Bridging the Care Continuum for Vulnerable Veterans across VA and Community Care (Bridge) QUERI

Bridge QUERI improves health outcomes by expanding access to prevention, treatment, and supportive services for Veterans. In partnership with 4 VA Program Offices and 6 VISNs, we are implementing three effective practices – Homeless Overdose Prevention Expansion; Maintaining Independence and Sobriety through Systems Integration, Outreach and Networking-Criminal Justice; and Post-Incarceration Engagement – to support 150 VA employees in the delivery of high-quality services to over 1,300 Veterans.

Homeless Overdose Prevention Expansion (HOPE)
Implements opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution to reduce overdoses and deaths.
- Provider education
- Veteran and family education and training on opioid overdose prevention
- Provision of naloxone (also known as Narcan®) to Veterans and training how to use it

Maintaining Independence and Sobriety through Systems Integration, Outreach and Networking-Criminal Justice (MISSION-CJ)
Engages Veterans Treatment Courts participants in care and reduces criminal recidivism.
- Case manager and peer specialist teams
- Assertive outreach
- Hybrid treatment and linkage support services

Post-Incarceration Engagement (PIE)
Enhances VA’s Health Care for Reentry Veteran program.
- Linkage to VA and community health care
- Social support from peers and other Veterans
- Role modeling, based on the peer’s lived experience

Multi-level Partnerships
- Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention; Homeless Programs Office; Office of Health Equity; HIV, Hepatitis, and Related Conditions
- VISNs 1, 4, 16, 17, 19, 21

Evidence-based Strategies Supporting Implementation Efforts
- Implementation Facilitation
- Education Outreach
- Academic Detailing
Cross-Cutting Cores
Three cross-cutting cores accelerate the spread of effective practices across VA.

- The **Implementation Core** guides the methods and measurements used to evaluate success.
- The **Rapid Response Team** meets critical emerging needs from VA clinical operations partners.
- The **Mentoring Core** provides experiential training for early career implementation scientists to address arising challenges related to social determinants of health among Veterans.

Anticipated Impacts

- Implementation of three effective practices **across 18 VA sites** spanning 11 states and 6 VISNs
- **150+ VA employees** trained and **1,300 Veterans** served
- Implementation playbooks to further scale-up, spread, and sustainment of effective practices
- Widespread dissemination of methods, outcomes, and implementation lessons through webinars, social media, and published articles

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