



Veteran Engagement Panel

CENTER FOR COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS & DELIVERY RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (CADRE)

Purpose

- Create a forum for Veterans to provide feedback on existing research efforts to enhance the value and utility of research findings in order to better serve Veterans.
- Provide an environment in which researchers and Veterans unite to discuss priorities for future work in the CADRE focus and priority areas.
- Include Veterans in the creation and planning of research to enable them to understand the goals of VA research and promote VA research in the community.

Veteran Panelists: Who are they?

Female	1
Combat Veterans	4
VA users	3
Vietnam	3
OEF/OIF/OND	4

Highlights

- Veterans were surprised at the amount and level of research conducted in VA in general and at the Iowa City VA in particular.
- Investigators and Veterans would prefer more regular and frequent meetings of the Panel.

Two Meetings, Many Suggestions

The Veteran Engagement Panel (VEP) met in April 2015 and February 2016. The meetings were held in the early evening in the CADRE Conference room. Five Veterans participated in each meeting, with two attending both. Veterans who were unable to attend the second meeting did express interest in continuing their involvement with the Panel.

The Panel followed a roundtable format with Investigators giving 3-5 minute project presentations.

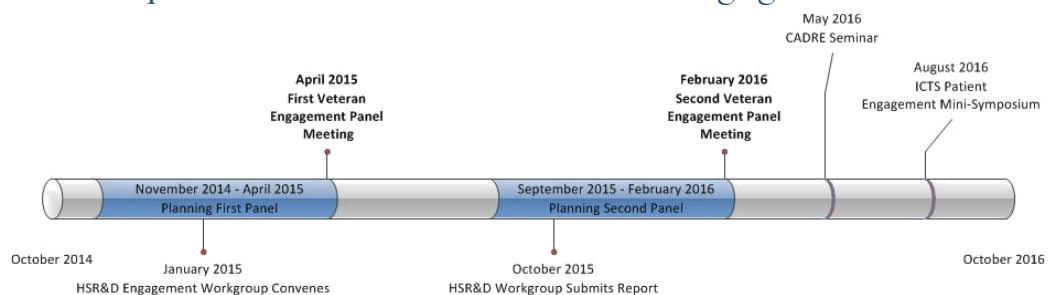
Presentations were followed by discussion between CADRE and Veteran Panelists. Both meetings resulted in robust conversation and a number of suggestions and insights from Veteran Panelists.

Dr. Marin Schweizer asked the Panel about strategies to increase patients' willingness to apply body wash or ointment to prevent surgical site infections (SSI). One Veteran suggested that they make the preventative ointment "smell better."

To increase enrollment in MyHealthVet, Veteran Panelists recommended that Dr. Carolyn Turvey have clinics handout MyHealthVet fliers routinely rather displaying fliers periodically on a table at the canteen.

Response by Veterans and Investigators was positive. According to this Investigator, "It's affirming to hear that Veterans found [my] project important."

Development of CADRE'S Veteran Engagement Panel



Next Steps

Dr. Kenda Stewart presented information about the Veteran Engagement Panel to Investigators at the weekly CADRE Seminar. She also updated Veterans regarding the current status of the projects. The next meeting is planned for **Fall 2016**.

Based on input from the seminar and Veteran Panelists' responses to an informal questionnaire, the following are ideas for future development of CADRE's Veteran Engagement Panel:

- Establish expectations and roles of Veterans and researchers.
- Broaden recruitment to VA providers, nurses, and clerks.
- Engage Veteran Panelists in social media to maintain feedback loop.