

November 2019

## Facilities for the Deaf

Edgar H. Shroyer

*Director, Pittsburgh Counseling Center for the Deaf*

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### Recommended Citation

Shroyer, E. H. (2019). Facilities for the Deaf. *JADARA*, 6(2). Retrieved from <https://repository.wcsu.edu/jadara/vol6/iss2/53>

## **FACILITIES FOR THE DEAF**

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**By EDGAR H. SHROYER, Director, Pittsburgh Counseling Center for the Deaf**

Tom Mayes asked me to bring together what he calls "Facilities" so, after mulling it over a while, I thought that we would draw upon the people in Pennsylvania to present this program today with the main emphasis being on inter-agency cooperation in setting up services and serving deaf clients.

I would like to kick this off by giving you a brief description of the Counseling Center for the Deaf which I feel was instrumental in perhaps getting the three programs represented by the three panel members today initiated in the Pittsburgh area. The Counseling Center was on a Social and Rehabilitation Service Research and Demonstration Grant with one of its main goals to either get existing facilities to expand services to the deaf, or provide services where they were not available to deaf individuals. The Center is a comprehensive agency serving the mental health, social, and vocational needs of deaf persons. We provide counseling, interpreting, tutoring, consultation and personal assistance to all deaf persons seeking such services.

The Counseling Center assisted the Vocational Rehabilitation Center of Allegheny County in getting a five year expansion grant with the Federal Government to expand services to the deaf. Dixmont State Hospital is setting up their program for the psychotic deaf and was instrumental in setting up other programs at the Home for Crippled Children and Transitional Living. We have a great number of cross referrals in our programs at the Counseling Center and assist other agencies in providing services to deaf clients. The major task with Pennsylvania Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation deaf clients, our focus this afternoon, is gearing them to a level where they can communicate and understand directions in order that they can successfully undergo some type of vocational training or evaluation which agencies might offer.

Our panel member, Mr. Herbert Pickell, is extremely familiar with the operations at VRC because he was there, and then moved on to the

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Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Center, thereby opening up an additional facility to serve the deaf.

Instead of my going into detail regarding the Counseling Center program, I am sure it will come to light in the discussion by each of the panel members. Afterwards, we will open it up for question and answers when everyone has had an opportunity to share their program with you.