



## **Communicating with Deaf Clients Education**

- WHEREAS The state of Alabama has approximately 84,000 or almost 3% of the population who are deaf (Harrington, 2014), and
- WHEREAS Communication barriers between deaf patients and their non-deaf medical providers, whether it be their physician, nurse, or nurses aid, continues to be a huge problem in the healthcare world and an even bigger problem to the deaf community who receive inadequate medical attention, privacy breaches, and unnecessary stress during medical care/treatment, and
- WHEREAS The Institute of Medicine established six aims for improving the health care delivery systems stating health care should be safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable (IHI, 2016), and
- WHEREAS Written communication and spoken English are considered secondary languages to Sign Language, and
- WHEREAS Nurses can play a crucial role in communicating with the patient population in a variety of settings, therefore be it
- RESOLVED The Alabama State Nurses Association (ASNA) will challenge nurses across the state to attend continuing education regarding communicating with the Deaf, and be it further
- RESOLVED That the ASNA will notify membership of available continuing education that is available online and in person within the State of Alabama, and be it further resolved
- RESOLVED That the ASNA will publish an article in *The Alabama Nurse* and will provide a link to information about Communicating with Deaf Clients.

*Submitted by COPI*

*Dr. Marilyn Sullivan, Chair*

Harrington, T. (2014) Deaf statistics. Gallaudet University Library. Retrieved from

<http://libguides.gallaudet.edu/content.php?pid=119476&sid=1029190>

Institute for Healthcare Improvement. (2016). Across the chiasm: Six aims for changing the healthcare system.

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