



Mental Health and Deaf Individuals

NASMHPD Summer 2009
Commissioners Meeting

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But a stranger in a strange
land, he is no one: men
know him not - and to
know not is to care not for.

Jonathan Swift

Irish Author and Satirist of prose,

1667-1745



Overview

Purpose of Presentation:

To improve the lives of deaf and hard of hearing consumers by increasing the awareness of the need for services and acceptable solutions.

- Purpose and Action Plan of NCMHDI
- Definitions of Hearing Loss and Forms of Communication
- Accommodations
- Statistics and Epidemiology
- Issues in Mental Health and Deafness
- Resources and Recommendations



National Coalition on Mental Health and Deaf Individuals (NCMHDI)

Purpose

Expand access and excellence in mental health care for all citizens with hearing loss

How?

Promote innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states, federal agencies, and institutions.



Five Main Areas of NCMHDI Focus

- Access and Early Intervention
- Advocacy/Empowerment
- Training/Workforce Development
- Service Continuum
- Policy Development and Leadership



Core Values of NCMHDI Action Plan

- Deaf and hard of hearing centered
- State-based
- Culturally competent



Hearing Loss Defined

Functional

- Medical/Physical
- Government
- Linguistic
- Cultural

Categorical

- Hard of Hearing
- Late-Deafened
- Deaf-Blind
- Deaf



Associated Complications

Medical Conditions

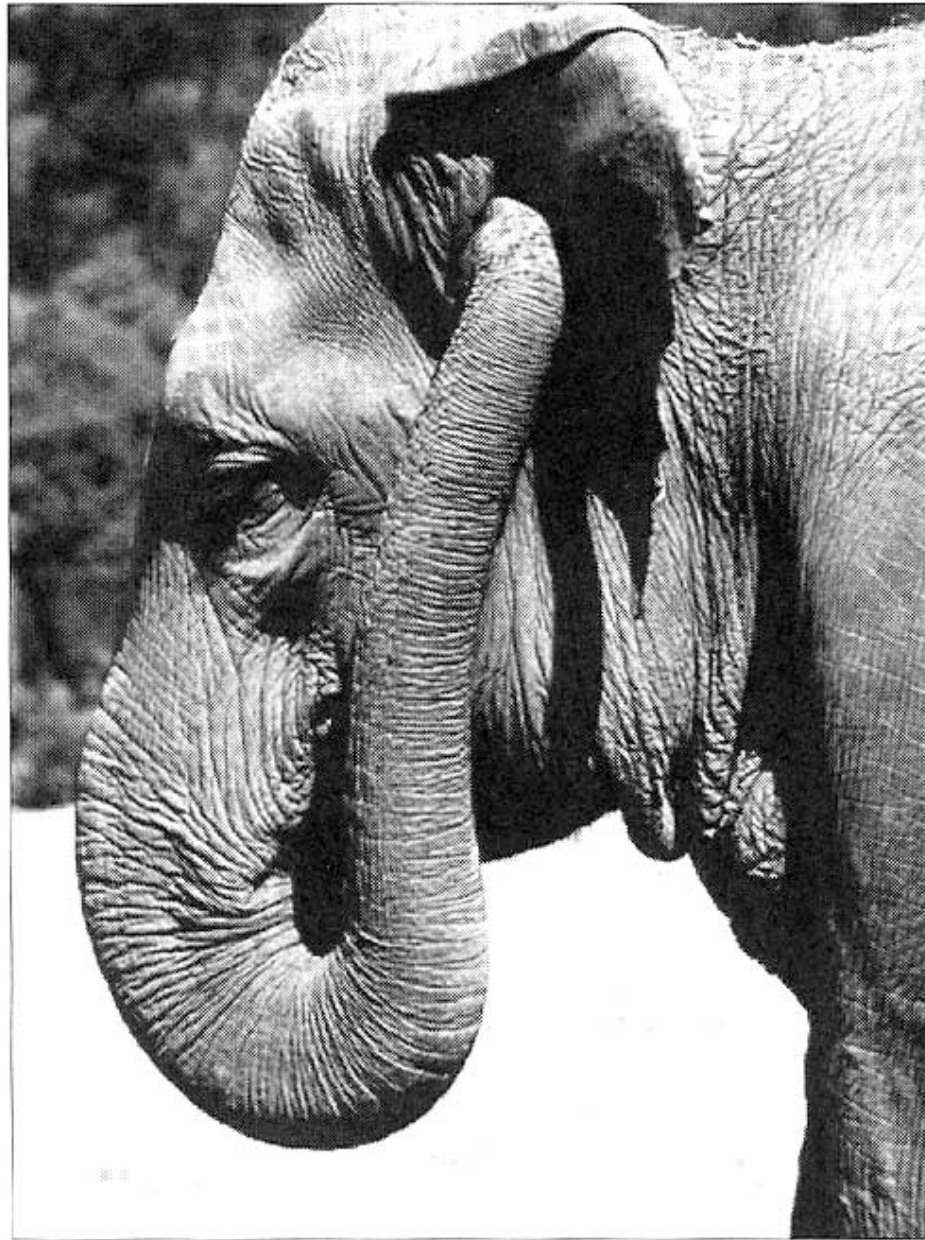
- Syndromes
- In-Utero Complications– Rubella, FAS, etc

