



**CCB-EYE CARE CARIBBEAN
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND
&
THE FOUNDATION FOR EYE CARE IN THE CARIBBEAN**

PURPOSE

“Preventing blindness and visual impairment; while restoring sight and creating opportunities for persons whose sight cannot be restored.”

**CURRICULUM FOR INCLUSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY
FOR PERSONS
WITH BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS**

**TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS
AND CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF
ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS TECHNICIANS
ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN.**

The Theoretical Segment of this Course can be presented over several weeks providing that the required number of contact hours and required material inputs are achieved.

The Practicum Segment for Candidates for the position of Adjustment to Blindness Technicians must be presented over a minimum of ten (10) weeks, so that potential Candidates can adequately practice and rehearse the various Methods and Practices and internalise the Principles.

This is a Training Programme for: Adjustment to Blindness Technicians as well as Community Service Workers who are likely to encounter persons who are blind and visually impaired while pursuing their normal duties.

PREREQUISITES FOR PARTICIPATION:

Persons nominated for this Programme must be Field-level Personnel with a high possibility of encountering persons with blindness or visual impairment and or their families during the course of their work; or individuals desirous of becoming Adjustment to Blindness Technicians.

Selected candidates must express a willingness to acquire the proposed skills and will be expected to work with blind and or visually impaired persons who need their services within their sphere of operation.

Participants must have good oral and written communication skills;

Successful candidates will be expected to accurately represent the circumstances of their clients with blindness or visual impairment in their regular reports.

NO. OF HOURS/DURATION:

A minimum of one (1) week (35 hours), complemented by a ten-week Practicum for persons being trained for positions as Adjustment to Blindness Technicians.

INTENT:

The main objective of this Training Programme is to prepare Professionals and Para-Professionals with the competency to provide meaningful intervention to persons who are blind or visually impaired along with their families, whenever such Professionals encounter these persons in the course of their work.

The overriding assumption is that Professionals such as Poor Relief Officers, Social Workers, Agricultural Extension Officers, Community Health Aids, Community Development Workers, and any other Professionals who operate at the community level, will from time to time encounter persons with blindness or visual impairments and their families who are beneficiaries of their services. Normally, such services will be limited by their general lack of training and or sensitization about the special circumstances and

requirements of people with blindness and visual impairments. Adjustment to Blindness Technicians are expected to work with such personnel to enhance access to related services for persons who are blind or low vision.

METHODOLOGY:

The Course will be presented through: Lecture Presentations, Demonstrations and Practice, Role-Play, Guided and Independent Study.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop an understanding of the concepts and issues associated with blindness and low vision.
2. To identify and understand a range of common eye disorders and their effects.
3. To critically examine the social and psychological implications of blindness and low vision on the individual, family and community.
4. To develop knowledge and skills in assessment of low vision needs and provide opportunities to maximize the use of functional vision.
5. To assess training needs and provide skills in orientation and mobility for persons with blindness and low vision.
6. To examine employment possibilities and adaptations needed to facilitate work.
7. To develop skills in the process of assessment, referrals and reporting.

CONTENT:

MODULE 1: [4 hours]

Understanding Blindness and Low Vision:

- a. Definitions and Concepts of Blindness and Low Vision
- b. Myths and Misconceptions
- c. Rehabilitation Process
- d. Current trends in work with and for the Blind and Low Vision in Country/Region.

MODULE 2: [3 hours] – [Second half of Day 1]

Introduction to Advocacy: Issues - Rights of Persons with Visual Impairments and Blindness:

The basis of all advocacy activities at the community level should be based on the following four rights of persons at risk of losing sight or whose sight cannot be restored.

2.1 That persons who are blind or visually impaired have a right to basic Health Services, including Eye Care Services, which are accessible, affordable and appropriate. The nature of these Services should be developed in line with the Vision 2020 priorities for the Caribbean (Cataract, Refractive Error and Low Vision, Childhood Blindness, Diabetic Retinopathy and Glaucoma).

2.2 That people with irreversible visual impairment have the same rights of access to equal and inclusive services and opportunities as those without visual impairment. This includes (but is not limited to) Educational Services, Medical and other Health Services, Agricultural, Vocational and Business Training, Employment Opportunities, Credit and other Financial Services, Public Transport and Leisure Services.

2.3 Like persons with normal sight, persons who are blind or visually impaired have the same rights and responsibilities to earn a livelihood in order to support themselves, their families, their communities and countries.

2.4 That persons who are blind or visually impaired have a right to a safe and secure environment; and that providers of key Services have a responsibility to ensure that these Services are equally and safely accessible to all, including those with visual impairment. This may require adapting the way in which services are provided and/or some additional training for staff; including, equipping generic Service Providers to serve as Adjustment to Blindness Assistants as part of their normal work routines. By extension, it is expected that services for the visually impaired should not be developed as a specialized programme, but should be the same service (as far as possible) as those offered to those without visual impairment

2.5 A logical extension of those rights and responsibilities is the requirement that persons who are visually impaired be facilitated in their access to services, even when those services have been appropriately adapted, it will require some specific training such as orientation, mobility and daily living skills. More specifically, members should bear in mind the following assumptions made in the new approach by CCB-Eye Care Caribbean Initiative:

2.5.1 For the majority of persons who are blind, (especially those above 65 years) the responsibility for providing this training should lie with the Community Health Aides and other Primary-level Health Workers, who have responsibility for providing basic care at the household level to all those who need it. Training and support to the CHAs is being provided to equip them to serve as Adjustment to Blindness Assistants when serving persons who are blind.

