



Transition and Vocational Rehabilitation in an Era of Change

TATRA Conference 2009
Large Group Discussion

National Council on Disability Study

The Rehabilitation Act: Outcomes for Transition-Age Youth

Study examines:

- How the VR structure promotes the delivery of effective transition services to adolescents and young adults with disabilities

Study Continued

- The long term results of VR's investment in postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities
- And the effectiveness of collaborative efforts among vocational rehabilitation, secondary and postsecondary education, and other service systems in the planning and delivery of transition services

What is not included

- Mention of the impact of parent training
- Mention of the potential role of RSA and OSEP-funded parent training projects and centers

Obama Administration Disability Priorities

“Obama and Biden will also authorize a comprehensive study of students with disabilities and issues relating to transition to work and higher education.”

www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/disabilities/

NCD Recommendation #1

Congress should change existing VR transition legislation and policy to require that VR services be made available to eligible youth no later than three years before an adolescent or young adult exits from secondary education.

NCD Recommendation #2

Congress should authorize and allocate sufficient funds to support the development of a multifunctional transition unit in each state VR agency.

NCD Recommendation #3

Congress should authorize and mandate the development and implementation of coordinated service delivery approaches, specifically targeted to transitioning youth with disabilities, that are based on the “blending” of funds from VR, special education, postsecondary education, Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), Veterans Administration, Social Security Administration, and other appropriate funding agencies.

NCD Recommendation #4

Congress should mandate that RSA, NIDRR, and state VR agencies conduct rigorous evaluation studies that identify the transition program components that directly correlate with improved employment and postsecondary educational outcomes for transition-age youth.

NCD Recommendation #5

Congress should mandate and allocate funds to support the implementation of rigorous evaluation studies designed to establish the efficacy of fully developed transition programs, practices, and policies.

NCD Recommendation #6

RSA, NIDRR, and state VR agencies should develop, implement, and evaluate new service unit policies under which the services provided by VR counselors outside the individualized plan for employment (IPE), such as time spent in collaboration with other agencies, secondary and postsecondary schools, families, etc., are recognized as service units comparable to IPE services.

NCD Recommendation #7

RSA, NIDRR, and state VR agencies should design, implement, and evaluate a tiered structure for services delivered by VR counselors working with transition-age youth.

NCD Recommendation #8

RSA and state VR agencies should allocate additional staff development resources for the preparation of current and future rehabilitation counselors to meet the needs of transition-age youth, and target recruitment and professional development activities to attract qualified people with disabilities to the field.

NCD Recommendation #9

RSA should coordinate its secondary transition efforts with those of other federal and state agencies implementing dropout prevention programs.

NCD Recommendation #10

RSA, NIDRR, OSEP, and state VR agencies should collaborate to conduct a comprehensive review of existing VR transition programs, practices, and policies being implemented in each individual state.

NCD Recommendation #11

RSA, NIDRR, OSEP, and state VR agencies should conduct a systematic program of future research to identify the characteristics and service needs of transition-age youth with disabilities currently unserved or underserved by VR.