

# V

## **CODING FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FORM R-300**

**Leader: Ralph H. White**

**Recorder: Tom Lawrie**

**Charge: To propose guidelines for coding hearing impairments which will promote a system which will be clear and comprehensible.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There are no federal guidelines which explain how the disability codes for persons with hearing impairments (200-229) are to be utilized by state vocational rehabilitation agencies in coding the R-300 form. Surveys of state rehabilitation agencies have revealed that there is a great deal of variance in factors considered when coding hearing impaired clients on the R-300. Most of the states have indicated that they do not have written guidelines for the application of codes for deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. There is a tremendous variance in the content of those states that do have written guidelines. For example, one state responding to the PRWAD Coordinator's survey indicated that any person with an unaided 60dB loss in the better ear was coded as being deaf. Another state indicated that the dB loss must be 80 dB in the better ear before a client is coded as being deaf.

It is doubtful that the statistics reported by RSA on the numbers of deaf and hard-of-hearing clients served and rehabilitated are accurate because of the differences in the various states in their coding procedures.

### **RESULTS**

After a great deal of debate and discussion, it was agreed that this workshop could not resolve the problems of coding hearing impairments in a way that would be meaningful, realistic and not difficult for general counselors to use and which would minimize differences in recording and reporting among states.

The following coding system was brought by one of the participants. This system was also considered by most participants to have certain merits.

**Code:**

**(2- ) Deafness (visual communication only - unintelligible speech)**

**No communication skills (receptive & expressive)**

**Pantomime, gestures and/or limited language skills**

**American Sign Language (receptive & expressive) some written communication skills**

**Sign Language, English word order (receptive & expressive)**

**Speechreading and/or written messages**

**(21- ) Deafness (visual communication only - intelligible speech)**

**Speechreading as major means of receptive communication with speech as the major means of expressive communication**

**Receptive communication-written messages only; Expressive communication speech**

**Total communication (speechreading-signing-speaking and writing)**

**(22- ) Hard of hearing (with generally unintelligible speech)**

**Understands only amplified speech and prefers total communication**

**Understands only amplified speech together with speechreading**

**Frequent difficulty with loud speech**

**Frequent difficulty with normal speech**

**Frequent difficulty with faint speech**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**We strongly recommend that RSA sponsor a task force to establish a uniform system of arriving at disability codes 200-229 which will put emphasis on the functional aspects involved with hearing impairment. We further recommend that consideration be given to the Gallaudet Hearing Scale as shown in *The Deaf Population of the United States* on page 137.**