

# Goals of the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - July 6, 2010

**Purpose of NASADHH** (*to function as the national voice of State Agencies serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and to promote the implementation of best practices in the provision of services.*)

## Group voted on all goals listed below and prioritized the top five:

1. **Set standards throughout US** for accessibility in health care situations.
  - a. Hospitals
  - b. Nursing homes
  - c. Mental Health Services
  - d. VRI possibilities
2. **Data collection** - how to get consistent, accurate, meaningful data and demographics and document collection for grant purposes.
3. **Sustainability** of agencies, programs and services provided.
  - a. Forced **merger with another agency**, particularly a general disability agency, or reorganization into another agency.
  - b. **Budget** issues !
  - c. **No new programs created** to grow / budget cuts are causing stagnation.
4. Develop more local grassroots **advocacy**. People must take up the issues themselves and give more support to agencies. Develop **training** to help deaf get through the system to know how to advocate. **Reduce learned helplessness**. Empower DHH to do for themselves rather than depending on state agencies. (stop the revolving door, bad habits learned)
5. Need **minimum standards** to ensure quality, licensed, better trained, teachers of ASL. **Praxis exams**, need assistance from ASLTA to improve professional testing opportunities for deaf teachers.
6. **Fragmented systems within deaf education**. Communicate better together to get all agencies (VR, ED, etc) to focus on education for DHH children to keep **quality and standards of services** from deteriorating.

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## From today's discussion, agencies identified (original) goals:

1. **Sustainability** of agencies, programs and services provided.
  - a. Forced **merger with another agency**, particularly a general disability agency, or reorganization into another agency.
  - b. **Budget** issues !
  - c. **No new programs created** to grow, budget cuts are causing stagnation.
2. Develop more local grassroots **advocacy**. People must take up the issues themselves and give more support to agencies. Develop **training** to help deaf get through the system to know how to advocate. **Reduce learned helplessness**. Empower DHH to do for themselves rather than depending on state agencies. (stop the revolving door, habits learned)
3. **Fragmented systems within deaf education**. Communicate better together to get all the agencies (VR, ED, etc) to focus on education for DHH children. Deaf education is deteriorating rather than improving. Need better quality and measurements. **Quality and Standards of Services**.
4. **Staff reductions** critical to provision of services.
5. **Leadership** within deaf is less organized. Hard of hearing leaders seem to be more organized and advocate for themselves. **Targeted leadership**.
6. **Hearing aid financial assistance**.
7. **Legal assistance for state agencies** to assist with filing complaints.
8. Licensed, better trained, teachers of ASL. Need **minimum standards** to ensure quality. **Praxis exams**, some deaf struggle and need assistance from ASLTA to improve professional testing opportunities.
9. Interpreters in educational settings - need standards to ensure quality. **Work force group, develop standards for educational interpreters and teachers**.
10. Accessibility in health care situations. **Set standards throughout US**.
  - a. Hospitals
  - b. Access to nursing homes
  - c. Mental Health Services

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### d. VRI possibilities

11. Agencies serve diverse populations, deaf, hard of hearing, blind, etc, but also serve racial and ethnic minorities. Must ensure accessibility to all and gather statistics to support services provided. **Cross disability services provision.**
12. **Train other state agencies** in needs of our population (i.e., emergency prep)
13. **Community** education
14. **Interpreters for other languages**, transition to ASL, access to communication for other services provided
15. **Reframing existing issues** Re: accessibility (key messages), adult hearing aid coverage and other prominent requests. Approach may not be effective any longer, we must include how and why it benefits us.
16. **Data collection** (how to get consistent, accurate, meaningful data) / demographics / collection for grant purposes
17. **Technology** to enhance services, how to reach not replace services.
  - a. **High speed internet**, access and affordability, in rural communities
  - b. **Sustain** human contact / not replaced by technology
18. **Interpreters** for medical situations, legal situations, expertise and access. (certification of hearing and CDI interpreters).
19. Services for “acquired deafness”
20. **Need Liaison** with disability community
21. **Define which communities agencies serve** and how to build bridges between the different communities.
22. **Answering Relay calls** – how to get state agencies to answer calls from what appears to be out of state number