VR Counselors Perception of EBP: Value, Barriers, and Preparation Needs

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The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Effective Vocational Rehabilitation Service Delivery Practices (RRTC-EBP-VR) is established at both the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Wisconsin-Stout under a grant from the Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) grant number PR# H133B100034.
Rehabilitation
Research &
Training
Center for
Evidence-based
Practice in
Vocational
Rehabilitation

What does this stand for?

RRTC - EBP VR

Contact Us Toll Free: 1-855-820-3929
Online: www.research2VRpractice.org
The **RRTC-EBP VR** is a national research collaborative partnered by the following key institutions and organizations:

- **The University of Wisconsin – Madison**
  Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education

- **The University of Wisconsin – Stout**
  Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI)

- **The University of Texas – El Paso**

- **Southern University at Baton Rouge**

- **Michigan State University**

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What does the RRTC-EBP VR do?

- Conduct research on evidence-based practice
- Provide VR practitioners with knowledge and tools for implementing evidence-based vocational rehabilitation practices
- Goal: improve employment rates and quality of employment for people with disabilities
How does the RRTC-EBP-VR function?

Vocational Rehab Practitioners

Families and Individuals with Disabilities

Rehab Researchers

Community Partners
Our Goal...

To ensure that new knowledge gained through the course of research ultimately improves the lives of people with disabilities, and furthers their participation in society (NIDRR, 2005).
Our Initiatives

- Research
  - Phase 1
  - Phase 2
  - Phase 3

- Knowledge Translation
Phase I

- A Multi-Level Analysis of Economic Indicators, VR Agency Characteristics, and RSA-911 Data
Phase II

- Best practices in achieving employment outcomes: Findings from a multiple case study of agencies in the public rehabilitation program
Phase III

- Personal and environmental factors that support and encourage innovation and best practices that lead to employment outcomes in public rehabilitation
Knowledge Translation

*Knowledge Translation (KT)* is the process of taking information gained from relevant research and delivering it to Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors in a clear and useable format.
Knowledge-to-Action

• Acquire
• Apply
• Share
• Research  Practice
Knowledge Creation

• What areas VRCs would benefit from receiving more information and training?
• What areas VRCs believe training in EBP could help them perform their job differently?
• How can information provided through the RRTC-EBP VR be of value?
• What are the barriers and challenges?
Knowledge Action – sample approaches

• Web-based Plain Language Summaries
• Brief Quizzes
• Self-paced training modules
• Face-to-face Trainings at Prof Assoc Conferences
• Presentations in classrooms + Rehab Ed Conf
• Self-evaluation tool to guide a critical approach to applying EBP
• Quarterly Newsletters
• Social Media
• Communities of Practice (CoPs)
• Technical Assistance
• Feedback (Formative Evaluations)
The desired impact of the RRTC-EBP VR

- Improve employment and quality of employment outcomes for people with disabilities
- Communicate important research findings related to high performing state VR programs
- Showcase effective Vocational Rehabilitation Service Delivery
- Enhance and influence policy development to improve outcomes in the Vocational Rehabilitation System
- Demonstrate effective tools and strategies to advance the Knowledge-to-Action goal: ACQUIRE, APPLY, SHARE
If you want to improve employment and quality of work outcomes for people with disabilities,

*make OUR research, YOUR best practice!*