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Preface

Development of the Model State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation of Deaf Clients is largely due to the vision and persistence of Dr. Boyce R. Williams, Director, Office of Deafness and Communicative Disorders, RSA. Over the past decade, he has sought to bring together diverse points of view which have contributed to the extreme range in quality and quantity of services available to deaf persons in the various States. He recognized the need for a systematic treatment of the problem, leading to suggested minimum standards for consideration by each State VR administration. Recent impetus was added through the appointment of a joint subcommittee of the CSAVR Committee on Deafness and the NRA Task Force on Deafness, September 1972.

To prepare this document, a group of professionals from the State, regional and federal governments met. They had the advantage of many prior meetings, whose work is summarized in the article by Mr. Richard Melia appearing in Appendix I. In addition, the writing group called upon members of their organizations to review the drafts as they were received. All of these contributions to the preparation of this document should be acknowledged, but cannot. To those who do not appear below, we offer the consolation of having participated in an important attempt to improve conditions for deaf citizens.

Each of the persons listed below wrote a portion or a major critique of the plan. However, as must be expected in a cooperative effort, final editing may have eliminated or distorted what they prepared. Therefore, while acknowledging wholeheartedly their invaluable contributions, the editor accepts full responsibility for deficiencies in this document.

Edna Adler
Frank G. Bowe
Charles R. Ferrell
Francis J. Gattas
James Hanson
Jack Hutchison
F. Terry Kemp
Gerald Mann

Richard Melia
Ronald Reese
Dale Romesburg
Anthony Ruscio
Jerome D. Schein
Henry C. Warner
Douglas Watson
Boyce R. Williams

Following its completion, the Model State Plan was presented to the NRA Task Force on Deafness, chaired by Dr. Jack Hutchison. As noted in the letters which follow, Dr. Hutchison forwarded the plan to the NRA Board of Directors, after the plan was accepted by the Task Force. Mr. Prickett's letter records the endorsement of the plan by the NRA Board of Directors. The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation will also consider the plan in the near future. It is hoped that the favorable reaction of CSAVR will be received prior to the Congress on Deafness being sponsored by the NRA Task Force.

Dr. Larry G. Stewart's letter expresses the likely adoption of the Model State Plan by PRWAD at its convention, which precedes the Congress on Deafness. In the meantime, PRWAD has given tangible support in the form of publishing the plan, thereby making available an advance copy of it to participants and others interested in the Congress on Deafness. This generous

action promises that the Model State Plan will move rapidly from conception to implementation. And that, after all, is what everybody associated with its development has sought.

The Social and Rehabilitation Service, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, supports, in part, the Deafness Research & Training Center, which has had the responsibility for preparation of the Model State Plan. The federal government's assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Jerome D. Schein, Ph.D.
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