

# PREFACE

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The Rubella Impact on Rehabilitation Conference represents an effort on the part of the University of Tennessee and the Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program to bring together key rehabilitation service providers and planners from the eight states in RSA Region IV to further advance specialized rehabilitation knowledge and practices. This conference gained some of its impetus as a regional follow-up of the National Deafness and Rubella Conference hosted by the National Technical Institute on Deafness (September, 1980). However, the conference recognized that rubella is not the only cause of deaf-blindness and multihandicapping conditions among the deaf population. Although the primary intent of the conference was to focus on the rubella deafened client, a more encompassing approach required some redefinition of focus. Hence, the terms "rubella deafened", "deaf-blind", and "multihandicapped" had shared commonalities making them almost synonymous in planning and discussion. Regardless, the conference did not narrow its focus to serving a category of some nature. Rather, the focus was the administration of programs and services for a group of people who happen to require sets of specialized conditions to attain their optimal level of functioning.

The compelling goal for this conference was to delineate the specifics of rehabilitation efforts directed toward this special client population within one region of the country. It is hoped that through this publication there will be further explorations in establishing feasible services to other multihandicapped deaf people, as well as the many under-serviced deaf-blind persons in other regions throughout the nation.

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