# A PRIMARY CARE PACT TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH CARE OF PATIENTS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS: SMI-PACT

Alexander S. Young, MD, MSHS
Director, Health Services Unit, VA VISN-22 MIRECC
Professor, UCLA Department of Psychiatry



Research Development

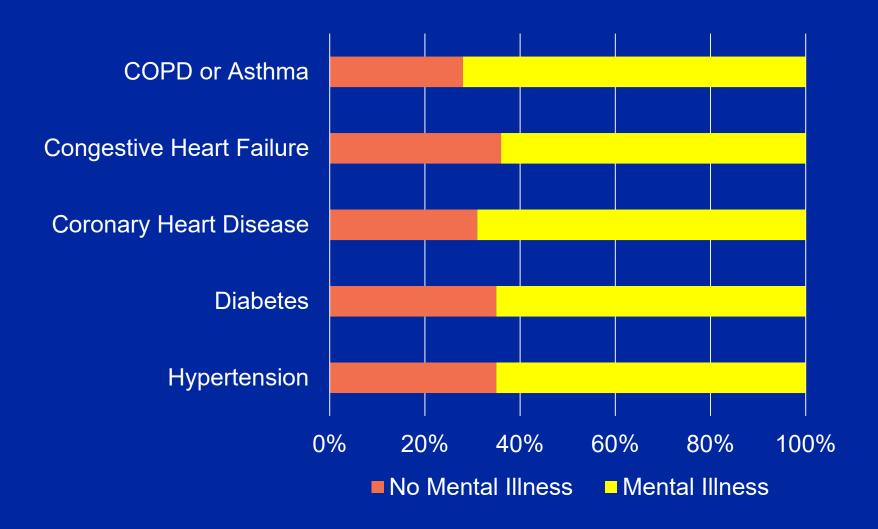
# Disclosure Alexander Young

No relationships or conflicts of interest related to the subject matter of this presentation

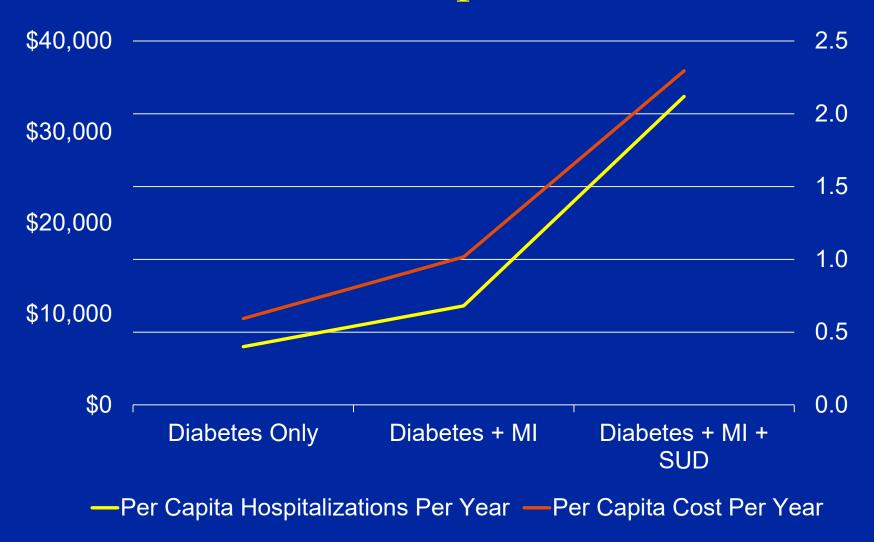
### Serious Mental Illness (SMI): Complex Needs & Poor Outcomes

- □ Common, high-cost disorders
  - bipolar, schizophrenia, major depression, chronic PTSD
- High rate of premature mortality
  - 3 times the general population
  - 10 to 15 years of life lost
  - mostly due to cardiovascular, respiratory, cancer
- Not well engaged in primary care
  - cognitive deficits, social disadvantage, smoking, obesity
  - fail to get high-value primary care services
  - life expectancy has not increased with rest of population

# Mental Illness Among Disabled Patients with Medical Disorders



# Impact of Mental Illness (MI) on Costs and Hospitalizations



### Poll Question #1

- What is your primary role in VA?
  - student, trainee or fellow
  - physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant
  - other nurse
  - other clinician
  - researcher
  - administrator, manager or policy-maker
  - other

### Poll Question #2

- What is your primary VA clinical location?
  - primary care
  - mental health
  - substance abuse
  - other specialty service
  - none

# Integrated Care Model for Veterans with Complex Needs

- How to organize primary care for complex patients with substantial specialty needs?
- Many projects on SMI outside VA
  - high priority as systems become responsible for populations
  - rarely studied using experimental designs
  - few projects in VA
- Research has been rare
  - inconsistent results
  - regression to the mean

