

DEAF DIALOGUE 2012

Date: 2nd September 2012, Sunday

Summarising on Consolidation of Inputs

1. EARLY INTERVENTION

DEAF/ HARD OF HEARING	HEARING – 22 person + DEAF/ HARD OF HEARING – 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Table must be shown (Communication modes)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ NAO (Natural – Auditory Oral) (CS) + (mainstream schools)○ AVT○ TC (Lighthouse / SSD)• Financing schemes (Medisave)• Sign Language course for parents especially with Deaf children• Media information (TV, advertisement, flyers, newspapers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EIPIC program has to be solid• Possible collaboration with SSD/SADeaf• Teachers in EIPIC should be certified with SADeaf so that they can be better supported• Deaf awareness program for hearing people

- Parent Support Groups
- Inclusion of successful Deaf persons
- Failures of solutions / remedies
- Deaf organisations to work together with hospitals and school centres, etc.
- Set up early intervention programme for all Deaf schools / mainstream schools
- Involve Deaf teachers who are certified by NIE / other accreditation centres who practise EI
- ALL Nursery
 - Teachers must learn about Deaf Culture & Sign Language
- Is there any Deaf nursery?
- Setup the website for more detailed information on choices of school, assistance, hearing loss & fund aids
- Fund the right place for Hearing Aids

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Parents can't afford (refer to SADeaf)● Deaf children should join Deaf schools● Information kits for referral● Child-crying-monitor kits	
---	--

2. EDUCATION

DEAF / HARD OF HEARING	HEARING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form focal support groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including CI and those in mainstream ○ Primary schools ○ Secondary ○ IHLS ○ CODAs • Have disability centres run by government • Tap on manpower from HI club, NTUWSC & other clubs/societies supporting Deaf • Involve certified Deaf social workers/counsellors in educational institutions • Involve representative/s who know/s Deaf & education in the community of Lighthouse school • Financial schemes to support / finance all supporting services for Deaf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tough there is a course on Deaf Culture and Sign Language; it is under the Linguistics Department. Some pre-requisites to fulfill at the NTU suggest to e-school to make it a module which they can take at beginning. • Difficult to connect to Deaf students. Not sure of which course they are in. Increase accessibility by getting e-school management to work with e students supporting the Deaf • There are video recording in NTU lessons. It would be helpful to add subtitles in these videos • MCYS & NCSS to look into providing support for Deaf children in school. It'll make their learning experience in school more manageable and enjoyable • Recording of lessons and transcribe

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate & counsel IHLs & educational institutions (Pri. & Sec.) in teaching Deaf • SADeaf staff to liaise with private institutions e.g. Kaplan, TMC, MDIS for subsidies for interpreter/note taker fees • Include CODAs in educational settings as well as social network sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CODAs have problem seeking appropriate counseling • Deaf educators to incorporate suitable / appropriate modes of instructions for Deaf. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subtitled videos during lessons ○ Interpretation services in study exchange programme or local study trip • Increase in pool of interpreters / note takers • Free interpreters / note taking sessions • More resource teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentor for Deaf students • Manpower from the retirees to mentor the Deaf students • Communication assistive devices in IHLs. Eg : FM systems, induction systems • Use of different pedagogies to help Deaf students to engage them
--	---

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial funding / sponsorship to pay for note takers / interpreters• Information to contact for the need of note takers• Rights to choose courses / CCA• Inform the IHLs if there are any Deaf students studying there so that they can provide support for them• Enriching vocabulary courses for the lowly-educated / elderly• Free Sunday counselling for Deaf students• Interpretations provided for all schools where Deaf students are needed• Teachers to be well-informed of communication modes of the Deaf• Deaf education courses in all universities & SSTI | |
|---|--|

3. EMPLOYMENT

DEAF / HARD OF HEARING	HEARING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities of Deaf & Hearing in job employment • Develop Deaf to be entrepreneurs • Use of ATF to finance employers / employees in improving communication technologies • All companies must be open to employ Deaf (free from discrimination) • Companies to conduct weekly Sign Language courses • Job placements for Deaf • Free interpretations for interviews for the Deaf • Long service awards for Deaf staff to receive benefits • SSTI to increase Deaf Awareness and introduce courses for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaf awareness programmes to educate employers • Provide Deaf students with more internship opportunities • Create a job portal so that organisations who need to look for potential Deaf employees can have access to them • Need more support for the employers in terms of how to integrate with them, help them, socially and emotionally • Identify jobs that require less communication • Match job with Deaf's communication level and skill. Eg : IT, accounting, Arts related • Re-train Deaf (centralised) similar to NTUC, which provide the courses for hearing

all companies

- Graduates to receive on-the-job training
- Job opportunities for the Deaf to work on civil service to change mindset of employers in Singapore
- Deaf people are very talented!
- Subsidies for the Deaf to upgrade their skills at the workplace
- Deaf elderly who are jobless must have government to visit them and get fund support for them
- Problem: Deaf waits too long for Bizlink / SADeaf to find a new & suitable job
 - Job placement should be done faster to ensure employment for Deaf
 - Suitable job placements for the Deaf

