

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
COUNCIL OF STATE ADMINISTRATORS OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
AND
ADARA**

I. Purpose

In order to advance, improve and expand employment outcomes for people with hearing loss, the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and ADADA herein commit themselves to work cooperatively in implementing the objectives set forth in this Agreement.

The CSAVR, an advisory body to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in the U.S. Department of Education on policy, regulations and the administration of programs affecting persons with disabilities, provides a forum for the collective deliberation of State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies on issues affecting the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities; and informs the public about the effect of disability on the lives of persons with disabilities, particularly with respect to employment and economic independence.

ADARA's mission is to facilitate excellence in human service delivery with individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This mission is accomplished by enhancing the professional competencies of the membership, expanding opportunities for networking among ADARA colleagues and supporting positive public policies for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. In achieving the mission, ADARA members are committed to: full access for members to all aspects of the organization's business, including Board matters, conference planning, presentations and journal publications, recognizing and affirming the ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity of the membership, and fostering an inclusive language community through the use of American Sign Language, signed communication, and other communication strategies used by all members at ADARA events in order to strive for barrier-free communication.

ADARA strives to be the leader among professional organizations in transforming the paradigm of rehabilitation of Deaf people to enhancing the quality of life with people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This intent will be achieved through a balanced approach of consumerism and professionalism and will require the organization to continually examine the fundamental philosophies and attitudes that manifest themselves in the image of the organization and the configuration of the membership.

II. Statement of Need

The CSAVR and ADARA believe that quality employment outcomes for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind can be substantially increased

and improved through a collaborative working relationship between State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies and the National Board and Chapters of ADARA.

III. Terms

The CSAVR and ADARA will communicate to their respective networks the desire for State VR agencies and the ADARA National Board and Chapters to establish agreements and the intended outcome of such agreements. CSAVR and ADARA will work together as outlined within this agreement in order to improve the personal and public perception of people who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and deaf-blind.

ADARA will encourage and assist Chapters and members in gaining a working knowledge of the services and rehabilitation programs available through their State and local VR agencies. ADARA will encourage it's members to serve on State VR Rehabilitation Councils and/or to participate in the meetings of the Councils as appropriate. Involvement with other related community resources such as the One-Stop Career Centers will also be encouraged. This kind of collaboration will help assure that the citizens of each State who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, or deaf-blind shall have a ready source of information available regarding VR and related services available to them. It is equally important for referral purposes that State VR agencies be familiar with the resources of ADARA and state association affiliates. This information exchange will facilitate the referral of persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, or deaf-blind to the agencies which can best meet their needs.

CSAVR and ADARA will recommend proactive policies to RSA that will help to advance job training and employment for deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind Americans. This includes provision of full communication and services accessibility in One-Stop Career Centers throughout the nation as well as in State VR offices. This also includes advocacy for re-establishment within RSA of an office that specifically focuses on deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind needs. In addition, CSAVR will share information with ADARA on a timely basis to facilitate ADARA advocacy with RSA and other federal offices on issues concerning proposed legislation, policy, or practice that would diminish service options for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind.

The CSAVR and ADARA will act as liaisons to their respective affiliate agencies and Chapters to facilitate the establishment of agreements or Memorandums of Understanding (agreements/MOUs) between State VR agencies and state association affiliates of ADARA. Such agreements/MOUs, intended to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership between State VR agencies and ADARA, can result in improved services and increased employment outcomes for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind.

The CSAVR and ADARA will share information and coordinate activities, as appropriate, to carry out and support the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding. The CSAVR and ADARA will also provide technical assistance and support to any State VR agency or state association affiliate of the ADARA that requests their assistance in facilitating the development of a State or local agreement/MOU.

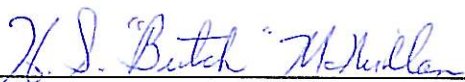
IV. Authority

This Memorandum of Understanding does not in itself authorize the expenditure or reimbursement of any funds by the undersigned parties. Nothing in this agreement shall obligate the parties to expend appropriations or other monies, or to enter into any contract or other obligation.

Further, this Memorandum of Understanding shall not be construed to limit, supersede, or otherwise affect either party's normal operations or decisions in carrying out its mission, statutory or regulatory duties. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as altering any eligibility requirements for the public VR program authorized under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act.

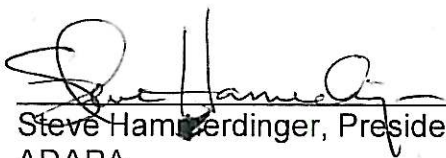
V. Effective Date/Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective upon the signature of the parties. This agreement may be terminated at any time upon 30 days advance notice by one party to the other, and may be amended by the written agreement of the undersigned parties or their authorized designees.



H.S. "Butch" McMillan, President
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

6-15-07
Date



Steve Hamerding, President
ADARA

5/23/07
Date