Symptoms

- Mental Retardation
- Birth Defects
- Other Physical Losses



“Do You Hear Me?”



The ultimate hearing aid for talking to yourself.

Impacts of Hearing Loss

Functional

Communication

Social Interaction

Telephone, TV, door bell, police sirens. . .

Developmental :

Language acquisition (90% of deaf children have hearing parents)

Incidental learning

Social Skill Development

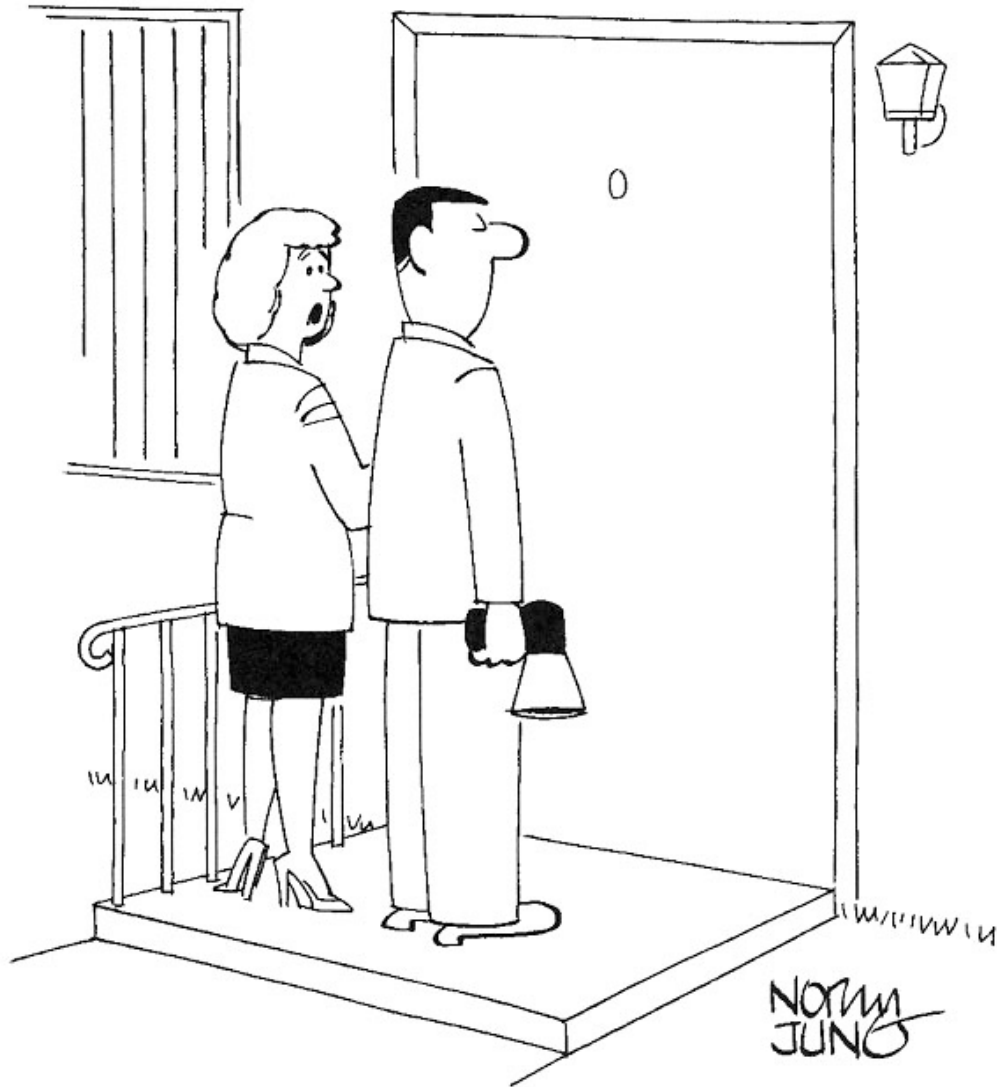


Forms of Communication

- English
 - Lip-reading
 - Writing
- Manual Communication
 - American Sign Language
 - English-Based Sign
 - Cued Speech
 - Signed Exact English
 - ‘Pidgin’ English



"Do You Hear Me?"