- Encourage the companies to hire Deaf by providing tax incentives
- Programmes and courses for Deaf to handle interviews, also for the bosses or the interviewers to be aware on how to interview and work with the Deaf

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Why JSBC stop?○ Deaf Career Fair● Handbook for companies to be Deaf-friendly● Deaf rights of the Deaf employees who work for Hearing employers● Statistics to be checked by the government on how many jobless Deaf are and give them support● More SL interpreters needed to be employed for those working, who are taking training courses. At present two full-time interpreters are not sufficient● Subsidise interpreters & note-takers who upgrade their skills, eg. WDA● Non-members (SADeaf) have to pay for interpretation services although they are Deaf clients. Members should get certain free hours of interpretation● Obtain financial support from government and associations to fund	
---	--

Deaf in their enterprise

- Organise financial and education workshop for the Deaf eg. CPF for those starting to work

4. COMMUNICATION

DEAF / HARD OF HEARING	HEARING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More qualified and well-trained interpreters to be equipped with knowledge of ethics, law, medicine, sports etc. required to interpret for the Deaf who need help in police stations, courts, hospitals, clinic, sports matches, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be also opened to CODA <p>Those who work in civil service (police, firemen) are required to learn Sign Language in case of emergencies (Suggestion: Emergency SMS – conduct a one day workshop for the deaf)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote / publicise to hire interpreters • Interpreters protection policies • Video link for offsite interpreting • Schools to pay fellow student interpreters / note takers (eg. HI Club) • Closed captions on TV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match students (RSPHI) volunteers to the Deaf students at NTU • Senior students apply to be note-takers to go through interviews, by a short course before match is done • Collaborate with other schools just like the HI club in NP where they will provide support to Deaf pupils. Support can be even emotional support besides academics • Approach dean to do separate. Orientation/freshman camp for Deaf/pupils with special needs • Collaboration between the association with the school such as Poly and Universities so as to better support to the pupils with HI through the provision of resources (FM or other assistive tech) or cheaper training of their students in sign language (for example)

5. ACCESSIBILITY

DEAF / HARD OF HEARING	HEARING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movie (cinema) + TV (all channels) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Captions / Subtitles ○ 24 hours ○ Remote control (TV) • Phone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Videophone + TV (clear) VRS with preferred language option • Standard close caption (ie. no switch between English & Chinese) • Lifts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ emergency button should be video instead ○ SMS emergency • Smoke sensor / detector when cooking at home (eg. forget to turn off stove) • Public transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ electronic message system to 'live' subtitled information during emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest to authorities that during review get advice from SADeaf so that HI group is not excluded. In addition SADeaf can be a model for the authorities too. SADeaf needs to be better equipped so that we are more Deaf friendly. E.g.: toilets have no flash lights to warn students of emergency • Visual bells for schools • The use of display announcement boards • Association can also have display boards • Visual cues at bus interchanges, shopping centre/toilets, etc • Electronic announcement board in mainstream schools, Poly, Universities to keep Deaf students updated on the ongoing

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Information to be updated● Technology / communication support for Deaf to make enquires to bus drivers or other personnel● Individual who is sick should have emergency / panic button (Deaf individual should register with health authority, eg. HSA)● Road accidents, car breakdowns – who to ask for help? (SOS)● ATM card stuck or stolen – who or how to contact?● Portable alert devices for Deaf guests in hotel rooms<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Doorbells○ Fire alarms○ Flushing devices should be included● Probation plates for Deaf drivers● Have unlimited transport / sports facilities / concessions for the Deaf	
--	--

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policies to allow Hearing to interpret for Deaf on phone (official business)• Provide home emergency lighting alarm• Work with local schools / institutions to provide Deaf-friendly technologies | |
|---|--|

6. ELDERLY CARE

DEAF / HARD OF HEARING	HEARING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaf-friendly facilities for elderly Deaf at old folks' Home (deaf-only) • Visits + elderly Deaf talks by SADeaf Social Workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assess needs regarding health daily needs, emergency, etc. • Financial support for elderly living alone • Provide medical check-ups / support / healthcare with interpreter support + mobility issues • Look into Blind / Deaf cases : support • Work with MOH • Set up a old folks' club for SADeaf (eg. outings, leisure) • Insurance and government subsidies for the elderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to hospitals & check with nurses if they are interested in learning Sign Language so that they can provide better health services • During their nursing course, we can suggest, send these trainers for sign language courses. Maybe can suggest to incorporated as part of their module (elective)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide assistance into drafting of wills for Deaf persons with no next-of-kin | |
|--|--|