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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

The concept of the Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program came into being with the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As a concept, it represented a milestone in assuring the client of full participation in rehabilitation planning. It also represented a commitment to orderly, systematic and accountable practices in the rehabilitation of disabled clients.

The implementation of the IWRP was, however, not without its pitfalls. The practical application of a sound principle took on various forms as the individual states sought to move into compliance with the regulations interpreting the intent of the IWRP concept. Initially seen by some as another example of red tape, the IWRP has been regarded with mixed feelings of resentment and skepticism. Some have chosen to place greater stress on the IWRP as a tool for accountability while others emphasize more heavily the IWRP as a means to assure the client of his rights and responsibilities. In truth, the issues were never mutually exclusive. Nonetheless, they illustrate a continuing need for evaluation of the IWRP concept and how it is to be fully put into practice.

This short-term training workshop addressed itself to the issue of Implementation of the IWRP with Deaf Clients. The successful outcome is due in large part to the efforts of the Planning Committee: Ralph White, Edna Adler, Charlotte Coffield, Rod Ferrell, Dr. Richard Melia, Dr. Robert Sanderson, Lou Ann Simpson, Dr. Fred Schrieber, Henry Warner, Dr. Boyce Williams, and Charles Hill. Equally significant contributions to the success of the workshop were made by numerous staff persons at the site of the Conference. We are indebted to these persons for making the mechanics of the workshop flow so smoothly.

A special note of thanks is due to Mrs. Sherry Voy whose typing skills brought order out of copious notes on the proceedings of this workshop.

Ultimately, the success of such a workshop must be credited to the participants who spent hours in consideration of how they might best serve deaf clients within a concept such as IWRP. Their dedication to the deaf population they serve was reaffirmed in the efforts they made within this workshop.

James Hanson, Editor