

RUSH Research Utilization Award

**Dissemination of a mixed-utilization model for promoting
substance use disorder screening in vocational rehabilitation**

*RRTC on Substance Abuse, Disability and Employment
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First Report

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) funded the RRTC on Substance Abuse, Employment, and Disability awarded to Wright State University (WSU). The RRTC builds on previous findings to positively influence persons with disabilities who also experience substance use disorders (SUD), as well as the service providers upon whom they depend. The RRTC is currently in the middle of 5 years of funding.

One project addressed the following goal: To promote widespread use of a SUD screening among persons with disabilities who utilize disability-related employment services. In collaboration with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) and the SASSI Institute, the SAVR-S was created and validated over the last 18 months on nearly 1,000 applicants to vocational rehabilitation (VR). Currently, the SAVR-S is being evaluated in Illinois, Ohio, and West Virginia. The SAVR-S can be rapidly administered in several accessible formats, and it results in an automated report that addresses the work-related issues that may face an individual based on their responses.

The substance abuse screening project is one of the most exciting and ambitious projects undertaken by this RRTC. It has the potential to make a substantial contribution to the SUD field, aiding VR counselors and directly serving those with SUD. Concurrently, a training program was developed and counselors from one half of the field offices in IL, OH, and WV will be trained by the beginning of 2007. The other half of the field offices and counselors will receive training in 2008, thereby creating a delayed-start control group for each of the states. Each VR program will utilize the SAVR-S in all their field offices by 2008. Extensive online training materials are being developed and deployed at this time. Modules for a total of eight, free CEU's are available now, and two more hours of modules will be added within three months.

The Research Utilization Award furthers the SAVR-S study, expanding the study to a total of 6 states, with the addition of Virginia, Utah, and Kentucky.

Specific Objectives of the RUSH RUA:

1. Develop a trainer of trainer system utilizing consultants with VR backgrounds in order to increase training capacity and further disseminate SUD screening practices in other VR systems.
2. At the suggestion of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), double the number of VR state systems currently employing systematized SUD screening for all applicants (from three to six states), thereby increasing the sample of state VR systems in the evaluation while also increasing knowledge transfer.
3. Expand the evaluation measures of the training impact on VR counselor knowledge, attitudes, and behavior, as well as further examine the impact of a state-wide SUD screening policy on VR systems.

This funded project, "Dissemination of a mixed-utilization model for promoting substance use disorder screening in vocational rehabilitation," has completed the following activities to date:

The following intermediate outcomes will be measured in the upcoming months of the project and reported in the next report.

1. A total of 2/3 of VR agencies implementing SASSI-VR will continue use following conclusion of the evaluation phase in 2009.
2. At least 40% of VR counselors trained on screening for SUD will utilize the SASSI-VR routinely (defined as 3 or more uses within a 3-month period).
3. VR offices using SASSI-VR will increase identification of SUD and demonstrate measurable gains on selected indices of success as compared with controls (e.g., status 26 vs 28 case closure; case services provided, supported for persons with SUD).

Appendix

Evaluation measures proposed in RUSH Project Application

Evaluation Measure	Construct	Measure	Analysis
Pre/Post Counselor Training Test	Counselor knowledge, attitudes and behavior	Multiple choice items (pre-test to be developed under RUA)	Paired <i>t</i> -tests
Counselor Online Training	Counselor knowledge, attitudes and behavior	Counselor registrations, successful completion of quizzes. CEU's granted	Descriptives on registrations, successful completions of each of five associated modules
VR Consumer Satisfaction	Opinions of screening procedure and the way it was introduced by VR staff	Follow up questionnaire of consumers following 2 nd office visit – sample of field offices – 15 items, yes-no, or likert (n=150) (to be developed under RUA)	Cumulative descriptive statistics; comparison between offices/states (Chi square)
Online Modules CEU Test	Counselor knowledge	Multiple choice items	Descriptives on the total number of persons completing CEU's, total CEU's completed and the scores on CEU tests
SAVR-S	SAVR-S utilization and findings	Count of SAVR-S forms by state, office, counselor by time period, the percentage of SAVR-S reports with positive SUD findings and the percentage of SAVR-S submissions with "refusal" to complete screener	Descriptives on all categories, to be shared with state VR administrations beginning month 4 of SAVR-S administration
Counselor Satisfaction Survey	Counselor satisfaction	Likert scale items some open-ended questions – <u>web based application</u>	Descriptives on counselor satisfaction with ease of use and clinical value of SAVR-S
Administrator Satisfaction Survey*	Administrator satisfaction	Likert scale items some open-ended questions	Descriptives on administrator satisfaction with overall screening activities and identification of policy and procedural barriers
Primary and Secondary Disability Codes	Consumer SUD status and changes	SUD diagnoses data from Case Services dbase (911))	Chi square, contingency tables
Successful VR Outcomes (status 26)	Closure status	Closure data from Case Services dbase (911)	Descriptives on closure status, t-tests between status 26 vs 28/30 closure rates

* Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and specifically Allen Heinemann, Ph.D., is Principal Investigator on RRTC R1 study, and he is assisting with data analysis on RUSH project regarding outcomes of SAVR-S use. Expedited IRB protocols to be filed with RIC, WSU, VA-DRS.