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