

Task Force 11:

Methods for Developing Input into ASHA

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The first consideration of this committee should be to develop liaison with ASHA's Committee on Rehabilitative Audiology, which is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. To study appropriate techniques and responsibilities of members of ASHA in the audiologic habilitation and rehabilitation of individuals with disorders of hearing;
2. To make appropriate recommendations in this area for dissemination upon approval by the Executive Board.

The present Task Force Committee of ARA has been in correspondence with Mary Rose Costello, Chairman of the above ASHA committee, who has suggested several ways in which ARA could provide input through the Committee to the National Office of ASHA. Dr. Costello believes ARA could yield important influence.

1. by offering recommendations regarding issues which ASHA has designated for her Committee to study and make recommendations;
2. by providing input regarding the content of the procedures used in the preparation of position papers by the ASHA Committee; and
3. by serving as a perfect sounding board regarding statements prepared by the Committee, their appropriateness, importance, etc.

The ASHA Committee is currently working on revision of a *position paper* on rehabilitative audiology, which was previously submitted but not accepted by the Association, probably because of references to the matter of hearing aid dispensing on the part of audiologists, which continues to be an unresolved issue. The revised position paper will specify the duties and responsibilities of rehabilitative and habilitative audiology, and reaction of the Academy to this position paper would be welcomed. In addition, they are preparing a simple statement about the work of audiologists for use by associated professions—teachers, doctors and others. They have also been asked to study the Labor Department's definition of audiology and make recommendations. In each of these instances, reaction of the Academy or one of its designated committees would be helpful to that Committee.

ARA should also establish liaison at an early date following the Texas meeting with the new Associate Secretary for Audiology. It would be important for him to know that the Academy is particularly interested in his area of endeavors there, and ARA should become an important resource for him in terms of the view-points of persons concerned with audiology.

This Task Force Committee also recommends that the Academy vigorously support the adoption by the Legislative Council of a plan to create a divisional

structure within the Association, one of which would represent Aural Rehabilitation. The Academy might well serve as a catalyst for such a division, and this matter is now under study by the Study Committee on Corporate Structure chaired by David Prins, who will make the committee's recommendations for divisional representation to the Executive Board through the Vice President for Planning, Thelma Albritton.

ARA could also utilize other ASHA committees and officers in making recommendations for consideration. The primary officers concerned would be the Vice President of Clinical Affairs and the Vice President for Planning. The committees other than the Committee on Rehabilitative Audiology discussed above are as follows:

ASHA - NHAS Liaison Committee
Inter-Society Committee on Hearing
Joint Committee on Audiology and
Education of the Deaf
Committee on Speech and Hearing Services in
Schools

In summary, the recommendations of this ARA Task Committee are:

1. use existing channels in ASHA for communication and to influence the status of rehabilitative audiology within the Association;
2. support the divisional representation plan to include a division of aural rehabilitation.
3. explore with the Executive Secretary of the Association the manner in which we could relate to the Associate Secretary for Audiology.