were also seven comments on State Services for the Blind-- suggesting that there should be much less red tape, that services should be easier to get, that there should be more publicity on these services, that Services for the Blind should give blind people a feeling that they are sympathetic to the desires and needs of the blind, and that they should not make blind people feel that they are getting charity. Another suggested there should be more worker-client contact, and one person suggested that Services for the Blind should have a "dynamic, practical leadership"--he further states that this would alleviate seventy per cent of the dissatisfaction which is now apparent and that the person holding this position should have had a good background of experience with people and in industry.

One comment related to the Maine Institution for the Blind and suggested that they should have a superintendent who would treat blind people as adults, and went on to say that perhaps more people would enter this Institution if conditions there were more pleasant.

The areas which received the most suggestions seemed to be in this order--workshops highest (10), then employment (9), pensions (8), rehabilitation facilities (6), public education and information (6), and

recreation (5). Other than the separate comments on Services for the Blind and the Maine Institution, the only other suggestions were in the areas of legislation (2), education (2), special privileges (2), and Braille (2). Most of the suggestions seemed to deal with the areas which would help blind persons to become independent. Only two of all of the responses related to special privileges and four related to higher pensions without qualifications, so it would seem that in the area of special privileges and dependency, there are really only six responses which definitely indicate a wish for dependent status out of a total of eighty-four separate responses, although two of the responses under legislation which suggested changes in the voting laws, property and personal taxes, might also be construed as dependency type.

From the total responses on this section of the questionnaire, it would seem apparent that the majority of blind persons are not looking for charity but for assistance toward personal, social and economic independence.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Needs in Portland

The skill areas.-- Considerable need was expressed for instruction in the Activities of Daily Living, Braille and Typing. A total of 33 persons in Portland desired instruction in these skills, which would require the entire working time of one Home Teacher to fill the needs of Portland clients alone, and the apparent needs were much greater. At present, there is only one professionally trained home teacher, employed by Services for the Blind, to meet the needs of the entire blind population of the state.

Six people in Portland expressed a need for training in mobility, and the apparent need is much greater since inability to travel may affect adjustment to blindness as well as the vocational goal. A mobility therapist, on at least a part-time basis, would be required to fill the needs of the blind in Portland. Yet there is no trained mobility instructor available within the state, and, to date, it has not been possible to purchase the services of an instructor from out-of-state on a part-time or temporary basis.

The only means at present for meeting this need is to send individual blind persons to rehabilitation centers or guide dog foundations outside of the state, and in many cases, outside of the New England

area.

The psycho-social areas.-- Sixteen people in Portland expressed a desire for personal counseling, and the apparent need is much greater, since one's attitude towards one's-self and others affects both social adjustment and vocational attainment. To serve the expressed needs in Portland alone would require about half of a professional counselor's time. At present, there is no counseling center available in Portland, and the rehabilitation counselor for the blind in the Portland area must serve the total rehabilitation needs of all blind clients within a 60-mile radius of Portland.

The general areas.-- Twenty-three people expressed the need for vocational/academic education, and the apparent need is greater. To satisfy the vocational need alone might require a small vocational or pre-vocational training unit. There is no facility of this type within the state; and the nearest recognized training center is in Brooklyn, New York.

Twenty-eight persons expressed a need for employment, and the apparent need in Portland is about the same. One full-time placement counselor could not meet the need in Portland, and there is presently only one placement counselor for the blind serving the entire State.

About 50% of the blind in Portland are receiving direct support from public funds. Others report that they receive only enough income for the basic necessities. The employed group, however, receives an adequate income, which might imply that there is a need for more employment opportunities.

Need for rehabilitation facilities.-- Nine persons in Portland expressed the desire to attend a rehabilitation center, and the apparent need is much greater since many needs could be met simultaneously at such a center. To fill these expressed needs alone would require the entire services of a small center for a period of 3 - 4 months. At present there is no facility of this type in Maine, and only one in all of New England, which serves 30 clients per year.

Thirty-two people expressed the need of a good shelter workshop, and the apparent need is about the same. The entire facilities of a small workshop would be required to meet the need of Portland residents alone. A good rehabilitation workshop could also be used to meet the needs of persons needing temporary employment.

