

# Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)



*Who are we?*

*What do we do?*

*Who do we serve?*

*How can we help?*

# History



- ▶ Founded in 1906
- ▶ Helen Keller was co-founder
- ▶ *"One cannot consent to creep when one feels the impulse to soar"*
- ▶ One of 15 agencies that comprise the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)

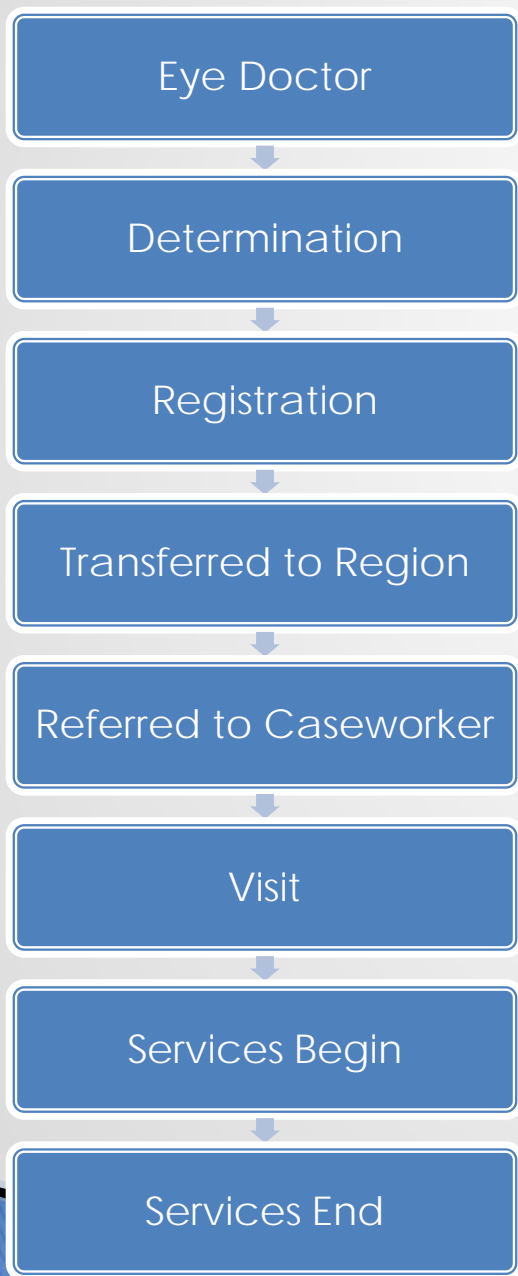
# MCB Mission Statement

- ❖ The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) provides the highest quality rehabilitation and social services to individuals who are blind, leading to independence and full community participation.
- ❖ MCB accomplishes this critical mission by working in partnership with consumers who are legally blind, families, community agencies, health care providers, and employers.

# MCB Consumers

- ❖ MCB provides services to MA residents who are registered with the agency by an eye doctor
- ❖ The definition of legal blindness; Central vision loss of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction or
- ❖ Peripheral field of ten degrees or less regardless of central vision acuity