*"Now for heaven's sake, don't make an issue
of his being hard of hearing!"*



Making Mental Health & Other Services Accessible

- Hearing Aids
- Sign Language Interpreters
- Captioned TV, Videos, DVDs
- Written Forms:
 - Notepads
 - UbiDuo



Making Mental Health & Other Services Accessible

- Internet Access:
 - Online ASL Tutorials
 - Real Time Captioners
 - Internet Relay
 - Video Relay
- Mobile phone texting



Qualified Interpreters

vs.

Fluent Signing Professionals



Statistics and Epidemiology



How many D/HOH people are there in America?

- There is currently no national census of deaf and hard of hearing persons.
- An estimated 8.6% United States population 3 years and older were reported to have hearing problems
- ~ 26,128,919 deaf and hard of hearing individuals

"42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot." - Steven Wright



Epidemiology

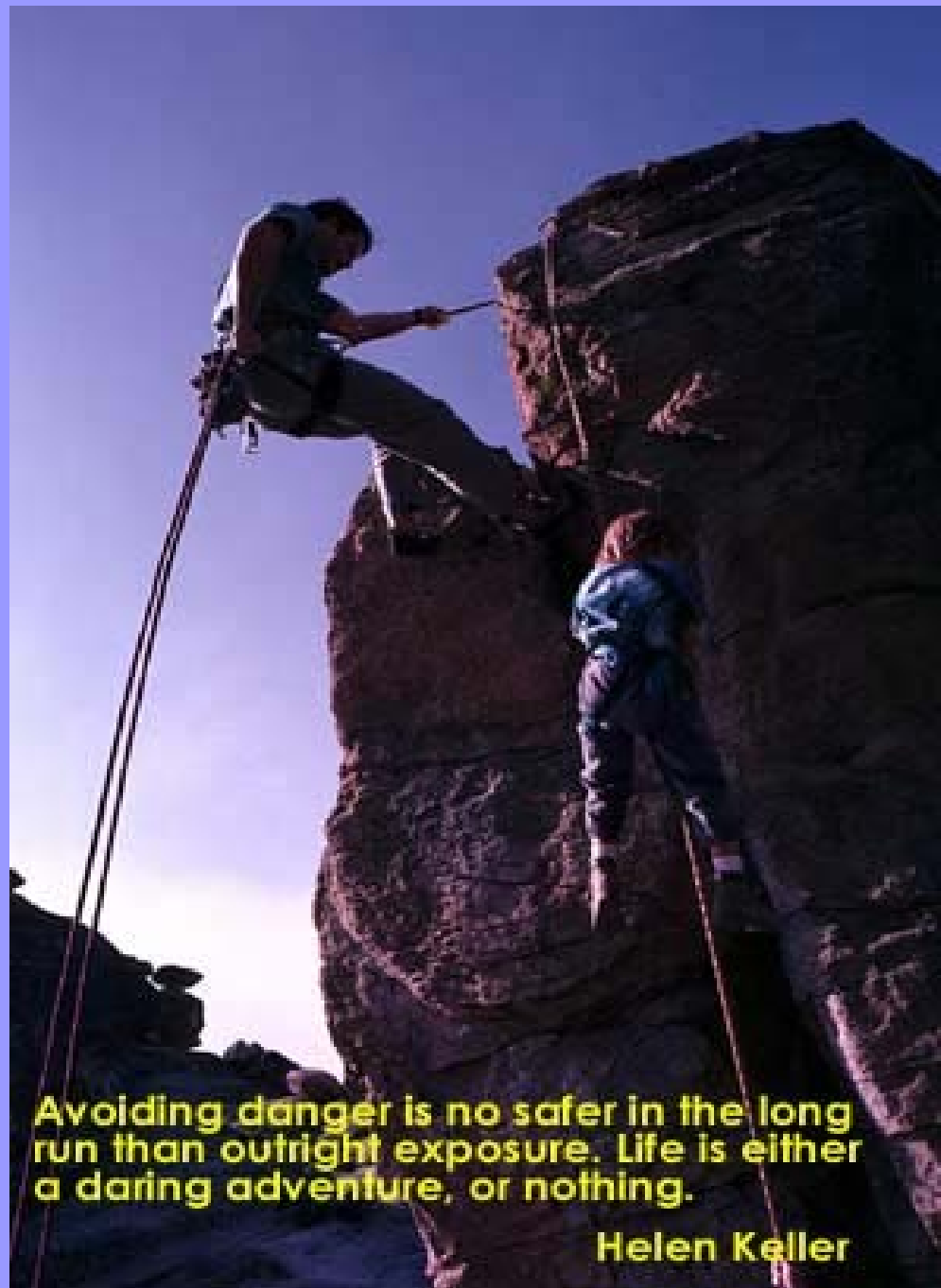
- Estimated 5 million deaf individuals in need of mental health treatment
- Only 2% of these deaf individuals receive appropriate treatment due to barriers in the effective diagnosis of mental illness.
- The prevalence of adults with SMI and children with SED is estimated to be 3 to 5 times greater in deaf and hard of hearing populations.