### Overview

- Improve primary care of Veterans with SMI
- Build on PACT
- Build on integrated care management & medical care management
  - VA Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)
- ☐ Grant from HSR&D QUERI
- Hybrid implementation effectiveness study
- □ Clustered controlled trial in VISN 22

#### Aims

- Implement SMI PACT model
  - one VISN 22 medical center
- Study model effectiveness
  - compare to two other VISN 22 medical centers
  - study change over time
- Outcomes
  - quality of primary care
  - care experience, chronic care, symptoms, quality of life
- Formative evaluation
  - implementation, acceptability, barriers, facilitators
  - triangulate: context, intervention, outcomes

#### SMI PACT Team

#### Los Angeles VA

Alexander Young, MD, MSHS (PI)
Evelyn Chang, MD
Merlyn Vinzon, RN
Karen Chu, MA
Alicia Bergman, PhD
Fiona Whelan, MS

Amy N. Cohen, PhD (co-PI)
Rebecca Oberman, MPH, MSW
Anthony Flynn
Alison Hamilton, PhD, MPH
Sona Hovsepian, MSW
Helen Medina

San Diego VA
Laurie A. Lindamer, PhD
Jody Murphy
Jennifer Salamat

Las Vegas VA
Dennis T. Chang, MD
Olaf Fallye

### SMI PACT Clinical Model

- Engage patients in primary care
- Collaborative care (PCMHI) for SMI
- Integrated medical and psychiatric treatment
  - care coordination
- Proactive nurse care management

# Patient Eligibility

- Diagnosis of SMI
  - Schizophrenia
  - Major Depression with psychosis
  - Bipolar Disorder
  - Chronic, serious Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Elevated medical risk: CAN > 75<sup>th</sup> percentile
- Stable mental health: not high risk
  - Milestones of Recovery (MORS) score  $\geq$  6

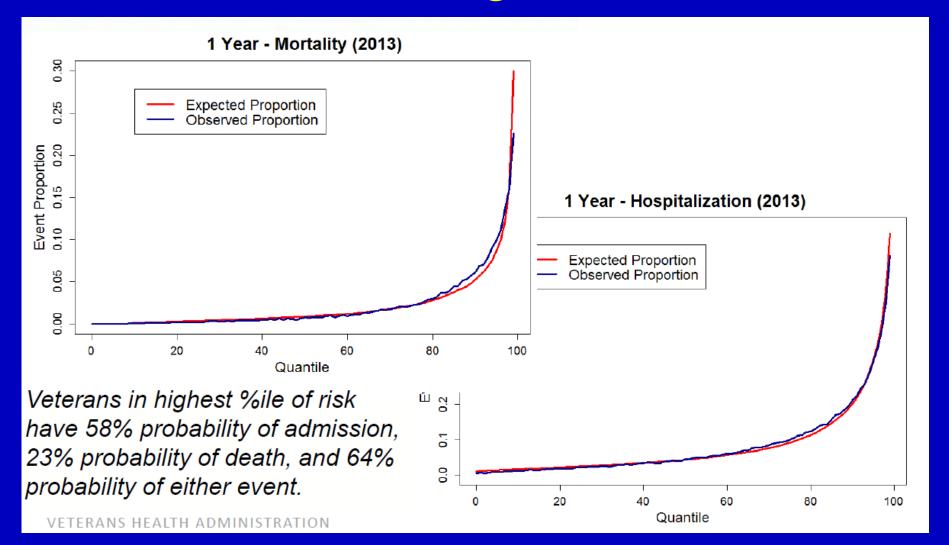
# Identify Risk for Hospitalization or Death using CAN Score

<u>Demographics</u>	<u>Utilization</u>	Chronic Illness	<u>Pharmacy</u>
Age Group	No. Hospital/Bed Days	Deyo-Charlson Score	Antipsychotic
Air Force Flag	No. Medical Providers	HCCs:	Beta-blocker
Eligibility (1, [2-4], 5+)	No. Visit Type:	AFib and CHF	Benzodiazepine
Rank Flag (Officer vs	All	Dementia	Beta agonist nebulizer
Enlisted)	Inpatient	Mental Health and PTSD	Furosemide
Marital Status	Emergency Care	Metastatic Cancer	Statin
Priority	Cardiology	Alcohol	Metformin
SES index	CT	Chronic Airway	NSAID
Sex	Mental Health	Obstruction	Furosemide Tablets
	Other Non-Face		No. of drugs filled
<u>Vital Signs</u>	Primary Care (PC)	<u>Lab/Radiology</u>	
BMI (≥40)	Phone Care	No. Albumin	<u>Text Notes</u>
Weight Variability	PC Phone Care	No. Blood, Urine, Nitrogen	No. Consent Notes
HR (80-60)	No. 11-20min Phone	Lymphocytes (Low)	No. Telephone Notes
Resp Rate (≥20)	No. 21-30min Phone	Red Blood Cells (Low)	
Sys & Dias BP	No. Est Office Visit	Sodium (Low)	
		White Blood Cells (High)	
		No. Troponin	
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION		No. Chest X-Ray	

Med Care. 2013 Apr;51(4):368-73. doi: 10.1097/MLR.0b013e31827da95a.

