

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
RSA-IM-03-07
DATE: March 10, 2003

ADDRESSEES: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
RSA REHABILITATION COUNSELING LONG-TERM TRAINING
PROJECTS
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
PROGRAMS
AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
PROGRAMS
CONSUMER ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Call for Topics - Thirtieth Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (2003-2004)

CONTENT: This Information Memorandum (IM) is to request your assistance in identifying topics for the Thirtieth Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI). For fifty-five years, the IRI has been an activity unique to the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) program, in which rehabilitation professionals and others with special expertise on the topics selected for study, come together to discuss the issues and to develop current and innovative training materials to improve the skills of VR professionals. In this manner, the VR program is able to develop timely publications containing solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing the rehabilitation field.

The basic purposes of the IRI are to identify and discuss current issues of importance to the State-Federal VR program, and to publish materials, which can be used by persons responsible for staff development in the State VR agencies, Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Education Programs (RRCEP), Rehabilitation Counselor Long-Term Training Programs, and by others concerned about staff development in rehabilitation. For many years, the IRI topics have been of great

importance as a technical assistance resource to the rehabilitation community. The publications resulting from the IRI are widely distributed to the State VR agencies, State Rehabilitation Councils, RRCEPs, university rehabilitation counselor degree programs and consumer groups identified during the course of the study group meetings.

On May 4, 2003, the IRI Planning Committee will discuss the topics considered to be most relevant for study. This meeting occurs immediately prior to the National IRI Forum, which will be held on May 5-6, 2003, at the Marriott Hotel – 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC. The topics selected for study during the next IRI cycle will be announced at the opening session of the Forum on Monday, May 5.

The criteria used by the IRI Planning Committee to select the topics for study are:

1. The topic is currently one of concern to a large number of State VR agencies.
2. It is a topic that can be completed within a year.
3. There are recognized experts or a body of literature that will be available to the primary study group.

Clearly, wide dissemination and utilization of the products resulting from the IRI are the goals of all concerned. Approximately 3,500 copies of each publication are printed, depending upon the level of interest expressed. IRI publications are also placed on the university coordinators' web sites, and are available from the National Clearing House on Rehabilitation Training Materials. It is the goal of the IRI Planning Committee to improve and enhance the use of the IRI publications by VR practitioners in all rehabilitation settings, and to ensure that the documents are meeting current training needs.

Attached is a list of IRI topics developed in recent years. Also attached is the form, which you may use when submitting topics. Please submit suggested topics no later than April 4, 2003, to Charles Sadler, the RSA IRI Coordinator.

When submitting topics, please be sure that you have included sufficient information on the form so that appropriate decisions on the selection of topics can be made. After selecting the topics for study, the Commissioner will assign one to each of the two university coordinators.

Membership on an IRI study group is both a privilege and an honor, and we appreciate your continued interest and support of the IRI process.

Joanne M. Wilson
Commissioner

Attachments: List of Previous IRI Publications & Topic Suggestion Form

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

Previous IRI Publications

First IRI (1974)

1. Severely Handicapped
2. Measurement of Outcomes
3. Assessment of Rehabilitation Counselor Performance

Second IRI (1975)

1. Placement of the Severely Handicapped
2. Consumer Involvement
3. Severe Delivery Systems

Third IRI (1976)

1. Post Employment Services
2. Affirmative Action
3. Legal Concerns of the Rehabilitation Counselor

Fourth IRI (1977)

1. Homebound Employment –AR
2. Rehabilitation Facilities – Stout
3. Utilization of Material of the IRI-WV

Fifth IRI (1978)

1. Independent Living –AR
2. Similar Benefits – Stout
3. Rehabilitation of Persons with Emotional Disorders – WV

Sixth IRI (1979)

1. Adjustment Services in Voc. Rehabilitation – AR
2. Rehabilitation Engineering: A Counselor's Guide – Stout
3. Techniques for Working in the Community - WV

Seventh IRI (1980)

1. Independent Living Part B – AR
2. Interpreter Services – Stout
3. Rehabilitation Counseling – WV

Eighth IRI (1981)

1. Uses of Technology in the Delivery of Rehabilitation – WV
2. Utilization of Peer Helpers as a Rehabilitation Resource – AR
3. Delivery of Rehabilitation Services to Inner City Nonwhite – Stout

Ninth IRI (1982)

1. Rehabilitation of the Learning Disabled Client – WV
2. Marketing: An Approach to Placement – Stout
3. Marketing: A Strategy to Promote the Rehabilitation of Handicapped Individuals – AR

Tenth IRI (1983)

1. Projects with Industry and Rehabilitation – WV
2. Private/ Public Rehabilitation: A Better Understanding – Stout
3. Functional Assessment – AR

Eleventh IRI (1984)

1. Rehabilitation of the Deaf-Blind Individual – AR
2. Continuum of Services: School to Work – Stout
3. Looking into Placement Systems – WV

Twelfth IRI (1984)

1. Rehabilitation of the Deaf-Blind Individual – AR
2. Continuum of Services: School to Work – Stout
3. Looking into Placement Systems – WV

Twelfth IRI (1985)

1. Supported Employment – AR
2. Rehabilitation of Head Injured Clients – Stout
3. Rehabilitation and the Future – WV

Thirteenth IRI (1986)

1. Multidisciplinary Approach – AR
2. Rehabilitation Technology – Stout
3. Substantial Services – WV

Fourteenth IRI (1987)

