

JADARA

Volume 10 | Number 1

Article 10

October 2019

Report of the Model State Plan Committee

Clayton Knowles

None

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Recommended Citation

Knowles, C. (2019). Report of the Model State Plan Committee. *JADARA*, 10(1). Retrieved from <https://repository.wcsu.edu/jadara/vol10/iss1/10>

REPORT OF THE MODEL STATE PLAN COMMITTEE

**Clayton Knowles,
Chairperson**

1. *Problem:* Approaching powerless individuals is time-wasting and ineffective.
Need: A need exists for guidelines concerning who should be approached with the Model State Plan.
Recommendation: The person to approach will vary from State to State depending on the organizational structure and politics of each State. Typically, however, the State VR Director can assist in answering the questions of those who approach him to implement a plan.
2. *Problem:* Fragmented approaches are often self-defeating.
Need: A need exists for guidelines concerning who should approach the State re the MSP.
Recommendation: That a representative group including deaf people, parents, professionals and others, with some degree of consensus and a variety of input be the group to approach the State. Each group should contribute to a listing of priorities and consensus on strategy to be used.
3. *Problem:* Lack of follow-up could seriously erode the impact of the MSP.
Need: A need exists for guidelines on follow-up to the establishment of the plan.
Recommendation: That this might be a function of the State Advisory Council on Deafness to be established in Model State Plans. The Advisory Council could request periodic progress reports from VR Directors.
4. *Problem:* Without supporting communication and publicity maximum implementation of the MSP would not be effective.
Need: A need exists for guidelines for publicity about the MSP.

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Recommendation: That planning groups in each State consider the formation of a publicity committee which would: (1) use already established publicity channels such as state agency memos, newsletters and bulletins to describe MSP developments and events; (2) time publicity optimally, (3) combine deafness orientation and other educational objectives; (4) involve and inform key decision-makers (legislators, agency directors, coordinators, etc.) as plans develop.