RTAC Expert Summit: Introducing the VR Program Management Framework as a Tool for WIOA Implementation

Monday, September 28, 2015, 12:00PM – 4:00PM EST
Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 12:00PM – 3:30PM EST

On Monday, September 28 and Tuesday, September 29, the Research and Technical Assistance Center (RTAC) on VR Program Management will host an online virtual conference, Expert Summit: *Introducing the VR Program Management Framework as a Tool for WIOA Implementation*. The RTAC Expert Summit will discuss the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program Management Framework, and will highlight effective program management practices in the context of adapting to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The two-day virtual conference will be a forum to bridge research, policy, and practice. We invite researchers, service users, providers, consultants, and administrators to join us as we discuss priority issues regarding WIOA and identify avenues for future research and development.

This summit will stimulate a dialogue between Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) researchers, state VR agency leadership and staff, and content experts regarding all components of the VR Program Management Framework.

[Register for the Summit!](#)

To obtain CRC credits, participants must complete an evaluation for each session attended. We offer CRC credits for sessions 2-5. Each session is 1.5 CRC credits. Certified Rehabilitation Counselors may receive up to 6 CRC credits for participation.

RTAC Expert Summit Session Descriptions

Session 1: Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center VR Program Management Project Key Findings
Presenters:
Susan Foley, ICI
DeBrittany Mitchell, ICI
Description: Susan Foley and DeBrittany Mitchell will provide an overview of the VR Program Management Framework and the lessons learned from the 29 VR agencies across the country that implemented RTAC initiatives. Dr. Foley will discuss the interaction between the components of the RTAC framework, the transferability of RTAC framework components to practice and policy development, and how these components can help the VR system build its capacity to address common program management issues.

The following four sessions (sessions 2-5) focus on the application of the VR Program Management Framework as it applies to WIOA implementation in four key areas: Employer Engagement, Pre-employment Transition Services, Customized Training, and Extended Services.

Session 2: Employer Engagement
Presenters:
Amy Porter, Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services
Hugh Bradshaw, Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Facilitator: Brenda Moore, ICI
Description: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) charges agencies to work with employers to determine regional and local hiring needs and design training programs that meet those needs. WIOA also charges agencies to measure the success of these training efforts.

Amy Porter and Hugh Bradshaw will discuss the following questions that agencies can ask about employer engagement as they implement WIOA:
- How can agencies use the VR Program Management Framework to implement changes mandated by WIOA?
- Is the dual-customer approach part of an agency's strategic plan?
- How is the dual-customer approach being incorporated into agency services and processes?
- What are the WIOA implications for workforce development?
- Does the agency have staff or resources that meet business service needs?
- Do counselors and support staff need additional training and supports to better align with the mission of integrated engagement?

- How will the agency collect data to determine if these efforts are positively impacting its outcomes?

Session 3: Pre-employment Transition Services
Presenter: Andrea Guest, Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Facilitator: Joe Marrone, ICI
Description: Andrea Guest will discuss the following questions to guide agencies as they implement Pre-employment Transition Services:
- Have you developed a strategy for identifying groups of transition-age youth who would be considered "potentially eligible" for VR services?
- Have you developed effective relationships with businesses and educational partners that allow your agency to provide an array of experiential work for transition-age clients?
- What policies have you developed to ensure a structured, consistent outreach approach with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for engaging transition-age students with disabilities?
- How could your agency use the model to implement these changes?
- How will you collect data to determine if these efforts are positively impacting your outcomes?

Session 4: Customized Training
Presenter: Mark Schultz, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation
Facilitator: Bob Burns
Description: In the workforce investment system, local boards can use funds for effective strategies that meet employers' workforce needs, including incumbent worker training, registered apprenticeship, transitional jobs, on-the-job training, and customized training. WIOA now requires that states place a greater emphasis on entities that offer training programs that relate to in-demand occupations. WIOA also provides for reimbursement for customized training that is tailored to meet the specific requirements of a job, and leads to an industry-recognized credential.

Mark Schultz will discuss the following questions regarding Customized Training at VR agencies:
- Who should be brought to the table in the identification and development of customized training programs?
- How can labor market information and other industry data inform how VR agencies invest their training resources?
- How could agencies use the model to implement this change?
- How will the agency collect data to determine if these efforts are positively impacting outcomes?

Session 5: Extended Services

Presenter: Dan Madrid, Delaware Division for the Vision Impaired
Facilitator: Vito DeSantis, ICI
Description: Under WIOA, youth with the most significant disabilities will have up to four years of extended services. Dan Madrid will discuss the following questions as they relate to extended services at VR agencies:

- What impacts will this extended service period have on an agency's services, processes, and policies?
- How will this extended period change the partnerships between VR and other entities serving this population?
- What mechanisms need to be in place to ensure good communication between all parties over this extended period?
- Since this change has implications for VR funding and resource allocation, what impacts will it have on the agency's long-term strategic plan?
- How could agencies use the framework to implement this change?

RTAC Expert Summit Agenda

Day 1: Monday, September 28, 2015, 12:00PM – 4:00PM EST

12:00PM – 12:30PM
Welcome, Logistics, & Session Overview
Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center VR Program Management Key Findings
Presented by DeBrittany Mitchell and Susan Foley

12:30PM – 12:45PM
Message from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)
Presented by Leslie Caplan

12:45PM - 2:15PM
Session 2 – Employer Engagement
Presented by Amy Porter and Hugh Bradshaw
Facilitated by Brenda Moore

2:15PM – 2:30PM BREAK
Session 2 Evaluations

2:30PM – 3:45PM
Session 3 – Pre-employment Transition Services
Presented by Andrea Guest
Facilitated by Joe Marrone

3:45PM – 4:00PM
Day 1 Summary & Session 3 Evaluations
DeBrittany Mitchell and Susan Foley

Day 2: Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 12:00PM – 3:30PM EST

12:00PM – 12:15PM
Welcome, Logistics, and Overview of Sessions
Presented by DeBrittany Mitchell and Susan Foley

12:15PM – 1:30PM
Session 4 – Customized Training
Presented by Mark Schultz
Facilitated by Bob Burns

1:30 – 1:45PM BREAK

Session 4 Evaluations

<u>1:45PM – 3:00PM</u>
Session 5 – Extended Services
Presented by Dan Madrid
Facilitated by Vito DeSantis

<u>3:15PM – 3:30PM</u>
Key Discussion Points & Summit Closing
Session 5 Evaluations
Presented by DeBrittany Mitchell and Susan Foley