
Around the Region

June 2002

Volume 1



RSA Region V CRP-RCEP

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Practice through Research...Facilitating Integrated Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Hello All

It is with great pleasure that we disseminate this inaugural issue of the newsletter for RSA Region V CRP-RCEP. We intend to use the newsletter to keep professionals in our region informed of our activities, additional training that is being offered, and important issues as they develop. We hope that you will utilize this as a source of training information and as a forum for discussion of training issues. We welcome your submissions.

At this point we have completed the stakeholder meetings in each of the six states in our region, and are in the process of planning our first training session with our program associates. Several of our program associates have participated in collecting input on training needs from each of our states and in developing the evaluation format for the training that we will be providing. Also, we look forward to convening the program associates and the regional advisory board later this summer to assist with the further development of the mission and goals of the RCEP.

We hope to see many of you in Minneapolis for the Annual Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE) Conference, July 24-27, 2002. Several of our program associates and I will be making presentations. The Region V CRP-RCEP will also contribute support for many other presenters, as well as for training activities.

John Trach

REGION V CRP-RCEP

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The CRP - RCEP at the University of Illinois is in its first year of a five-year project funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education. Integrated employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities will be facilitated on several different levels, including continuing education and technical assistance, externships, replication activities, and leadership development for community rehabilitation providers in the six state region - Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. The mission of this RCEP is guided by the training needs of the community rehabilitation professionals in the region. The RCEP is committed to listening to what stakeholders have to say and designing training and programs based on these needs to improve outcomes for adults with disabilities. The listserv and web site will reflect this responsiveness by communicating and sharing information in a timely fashion.

Web site

Please take time to check out the new RSA Region V web site at www.ed.uiuc.edu/sped/illinoisrcep and give us your suggestions for improvement, as well as information and activities you would like to see posted.

Listserv

To date there are over 70 subscribers to this listserv that includes people from all six states. The purpose of this electronic discussion list is to facilitate information sharing and communication quickly and easily. If you'd like to subscribe free, please e-mail Lynda Leach at leachlyn@uiuc.edu.

Stakeholder Meetings Held Throughout Region V

Rehabilitation Services Administration Region V Community Rehabilitation Providers – Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program (CRP-RCEP) conducted stakeholder meetings in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin to solicit input regarding training priorities to direct activities for this grant. The meetings consisted of a one-day process utilizing Affinity Diagramming to brainstorm those priorities. Nominations of the participants for these meetings were identified through the CRP state associations, state rehabilitation agency, state special education agency, and advocacy groups. Each state meeting consisted of approximately 20 participants who have had close relationships with training and human resource needs of CRPs and individuals responsible for providing direct service. An effort was made to select a representative sample from various state geographic regions, urban and rural, large and small agencies, and various stakeholder groups (e.g., CRPs, state rehabilitation agency personnel, education transition personnel, and advocates). A regional advisory board is being selected from the participants of those meetings. Small groups of participants focused on discussing the activities related to what we may want providers to Do (services CRPs provide), what they need to Know (information necessary to provide those services), and how to Deliver that training (seminars, workshops, distance education). The findings from each state's stakeholder meeting will be reported on our web site at <http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/sped/illinoisrcep>.



Indiana Stakeholders Meeting, Indianapolis

**Don't forget to check out the
Region V CRP-RCEP Web site:**

www.ed.uiuc.edu/sped/illinoisrcep

Selected Conferences/Workshops/ Trainings in Region V

ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES SIMULATION TRAINING

- August 11-16, 2002
- Chicago, IL
- Advanced Employment Services Certificate Program - Earn CEUs

Mark your calendars!



Region V will be sponsoring a week-long simulation training for direct service staff and employment specialists, Chicago Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, IL. There will be a \$215.00 registration fee that will include the cost of the hotel and mileage will be reimbursed at 15 cents per mile. Registration deadline is July 10, 2002.

Training Content:

- Values of Quality Supported Employment
- Identifying Support Needs
- Marketing
- Effective Communication
- Negotiating with Employers and Other Customers
- On-the-Job-Supports
- Problem Solving
- Public Relations
- Interagency Cooperation
- Community Relationship Building

Please contact Tony Plotner if you have questions regarding this opportunity to improve your skills and knowledge of supported employment.

