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difference

Using Patient-Centered Research Results in the Real World

Veteran-driven Community Engagement Projects: Lessons Learned

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Health Research Initiative for Veterans

Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

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#PCORI2019

Cheryl A. Krause-Parello PhD, RN, FAAN

- Has nothing to disclose.

Veterans Action League: Building Capacity to Engage Veterans in PCOR and CER Activities

- Purpose:
 - Give veterans an active voice in PCOR and CER activities by creating VAL a national platform for dialogue and engagement with other veterans and key stakeholders
- Objectives:
 - Engage veterans and key stakeholders in discussions of PCOR/CER
 - Increase understanding of what veterans need to make better-informed health and healthcare decisions
 - Uncover the gaps in knowledge and the PCOR/CER priorities

Methods and Activities

- VAL Units include a Collaborative Academic Research Member (CARM) and a Veteran Unit Leader
- Formed VAL Units in 6 states
 - California, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio
- VAL included in-person and virtual meetings
- Think Tank Meetings and Post Think Tank Virtual Meetings
- Think Tank Times Newsletters
- Two-day VAL Retreat
- Joint operations planning, networking, disseminating events, & town halls

Project Outcomes

- Build a community and strengthen participation in PCOR/CER
- Dissemination of PCOR/CER findings for rapid uptake
- Established a PCOR Capacity-Building Toolkit for Engaging Veterans in PCOR/CER and Dissemination of Findings

Lessons Learned from VAL

- Veteran participants across all six states expressed enthusiasm and interest in participating in PCOR and CER
- Skepticism about research enterprise
- Unfamiliar with research process
- Research studies should be informed by veterans and include veterans as full partners on the research team
- Importance of an authentic, collaborative relationship between veterans and researchers

Learn More

- Project Summary: [Veterans' Action League \(VAL\): Building Capacity to Engage Veterans in PCOR and CER Activities](#)
- Journal of Veterans Studies
 - Open-Access, peer-reviewed
 - [Toward Veteran-Centered Research: A Veteran-Focused Community Engagement Project](#)
- Funding Acknowledgement:
 - This program was funded through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington Engagement Award (5548-FAU-IC).
 - Disclaimer: The views, statements, and opinions presented in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), its Board of Governors or Methodology Committee.

Veterans Action League 2.0: Developing a National Veteran-Centered Chronic Pain Research Agenda

- **Purpose:**

- Explore with patients and key stakeholders what interventions have been successful for chronic pain management, with whom, and under what circumstances
- Develop a National Veteran-Centered Chronic Pain Research Agenda (NV-CCPA)

- **Objectives:**

- Engage veterans/stakeholders in discussion on PCOR/CER
- Increase understanding of the needs of veterans to improve pain management/treatment
- Serve as a channel to disseminate study results about pain treatment options
- Strengthen researchers' abilities to improve partnerships with veterans/stakeholders in PCOR/CER
- Develop NV-CCPA and translate to publicly accessible white paper

Methods and Activities

- Formed VAL Units in 4 locations: GA, VA, IL, and DC metro area
- VAL 2.0 includes in-person and virtual meetings
- Think Tank Meetings and Post Think Tank Virtual Meetings
- Think Tank Times Newsletters
- Joint operations planning, networking, disseminating events, & town halls

Project Outcomes

- Build a community and strengthen participation in PCOR/CER
- Dissemination of PCOR/CER findings for rapid uptake
- Establish an NV-CCPA
- Author a white paper based on the NV-CCPA for awardees and the PCOR community to integrate into decision-making settings

Lessons Learned from VAL 2.0 thus far

- Veterans discussed research ideas (e.g. strength training, mind-body interventions) for management of chronic pain
- Participants care deeply about innovative non-pharmacological research for chronic pain management
- Think Tank Meetings provide a venue for innovative pain management ideas to be heard

Learn More

- **Project Summary:** [Veterans Action League 2.0: Developing a National Veteran-Centered Chronic Pain Research Agenda](#)

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Operation PCOR: Training Veterans as Partners in PTSD Research

- **Purpose:**

- Engage veterans in the research enterprise as full partners
- Advance veteran-centered PTSD-related PCOR and CER

- **Objectives:**

- Develop and implement a nationally accessible online training program
- Establish a National Advisory Board (NAB) made up of veterans and key stakeholders to develop and evaluate training program curriculum
- Create a national web-based platform veterans can connect with researchers as full partners in the research enterprise

Methods and Activities

- Development of Operation PCOR training curriculum and learning strategies, all informed and created by the NAB.
- Veterans ($N=50$) piloted Operation PCOR
- Creation of the VetResearchHub, a web-based platform that connects veterans with researchers
- Website for the Operation PCOR training program and VetResearchHub are developed and managed by Canines Providing Assistance to Wounded Warriors (C-P.A.W.W.)

Project Outcomes

- Creation and establishment of NAB for Operation PCOR
- Development and implementation of Operation PCOR
 - 4 veteran-narrated online modules
- VetResearchHub as nationally accessible online resource
 - Connect veterans and researchers
- Engagement of veterans as full partners in PTSD-related PCOR & CER

Lessons Learned from Operation PCOR

- Veterans reported
 - they want to be able to help shape the development of PTSD treatment options, but
 - research process often feels removed from their experience
- After the pilot of the training program,
 - Significant ($p < .05$) increase in veterans' willingness to participate in the research enterprise

Learn More

- Project Summary

[Operation PCOR: Training Veterans as Partners in PTSD Research](#)

- Stop by our poster session and meet our veteran and stakeholder presenters!

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Questions?

- [C-P.A.W.W. Mission](#)
- C-P.A.W.W. email: cpaww@health.fau.edu
- Acknowledgements:
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Thank You!

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