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Editorial two

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EDITORIAL

ROGER FALBERG

Editor, Journal of Rehabilitation of the Deaf

Well, this is it! The first issue of the *Journal of Rehabilitation of the Deaf*, official organ of Professional Rehabilitation Workers with the Adult Deaf. It is intended to provide professional workers of all disciplines with a forum in which issues, topics, research findings, and other information relevant to working with deaf adults may be discussed.

One thing should be clear from the outset: “Rehabilitation,” as used in the title of this magazine and in the name of the sponsoring organization, means rehabilitation in its broadest sense. When a social worker counsels a deaf client on budget management, when a psychologist or psychiatrist provides therapy for a deaf patient, when an audiologist takes an audiometer reading and prescribes a hearing aid for a deaf person, all are working towards the rehabilitation of their deaf clients. Even if the client already has a job, these services are “rehabilitation” in the sense that the client’s adjustments to the world in which he lives is facilitated. The world of work, in this context, is seen as a part of the client’s life — a vital part, it is true, but a part nonetheless, and the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Rehabilitation for better living includes rehabilitation for work, and not the other way around.

As professionals in the field have often pointed out, the term “rehabilitation” is actually a misnomer when working with deaf adults. *Habilitation* – original adjustment as compared with *re*-adjustment – is more accurate. This assertion is recognized, but we have retained rehabilitation in deference to popular usage.

Semantics aside, this journal and its parent organization are primarily concerned with providing professional services to deaf adults. Rather than an intradisciplinary approach, as practiced by the journals of the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and others, we are taking an interdisciplinary approach.

The handicap of deafness brings about communication difficulties, language deficiencies, and sociocultural implications that are of interest to *any* professional person, whatever his discipline, who finds himself working with deaf adults. We are trying to provide a common meeting ground in which problems that arise can be discussed and their solutions, found by professionals, can be shared with others.

As with all new ideas and new events, doubts, fears, and sincere concern may arise over the structure, goals, and methods of this new organization and its publication. We welcome sincere concern, and being still in our swaddling clothes, we need suggestions. The doubts and fears we hope to alleviate through the years by continuously demonstrating through our publication and the activities of the organization and the people within it that there is a place for us in this tangled, white, and fuzzy jungle we call “the world of professionals.”

We have no doubt that we speak for all the PRWAD members and the Executive Board when we voice our deep and sincere appreciation to Professor Stephen P. Quigley and the University of Illinois for helping publish the first two issues through the University of Illinois Press. Were it not for Dr. Quigley and the University, the first issue of this *Journal* would still be years away.

We would like to thank those who contributed articles for this issue at our request. The authors had to work under the pressure of a severe 45-day deadline. Although some of the articles received do not appear in this issue due to lack of space, they will appear in the next or a subsequent issue.

Read on, then. We think a real adventure awaits you in the pages of this *Journal*. Details on membership in the PRWAD and on subscriptions are to be found inside the front cover. We hope you will like what you have seen well enough to want to see more.