

Giving Researchers Access to Key Partner Input

Mental Health QUERI

June 2014

Stakeholder Council

Implementation science and quality improvement efforts have historically partnered individual investigators with key stakeholders to improve the quality and delivery of mental healthcare services. Mental Health (MH) QUERI's Stakeholder Council is an innovative strategy for engaging stakeholders in MH-QUERI research. Membership currently includes Veterans of all eras, family members of Veterans, VHA clinical providers and clinical managers, VHA operations managers, faith-based leaders and clergy, community and state service providers, community leaders, Veteran advocates, and other key informants invested in improving the implementation of VA mental health services via research. The Stakeholder Council's unique mission is to serve as a resource to MH-QUERI investigators, allowing researchers to access key partner feedback at any point throughout the research process, from project conceptualization to data interpretation and dissemination. This approach has the potential to accelerate the implementation of research-based effective interventions into routine clinical practice and, ultimately, to improve the quality of mental health services for our nation's Veterans.

Stakeholder Council Roles and Responsibilities

The Mental Health Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (MH-QUERI) established the Stakeholder Council out of its commitment to the development of bi-directional partnerships for the co-production of research and knowledge exchange between investigators and stakeholders. Members have been selected to ensure representation from a broad range of key stakeholder groups. The Stakeholder Council's main purpose is to provide consultation to MH-QUERI investigators and leadership on the development and implementation of evidence-based programs and practices for Veterans utilizing or needing mental health services. Stakeholder Council members provide direct written or verbal feedback on MH-QUERI

research programs, projects, or other activities to MH-QUERI affiliated investigators and to MH-QUERI leadership through in-person meetings and quarterly conference calls. Council members commit to an initial two-year term.

Conducting Reviews of MH-QUERI Research

During quarterly conference calls, the Stakeholder Council reviews selected research and grant proposals, and provides MH-QUERI investigators with feedback. MH-QUERI staff identify and select potential investigators for Stakeholder Council review based on the priority of the research and investigator potential to benefit from the review. Proposed research must align with MH-QUERI's strategic plan, and researchers must be eligible for VA/QUERI funding.

Selected investigators are then invited to present to the Stakeholder Council. They submit materials and specific questions for review. Council members then have the opportunity to discuss any questions they may have about the materials during the quarterly Stakeholder Council conference call, when the investigator(s) presents a brief research summary.

Stakeholder Council Development as a Model for Facilitating Co-Production of Research and Knowledge

The Stakeholder Council may serve as a model for integrating stakeholder views into proposed research projects and activities. Development of the Council has proceeded through four phases:

- Charter Development: Developing Stakeholder Council policies and procedures, recruiting individuals, and outlining roles and responsibilities.
- Test Procedures: Training Council partners for their roles and duties, and piloting the MH-QUERI research review process.
- Frame Objectives: Developing objectives related to activities for the bi-directional partnership and co-production of research and knowledge exchange.
- Assess Outcomes (ongoing): Assessing short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes, along with the related objectives and activities, towards accomplishing MH-QUERI's mission.

Continued

How Do I Learn More?

For more information about the Stakeholder Council, visit www.queri.research.va.gov/mh/default.cfm and/or contact:

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Web Resources

For more information about the QUERI program in general, and to link to all of the individual

QUERI Centers, please go to

www.queri.research.va.gov

The Mental Health-QUERI Executive Committee

Each QUERI Center is led by a research expert and a clinician. The research expert and Director for MH-QUERI is **JoAnn Kirchner, M.D.** and the Clinical Coordinator is **Kathy Henderson, M.D.** The Implementation Research Coordinators are **Jeff Smith** and **Mona Ritchie, Ph.D. candidates**, and **Monica Matthieu, Ph.D.** The Executive Committee includes other experts in the field of mental health: Thomas Berger, Ph.D.; Robert Bossarte, Ph.D.; David Chambers, D.Phil.; Kenneth Conner, Psy.D., M.P.H.; Geoffrey Curran, Ph.D.; Nicole Hart, B.A.; Maga Jackson-Triche, M.D., M.S.H.S.; Daniel Kivlahan, Ph.D.; Dean Krahn, M.D.; Kathleen Lysell, Psy.D.; Stephen Marder, M.D.; Susan McCutcheon, R.N., Ed.D.; Skye McDougall, Ph.D.; Richard Owen, M.D.; Craig Rosen, Ph.D.; Lisa Rubenstein, M.D., M.S.P.H.; Annapurni Teague, M.D.; Wendy Tenhula, Ph.D.; John Williams, Jr, M.D., M.H.S.; Laura Wray, Ph.D.; and Alexander Young, M.D., M.S.H.S.