Promoting and Supporting Evidence-Based Rehabilitation Practice with Knowledge Translation

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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.
Knowlege 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 translation (KT)

- KT is now gaining recognition for applicability across a broader range of professional fields
- KT processes are inherently bidirectional and participatory in nature, as are the steps necessary to identify and replicate EBP
- Knowledge-to-Action (KTA) framework provides a clear model for KT in rehabilitation
Knowledge-to-Action

• Knowledge Creation

• Knowledge Action
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)
Gaps in KT

• Gap in information flow to practitioners of effective intervention supported by research findings
• Need exists to identify and incorporate participatory approaches to engage the key stakeholders in the planning, development and implementation of all research, training, dissemination, and technical assistance activities
• Must include employers/business and industry (demand) because they are vital partners in ensuring successful employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities
Gaps in KT – cont’d

• Knowledge Mobilization (KMb)
  ➢ Infused in all research activities and components
  ➢ Participatory Action – DRIVER
  ➢ Formative Evaluation - MUST

• GOAL: ACQUIRE, APPLY, SHARE
What is Knowledge Mobilization (KMb)?

- **KMb** refers to moving available knowledge (often from formal research) into active use.
- Purpose: Make connections between research/expertise and policy/practice to improve outcomes in various organizations or sectors.

Knowledge ♦ Knowledge User
Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Process:

- Select, Tailor, Implement Interventions
- Assess Barriers to Knowledge Use
- Adapt Knowledge to Local Context
- Monitor Knowledge Use
- Knowledge Inquiry
- Knowledge Synthesis
- Knowledge Tools / Products
- Tailoring Knowledge
- Evaluate Outcomes
- Sustain Knowledge Use

Research ↔ Practice
Specific Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Goals:

**ACQUIRING**
How interested are you in *ACQUIRING* new knowledge that promotes evidence-based practice in VR?

**APPLYING**
How interested are you in *APPLYING* new knowledge that may affect employment outcomes for people with disabilities?

**SHARING**
How interested are you in *SHARING* new knowledge that may affect employment outcomes for people with disabilities?
KMb Goal

- Vocational Rehab Practitioners
- Community Partners
- Rehab Researchers
- Families and Individuals with Disabilities
THANK YOU!!
If you want to improve employment and quality of work outcomes for people with disabilities,

*make OUR research, YOUR best practice!*