# Registration Process



# What is blindness?





# Legally Blind



# Peripheral Blindness



20 degrees of peripheral vision



# Macular Degeneration



# Diabetic Retinopathy

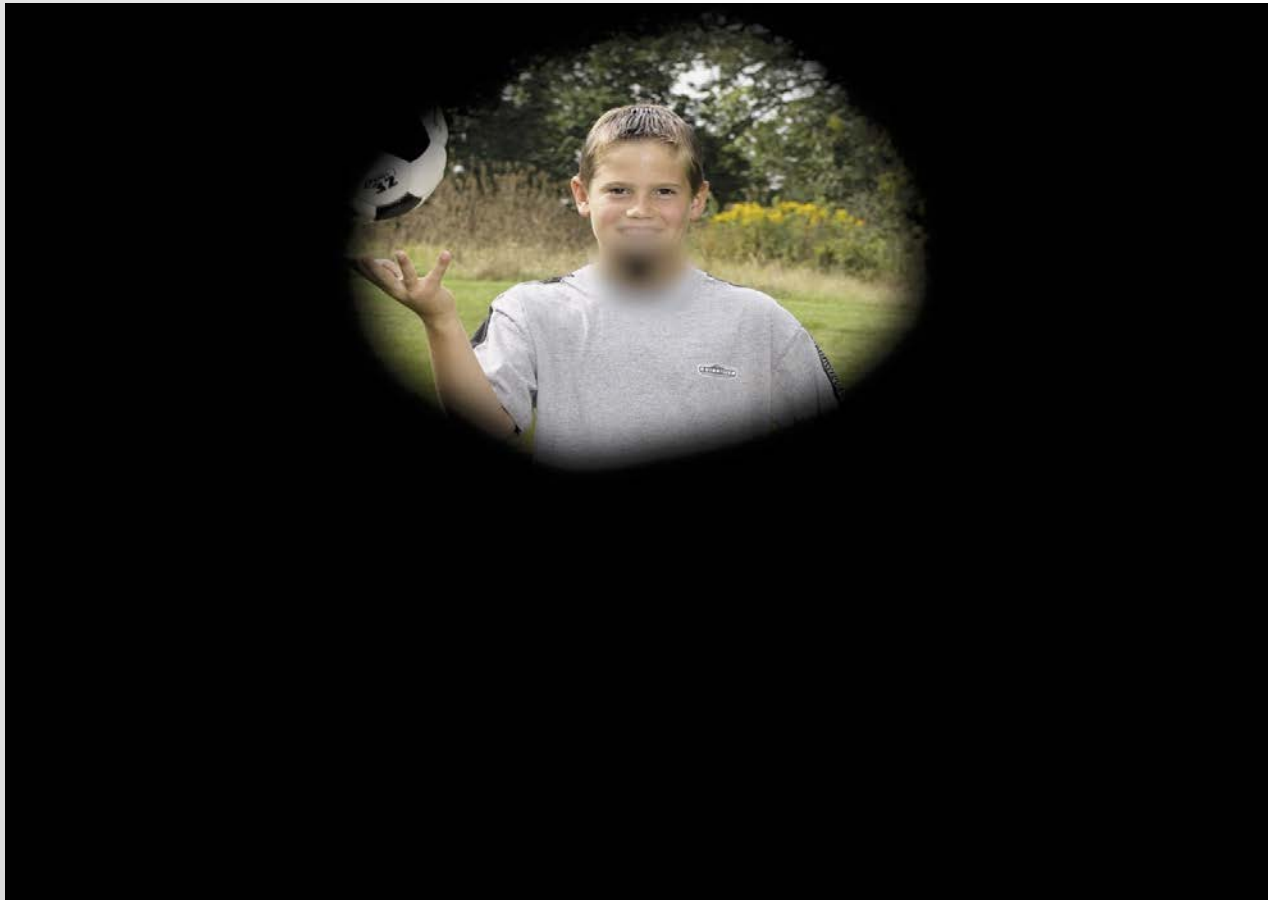


# Congenital Cataract





# Retinitis Pigmentosa



# Population

- ▶ “Cradle to Grave” service provider
- ▶ 35,000 Mass residents (relatively small)
- ▶ Younger populations often have multiple diagnoses
- ▶ Older Populations often have macular degeneration

Each age group has services tailored to their needs

INDIVIDUALIZATION!

# MCB Social Rehab Services

- ❖ Case Management
- ❖ Referral for direct services which include:
  - Rehabilitation Teaching
  - Orientation and Mobility
  - Adaptive Technology
  - Vision Utilization

# Social Rehab Services (cont.)

- ❖ *Referrals to external services which include;*
  - MAB Community Services
  - Veteran's Services
  - Senior Centers
  - Home Care Agencies
  - MASS EDP Phone
  - Talking Book Program
  - Audio Journal



