Introducing the Access and Community Care Engagement Network Team (ACCENT) COnsortium of Research (CORE)

VA HSR&D CIDER CyberSeminar
February 12, 2024

Presenters:

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Disclaimer and Acknowledgement

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States government, or universities with which the presenters are affiliated.

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Webinar Agenda

Introduction

History

Impact Goals

Q & A

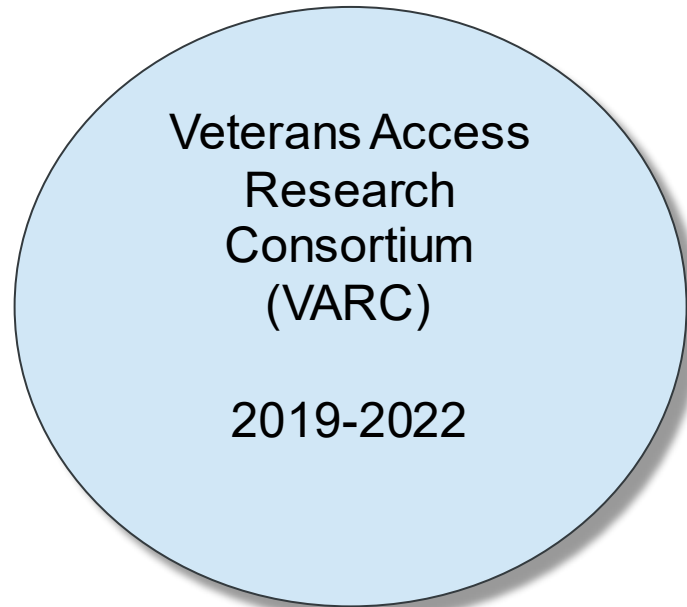# VA HSR&D-funded COnsortia of REsearch (COREs)

MPIs

- Kristin Mattocks, PhD, MPH (corresponding)
- Denise M. Hynes, PhD, MPH, RN
- Michelle A. Mengeling, PhD, MS
- Amy Rosen, PhD
- Megan E. Vanneman, PhD, MPH

Co-Investigators

- Heather Davila, PhD
- Diana J. Govier, PhD, MPH
- Aimee Kroll-Desrosiers, PhD
- Richard E. Nelson, PhD
- Ann M. O'Hare, MD, MA
- Stephanie Shimada, PhD
- Varsha Vimalananda, MD, MPH
- Anna Zogas, PhD

Access to Care

Veterans Access Research Consortium (VARC)

2019-2022

Community Care

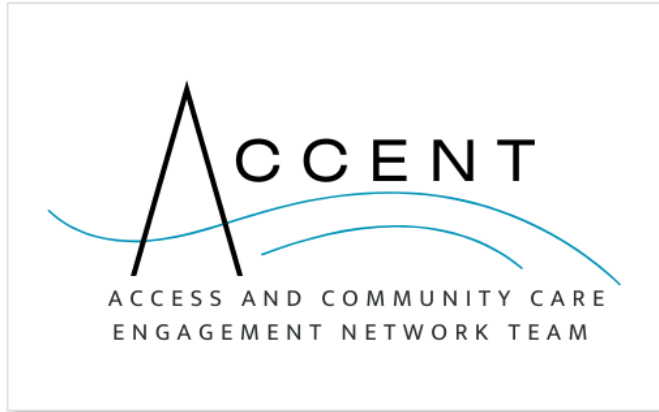Community Care Research Evaluation and Knowledge Center (CREEK)

2020-2023

Access and Community Care Engagement Network Team (ACCENT)

ACCENT Operational Partners

- Integrated Veteran Care (IVC)
- Office of Rural Health (ORH)
- Office of Connected Care (OCC)
- Office of Nursing Services (ONS)
- Office of Social Work and Care Management (OSW)
- Office of Primary Care (OPC)
- Office of Specialty Care Services (OSCS)
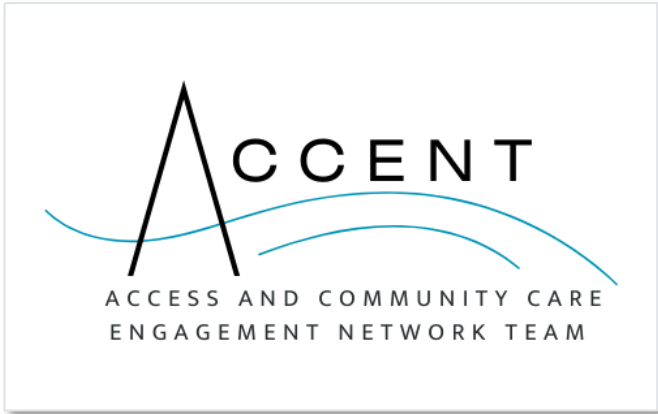- Office of Integrated Clinical Communities

- Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM)
- VISN and VAMC leaders
- VHA Emergency Medicine
- Center for Information Dissemination and Education Resources (CIDER)
- Health Outcomes of Military Exposures (HOME), Office of Patient Care Services

ACCENT Impact Goals

1. Portfolio Review
2. Partnership Development
3. Building a National Research Network
4. Data
5. Veteran & Caregiver Engagement Panel (VCEP)
6. Communication & Dissemination

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Portfolio Review

1. **Portfolio Review**
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Portfolio Review Team Members

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(mPI)

Michelle Mengeling

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Senta Wiederholt

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Goal: Portfolio Review - Conduct review of recent research investments and identification of new priorities

INVENTORY HSR&D-FUNDED PROJECTS

- Produce and disseminate an Active Projects Inventory (API) including a priority area matrix gap report in semi-annual progress reports via network meetings and website, and final reports annually.

- Produce focused synthesis highlighting intervention studies and their findings and coordinate with ESP.
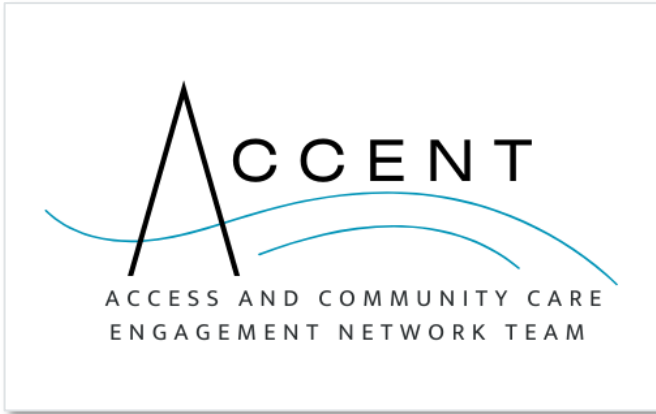
DISCUSS PRIORITIES WITH PARTNERS

- Share & discuss gaps and intervention information at program partner meetings and in quarterly reports; Use these discussions to inform access and community care research priorities with HSRD for new RFAs annually.

- Identify ACCENT CORE topics for a SOTA by year 2.

COMMUNICATE WITH NETWORK

- Enhance current CREEK website to integrate former VARC and CREEK components.

- Share gaps and intervention information with HSR&D researchers and disseminate information from operational partners (updated priorities, policy changes) at quarterly ACCENT research meetings.

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Partnership Development

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Partnership Development Team Members

Kristin Mattocks
(mPI)

Denise Hynes
(mPI)

Aimee Kroll-Desrosiers
(Co-I)

Varsha Vimalananda
(Co-I)

Goal: Partnership Development - Coordinate with Partners to Identify Data Resources, Data Needs, and Potential Research Priorities (Short and Long-Term).

Develop, enhance and maintain relationship with partners

- Identify emerging research needs as identified by our partners and communicate these updated and comprehensive research needs to HSR&D researchers.

- Host an agenda-setting ACCENT kick-off meeting which will include all program partners. Dedicate one session of the ACCENT kick-off meeting for partners to discuss shared goals with ACCENT over the course of the 5-year grant period.

Develop mentorship program to pair HSR investigators with operational partners

- Create a mentorship program for junior investigators interested in conducting research in the areas of access and community care.

- Junior investigators interested in mentorship will be paired with a senior ACCENT investigator as well as an identified program partner to identify and pursue research interests relevant to IVC or an affiliated program partner
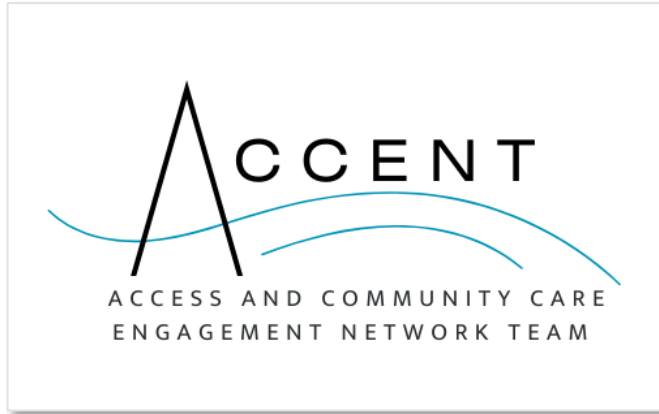
Identify targeted areas of focus areas for ongoing work

- Topics will be broad-reaching topics that require focused attention and partnership between program partners and researchers. Areas of focused attention will be discussed with program partners and may include quality of community care and comparing virtual care and community care.

