

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM  
RSA-IM-02-07  
DATE: November 26, 2001

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

SUBJECT: Dissemination of the publication entitled: *"The Family as a Critical Partner in the Achievement of a Successful Employment Outcome,"* developed by the Twenty-Sixth Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI).

CONTENT: The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to transmit the enclosed publication to vocational rehabilitation (VR) professionals, advocates and other interested persons. The publication was developed by individuals representing various State VR programs, the Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs (RRCEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). While the publication was developed under a grant from RSA, the contents do not represent the policy of this agency, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government. Ms. Jeannie Miller, Director of the Regional Continuing Education Center at the University of Arkansas, served as the university coordinator for the study group.

This document is to assist vocational rehabilitation administrators and counselors, consumers of rehabilitation services and their families, and other rehabilitation professionals including advocacy groups, advisory councils, and members of service support teams, to understand how the consumer's family can be a critical partner in the achievement of successful employment outcomes. Clearly, the innovative ideas contained

in this document have the potential to improve the ability of VR agencies 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 the IRI university coordinator:

Ms. Jeannie Miller  
Rehabilitation Continuing Education Center  
University of Arkansas  
P.O. Box 1358  
Hot Spring, AR 71902

E-mail: [jmiller@rcep6.org](mailto:jmiller@rcep6.org)  
Voice: (501) 623-7700  
FAX: (501) 624-6250  
Web Site: [www.rcep6.org](http://www.rcep6.org)

If you have any questions or comments regarding the IRI, 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.

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Joanne Wilson  
Commissioner