

REPORT OF STATE AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

Frank Nemshick,
Chairperson

- 1. Problem:** Casefinding and referral efforts on the State level are not sufficiently well coordinated with respect to deaf clients.

Need: A need exists for State DVR agencies to provide greater information about deafness to casefinding and referral agencies and to work more closely with such agencies in attracting new clients.

Recommendation: A central State agency independent of DVR should be established in those States which do not already have a referral agency. This agency should disseminate information on VR and other State services to deaf people living in the State and should refer potential clients to the DVR agency.
- 2. Problem:** VR services for deaf persons are often postponed or otherwise delayed because counselors able to communicate with deaf people are not available.

Need: A need exists for DVR agencies to train and/or hire people able to communicate with deaf clients.

Recommendation: State DVR agencies should train selected counselors in manual communication and/or hire counselors skilled in sign language to work with deaf clients.
- 3. Problem:** VR services and money available for such services vary greatly among the States. Deaf people do not always receive their share of State VR funds or services.

Need: A need exists for more uniform services for deaf people among the States.

Recommendation: Each State should find ways and means to determine the need and provide the necessary money for services. A State Ad-

visory Council on Deafness should be established and its scope broadened eventually to include all State agencies serving deaf people. Alternatively or additionally, the State should establish a separate full-time commission on the deaf.

4. *Problem:* VR services often fail at the placement step because of inexperience, timidity, lack of information or other problems of the counselor.

Need: A need exists for State VR agencies, to improve placement with deaf clients.

Recommendation: A coordinated and structured training program teaching techniques of placement should be provided for counselors who work with deaf clients.

5. *Problem:* Follow-up with deaf clients is often insufficient.

Need: There is a need for more adequate follow-up prior to closure of cases with deaf-clients in order to insure satisfactory adjustment and satisfaction on the part of the client.

Recommendation: Cases with deaf clients should not be closed until the counselor is assured that the client is satisfied with his work and has developed good relationships with his employer and co-workers.