Predicting risk of hospitalization or death among patients receiving primary care in the Veterans Health Administration.

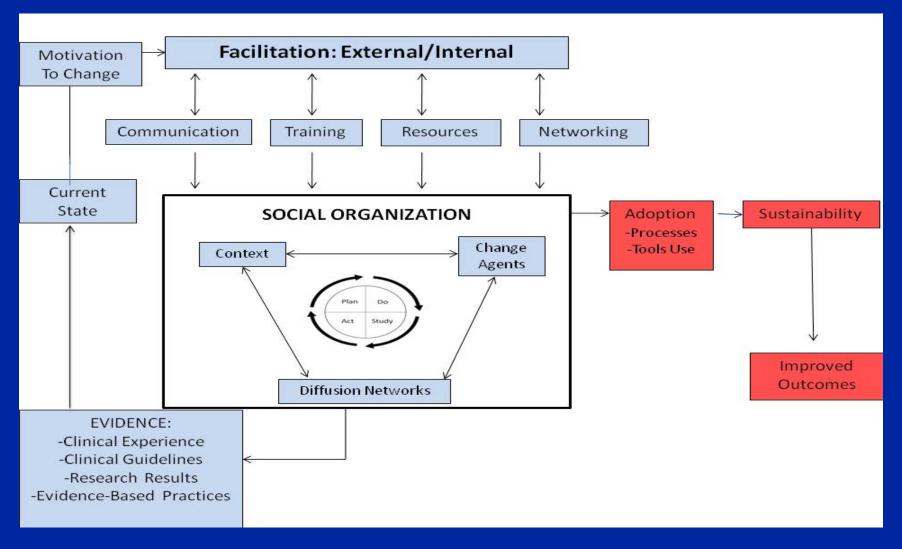
# Identify Risk for Hospitalization or Death using CAN Score



# Milestones of Recovery Scale (MORS)

Extreme Risk	Unengaged		Engaged, Not Self- Coordinating		
	Outreach (MHICM)	Drop-in	Intensive Case Management	Case Management	
	High risk, unengaged (2)  Poorly coping, unengaged (4)		High risk, engaged (3)	Poorly coping, engaged (5)	

# Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)



#### Facilitation

- □ Preparing for SMI PACT
- □ Staffing SMI PACT
- Offering care to patients
- Providing SMI PACT

### Role: Primary Care Physician

- Training
- Care management
- Medication monitoring
- Interface with consulting psychiatrist
- Interface with other specialists

### Role: Nurse Care Manager

- Training
- Panel management
- Collaborate with other clinics & providers
- Patient education
- Smoking cessation & health coaching
- Triage walk-ins
- Review primary care almanac quality measures

### Role: Psychiatrist

- Weekly meetings with primary care physician (PCP) and nurse care manager
- Available in real time by phone or IM
- Assist PCP with psychiatric treatments
- Facilitate coordination with specialty mental health
- Oversee implementation of SMI PACT model

### Roles: Other

- □ Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
  - scrub schedule, reminders to patients, manage patient messaging, review labs, pre-visit
- Social Worker
  - outreach, ensure patient engagement, social assessment, connect with resources
- Clerk
  - appointments, documentation

### Methods

- Effectiveness: mixed effects repeated measures
  - compare intervention to control over time
- Formative evaluation
  - constant comparison
  - strengthen intervention
  - study patients, providers, organizational context, treatments

#### **Data Sources**

- Quantitative patient interviews
  - baseline and 1 year
- Semi-structured interviews
  - baseline and 1 year
  - patients
  - staff: physicians, nurses, social workers, managers
- Field notes, intervention logs
- VistA data

## SMI PACT was Implemented

- Primary care staff training
  - motivational interviewing, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment
- Psychiatrist integrated into PACT team
  - weekly team meeting, real time consultation
- Coordination with specialty substance abuse and mental health services
  - led by psychiatrist
- Tobacco cessation services

#### SMI PACT was Well Received

- Patient satisfaction was high
- □ Well accepted by clinicians
- No problems with burnout
  - additional supports to manage complex patients
- Sustained after the study

### Implementation

- Tool kit is available
- Apply PCMHI psychiatrist staff to serious mental illness
- Offer SMI PACT supports to select PACT teams
  - no full time SMI PACT teams
- Patient outreach
- □ Target quality measures, including SAIL

#### Conclusions

- First controlled trial in serious mental illness of a primary care medical home with integrated, collaborative care
- Specialized PACT for SMI is feasible, safe, more effective than usual care
- Addresses healthcare challenges faced by people with serious mental illness
- Tools available for implementation

### Questions / Comments?

Alex Young
VISN 22 MIRECC, Los Angeles CA
<a href="mailto:alexander.young@va.gov">alexander.young@va.gov</a>