

(I) MANAGE THE OPERATION OF THE OFFICE AND ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO PROMOTE THE ORDERLY AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE OFFICE; AND

~~(IV)~~ (II) ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

~~(2)~~ (3) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE DIRECTOR MAY ESTABLISH, REORGANIZE, OR CONSOLIDATE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE OFFICE AS NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR.

(D) THE OFFICE SHALL BE GIVEN ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES.

~~10-203.~~ 9-2303.

(A) THE OFFICE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS IN THE STATE.

(B) THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) PROVIDING, ADVOCATING, AND COORDINATING THE ADOPTION OF PUBLIC POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND PROGRAMS THAT WILL BENEFIT DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;

(2) IMPROVING ACCESS TO COMMUNICATION AND TO EXISTING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;

(3) PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICES TO DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS AS APPROPRIATE;

(4) INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS AND ISSUES AFFECTING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;

(5) WORKING WITH STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO ENSURE ACCESS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS TO SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF VISUAL SMOKE DETECTORS;

(6) DEVELOPING A REFERRAL SERVICE FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;

(7) SERVING AS AN INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE ON THE NEEDS AND ISSUES AFFECTING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;

(8) WORKING TO INCREASE ACCESS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS TO EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES;

(9) WORKING WITH PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;