

Suggested Communication Strategies

- AA Groups –

Did you know that approximately 15% of American adults (37.5 million) aged 18 and over report some trouble hearing? (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and National Institutes of Health reports - last updated 2016)

The psychological and social impact of hearing loss can create barriers to recovery and many who are hard-of-hearing may have difficulty asking for their needs to be met.

While recovery teaches us how to ask for help we might all keep the slogan "sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly" in mind.

The following suggestions improve accessibility to members who are hard of hearing:

- Arrange the room so people can see the Speaker well
- If there is a Public Address system, use it!
- Invite people who wish to, to sit close to the speaker
- Create reserved seating close to and facing the speaker
- If group members speak, ask them to come to the microphone, or repeat their comment into the microphone
- Ask people to speak one at a time and loud enough for everyone to hear
- Reduce competing noise and distractions
- Make information in writing available for anyone who might want to read along – i.e. make copies of the readings available on the tables for The 12 Steps, Traditions, How It Works, The Promises, etc.