

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
RSA-IM-02-10
DATE: February 21, 2002

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS
STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCILS
CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS
REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS
RSA TRAINING GRANTEEES
RSA SPECIAL SERVICES PROJECT GRANTEEES
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Public Meetings and Request for Comments on Reauthorization of the
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended

CONTENT: Background

The reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (“the Act”) is scheduled to occur prior to October 1, 2003. To assist the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Department of Education in preparing for reauthorization, public meetings will be held to solicit input. In addition, written comments can be submitted directly to RSA. The following provides information on the meetings and the processes for submitting written comments.

Public Meetings

Schedule

Public meetings will be held according to the following schedule:

Date: March 19, 2002
Time: 1:00-6:00 p.m.
Location: Metropolitan Hotel
Lexington and 51st
New York, NY

Date: March 21, 2002
Time: 12:30-6:00 p.m.
Location: Atlanta Marriott Marquis
265 Peachtree Center Avenue
Atlanta, GA

Date: March 25, 2002
Time: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Location: Holiday Inn O'Hare
5440 North River Road
Rosemont, IL

Date: April 18, 2002
Time: 12:30-5:30 p.m.
Location: First Floor Auditorium
Elihu Harris State Office Building
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, CA

Date: May 9, 2002
Time: 12:30-6:00 p.m.
Location: Bachman Therapeutic Recreation Center
2750 Bachman Drive
Dallas, TX

Date: June 19, 2002
Time: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Location: U.S. Department of Education
Barnard Auditorium
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC

Commenters

Individuals who wish to present comments at one of the public meetings must reserve time on the agenda for that meeting by contacting the individual identified below (under Reservation and Additional Meeting Information). Reservations for presenting comments will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Given the expected number of individuals interested in providing comments at the meetings, reservations for presenting comments should be made as soon as possible.

Approximately five to seven minutes will be allotted to each commenter, depending upon the number of individuals who reserve time on the agenda. At the meeting, presenters are encouraged to submit to RSA two written copies of their comments.

In order to ensure that all comments are given maximum consideration during the development of the Department's reauthorization proposals, individuals should present their comments by: (1) Identifying the issue(s) (and, if applicable, portions of the Act) to which their comments pertain; (2) Clearly describing any proposed improvements to the Act; (3) Providing a concise rationale supporting each proposed change. We also ask that commenters indicate which portions of the current Act they find to be particularly effective.

Reservation and Additional Meeting Information

All individuals attending the public meetings, including those presenting comments, must make reservations by contacting the appropriate individual identified below. In addition, all individuals attending the public meetings should be prepared to show photo identification at the meeting location for security purposes.

The meeting rooms and proceedings will be accessible for individuals with disabilities. In addition, when making reservations, anyone attending a meeting, including those presenting comments, who needs special accommodations such as sign language interpreters, Braille materials, and communication access real-time transcription should inform the individual identified below of their specific accessibility needs. Requests for accommodations must be made at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled meeting date. For individuals who need to use the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS), the telephone number is 800-877-8339 and the customer service number is 800-877-0996.

For reservations, please contact:

New York:

Richard Anderson
Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Education
c/o NYC Board of Education
65 Court Street, 12th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(Voice) 718-935-5650
(Fax) 718-935-5584
(FIRS) 800-877-8339
(E-mail) richard.anderson@ed.gov.

Atlanta:

Diane McCuen
Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Education
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303;
(Voice) 404-562-6330
(Fax) 404-562-6346
(TTY) 404-562-6347
(E-mail) diane.mccuen@ed.gov.

Chicago:

Kathleen Niemi
Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Education
111 North Canal Street
Suite 1048
Chicago, IL 60606-7204
(Voice) 312-886-8623
(Fax) 312-353-8623
(FIRS) 800-877-8339
(E-mail) kathleen.niemi@ed.gov.

Oakland:

Gilbert "Doc" Williams
Rehabilitation Services Administration
Department of Education
50 United Nations Plaza, Room 215
San Francisco, CA 94102
(Voice) 415-556-4070
(Fax) 415-437-7848
(TTY) 415-437-7845
(E-mail) gilbert.williams@ed.gov.

Dallas:

Michael Evans
Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Education
Harwood Center
1999 Bryan Street, Room 2740
Dallas, TX 75201-6817
(Voice) 214-880-4927
(Fax) 214-880-4931
(TTY) 214-880-4933
(E-mail) michael.evans@ed.gov.

Washington, DC:

Tammy Nelson
U.S. Department of Education
Rehabilitation Services Administration
330 C Street, SW, Room 3214
Washington, DC 20202
(Voice) (202) 205-9005
(Fax) 202-260-7527
(TTY) (202) 205-5538
(E-mail) tammy.nelson@ed.gov.

Written Comments

In addition to soliciting input through public meetings, RSA invites the submission of written comments on the reauthorization of the Act by June 30, 2002 to ensure that they are given full consideration by the Department in formulating its reauthorization proposals. All written comments concerning the reauthorization of the Act should be addressed to Joanne Wilson,

Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, United States
Department of Education and submitted by one of the following methods:

Internet

We encourage the submission of comments through the Internet at the following
address:

rehab.reauth@ed.gov.

Mail

Comments can also be submitted via mail to:

Rehabilitation Services Administration
United States Department of Education
330 "C" Street, S.W., Room 3028
Mary E. Switzer Building
Washington, DC 20202-2531

Facsimile

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at

(202) 205-9874

As with comments provided during the public meetings, written comments
submitted to RSA should:

- (1) Identify the issue(s) (and, if applicable, portions of the Act) to which their
comments pertain;
- (2) Clearly describe any proposed improvements to the Act; and
- (3) Provide a concise rationale supporting each proposed change.

In addition, we ask that commenters indicate which portions of the current Act
they find to be particularly effective. We also ask that you submit your
comments only once using one of the three methods described above so that we
do not receive duplicate copies of the same comments.

Further Information

Individuals seeking additional information should contact:

Beverlee Stafford
United States Department of Education
Rehabilitation Services Administration
330 "C" Street, S.W., Room 3014
Mary E. Switzer Building
Washington, DC 20202-2550.

E-mail: Beverlee.Stafford@ed.gov

Telephone: (202) 205-8831

TTY:(202) 205-5538.

Availability of Copies of the Act

An electronic copy of the Act is available on the RSA Web site at:

www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/RSA/Policy/Legislation/rehabact.doc

We encourage individuals who need copies of the Act to obtain copies via the Internet. However, for those individuals who are unable to access the Internet and are attending one of the public meetings, copies of the Act are available by contacting the appropriate individual identified above (under Reservation and Additional Meeting Information).

Other individuals who are unable to access the Internet can obtain a copy of the Act by calling (202) 205-8299.

Joanne Wilson
Commissioner

cc: CSAVR
NORP
NAPAS
NCIL