

Member Description

PRIME Center Veteran Engagement Board

Position Title: Veteran Engagement Board Member for the PRIME Center at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System

- **Pain Research, Informatics, Multimorbidities and Education (PRIME) Center of Innovation (COIN) Mission:** To study interactions between pain and other health conditions and develop and implement effective interventions to reduce pain and improve health.

Position Objectives:

- 1) Engage in collaborative discussion to aid VA researchers and the VA research mission.
- 2) Provide feedback on VA research ideas.
- 3) Provide guidance on the dissemination of research results and best practices by:
 - Identifying strategies to improve the spread and utilization of information
 - Evaluating products and informational materials to ensure they are relevant and useful to consumers
 - Identifying ways to measure the impact of dissemination efforts

Position Summary: A Veteran Engagement Board member is a Veteran who brings their unique military background, health conditions, and health consumer perspective to the research arena. He or she engages as a stakeholder with the PRIME Center researchers spanning the research process from topic generation to dissemination and implementation of results.

Training: A 2 hour orientation session; ongoing training as appropriate.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Shares perspectives, experiences, and suggestions during meetings and through online collaboration
- Commits to the Veteran Engagement Board by upholding its purpose through meaningful participation
- Acts as a sounding board for research ideas
- Presents ideas to improve VA research processes as consumer of the end product
- Respects the collaborative process and is willing to listen to differing views
- Encourages all board members to share ideas and viewpoints
- Respects Veteran and research confidentiality at all times
- Commits to attending quarterly meetings and engaging electronically outside of meetings when necessary

Successful Veteran Research Engagement Board members are able to:

- Share perspectives, insights, and information in constructive ways
- Show concern for more than one issue
- Listen well
- Respect differing opinions
- Speak comfortably in a group
- Look for opportunities to partner and collaborate on finding solutions
- Maintain open and productive communication with researchers
- Respect the limitations of the research environment in meeting individual needs

Compensation:

- \$200 annually

Selection Process for Participation:

- Submit Veteran Engagement Board Statement of Interest to Kathryn LaChappelle, MPH, 203-932-5711 x2812 (kathryn.lachappelle@va.gov)
- Complete in-person interview with PRIME Center liason and standing Board members