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Report of the Legislative Approaches Committee

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None

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REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE APPROACHES COMMITTEE

Bob Hope,
Chairperson

1. *Problem:* Most States have a traditional VR plan which may not meet the suggested requirements for minimum levels of service delivery contained in the Model State Plan.

Need: A need exists for State VR plans to be improved relative to services to deaf people in those States not meeting MSP requirements.

Recommendation: That delegates should approach their State VR Directors about a new plan to better serve deaf people in the State. The major aspect of this new plan would be coordination of groups serving deaf people.

2. *Problem:* Groups representing deaf people rarely have a plan when approaching legislators.

Need: A need exists for guidelines for the development of such plans.

Recommendation: That each group select a spokesman who will present its points. The group should define clearly its objectives. Then, determine who has authority in the area in question: are new laws actually needed? If a new law appears necessary, clear it with the State VR agency first to get their support. Develop a plan of action, assign responsibilities, coordinate actions, have one person see that the plan is followed exactly all the way to the Governor's signature. To get the bill rolling, find a legislator willing to sponsor it. Be sure legislation is written properly. A state network is vital to get enactment of legislation. Timing is most important. Telegrams followed by telephone calls are thought to be most effective.