**AER Resolution 2022-04: Concerning the Intersectionality of Vision Loss and Mental and Emotional Health and Wellness**

Whereas, the experience of consumers and professionals alike throughout the vision loss community with addiction, mental and emotional health, and related challenges requires an urgent and multifaceted response by all of us to address stigma, to create a welcoming environment, and to make this topic a meaningful part of our organizational commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; and

Whereas, this organization, as has been unconscionably uniform among organizations of and for people who are blind or visually impaired, has paid little attention to the crisis of mental and emotional health and well-being among people with vision loss; and

Whereas, the specific challenges and service needs relating to the mental health and well-being of individuals with vision loss are largely ignored or misunderstood by the mental health system and mental health professionals.

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) on this the 24th day of July, 2022, in the city of St. Louis, MO, that this organization, through its Advocacy Committee with the cooperation of all interested AER Divisions (both independently and in full partnership with the American Council of the Blind's recently established mental health and wellness initiative) engage the professional mental health community for the purpose of fostering greater professional competence in their work with patients and clients who are blind or visually impaired; and

Be it further resolved that this organization consider ways in which AER might better support its individual members and friends in their own unique needs for mental and emotional wellbeing through AER's programs and activities.

ADOPTED