To register, please complete the registration form on the back and mail or fax to Tony Plotner. We will subsequently contact you with an agenda and details of the

meeting, as well as method of payment.

Here's what one attendee, a vocational rehabilitation counselor, said of the simulation training he just attended in Kansas City in May, 2002 - "The RCEP

training that I recently attended was extremely well organized, thought provoking, and informative. Interaction within my workgroup, combined with brief lectures, kept the training moving at a rapid pace. The week went by quite quickly.

DHS/ORS rehabilitation counselors have an expectation of conducting job development and placement activities. As such, the training topics of marketing, job analysis, job carving, vocational supports, and negotiation have special relevance for the expanded competencies of our rehabilitation counselors. I hope this training is made available to motivated counselors who have a sincere interest in job development and placement activities."



Center on Community Living and Careers, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana University

Bloomington, IN

Social Security Work Incentives Trainings - July 8 -9- Shipshewana, IN; Sept. 23-24- Indianapolis, IN; November 4-5 -Nashville, IN; Supporting Individuals with Autism and Challenging Behaviors Team Training - August 20-21 and Sept 19-20 (teams attend all four days), Greenwood, Indiana.

For more information contact Teresa A. Grossi, Director, at 812-855-6508 or tgrossi@indiana.edu.



APSE

The 13th Annual Conference of the Association for Persons in Supported Employment - *Choose Work: Supporting Independence and Workplace Diversity*

The Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN

July 24 - July 27, 2002

For more information, go to the MN APSE Chapter website at: <http://www.apse.org/mnconference/mnhotelandtravel.html>



National Employment Conference

Disability & Employment 2002, *Vocational Rehabilitation: Where Partners Create Careers*

Washington, DC

August 18-21, 2002

The purpose of this conference is to share effective employment strategies used by State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and their network of community rehabilitation programs and other partners in order to increase and improve the employment of individuals with disabilities. For more information about this conference, please go to the RSA web site: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/RSA/New/02NECNomweb.html> or contact Jenn Rigger 202-260-2179 or jenn.rigger@ed.gov



Ohio Rehabilitation Association Annual Conference

2002 - *Rehab: Leaping to Greater Possibilities*

Wyndham Hotel, Toledo

October 16 - 18, 2002

Contact: Nancy Gilbert: (614) 891-2217 or ohiorehab@aol.com or go to the web site at: www.ohiorehab.org



NRA IS COMING TO INDIANA IN 2002 !!

National Rehabilitation Association/Indiana Rehabilitation Association 2002 Annual Training Conference:

Alliances and Discoveries

Indianapolis, IN

October 24-27, 2002

Contact: National Rehabilitation Association toll free 1-888-258-4295, fax (703) 836-0848, 836-0849, or email info@nationalrehab.org for information and Call for Papers. The deadline for the Call for Papers is July 1, 2002.



Michigan Rehabilitation Conference

Michigan Rehabilitation Association/MARO Employment and Training Association: *Ticket to Where?*

Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI

November 6-8, 2002

For more information and Call for Presentations, please contact: Harry R. Smith, 517.484.5588, hsmith2@maro.org, or go to the web site : <http://www.maro.org/MRCCall.html>

The Arc Annual Convention

Columbus, OH
November 7-9, 2002

It's not too early to start thinking about attending this year's convention in Columbus. The dates are November 7-9. This is the last annual convention. Next year is the first year of the alternating schedule adopted by the voting delegates at the 2000 convention. The next meeting will be in Boston, November, 2004. For more information, please go to the web site: <http://www.thearc.org/conv2002/info.htm>.



Indiana APSE's 12th Annual IISE Conference

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!
Adam's Mark Hotel - Indianapolis Airport
December 4 - 6, 2002

Please go to the web site for more information at: <http://www.inapse.org/>



TASH, 2002 International Conference

Our Quest: Opportunity, Equality, Justice
Boston, MA
December 11 -14, 2002

For information, please go to the web site: <http://www.tash.org/2002conference/>

News You Can Use

Spotlight on ... The National Results Council

2885 Country Drive, Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55117-1091

Today's community rehabilitation organizations are being asked to accomplish a difficult goal: serve more people, with fewer resources, in a world of escalating community problems and needs. The National Results Council is a nationwide non-profit organization created specifically to help rehabilitation programs improve benefits to consumers and to communities.