There is at present one shelter workshop for the blind in Portland, but it can in no way be called a rehabilitation facility since it serves none of the needs of persons striving for independence.

2. The Estimated Needs in Maine

Estimate of blind population in Maine, age 16--65.-- Sixty blind persons in this age group were found to reside in Portland, which has a general population of 77,634, according to the 1950 census. This is about one blind person 16-65 in 1,300 of the general population.

The State of Maine has a population of 913,774, according to the 1950 census, which is roughly 12 times the population of Portland. We should, therefore, expect to find about 720 blind persons in Maine between the ages of 16 and 65.

Estimated needs of the blind in Maine.-- If we assume that the needs of the blind in Maine are similar to those of blind persons in Portland, we may estimate the following needs in Maine:

Table 22. Estimated Needs in Maine: Based on the Expressed Needs of the Blind in Portland

Need	Number of Persons	Need	Number of Persons
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
A. D. L.	12	Academic Education.....	240
Mobility.....	72	Vocational Training.....	360
Braille.....	168	Employment.....	336
Typing.....	216	Rehabilitation Center....	108
Personal Counseling... 192		Shelter Workshop.....	516

The apparent needs would, in most cases, be a great deal larger than the above figures, especially in the areas of A. D. L., mobility, and rehabilitation center training.

There are five professional workers available in the State of Maine, to meet these needs: One home teacher, serving not more than 40 clients; one placement counselor, serving at best not more than 20 clients; and three vocational rehabilitation counselors, serving about 50 clients each. There is neither a rehabilitation center nor a rehabilitation workshop in the state.

3. Two Methods of Meeting These Needs

Expansion of State Services for the Blind.-- In order to meet the estimated needs of the blind in Maine (Table 22), it would be necessary

to expand the staff of Services for the Blind to include at least 10 home teachers, 4 or 5 counselors for personal adjustment counseling only, 2 mobility therapists, and a number of placement counselors impossible to estimate. This increase in rehabilitation clients would also make it necessary to employ many more rehabilitation counselors to maintain the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Yet, even with this expanded staff, the need for employment opportunities would not be met.

Establishment of a complete rehabilitation facility.-- A rehabilitation center would make it possible to bring blind clients from all parts of the State to one central location where their various needs could be met by a team of experts in the field. It would be possible to provide intensive training with a much smaller staff by using the professional worker's time more efficiently. A complete facility including an adjustment center, a pre-vocational training unit, and a shelter workshop would help blind persons complete their rehabilitation as quickly as possible and could also provide employment opportunities.

A center in Portland could become the focal point of all activities of and for the blind in Maine, and could serve to demonstrate to the general public the potentialities of blind persons. Employers could be shown that these people can and do make good workers, and the community could learn that blindness is not necessarily a handicap in social activities.

Even blind persons who are not interested in attending such a center would be affected by it, through a deepened public interest, and hopefully, a better understanding of their problems.

4. Conclusions

The cheapest, quickest and most effective method of meeting both the expressed and apparent needs of blind persons in Portland, and in Maine, is the establishment of a complete rehabilitation facility to include an adjustment center, a pre-vocational training unit, and a shelter workshop.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that a similar study be done of a comparable population group in a rural area, including only towns, villages and townships, preferably in Aroostook County. Since Portland is the only large city in Maine, and has many social agencies, medical facilities and other services available, it is felt that the rehabilitation needs of the blind will be found to be more adequately met in Portland than in any other area of the State.

A comparison of these two studies would present a more valid picture of the rehabilitation needs of the blind in Maine.

