



CSAVR National News Brief

February 9, 2024

CSAVR *National News Brief* is a regular series covering legislative activity, media stories, research initiatives, webinars, reports, conferences, and national advocacy activities of interest to member state VR agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENT: CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SPRING CONFERENCE ARE DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23!! SPREAD THE WORD!! REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATION LINKS [CAN BE FOUND HERE \[csavr.org\]](#).

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. [NATIONAL NEWS](#)
2. [CSAVR WORK](#)
3. [OSERS & RSA UPDATE](#)
4. [TAC PRODUCTS & OPPORTUNITIES](#)
5. [LONG COVID IMPACT](#)
6. [REPORTS, TRAININGS, NEWSLETTERS, AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES](#)
7. [RECENT ARTICLES](#)

Super Bowl Weekend! May the best team win (as long as it is MY team)

NATIONAL NEWS

ACL has announced the release of the [2024–2028 Long-Range Plan \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) (LRP) for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). The plan provides a five-year agenda for advancing the work being done in applied disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research and development. The new LRP continues to emphasize research that is highly relevant to the lives of people with disabilities and the inclusion of people with disabilities.

The [Office of Special Education Programs \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) and the [Office of Educational Technology \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) at the Department of Education published [Myths and Facts Surrounding Assistive Technology Devices and Services \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) (PDF), a guidance document aimed at dispelling common misconceptions regarding assistive technology (AT). The document is designed to increase understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) AT requirements, describe and dispel common myths about AT and how and when it should be deployed in schools, and provide examples of the use of AT devices and services for children with disabilities. The guidance also covers common misconceptions around costs and funding for AT devices and services.

The number of people who voluntarily quit their job in December fell to 3.4 million, the lowest in nearly three years. The number of job openings rose to 9 million, the highest level in three months.

Bloomberg

Just for the fun of it...Do you think honor is lacking among your state legislators? A state senator in a state not to be named did and he introduced a rule to bring back dueling. Under the proposed rule any senator whose “honor is impugned by another senator” can demand a duel to be held at “high noon” on the Senate floor with weapons chosen by mutual agreement. A spokesperson for the senator said that while this proposal is “metaphorical”, the senator in question is committed to restoring a sense of honor in the state senate. Guess one starts with the extreme and works backwards. Choice of weapons: spitballs and straws at 10 paces, erases at 20 paces, water balloons at 30 paint guns at 40, etc. Such possibilities and who knows.

Some articles of additional interest:

Areas Munhoz, Diego. “[Push to End Disabled Workers’ Subminimum Pay Continues on Hill \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#).” Bloomberg Law.

Hanna, John. “[Kansas is Poised to Expand Tax Credit for Helping Disabled Workers After Debate over Low Pay \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#).” *Washington Post*.

Santos, Robert L. “[Next Steps on the American Community Survey Disability Questions \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#).” U.S. Census Bureau.

CSAVR WORK

The CSAVR Services for Adults Committee is reestablishing priorities for the next year. Directors received a request to take 5 minutes to give us feedback on what topics you feel are most important for the committee to focus on as we look to increase the capacity for SVRA's to provide services to our adult customers. This is also an opportunity to join or assign a staff member to represent your agency on the committee. Responses are due February 23rd close of business. If you didn't get the link to the survey, just holler.

OSERS & RSA UPDATE

OSERS/RSA is seeking qualified peer reviewers for the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Assistance Listing Number: 84.250Q) grant competition. Applications are due March 26, 2024. Please direct all questions to Dr. Ronica A. Marable at ronica.marable@ed.gov.

As VR agencies prepare for data collection and reporting under the revised Case Service Report (RSA-911), outlined in [DCL 23-04 \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#) ([Excel file \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#)), the RSA shared [Edit Checks V1 \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#) that they plan to use for PY 2024 quarterly reporting. To assist VR agencies with identifying revisions, RSA developed this [Crosswalk of Changes \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#) from PD 19-03 to DCL 23-04. In the near future, RSA will share a DCL 23-04 implementation checklist and, in partnership with the VRTAC-QM, update the RSA-911 Training Series. Please email RSAData@ed.gov or Data Unit representative on your [State Team \[rsa.ed.gov\]](#) with any questions. Thank you.

TAC PRODUCTS & OPPORTUNITIES

VRTAC-QM -NEW TA TOOL! [Optimizing Collaboration: A Guide to Cooperative Agreements Between Blind and General VR Agencies \[vrtac-qm-drupal-shared-files.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com\]](#)

This guide provides essential insights and practical steps for how two State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies in states having a separate VR agency for the blind can enhance communication and collaboration. Covering regulatory requirements and key areas of mutual interest, this guide offers a roadmap for establishing reciprocal referral services, coordinating Federal award funds, including the funds reserved for pre-employment transition services, and improving services for individuals with multiple disabilities.

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LONG COVID IMPACT

The [Rehabilitation Research and Training on Employment Policy: Center For Disability-Inclusive Employment Policy Research \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) announced the [fourth season of the podcast Let's Get to Work: Reimagining Disability Inclusive Employment Policy \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), with a focus on people living with the long-term effects of COVID, or Long COVID. This season takes a deep dive into Long COVID and employment, with episodes about advocating for people with Long COVID, accommodations in the Long COVID era, connecting Long COVID to disability laws and policies promoting employment, and emerging research. All episodes are available for download.

