

## REPORT OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

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**Ralph White,  
Chairperson**

1. *Problem:* Services and programs for deaf people are often developed without adequate involvement of deaf people, parents and others aware of the needs of "grass-roots" deaf persons.  
*Need:* A need exists for an effective vehicle at the State level to promote public and professional awareness of deafness and to develop quality service delivery to deaf people.  
*Recommendation:* It is strongly recommended as a first priority that a State Advisory Council on Deafness be established so that representatives from deaf consumer organizations, State agencies and other appropriate groups be brought together to plan and implement needed programs. This SACD may be established through legislative action.
2. *Problem:* In some States there is no coordination of services for deaf people. Intra-state variations in services are also common.  
*Need:* There is a need for statewide coordination of services for deaf people.  
*Recommendation:* That a qualified VR counselor, who has knowledge of deaf people and their problems, be selected for the role of State Coordinator by the State DVR Director. This is the second priority.
3. *Problem:* Community services generally are not obtained by deaf persons as they are by hearing residents of the same city.  
*Need:* A need exists for community service delivery to deaf people.  
*Recommendation:* That community services, emphasizing personal and social counseling, be established and conducted by professionals who are trained to work with deaf people. These services should include mental health and physical health programs. Certified interpreters should be provided.