

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

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
RSA-IM-05-06
DATE: February 22, 2005

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-Second Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (2005-2006)

CONTENT : This Information Memorandum (IM) is to request your assistance in identifying topics for the Thirty-Second 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 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 that 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 1, 2005, 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 2-3, 2005, at the Doubletree Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The topics selected for study during the next IRI cycle will be announced at the opening session of the Forum on Monday, May 2.

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 the IRI topics studied since 1999. Also attached is the form that you may use when submitting topics. **Please submit suggested topics no later than March 15, 2005, 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 Wilson
Commissioner

Attachments

cc: Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

Titles of Recent IRI Topics

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 – UWS

Twenty-Seventh IRI (2000)

4. Succession Planning in a Customer-Focused VR Environment – UWS
5. Effective Strategies for Improving Employment Outcomes for Persons with Kidney Failure – AR
6. Providing VR Services in a Workforce Environment – GW

Twenty-Eighth IRI (2001)

7. Investing in the Transition of Youth with Disabilities to Productive Careers – AR
8. TANF and Vocational Rehabilitation: Partnering for Employment Success - UWS
9. Distance Education: Opportunities and Issues for the Public Vocational Rehabilitation Program – GW

Twenty-Ninth IRI (2002)

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

Thirtieth IRI (2003)

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

KEY:

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

Topic Suggestion Form

Thirty-Second Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI) 2005-2006

Note: Deadline for submission is March 15, 2005. We prefer electronic submissions. 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.
- F.
- G.

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 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:

E-mail:

Please return no later than March 15, 2005 to:

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