Epidemiology Continued

- If deaf people represent almost one percent of the U.S. population, there should be approximately 68,000 deaf people in drug or alcohol treatment on any given day.
- Deaf children experience physical and sexual abuse two to three times higher than that of their hearing peers.





Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.

Helen Keller

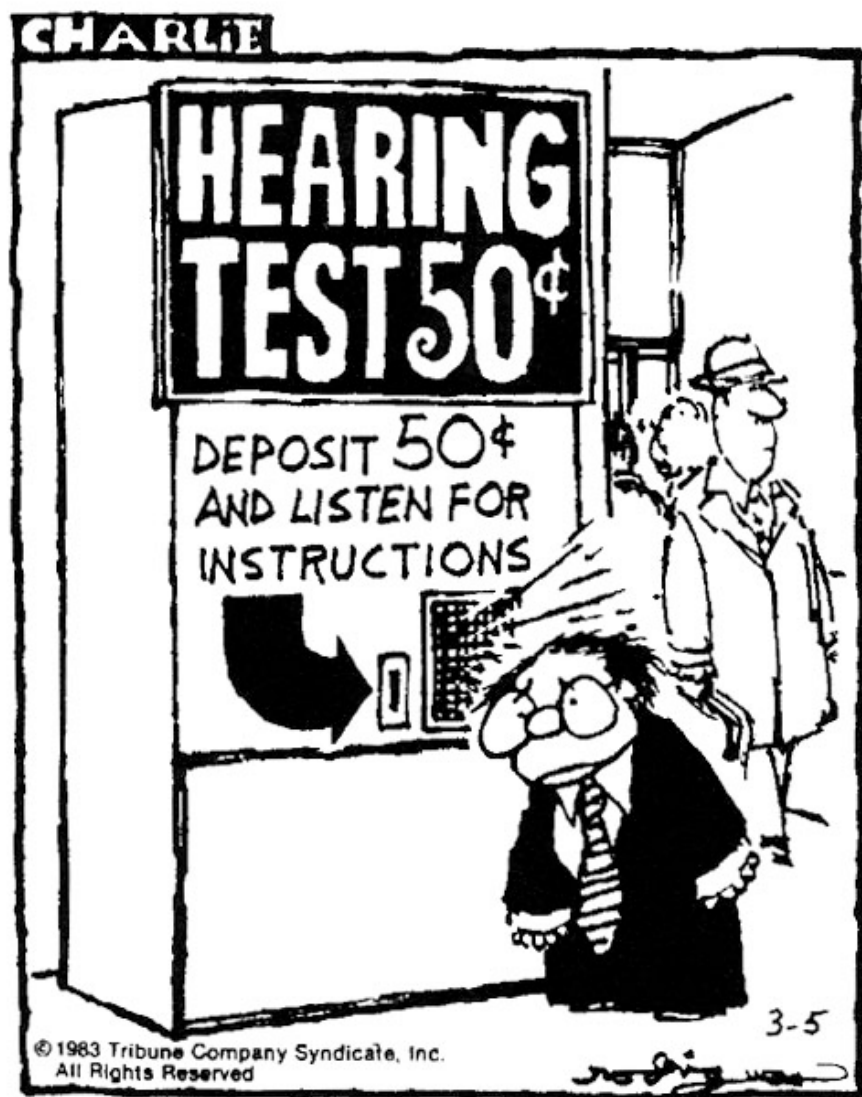
RECOMMENDATIONS

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't.

