

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
RSA-IM-02-20
DATE: March 24, 2002

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
CONSUMER ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Dissemination of the publication entitled: "Providing Vocational
Rehabilitation in a Workforce Environment," developed by the Twenty-
Seventh 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 stakeholders in the public VR program. The
publication was developed by individuals representing various State VR
programs, the Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs
(RRCEPs), Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and other
personnel employed throughout the workforce development system. Dr.
Donald Dew, the Director of the RRCEP III at The George Washington
University, served as the university coordinator for the study group.

The intent of this document is to assist VR administrators, counselors, and
consumers of rehabilitation services in understanding how the Workforce
Investment Act (WIA) will impact upon the delivery of services to persons
with disabilities. The publication is meant to be a source of innovative
ideas for rehabilitation personnel, a user's guide, and a tool for use in
training staff. Developments and trends described in this document reflect
dramatic changes in the way VR has traditionally achieved program
outcomes and illustrate the ability of VR professionals to be innovative in

a changing environment. Our goal is to improve the ability of VR to partner in the new workforce environment, and to improve the employment of people with disabilities through access to the expanded services and resources of the one-stop career system.

IRI publications are widely used by VR counselors and supervisors, human resource development specialists, consumers, 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 two RSA RRCEPs to serve as study group coordinators for developing the two publications developed each year: The University of Arkansas and The George Washington University.

Copies of this publication may be obtained by contacting the IRI university coordinator, Dr. Donald Dew, at:

The George Washington University
RSA Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program III
2011 Eye Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC
(202) 973-1550
E-mail: dondew@gwu.edu

The publication may also be viewed and downloaded at the RRCEP III web site located at: www.gwu.edu/~rrcep/

If you have any questions or comments regarding the IRI, please contact Mr. Charles Sadler, RSA IRI Coordinator, at (202) 205-9286 [voice], (800) 877-8339 [Federal Relay Service], (202) 205-9340 [FAX], or via

E-mail at Charles.Sadler@ed.gov.

Joanne Wilson
Commissioner

Attachment

cc: Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
National Organization of Rehabilitation Partners