



**American Optometric Association (AOA) Vision Rehabilitation Section (VRS)
State Association Vision Rehabilitation Action Project**

- I. State association perspective: Suggestions for state association vision rehabilitation committee development or enhancement:
 - a. Gain official approval from the state association board of trustees
 - b. Elect or appoint a chair or coordinator and a secretary
 - c. Set regular meetings that rotate among various state regions and in conjunction with other state association functions when possible
 - d. Use the AOA VRS public awareness materials, membership directory and clinical guidelines as a start for vision rehabilitation committee development
 - e. Encourage participants to join the AOA VRS to keep abreast of national issues and keep in close contact with the AOA VRS State Association Vision Rehabilitation Project Team (Maria S. Richman, O.D., N.J. and Grace Tran, O.D., Calif.)
 - f. Understand and promote concepts of collaboration and consensus as inter-professional issues are addressed

- II. AOA perspective: Developing the relationship between the national organization and state optometric association (from the May 1998 Draft of the AOA Strategic Plan):
 - a. Increase recognition of the AOA as the unified voice of optometry
 - b. Increase participation and support of advocacy efforts for all membership segments
 - c. Increase and improve national and state advocacy efforts
 - d. Assure and improve the opportunity for all optometrists to practice at the highest level of education and training

- III. AOA VRS perspective:
 - a. The AOA VRS mission statement
 - b. Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - c. AOA VRS membership benefits (including the directory)
 - d. Technology/Industry Relations - research and development



Blueprint for State Optometric Association Vision Rehabilitation Action

Implementation framework:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2012 - 2013 | Planning and contact phase |
| 2013 - 2015 | Completion of grass roots initiatives |
| 2015 - beyond | Monitoring and maintenance |

Goal:

This national initiative would strengthen the identification of vision rehabilitation service delivery within the profession of optometry, thereby increasing access to quality rehabilitation services for people with visual impairments. It would stimulate and enhance existing state association programming on the state and regional level. It would enhance the role of the AOA VRS as a national body that contributes constructive ideas and resources in tangible ways on local levels.

Objectives for Development of State Association Vision Rehabilitation Committees

- To improve quality of care for the visually-impaired in each of AOA Affiliates
- To provide post-graduate educational structure for optometrists who provide clinical vision rehabilitation in their practices
- To interact with state and regional public and private vision rehabilitation agencies, facilities and organizations serving the visually-impaired
- To interact with third-party and managed care organizations that may include clinical vision rehabilitation as part of enrollee benefits
- To interact with state legislation and regulation issues that relate to delivery of clinical vision rehabilitation
- To tailor unified state programs reflecting the intent of the AOA VRS Section mission statement and clinical guidelines while serving specific needs of each state and region
- To collaborate with professional organizations serving the visually impaired in policy development and research



2013 State Association Vision Rehabilitation Committees

State	Contact	State	Contact
AK	Robert Fleckenstein, O.D. rob@ervc.com	AL	Dawn DeCarlo, O.D. ddecarlo@uab.edu
AR	Wanda Vaughn, O.D. arkansasvision@cox-internet.com		Patricia Flippin-Westfall, O.D. drweye@swbell.net
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MI	Robbie Pairolero, O.D. rpairolero@yahoo.com	MS	RO.D. Fields, O.D. Dewey Handy, O.D. FishinrO.D.2@yahoo.com handye@bellsouth.net
NE	Robert Dietrich, O.D. rcdietrich@bbc.net	NH	Guy Lessard, O.D. Denis Allard, O.D. grlO.D.@aol.com 603-668-1731
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WA	Erick Hartman, O.D. Drhartman2020@hotmail.com		

Contacts are subject to change

Contact the AOA Vision Rehabilitation Section if you have changes to your committee by e-mail vsr@aoa.org.

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243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Floor 1
St. Louis, MO 63141
1-800-365-2219
Move up phone number



Model Programs:

**Florida Optometric Association (FOA)
VISION REHABILITATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Long-range objectives:

1. To interact with state and regional public and private vision rehabilitation agencies, facilities, and organizations serving the visually impaired
2. To interact with third party and managed care organizations that may include clinical low vision rehabilitation as part of enrollee benefits
3. To interact with state legislation and regulation issues that relate to delivery of clinical low vision rehabilitation
4. To tailor unified state programs reflecting the intent of the AOA Low Vision Section mission statement and clinical guidelines while serving specific needs of the state and region
5. To collaborate with professional organizations serving the visually impaired in policy development and research
6. To provide post-graduate education structure for optometrists who provide clinical low vision rehabilitation in their practices
7. To improve quality of care of the visually impaired in the state

Responsibility:

Pamela R. Oliver, O.D., Chairperson, FOA Low Vision Subcommittee



**New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians (NJSOP)
VISION REHABILITATION COMMITTEE**

The NJSOP Board of Directors approved the development of a vision rehabilitation committee in response to member interest and AOA VRS request.

The purpose of the state committee is to:

- Improve quality of care for the visually-impaired in N.J.
- Provide post-graduate educational structure for optometrists who provide clinical low vision rehabilitation in their practices
- Interact with state and regional public and private vision rehabilitation agencies, facilities and organizations serving the visually-impaired
- Interact with third party and managed care organizations that may include clinical low vision rehabilitation as part of enrollee benefits
- Interact with state legislation and regulation issues that relate to delivery of clinical low vision rehabilitation
- Collaborate with professional organizations serving the visually impaired in policy development and research

If you are interested in becoming part of this exciting new program, please fill in the information below and return this form to the NJSOP office. For additional information or questions, contact Maria Richman, O.D., at 732-223-0202. Meeting dates to be announced.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Local Society: _____

Are you an AOA Vision Rehabilitation Section member? Yes / No

Are you a N.J. Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired panel member? Yes / No