- Erica Jong



“Do You Hear Me?”



“When you deposited the 50 cents, did you hear a “clink” as it fell into our bucket? If not, you should seek professional help. Thank you.”

Low Population Incidence

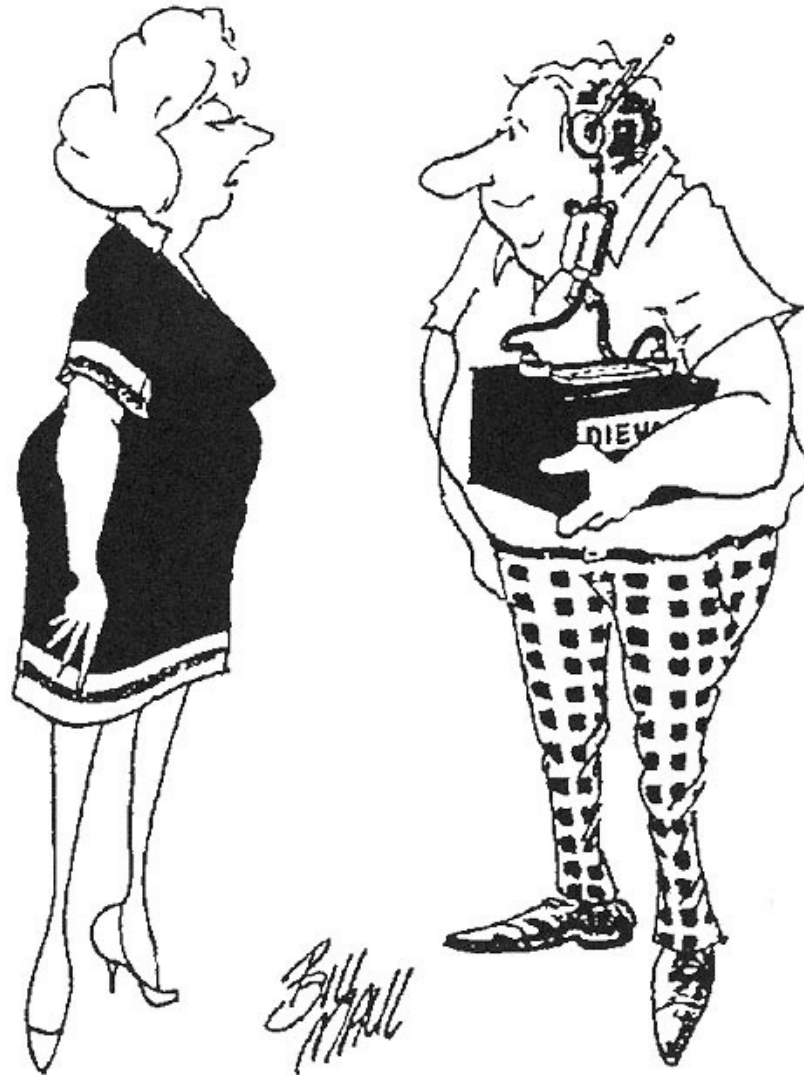
Vs

High Service Cost

What is the solution?



"Do You Hear Me?"



"So you saved seventeen bucks...still, wouldn't a regular hearing aid have been simpler?"

Key Actions

- Know and understand your population and its needs.
- Collaborate with Community Leaders
- Collaborate with early education to ensure that children are given access to language, a basic right and mental health necessity.
- Collaborate with higher education to produce fluent signing professionals and qualified interpreters.



References

- The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health
- Surgeon General's *Call to Action to Improve the Health and Wellness of Persons with Disabilities 2005*
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' *Identification of Performance Standards for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*
- Randall Meyers' *Standards of Care for the Delivery of Mental Health Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons*
- The National Technical Assistance Center for State Mental Health Planning's *Cultural Diversity Series: Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Persons Who are Deaf*



DISCUSSION



"There is plenty of courage among us for the abstract, but not for the concrete."

Contact Information

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"Do You Hear Me?"



"I said, 'Is that the three hundred dollar hearing aid you sent for?'"



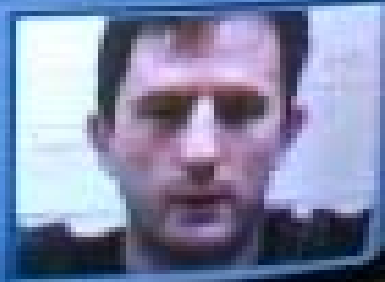


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