

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
RSA-IM-01-28
DATE: February 28, 2001

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
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REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE
PROGRAMS
NATIONAL FACILITIES COALITION
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Availability of the publication entitled: "Using the Internet as a Resource to the Work of the State VR Counselor," developed by the Twenty-Sixth Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI).

CONTENT: The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to inform you of the availability of the above publication. The publication was developed in partnership with individuals representing various State VR programs, the Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs (RRCEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Dr. Donald Dew, director of the George Washington University, Region III RRCEP, served as the university coordinator for the study group.

This publication is intended to be a source of innovative ideas for rehabilitation personnel, a user's guide, and a tool for use in training staff. We recommend that the IRI publication be brought to the attention of personnel responsible for, or interested in, human resource development and staff training for use in planning, implementing and assessing the effectiveness of training on this topic. Clearly, the innovative ideas contained in this document have the potential to improve the ability of the VR counselor to provide quality services to individuals served by the Public VR program.

The IRI publications are widely used by VR counselors and supervisors, human resource development specialists, community-based rehabilitation

service providers, administrators, researchers, educators and policy analysts in fulfilling the purposes of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, particularly, "... to empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, and inclusion and integration into society...".

An important part of RSA's mission is to provide training and technical assistance to State VR agencies on the problems facing rehabilitation service providers, and to disseminate and promote the utilization of knowledge resulting from current research. Through the IRI, high priority training needs are responded to expeditiously, and the study findings on a specific topic are quickly transposed into useful and usable training materials and publications.

Improving the skills of personnel in the Public VR program through effective training is a basic function of RSA's RRCEPs. RSA funds the following three RSA RRCEPs to serve as prime study group coordinators for developing the three publications: the University of Arkansas; George Washington University; and, the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Copies of this publication may be obtained by contacting Dr. Donald Dew at:

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If you have any questions or comments regarding the IRI, or would like to recommend a topic for a future IRI publication, please contact Mr. Charles Sadler, RSA IRI Coordinator at (202) 205-9286 [voice], (202) 205-9295 [TTY], (202) 205-9340 [FAX], or via E-mail at Charles_Sadler@ed.gov.

Mark E. Shoob
Deputy Commissioner