2.5.2 In some cases (especially pre-school children, newly blind adults and those who are in a transition stage of their life such as moving to secondary/tertiary education) a more specialist training intervention may be required at the individual level. In these cases, Community Health Aids should be required to refer such individuals to Adjustment to Blindness Technicians or Adjustment to Blindness Instructors, for more advance and comprehensive training.

2.5.3 The primary role of CCB Members is to facilitate the inclusion of persons who are visually impaired in mainstream services. This may be achieved through a variety of means, including advocacy, resource mobilisation and provision of specialist training services. It is not the long term role of CCB Member Agencies to develop or deliver comprehensive, vertical, training services for all persons with visual impairment. Rather,

such services must be delivered at the most appropriate levels in their respective communities.

MODULE 3: [2 hours]

Social and Psychological Implications of Loss of Sight:

- a. The psychological implications of the loss of sight;
- b. Real and perceived social and cultural barriers to blind persons;
- c. The reaction process of family and community;
- d. Self-assessment of fears and prejudices - Community Workers/Trainers

MODULE 4: [3 hours] – [Morning/Afternoon of Day 2]:

Introduction to Vision 2020 and Common Eye Disorders in the Caribbean;

- a. History of Vision 2020 in the Caribbean;
- b. Vision 2020 Strategy for the Caribbean
- c. Piloting the Strategy;
- d. Introduction to Common Eye Diseases
- e. Some Simulation Exercises
- f. Vision 2020 Activities in the participating country;

MODULE 5: [at least 9 hours]

Daily Living Skills:

- a. Personal Management:
 - Personal hygiene, selecting, identification and care of clothing
 - Money management
 - Issues of personal privacy and confidentiality
- b. Home Management
 - Indoor/Outdoor Maintenance.
 - Food Preparation
 - Identification Skills
 - Record-keeping
- c. Community Integration
 - Social and Recreational Activities
 - Shopping
 - Banking
 - Etc.
- d. Introduction to Communication Skills
 - Reading and writing print and braille
 - Other forms of communication
 - Computer access and basic skills;

MODULE 6: [at least 7 hours]**Introduction to Orientation and Mobility:**

- a. Sensory Awareness and Utilization
- b. Sighted-guide Techniques
- c. Self Protection
- d. Cane Travel
- e. Public Transportation

MODULE 7: [at least 3 hours]**Employment:**

- a. Income Support Activities
- b. Self/Open Employment
- c. Job and Work-place Adaptation

MODULE 8: [at least 4 hours].**Assessment and Referrals:**

- a. Needs Assessment –Adjustment to Blindness Training; Pre-School, School Age, Adults
- b. Referrals -
- c. Personnel and Inter-Agency Co-ordination
- d. Recording and Reporting
- e. Team Approach

EXPLANATION OF PRACTICUM

1. By thebut (preferably before the start of this Course) identify at least four persons who are blind or low vision in your community; make their: names, telephone contact (if any) and full address available to the Administrator/Manager of The Health Workers in your communities can be quite helpful in pointing you to persons who are blind or low vision.
2. Betweenand.....; based on your knowledge gained on this Course, and skills acquired from your training:
3. Assess the persons' needs and identify specific areas of needs, which your training can help to solve.
4. Implement a Course of Training for the four or more persons you identified.
5. During the ten-week Practicum you are required to meet with the Administrator/Manager of (as a Group) on Fridays of each week, to review your experiences and seek his/her assistance in resolving any major difficulties, which you might be encountering. The Administrator/Manager is required to produce notes of the issues raised and the decisions taken, for review and follow-up at the next Weekly Meeting.
6. Maintain: a daily Diary on your training related activities as well as an accurate File on each client, ensuring that each of your encounter with him/her is documented in short but accurate notes; and take those Files and Diary to the regular Weekly Meetings with the Administrator/Manager of
7. At the end of your training of the selected candidates, compile a report inclusive of all the activities undertaken.
8. On or before, hand over all Clients' Files as well as your overall report to the Administrator/Manager of
9. Your work with the selected clients will be assessed in the first half of.....
10. TheTrainees (to be selected locally) who best demonstrate good knowledge and skills taught on this Course, will be offered employment with, as Adjustment to Blindness Technicians.
11. During the Practicum Phase of this Course, each of the Trainees (under consideration for employment with, will be provided with:

11.1 A Training and Transportation Allowance ofper week, to cover: transportation, subsistence and other training related requirements. After the first Week's Allowance, the Allowance for the second and subsequent weeks will only be paid based on clear written evidence (in Files and Work Diary) that the Trainee has established a minimum of four clients, and is actively engaged in work with her/his clientele.

11.2 An Official Diary to be used only for training related entries;

11.3 File Folders, Intake Forms and note papers to construct files, file fasteners;

12. The Administrator/Manager of.....is authorized to make a determination as to the Trainees' suitability to continue on the Practicum. His/her decision is final.

13. ASSESSMENT:

- a. Attendance and participation in Theoretical and Practicum Phases of Course
- b. Case Study - assess, plan program for implementation
- c. Quizzes
- d. Portfolio
 - Compilation of Course Assignments
 - Quizzes
 - Case Study
 - Study Questions

14. Certificate of Participation/Achievement

The recommendation of Course Instructors and the Supervisor of the Practicum Phase, will combine to determine which participants will be certified as Adjustment to Blindness Instructors. While all participants could be certified, only the more successful ones from will be recruited as Adjustment to Blindness Technicians with