****

For immediate release

January 17, 2017

Department of Human Services Readopts Rule N.J.A.C. 10:97 – Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Business Enterprises Program

Trenton – The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI), a division of the Department of Human Services, was established by P.L. 2007, c. 111, (N.J.S.A. 30:6-1 et seq.), which requires, among other things, for CBVI to provide all means which it deems feasible, for ameliorating the condition of the blind and vision impaired. CBVI promotes and provides services in the areas of education, employment, independence, and eye health for people who are blind, vision-impaired, and deaf-blind, their families, and the community.

The Department of Human Services is readopting rule N.J.A.C. 10:97 which establishes how CBVI determines, administers and delivers services under the agency’s Business Enterprise New Jersey (BENJ) program.

As the designated state licensing authority for BENJ, which was created by the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, CBVI also provides legally blind individuals with training in the operation of cafeterias, vending stands, convenience stores, and vending machine locations with the ultimate goal of their becoming independent food service professionals.

The readopted rule describes the current business enterprise program offered by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, as well as the standards and procedures that govern the delivery of these services.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments concerning the proposed readoption of **N.J.A.C. 10:97 (Business Enterprise Program of the Commission for the** Blind **and Visually Impaired)**

A copy of the rule can be found at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/rulefees/ruleprop/>

Submissions and any inquiries should be sent by or before March 17, 2017, to:

   Daniel Frye, J.D., Executive Director
   New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
   153 Halsey Street
   6th Floor
   PO Box 47017
   Newark, NJ 07101
   Daniel.Frye@dhs.state.nj.us