



Bronx

Research Enhancement Award Program

Director: Joan D Penrod, MSW, MA, PhD

Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2009

In October 2008, we were funded by Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D) Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) as the Center for the Study of Health Care across Systems and Sites of Care. The Center's mission is to conduct interdisciplinary research to improve processes and outcomes of care for veterans with serious illness using multiple health care systems (e.g., Medicare and VHA) and sites (e.g., acute care, hospice, Community Living Centers).

During FY09, our research addressed the following: continuity of care for veterans with complex conditions; interventions to improve care and care continuity for veterans with spinal cord disease, those needing palliative care, and those with encounters and stays in emergency departments and nursing homes; and the effect of dual-use of VA and Medicare services on care outcomes.

The Center provided technical support to the VISN 3 Palliative Care Program, including data entry and analysis of the Bereaved Family Survey (BFS). The BFS is a telephone survey that captures families' satisfaction with end-of-life care provided to veterans in VISN 3 acute care and the Community Living Centers.

Over the next year, we will be working with an expert in organization theory and management to strengthen our research program. In addition, we will recruit a PhD-level researcher with expertise in organizational theory and implementation science.