

goals, receive appropriate vocational training and employment. Independent living teachers provide services to blind Iowans who are ineligible for traditional vocational rehabilitation services because of age or a severe secondary disability. They work with individuals in their home communities and provide instruction in the skills and techniques of blindness. They expose blind persons to positive attitudes about blindness and assist in developing community based support systems.

The library for the blind and physically handicapped provides books and magazines in the alternative media of braille, recorded disc, cassette tape, and large type to eligible Iowans. Individuals who are blind, have a vision loss that does not constitute legal blindness, but is sufficient to prevent use of standard print with ease, physically handicapped or reading disabled persons qualify for library service. The library also distributes machines on which the records and tapes may be played.

The Business Enterprises Program enables blind Iowans to operate food service facilities on federal, state, municipal, and private property. The provision of initial and ongoing food service and management training, as well as beginning inventory and purchase of equipment, means that blind persons in the program can become self-sufficient, tax paying citizens.

The department makes available a variety of specialized aids, appliances and recreational items that can be purchased by blind Iowans at cost or furnished as part of some individual rehabilitation plans. White canes for independent travel, Braille and electronic watches and clocks, specially marked games, Braille and print writing devices, various types of measuring equipment and miscellaneous aids are among the items available.

A number of blind children are enrolled in regular public schools throughout the state. Upon request, the department works with the Bureau of Special Education of the Department of Education to procure books and specialized material for those children and to provide counseling and guidance.

A registry of the blind in Iowa showing cause of blindness, age and other statistical information valuable in program evaluation and planning is maintained by the department. It is estimated that there are more than 10,000 blind Iowans and that 25 Iowans become blind each week.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Don Grove, executive director; 211 E. Maple Street, Des Moines 50309-1858; 515/281-4121; 1/800/457-4416; Fax 515/242-5840; Internet www.state.ia.us/government/crc

BERNARD BIDNE, Northwood; term expires 1999

BLANCA FLORES, Muscatine; term expires 1999

LIZ NICHOLS, Indianola; term expires 1999

JACK MORLAN, West Des Moines; term expires 2001

MOHAMAD W. KHAN, Pleasant Hill; term expires 2001

ROBERT L. SMITH, JR., Waterloo; term expires 2001

FLORA M. LEE, Sioux City; term expires 2001

Under an act of the 61st General Assembly as amended, the Civil Rights Commission is charged with investigating, holding hearings, and rendering decisions on any complaints of unfair or discriminatory practices in public accommodations, employment, credit, housing, apprenticeship programs, on-the-job training programs and vocational schools on the basis of age, race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, or disability; and with planning and conducting programs designed to eliminate racial, religious, cultural, and intergroup tensions. The commission consists of seven members appointed by the governor to staggered terms of four years subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. No more than four members of the commission shall belong to the same political party, and its membership shall represent as wide an area as practical. Hearings are provided in the event of failure of conciliation, and orders resulting from such hearings are subject to judicial review. Commission officers are elected by the members and serve for one year starting on May 1.

COMMERCE, DEPARTMENT OF

Therese Vaughan, director; Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515/281-5705

The Department of Commerce was created to coordinate and administer the various regulatory, service, and licensing functions of the state relating to the conducting of business and commerce in the state.

The chief administrative officer of the department is the director. The director shall