APPENDIX

1)

Interview Questionnaire

Observed or Known

Number _____ Age _____ Sex M F Married Single Other _____

Lives alone with parents with own family other _____

Number of minor children in home _____ from age _____ to age _____

Vision at present _____ Diag. (if known) _____

First eye difficulty at age _____ Legally blind at age _____

Seen by ophthalmologist yes no who? _____

Other physical disabilities (list) _____

Other family members with eye difficulty _____

Have you had a hearing test? yes no sponsor _____

Education: public school private residential _____

Completed grade _____ at age _____

College or Voc. School (name) _____ grad. at age _____ degree _____

Sponsor _____

Do you feel education sufficient? yes no

Do you feel vocational training sufficient? yes no

If no, would you accept further training/education at this time? yes no

2)

Observed or Known

ADL

	Well	Adequately	Poorly	Not at All
Cuts meat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eats in public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooks simple meals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washes dishes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dresses self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Locates clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cares for clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signs name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dials phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tells time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shaves self (M)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses make-up (F)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curls hair (F)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you feel adequate in area? yes no

If no, would you accept further training now? yes no

3)

Travel Confined to bed wheelchair house

Inside, travels well adequately poorly

Outside, travels without assistance well adequately poorly

with sighted guide

with white cane

with Hoover technique

Received training from _____ age ____ length of stay _____

Is training adequate to your needs? yes no

With guide dog well adequately poorly

Received training from _____ age ____ length of stay _____

Is training adequate for your needs? yes no

Would you like further training now? yes no

Length of trips-neighborhood city anywhere

by bus train

Are you active in any of the following

church blind organizations _____

clubs (list) _____ other _____

Observed or Known

Boston University
School of Education
Library

4)

Reading and Writing

Observed or Known

Reads newsprint easily adequately poorly not at all

Reads large print

Reads Braille

What grade Braille _____ Received training from SB other _____

Would you like further training in Braille? yes no

Writes longhand well adequately poorly not at all

Writes Braille

Types

Received typing instructions from SB Other _____

Would you like further training in typing? yes no

5)

Employment

Observed or Known

Employed Occupation _____ How long employed _____ yrs.

Income, adequate basic inadequate

Found job through MESC SB Other _____

Were you employed as a blind person? yes no

Do you like your work? yes no

Unemployed last job _____ how long ago _____ yrs.

Income, adequate basic inadequate

Were you employed as a blind person? yes no

Do you feel blindness contributed to losing job? yes no

Never employed

Last job as sighted person _____ income adequate basic

inadequate

Job you would like now _____

Would you need training for it? _____ How long? _____

If offered training, would you take it now? _____

What kind of job could you do now, without training? _____

If offered this job at the average beginning salary, would you take it?

_____ Why not? _____

Do you feel you can work an 8 hour day? _____

Would you move to accept employment? _____

What is the job you dream about? _____

6)

Financial

Observed or Known

Does your wife/husband work? yes no

Other family members employed _____

Do you or your family receive AB ADC SS Dis.

Unemployment Compensation VA pension other insurance

Is there any other income or contributions? _____

Is your total income adequate basic inadequate

Agencies

What agencies have you received service from? _____

Which one(s) has helped most? _____ How? _____

Counseling

Have you had a chance to talk over your problems with a professional worker? _____

Who _____

If no, would you like to? yes no

If yes, do you feel you had enough time? yes no

Attitudes:

Do you feel a blind person should not be expected to work

Do you feel a blind person should work in sheltered employment

Do you feel a blind person can work if he has help and training

7)

Rehabilitation Center

Observed or Known

Have you been to a rehabilitation center? yes no

Length of stay _____ wks. Age at entrance _____ yrs.

completed? yes no

Did it help you? yes no why _____

Do you feel you could benefit from (further) training? yes no

Would you accept it, if offered? yes no

Which things would be of most help? _____

Sheltered Shop

Have you ever worked in a sheltered shop? yes no how long _____ yrs.

From your present knowledge would you accept work in a sheltered shop if this was the only work available? yes no

To be of most benefit in a sheltered workshop should

pay fair wages (.75 hr. plus incentive)

not require residence

have professional supervision

have a variety of jobs

have jobs similar to outside employment

other _____

8) Shelter Shop (Cont'd)

Observed or Known

If a workshop of the above type were available, would you accept work there
if none other were available? yes no

If you did, would you expect to stay indefinitely? yes no

Other

What do you feel is most needed in the field of work with the blind?

What services do you think should be expanded and how?

Other comments

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State of Maine, Office of Secretary of State, Augusta
Volume 1, page M, 6/23/05

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