REPORTS, TRAINING, NEWSLETTERS AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Gain insights on vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselor recruitment and retention through [National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials \[ncrtm.ed.gov\]](#)' (NCRTM) latest video. The [Lunch & Learn video \[youtube.com\]](#) features findings from Dr. James Herbert's study "Recruitment and Retention of State Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors: A Mixed Methods Analysis" and a vibrant panel discussion with VR experts from Texas, Georgia, and Mississippi.

The [Southeast ADA Regional Center \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) released episode 125 of the ADA Live! Podcast, [Applying the Americans with Disabilities Act's \(ADA\) Integration Mandate and Olmstead v. L.C. to Sheltered Employment and Day Services for People with Disabilities \[click.icptrack.com\]](#). Presenters discussed the most recent guidance on the ADA's integration mandate and the Olmstead decision and its application to employment and day services for people with disabilities. The Center also released an episode in Spanish. Transcripts are available for both episodes.

The [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Community Living and Participation Among People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(RTC-CL\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) will host an online Policy Forum, [The Employment Impacts of Being a Family Caregiver \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), February 16th, 2 - 3:30 pm ET. Presenters will discuss the recent Policy Research Brief, [The Employment Impacts of Being a Family Caregiver \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), and its recommendations. Presenters will discuss the essential roles that family members play in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including providing medical, emotional, financial, and day-to-day support, and the choices they have to make that can affect their employment and long-term financial well-being. Registration is free and required

The [Northeast ADA Regional Center \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) will host a webinar, [When the Employer Requests Documentation of Disability: Key Considerations for the Employment Service Professional \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), February 20th, 1 - 2 pm ET. Presenters will discuss the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provision that employers may request medical documentation as verification of disability as long as it is job related and consistent with business necessity. Presenters will share what this means, guidelines for these types of requests, and who may provide this information and what they should say. This webinar will be available in English and Spanish. Registration is free and required.

The [Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research \(KTDRR\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) will host a webinar, [Cultivating Partnerships to Advance Your Implementation Projects \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), February 22nd, 2 - 3 pm ET. Presenters will focus on the practical aspects of cultivating partnerships and strong relationships to support implementation goals. Presenters will discuss the science of building trust and navigating power, including actions that teams may use in the partnership-building process. Registration is free and required.

The [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics \(StatsRRTC\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) will host the [2024 Annual Disability Statistics Conference: Surveys, Statistics, and Identity \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), March 28th, 11 am - 4:30 pm ET, in Washington, DC and via webcast. The conference will feature the release of the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium. Registration is free and required by March 14th. For more information, contact Disability.Statistics@unh.edu or 866/538-9521.

The [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) seeks [input about information needs of people with spinal cord injury \(SCI\), traumatic brain injury \(TBI\), and burn injury \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), as well as caregivers, clinicians, or state or federal program administrators to assist researchers in developing information resources related to these types of injuries. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. For questions or more information, contact MSKTC at msktc@air.org or [202/403-6929](tel:2024036929).

The [Southeast ADA Regional Center \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) announced free access to the [Spanish version \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) of [Foundations of the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), a comprehensive web course designed to increase a person's knowledge and understanding of the core concepts about the ADA and the ADA Amendments Act. The web course was developed to help participants learn about the important concepts of the ADA and to think about inclusive solutions for individuals with disabilities in the workplace, state and local programs, and private businesses. To take the course, create an account for the course system, then login and select the course. The Spanish version of ADA Foundations is free for a limited time. The English course is available for a small fee.

RECENT ARTICLES

Chapman, Kelsey, Angel Dixon, Elizabeth Kendall, and Kelly Clanchy. "[Defining Dignity at the Intersection of Disability: A Scoping Review \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." *Disability & Rehabilitation*, 2024.

Holland, Lisa, Kendel St. John, and Elizabeth Evans Getzel. "[Discovering ME: An Innovative Planning Tool for Students with Significant Disabilities \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, vol. 60, no. 1, 2024, pp. 1–6.

McLean, Kiley J., Luke Muentner, and Lauren Bishop. "[The Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Receipt of Needed Medical Care and At-Home Support Among U.S. Households Receiving Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance on the Basis of Disability \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." *Health and Social Work*, vol. 49, no. 1, 2024, pp. 35–43.

Rubenstein, Eric, Salina Tewolde, A. Alex Levine, Lillian Droscha, Rachel Midori Meyer, Amy Michals, and Brian Skotko. "[Medicare, Medicaid, and Dual Enrollment for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." *Health Services Research*, 2024.

Sprong, Matthew E., Bob Blankenberger, Sami M. Pierce, and Heaven Hollender. "[The COVID-19 Pandemic's Influence on Employment Outcomes of Veterans Enrolled in VA Healthcare Vocational Rehabilitation \[links.news.mathematica-mpr.com\]](#)." *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 2024.

Staiger, Becky, Madeline Helfer, and Jessica Van Parys. “[The Effect of Medicaid Expansion on the Take-Up of Disability Benefits by Race and Ethnicity](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com) [links.news.mathematica-mpr.com].” *Health Economics*, vol. 33, no. 3, 2024, pp. 526–540.

Wu, April Yanyuan, Denise Hoffman, and Paul O’Leary. “[Opioid Use Among Social Security Disability Insurance Applicants](https://links.news.mathematica-mpr.com) [links.news.mathematica-mpr.com].” *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 2024.