

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM  
RSA-IM-04-03  
DATE: January 16, 2004

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 – Thirty-First Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (2004-2005)

CONTENT : This Information Memorandum (IM) is to request your assistance in identifying topics for the Thirty-First Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI). The IRI originated as the Guidance, Training and Placement (GTP) workshop in 1947 and since that time has evolved to be 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 cutting-edge 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.

On May 2, 2004, members of 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 3-4, 2004, at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel in Roslyn, Virginia. The topics selected for study during the next IRI cycle will be announced at the opening session of the Forum on Monday, May 3.

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 containing some of the 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 February 29, 2004, 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.

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Joanne Wilson  
Commissioner

Attachments: Titles of Some Previous IRI Publications & Topic Suggestion Form

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

## **Titles of Some Previous IRI Publications**

The following list contains examples of the types of topical areas that have been studied by previous IRI study groups during the past twenty years. The list is in chronological order with the most recent topics appearing at the very end. Each title is followed by the abbreviation for the university coordinator for the study group. The key for the abbreviations is located at the end of the list.

1. Rehabilitation of the Deaf-Blind Individual – UAR
2. Continuum of Services: School to Work – UWS
3. Supported Employment – UAR
4. Rehabilitation of Head Injured Clients – UWS
5. Rehabilitation and the Future – WVU
6. Rehabilitation Technology – UWS
7. Substantial Services – WVU
8. VR Counselor & Rehabilitation Today – WVU
9. Use of Vocational Evaluation in VR – UWS
10. Future Work Place: Implications for Rehabilitation – UAR
11. Client Involvement in VR – UWS
12. CAP: A Rehabilitation Resource
13. Rehabilitation of Persons with Severe Psychiatric Disabilities & Technology for Individuals with Chronic Mental Illness – UAR
14. Fundamentals of Eligibility for VR – UAR
15. VR Services to Persons with HIV Infection – UWS
16. The provision of TA for Rehabilitation – UWS
17. Disability Management at the Work-Place: State-Federal VR – UAR
18. Aging in America – UWS
19. Assistive Technology – UAR
20. VR Services in IL Centers – UAR
21. Substance Abuse as a Secondary Disability – UWS
22. New & Innovative Employment Services Strategies in VR – UAR
23. Human Resources Development (HRD) in Rehabilitation – UWS
24. Consumer Involvement in Rehabilitation Research and Practice – UAR
25. Serving the Underserved – Principles, Practices and Techniques – UWS
26. Multi-Cultural Diversity in Rehabilitation – UAR
27. Employment Outcomes for Persons with Acquired Brain Injury – UWS
28. Counseling & Guidance in the Rehabilitation Partnership – UWS
29. Placement 2000 – UAR
30. Native American Rehabilitation Programs – Unmet Needs – UAR
31. Operationalizing Consumer Decision-Making and Choices in the VR Process – UWS
32. Strategies for Enhancing Job Retention and Career Advancement – UAR
33. Shaping State Rehabilitation Programs through Consumer Partnerships: Issues and Strategies – UWS
34. Strategies for Eliminating Barriers to Effective Service Delivery – UAR
35. Developing Effective Partnerships with Employers as an Effective Service Delivery Mechanism – UWS

36. Field Service Managers and Supervisors: Strategic Leaders in Achieving Employment Outcomes – GWU
37. Achieving Successful Employment Outcomes with the Use of Technology – UWS
38. Developing Self-Employment and Small Business Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities – UAR
39. Improving Employment Outcomes Through VR Counselors Who Meet the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Requirements – UAR
40. Improving Rehabilitation Services and Employment Outcomes for Individuals Who are Deaf and Low Functioning (LFD) – GWU
41. Meeting Future Workforce Needs – UWS
42. Using the Internet as a Resource to the Work of the VR Counselor – GWU
43. The Family as a Critical Partner in the Achievement of a Successful Employment Outcome – UAR
44. Effective Strategies to Improve the Achievement of Employment for Individuals Who Are SSI/SSDI Participants – UWS
45. Succession Planning in a Customer-Focused VR Environment – UWS
46. Effective Strategies for Improving Employment Outcomes for Persons with Kidney Failure – UAR
47. Providing VR Services in a Workforce Environment – GWU
48. Distance Education: Opportunities and Issues for the Public Vocational Rehabilitation Program – GWU
49. Investing in the Transition of Youth with Disabilities to Productive Careers – UAR
50. TANF and Vocational Rehabilitation: Partnering for Employment Success - UWS

**The following two IRI topics developed during the Twenty-Ninth IRI cycle are currently being finalized and will be disseminated in the near future:**

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

**These two IRI topics developed during the Thirtieth IRI cycle will be presented as draft documents at the National IRI Forum on May 3-4, 2004.**

1. Innovative Methods for Providing VR Services to Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities – GWU
2. A New Paradigm for Vocational Evaluation: Empowering the VR Consumer through Vocational Information – UAR

**KEY:**

UAR	University of Arkansas
GWU	The George Washington University
WVU	West Virginia University
UWS	University of Wisconsin-Stout

## **Current IRI University Coordinators**

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**Although no longer coordinating IRI study groups, both the West Virginia University and the University of Wisconsin at Stout have maintained copies of many IRI documents. Contact them at:**

Richard Walls  
West Virginia University  
Research and Training Center  
P.O. Box 6122  
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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, Oklahoma 74078-4080  
Voice: (800) 223-5219  
or (405) 624-7650  
Fax: (405) 624-0695  
Email: [seefelj@okstate.edu](mailto:seefelj@okstate.edu)



**Topic Suggestion Form for the Thirty-first 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:

Email:

**Please return no later than February 29, 2004 to:**

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VR Program Specialist  
Rehabilitation Services Administration  
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Washington, DC 20202-3216  
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