# Social Rehab Services (cont.)

- ❖ *Legal Benefits including;*

  - State and Federal Income Tax Exemption

  - Real Estate Abatement

  - Automobile Excise Tax Exemption

  - Handicap Placard

  - Voting Rights

  - SSI Benefits

# Rehabilitation Teaching Services

- ❖ Skill evaluation and instruction at home or desired setting
- ❖ Evaluation for magnification
- ❖ Safety in the kitchen and meal prep
- ❖ Self care
- ❖ Problem solving
- ❖ Closed Circuit Television use
- ❖ Computer skills using adaptive technology

# Rehabilitation Services (cont.)

- ❖ Provides and teaches proper use of low vision devices including;
  - Cooking tools
  - Magnifiers
  - Talking time pieces
  - Bold Lined paper & 20/20 pens
  - Lighting

# Magnifiers



# CCTV





# Talking Book Machine



# Money Reader

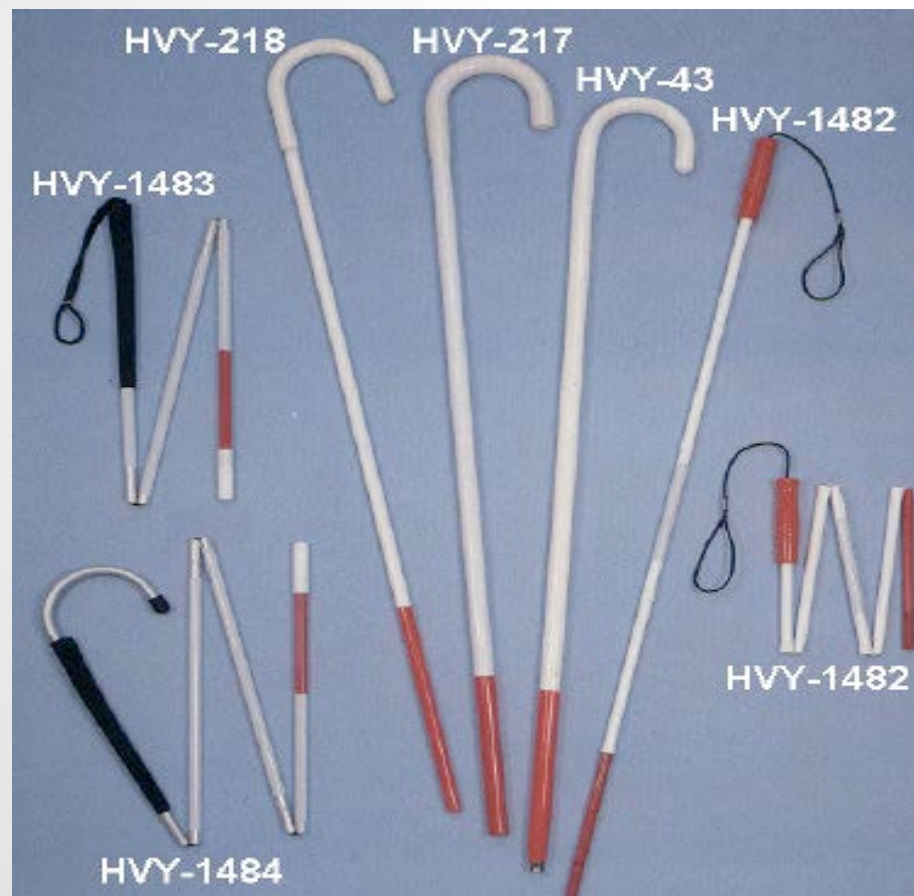




# Orientation and Mobility Services

- ❖ Individualized training (home, work, neighborhood, community)
- ❖ Sighted Guide Techniques
- ❖ Indoor/outdoor travel skills & cane techniques
- ❖ Auditory localization skills
- ❖ Street crossing and safe use of public transportation
- ❖ Preliminary skills necessary in preparation for use of dog guides
- ❖ Long canes and white support canes

# Canes



# Assistive Technology

- ❖ Magnification software
- ❖ Speech software
- ❖ Basic computer skills training
  - Internet
  - E-mail
- ❖ Evaluates the need for & provides Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

**YOU MEAN TO TELL ME**

*Services are free??*

MEMESLY.com

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# Questions? Comments?

