

Research Utilization Support and Help (RUSH) 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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**Third Report**

In collaboration with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) and the SASSI Institute, Wright State University (WSU) has created the Substance Abuse Vocational Rehabilitation-Screener (SAVR-S). The instrument was validated in 2006 and early 2007 using nearly 1,000 applicants to the vocational rehabilitation (VR) system. The SAVR-S can be rapidly administered in several accessible formats, resulting in a report that addresses the work-related issues that may face an individual based on their responses to substance use related questions. In continuation of that project, the current project, supported by Research Utilization Support and Help (RUSH), extends the implementation of the screener and the training program involved with the SAVR-S to three more states, Kentucky, Utah and Virginia. The initial project involved training VR counselors in Illinois, Ohio and West Virginia.

This report encompasses the past 4.5 months of activities. The activities, as listed in the MOA, include training, management meetings, screening of consumers, data management activities, data analyses, and presentation and dissemination activities. These activities are detailed below.

### Training

All training was completed prior. No training activities have occurred over the past 4.5 months.

### Management Meetings

The management team involves members from the SASSI Institute, RIC, and WSU. We meet on a monthly basis and discuss issues related to the initial RRTC project and the RUSH project. Planning related to the trainings, data collection, implementation of the SAVR-S, logistics for reporting, screening consumers, and data analyses are topics commonly covered.

Mary McAweeney and Jo Ann Ford have been working on the Internal Review Board (IRB) requirements this past reporting period. WSU submitted to the IRB a description of the study, the protocol, data collection activities, letters from the agencies participating in the study, and a discussion of the data collection activities. This was sent to the IRB for review early this month, and it pertains only to activities that have yet to be undertaken (e.g., survey of counselor opinion on the SAVR-S). We do not anticipate any problem with the IRB submission.

### Screening of Consumers

The implementation of the SAVR-S has begun in Utah and Kentucky. Utah and Kentucky have elected to strongly encourage *all* staff to complete a SAVR-S for every new applicant to the agency. Virginia has elected to make using the instrument voluntary, and they are currently completing a process of counselor recruitment for this purpose. It appears that several factors, including not meeting directly with area managers and supervisors served to diminish the enthusiasm for this instrument in the state. Moreover, they recently enacted other changes in policy that require additional counselor work at intake. However, this alteration in implementation strategy will allow us to determine if peer success and use within a field office generates more

counselor use within a period of time. To date, Utah has submitted 1,385 SAVR-S and Kentucky 1,374.

### Data Management Activities

Per the application, a variety of data are collected and analyzed for the RUSH project. Two databases have been created so far. WSU manages a database containing the counselors' data. This is the completed surveys that were part of the pre- and post-test before and after the training. In addition, SASSI manages all of the completed SAVR-S in a large database.

### Data Analyses

The counselor pre- and post-test related to in-person training will be analyzed. Other measures including consumer satisfaction, on-line modules CEU tests, SAV-S utilization and findings, counselor satisfaction survey, administrator satisfaction survey, primary and secondary codes, and successful VR outcomes are detailed in the appendix.

The SASSI Institute provides monthly reports to WSU staff who in turn send out to the contact person for Kentucky and Utah. Virginia is not completing the SAVR-S so there is no report for that state. The reports include positive and negative rates for each state as well as refusal rates. Utah has a high positive hit rate. This discrepancy is currently being investigated with VR personnel in UT. Dr. McAweeney and Russ Theil from Utah have had many phone conversations regarding this discrepancy. He went back to the beginning of the study and looked at how many referrals came through the system. There were almost 50% more referrals than completed SAVR-S. Thus, it appears as though counselors are selecting whom they administer the SAVR-S to. It is most likely that counselors are screening those who they think might have a problem and not those who they think do not have a problem. Thus, they are not following the protocol of screening everyone and the rate of positives is inflated.

### Presentation and Dissemination Activities

A manuscript titled "*Development of a substance abuse screening instrument for use in vocational rehabilitation settings*" authored by Heinemann, Lazowski, Moore, Miller, & McAweeney was accepted to the journal *Rehabilitation Psychology*. It will be in press January of 2008. This manuscript describes the development and validation of the SAVR-S. Another manuscript authored by Dr. McAweeney and titled "A Substance Use Screening Tool for Rehabilitation Counselors Working in Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies" was presented at the Vocational Evaluation and Career Assessment Professionals (VECAP) conference and will be published in McDaniel, R.S. (ed.) National Issue Forum Papers. City, Publisher.

Wright State and the RRTC on Substance Abuse, Disability and Employment held a State of the Science Conference on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Arlington, Virginia. The conference was titled "Substance abuse & vocational rehabilitation - the elephant in the room: Recent research, policies, and exemplary practices." All of the RRTC projects were presented including the SAVR-S. A panel of VR experts discussed SUD related issues in VR with Jeff Standerfer discussing the implementation of the SAVR-S in Illinois. Allen Heinemann, PhD, also presented the development



### Appendix: Evaluation measures

<b>Evaluation Measure</b>	<b>Construct</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Status re: VA DRS</b>
Pre/Post Counselor Training Test	Counselor knowledge, attitudes and behavior	Multiple choice items	Comparison between pre- and post-tests	integrated into live training, with non-traceable code # assigned by respondents
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	on-going evaluation of all webcourse stats
VR Consumer Satisfaction	Opinions of screening procedure and the way it was introduced by VR staff	Follow up questionnaire of consumers following 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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)	drafted, protocol to be developed and approved by IRB and state
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	on-going evaluation of all webcourse stats
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	on-going service offered with SAVR-S use, to be mailed to administrator
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	drafted, protocol to be developed and approved by IRB and state
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	drafted, protocol to be developed and approved by IRB and state
Primary and Secondary Disability Codes	Consumer SUD status and changes	SUD diagnoses data from Case Services dbase (911)	Chi square, contingency tables	de-identified merge of SAVR-S and 911 data – IRB approval needed at *RIC, WSU,DRS
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	de-identified merge of SAVR-S and 911 data – IRB approval needed at RIC, WSU,DRS