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**COMMISSION MEETING - IOWA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND**

**Commission Meeting.** The Iowa Commission for the Blind met on Saturday, December 3, 2016, at the Iowa Department for the Blind in Des Moines, Iowa. During the meeting, Director Emily Wharton gave updates on the Governor's budget hearing, department heads updated the Commission on current projects, and the Commission established the date of its next meeting.

**Director's Report.** Director Wharton presented the Department for the Blind's budget request on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, in a meeting that was well attended by consumers of Department services from all over the State. The theme of the presentation was fiscal responsibility and the ways that the Department supports blind Iowans to become independent.

The Department has shifted its primary entryway to the north side of the building. In addition, it is considering shifting the address of the building to better facilitate the use of GPS in locating the building. The second phase of the pilot will be presented at the March Commission meeting.

**Library Report.** The staff of the new information desk, which is now serving as the entryway desk on the first floor, is working on implementing the services and processes that can happen on the first floor rather than patrons having to travel to the upper floors. They have received training in customer support and confidentiality in order to ensure that the implementation of the new information desk system is successful.

The annual Braille Challenge event will be held in early 2017 with programming available for all levels of Braille readers.

**Changes to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Reporting Requirements.** Orientation Center Director Shawn Mayo reported that, due to changes in RSA (through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), the Center is working on a new documentation process for students collecting receipts, but it is having difficulty ensuring that students are receiving itemized receipts for all purchases. Vocational Rehabilitation Program Supervisor Keri Osterhaus noted that work is being done to prepare for the new RSA reporting measures, including being able to report open case data at the end of each quarter and measure skill gain rather than just program completion.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jocelyn Gerriets (515)725-2249 [josie.gerriets@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:josie.gerriets@legis.iowa.gov)