

RELIGION

No papers were presented. As planned, there was group discussion for development of action.

Fifteen interested persons met with Fr. Gerald Howell, Chairman instead of Dan Pokorny. They enumerated issues of interest and concern to both religious and rehabilitation workers. Several areas of interest were identified and discussion followed, with the following selected for emphasis and action:

1. Decision to select officers to organize a section under the by-laws of PRWAD. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Rev. E.D. Lawrence, Springfield, Mo. (Assemblies of God)

Co-chairman: Rev. Gerald J. Howell, New Orleans, La. (Catholic)

Secretary: Chaplain Ing Thvedt, Tucson, Az. (Lutheran)

2. Goals indicated:

An opportunity of interdisciplinary fellowship with members of PRWAD will provide exchange of information and professional growth in order to better serve deaf people.

This section can provide the framework for an ecumenical exchange of methods and materials used in work with the deaf in the nation.

Religious workers can often be of service in the rehabilitation process as a professional team-mate if insight and skills are developed.

This section will provide opportunities for religious workers to up-grade their professional skills through affiliation with other disciplines in PRWAD. Recognizing the emphasis of the whole person there needs to be a close relation of psychological, sociological, economical and spiritual services.

3. Immediate action is the formation of a committee to develop format, time and place of workshops for religious workers to learn how to relate with rehabilitation counsellors. The PRWAD Board to give guidance in selection of teaching staff.

Another action committee will be one that studies publications of rehabilitation materials in order to select important copy to be widely distributed among religious workers at denominational levels. This committee will also make selections for presentation to PRWAD Editorial committee for Newsletter and Journal.

Religious materials that meet the need of deaf people would also be reviewed and shared as well as being a catalyst to encourage faith groups to accept responsibility of preparation and publication of Biblical materials in signed English.

There will be plans for a possible future forum on working relationships of rehabilitation counsellor and religious worker with the deaf person.