

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
RSA-IM-02-23
DATE: July 12, 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
NATIONAL FACILITIES COALITION
CONSUMER ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Dissemination of the publication entitled: "Effective Strategies for
Improving Employment Outcomes for People with Chronic Kidney
Disease," 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
healthcare and advocacy programs for persons with chronic kidney disease
(CKD). Ms. Jeanne Miller, the Director of the RRCEP VI at the
University of Arkansas, 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 persons with
CKD can be assisted in achieving employment. The publication is a
source of innovative ideas for rehabilitation personnel, and a manual to
use in training staff.

This document was necessary to counter the many myths that have proliferated about persons with CKD, and to lead to a better understanding and working relationship between the rehabilitation and renal communities. The myths range from “dialysis clients are too sick and unstable to work and will die soon,” to “people with CKD who are working or who have had a transplant don’t need and aren't eligible for VR services.” The fact is that people on dialysis, or who have had successful transplants, are still living after more than 30 years. The clear message is that people with CKD are fully able to participate in America’s workforce.

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..."

Copies of this publication may be obtained by contacting the IRI university coordinator, Ms. Jeanne Miller, at:

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University of Arkansas
Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center
Post Office Box 1358, Building No. 35
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71902
(501) 623-7700
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jmiller@rrecp6.org or jparker@recp6.org (E-mail)

The publication may also be viewed and downloaded at the RRCEP VI web site located at: 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], (800) 877-8339 [Federal Relay Service], (202) 205-9340 [FAX], or via E-mail at charles.sadler@ed.gov.

Joanne Wilson
Commissioner

Enclosures