**Resolution 2012-01**

**Regarding Kansas Rehabilitation Services and Blindness Rehabilitation**

**WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration, the American Medical Association, the Ophthalmological Association and the Optometric Association all operate under the statutory definition of blindness as an acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction or a field restriction of 20 degrees or less; and**

**WHEREAS, The agency charged by the state of Kansas and the Federal Government to provide rehabilitation services to blind persons, including those with a progressive diagnosis, Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) and its host agency the Department for Children and Families (DCF) refuses to create policy directing vocational rehabilitation counselors to expose legally blind clients to the basic skills of the independent blind and the benefits of blindness rehabilitation; and**

**WHEREAS, blind Kansans are not being encouraged or even told about blindness rehabilitation training due to the misguided notion that it is better to pass as a sighted person than to be seen as a blind person; and**

**WHEREAS, Instead KRS has spent valuable time and resources teaching the counselors that most blind persons can function with magnification equipment; and**

**Whereas, KRS has endorsed a discriminatory model of "visual impairment" where only totally blind clients are considered to be "in need" of blindness rehabilitation; and**

**WHEREAS, legally blind individuals can all benefit from positive exposure to the skills and techniques of the independent blind and the benefits of blindness rehabilitation: now therefore**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas in convention assembled on this 11th day of November, 2012, in the city of Lawrence, Kansas that this organization take action to encourage the Secretary of DCF to bring about such policy within KRS, and;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NFB of Kansas demand that all legally blind clients be informed of and offered blindness rehabilitation with a positive spin on the presentation; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers and members of the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas do all in our individual powers to discredit any rehabilitation scheme operating in our state that is not centered around the fundamental skills of blindness independence.**

**RESOLUTION 2012-02**

**Regarding sub-minimum wage**

**WHEREAS, Kansas sheltered workshops are participating in the unfair, immoral and discriminatory practices of paying sub-minimum wages to blind and other disabled employees; an**

**WHEREAS, these Kansas sheltered shops receive state and government contracts for goods and services; and**

**WHEREAS, vocational rehabilitation services and USAID 259 and others contract with these sheltered shops to provide rehabilitative services to blind and other disabled clients and**

**WHEREAS, the government contracts and the provision of client services results in a conflict of interest for Kansas sheltered shops and vocational rehabilitation; and**

**WHEREAS, monies gained by these Kansas sheltered shops allow for excessive wages and bonuses for top executives and management and**

**WHEREAS, the disabled workforce does not benefit from the extreme profits and sharing of bonuses: now therefore,**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas in convention assembled on this 11th day of November, 2012, in the city of Lawrence, Kansas that the practice of paying sub-minimum wage for any reason, is condemned and deplored by the National Federation Of the Blind of Kansas; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFB of Kansas demand that the State of Kansas no longer contract with Kansas sheltered shops until all employees are paid minimum wage or above.**