1. VR Counselor & Rehabilitation Today – WV
2. Use of Vocational Evaluation in VR – Stout
3. Future Work Place: Implications for Rehabilitation - AR

Fifteenth IRI (1988)

1. Client Involvement in VR – Stout
2. CAP: A Rehabilitation Resource
3. Rehabilitation of Persons with Severe Psychiatric Disabilities & Technology for Individuals with Chronic Mental Illness – AR
4. Fundamentals of Eligibility for VR – AR

Sixteenth IRI (1989)

1. VR Services to Persons with HIV Infection – Stout
2. The provision of TA for Rehabilitation – Stout
3. Disability Management at the Work-Place: State-Federal VR – AR

Seventeenth IRI (1990)

1. Aging in America – Stout
2. Assistive Technology – AR
3. VR Services in IL Centers – AR

Eighteenth IRI (1991)

1. Substance Abuse as a Secondary Disability – Stout
2. New & Innovative Employment Services Strategies in VR – AR
3. Human Resources Development (HRD) in Rehabilitation – Stout

Nineteenth IRI (1992)

1. Consumer Involvement in Rehabilitation Research and Practice – AR
2. Serving the Underserved – Principles, Practices and Techniques – Stout
3. Multi-Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation – AR

Twentieth IRI (1993)

1. Employment Outcomes for Persons with Acquired Brain Injury – Stout
2. Counseling & Guidance in the Rehabilitation Partnership – Stout
3. Placement 2000 – AR

Twenty-First IRI (1994)

1. Native American Rehabilitation Programs – Unmet Needs – AR
2. Operationalizing Consumer Decision-Making and Choices in the VR Process – Stout
3. Strategies for Enhancing Job Retention and Career Advancement – AR

Twenty-Second IRI (1995)

1. Shaping State Rehabilitation Programs through Consumer Partnerships: Issues and Strategies – Stout

Twenty-Third IRI (1996)

1. Strategies for Eliminating Barriers to Effective Service Delivery – AR
2. Developing Effective Partnerships with Employers as an Effective Service Delivery Mechanism – Stout

Twenty-Fourth IRI (1997)

1. Field Service Managers and Supervisors: Strategic Leaders in Achieving Employment Outcomes – GW
2. Achieving Successful Employment Outcomes with the Use of Technology – Stout
3. Developing Self-Employment and Small Business Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities – AR

Twenty-Fifth IRI (1998)

1. Improving Employment Outcomes Through VR Counselors Who Meet the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Requirements – AR
2. Improving Rehabilitation Services and Employment Outcomes for Individuals Who are Deaf and Low Functioning (LFD) – GW
3. Meeting Future Workforce Needs - Stout

Twenty-Sixth IRI (1999)

1. Using the Internet as a Resource to the Work of the VR Counselor – GW
2. The Family as a Critical Partner in the Achievement of a Successful Employment Outcome – AR
3. Effective Strategies to Improve the Achievement of Employment for Individuals Who Are SSI/SSDI Participants – Stout

Twenty-Seventh IRI (2000)

1. Succession Planning in a Customer-Focused VR Environment – Stout
2. Effective Strategies for Improving Employment Outcomes for Persons with Kidney Failure – AR
3. Providing VR Services in a Workforce Environment – GW

KEY:

AR University of Arkansas
GW The George Washington University
WV West Virginia University
Stout University of Wisconsin-Stout

The first Twenty-Eighth IRI (2001) publication listed below has been disseminated, while the other two will be completed in the near future:

Twenty-Eighth IRI (2001)

1. Distance Education: Opportunities and Issues for the Public Vocational Rehabilitation Program – GW
2. Investing in the Transition of Youth with Disabilities to Productive Careers – AR
3. TANF and Vocational Rehabilitation: Partnering for Employment Success - Stout

The following Twenty-Ninth IRI topics are currently being developed and will be presented in draft at the National IRI Forum on May 5-6, 2003:

Twenty-Ninth IRI (2002)

1. Teaching Orientation & Mobility Professionals: Non-Traditional Approaches to Meet Critical Staffing Shortages - GW
2. Promoting Consumer Empowerment through Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling – AR

IRI University Coordinators:

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Although no longer coordinating IRI study groups, both the West Virginia University (WV) and the University of Wisconsin at Stout (Stout) have maintained copies of many of the documents that they developed. Contact Dr. Richard Walls at WV or Dr. Fredrick Menz at Stout for further information at:

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Most IRI publications may be obtained from the National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials (NCRTM). Contact the Director, Ms. Judy Seefeldt, at:

NCRTM
Oklahoma State University
5202 Richmond Hill Drive
Stillwater, OK 74078-4080
Voice: (800) 223-5219
or (405) 624-7650
Fax: (405) 624-0695
E-mail: seefelj@okstate.edu

REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

**Topic Suggestion Form
Thirtieth Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI) 2003-2004**

Note: Deadline for submission is April 4, 2003. Please complete all items and include additional attachments if necessary.

1. Title of suggested topic:

2. Briefly describe the issues to be addressed in publication:

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

3. Intended audience:

4. Describe the potential effects on improving services to individuals with disabilities:

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

Topic Suggestion Form for the Thirtieth IRI (continued)

5. Provide the names and addresses of persons with knowledge of this topic:

A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____
E. _____

6. Topic submitted by:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Employer: _____
Address: _____

Telephone/FAX: _____
E-mail: _____

Please return no later than April 4, 2003 to:

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