



San Francisco

Research Enhancement Award Program

Director: Sara J. Knight, PhD, ,

Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2011

The San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center (SFVAMC) Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP)—The Interdisciplinary Program to Improve Care for Veterans with Complex Comorbid Conditions—was established in 2002 and supported by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D). This program supports a vibrant group of health services investigators from multiple disciplines.

The REAP mission is to serve as a national resource for research to improve health care delivery for Veterans with complex comorbid conditions. REAP investigators seek to accomplish this mission through foundational health services research directed toward understanding and improving patterns of care delivery in the VHA and through service directed projects that aim to implement new models of high value care. During 2011, in response to national transitions in the HSR&D initiatives, the REAP deepened and refined its focus on access to high value health care for complex conditions. Major areas within this focus are specialty care integration in the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT), specialty care access for underserved rural Veterans, integration of patient values and goals in treatment decisions, and reduction in the utilization of inappropriate care.

The expansion of its regional and national partnerships represented an exciting new development for the REAP during 2011. These collaborations involved VISN 21, the VHA Office of Specialty Care Services and the Office of Specialty Care Transformation, the VHA Office of Public Health and the Strategic Health Care Group, and the VHA Office of Rural Health. The REAP worked closely with these offices, particularly the Office of Specialty Care Services and the Office of Specialty Care Transformation on the San Francisco Collaborative Research to Enhance and Advance Transformation and Excellence (CREATE). These collaborations are expected to continue as the REAP develops its CREATE and its application for a new Center of Innovation (COIN).

During 2011, the REAP continued to enjoy close collaborative relationships with the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center and its affiliates, the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) and the Northern California Institute for Research and Education (NCIRE). The SFVAMC and affiliates have continued to provide extraordinary support to the REAP including expansion of contiguous space for REAP investigators and staff and support for the implementation of the REAP applications server.