Far from just measuring service provided, the NRC gets at the heart of what a program is working to achieve. The NRC measures objective, bottom-line outcomes, reports data in understandable, usable formats, and offers training and support to help organizations do a better job in solving problems.

While there is a great deal of "lip service" given to shifting the focus from the *process* of service delivery to *measuring* results achieved, very little is being done at an operational level to actually do so. The NRC is the first organization to make the necessary investment in a technology that has the potential to substantially alter the manner in which programs are compared and services are delivered.

Information is the key ingredient to good choices. Whether you are a rehabilitation counselor advising or a consumer choosing, the current "state of the art" in vocational rehabilitation generates much data — but with a big, and critical, piece missing. There is little in hard measures to provide for comparisons among organizations with similar programs. While this is not the only factor to consider in choosing a program, it is a very, very important one.

The NRC model is based on the following assumptions:

- In order for organizations to improve their performance, as measured by the quality and cost of the outcomes achieved, they need to have regular and timely feedback on that performance.
- Feedback must include the capacity for both organization-specific benchmarks, and comparison data from other organizations offering similar programs.
- The system must add value for several constituencies, including consumers of the service, service providers, and those agencies and organizations that purchase services or otherwise fund the programs.
- The performance measurement system itself must focus on clearly understood, bottom-line outcomes. It should not be burdensome in terms of data collection requirements, and it should be reasonable in terms of cost.
- The system must be able to make adjustments for conditions unique to an organization's location, and for the

relative severity of barriers to employment faced by the people served by an organization.

For more information on the NRC, visit the website at www.nationalresultscouncil.org or telephone NRC at 651-787-0704 (888-604-2400 toll free).

This article was submitted by Jim House, National Results Council.

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: **Resources** :
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Burke, M.A. (2002). *Simplified Grantwriting*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc. For more information go to: www.corwinpress.com (July publication date)

This step-by-step guidebook will give professionals at all levels the practical tools they need to take control of the grantwriting process and succeed, including time-tested ways to:

- Create a simplified process for managing grantwriting activities
- Identify an effective marketing strategy
- Consider various options for collaborating with diverse stakeholders
- Effectively organize and time-manage the grant development process
- Understand the integral components of a grant proposal’s needs
- Design a clearly articulated grant proposal template that addresses all of the funder’s requirements
- Modify program proposals that meet the diverse funders’ needs
- Establish a “program sustainability plan” that ensures continuous funding and community support

NARIC — The National Rehabilitation Information Center for Independence has a new look at www.naric.com — check it out!

The new design directs users to four areas: Information and Document Requests, the Instant Disability Information Center, NIDRR Research, and the NIDRR Projects sections. With this new design, specific requests for information or documents in the REHABDATA database can be accomplished through the new, easy-to-use, interactive forms. The monthly hot topic publication, RehabWIRE is now available to all users and can be

found in the Instant Disability Information Center (IDIC) section. NARIC staff have also organized the IDIC to help you make more effective use of the various research and practical information databases. In addition, the Program Directory and Compendium data will be highlighted under the NIDRR Research section.

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Policy Update — If you’re interested in keeping up-to-date with special education policy, in particular, policies that impact students with disabilities transitioning to work and vocational rehabilitation, contact Jaclyn Bootel, JACKIB@cec.sped.org, and ask her to put you on the electronic mailing list for late breaking news from the feds.

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Advanced Employment Services Simulation Training

Sponsored by RSA Region V CRP-RCEP

August 11-16, 2002

Chicago Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel
9300 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, IL

Registration Form

Registration deadline - July 10, 2002

Cancellation in writing by July 25, 2002 for refund

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please let us know your preferences for hotel accommodations:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| _____ Non-smoking room | _____ Smoking room |
| _____ Share a room | _____ Individual room |
| _____ Special Needs (please list) _____ | |

Please contact Tony Plotner at 217-333-2325 or plotner@uiuc.edu for more information.



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