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Building a National Research Network

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Building a National Research Network Team Members

Denise Hynes

(mPI)

Megan Vanneman

(mPI)

Kristin Mattocks

(mPI)

Valerie Marteeny

(PM)

Senta Wiederholt

(RA)

Warren Pettey
(PM and data scientist)

Goal: Building a National Research Network - Facilitate development and execution of research to address priority goals
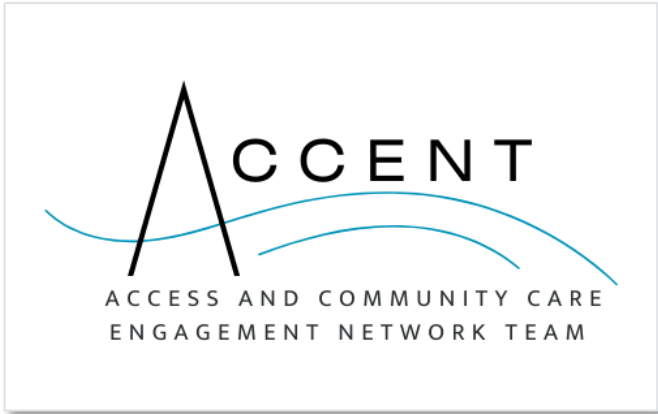
ESTABLISH NETWORK

- Build an email list for the national research network by combining the distribution list for CREEK and VARC, adding additional key members, such as VA and non-VA operations/policy partners and COIN and non-COIN researchers.

- Contribute to quarterly meetings with research and operations/policy partners, identifying and supporting research ideas and needs as well as opportunities for Randomized Program Evaluations and implementation initiatives supported by QUERI.

IDENTIFY NEEDS

- On an as-needed basis, meet with individuals (including those from the mentorship program) or groups regarding particular ideas and projects in order to support their development.

- Conduct initial needs and resource assessment of network, with annual follow-up regarding members' evaluation of ACCENT activities and suggestions for improvement.

SUPPORT RAPID PILOTS

- Meet and discuss with operations program partners to identify priority areas for pilot projects.

- Host a virtual pilot project collaboration meeting annually to enable the project teams to present results, discuss opportunities, and offer insights about the priority area that were explored with the operational partners and research network.

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Data

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Data Team Members

Megan Vanneman, PhD, MPH

(mPI)

Rich Nelson, PhD

(co-I)

Erin Beilstein-Wedel, MA

(data analyst)

Warren Pettey, MPH, CPH

(project manager and data scientist)

Goal: Facilitate access to necessary data and report on data quality relevant for ACCENT research

SERVE AS DATA AND METHODS RESOURCE

- Provide consultation (via email, meeting, presentation, etc.) regarding study design and methods for analysis.
- Provide consultation (via email, meeting, presentation, etc.) on appropriate datasets (e.g., IVC Consolidated Data Set, Medicare, Medicaid, All Payer Claims Data) and measures for access, quality, and value (including their validity, reliability, and feasibility). Build on VARC's compiled Access Metrics Compendium.
- Provide consultation (via email, meeting, presentation, HSRD listserv, etc.) regarding data access, data quality, application of measures, and data management for specific datasets.

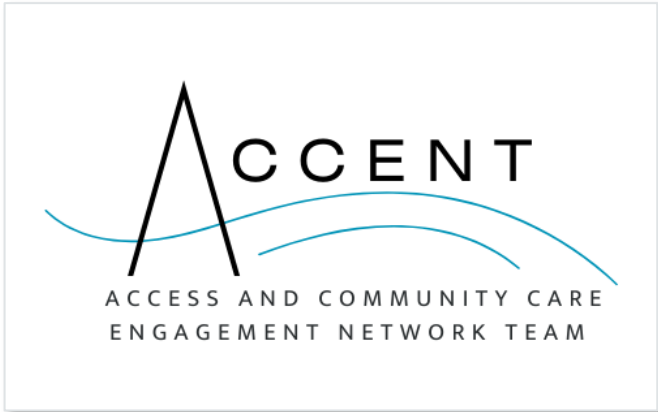## FEEDBACK ON DATA QUALITY AND DATA ACCESS

- Aid IVC (and other stakeholders) in validation of their access and community care external facing datasets used by researchers.
- Report identified data quality and access issues to IVC (or relevant stakeholders) related to access and community care.

DEVELOP DATA MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

- Deliver at least one presentation on access and community care datasets annually.
- Create documents on data management and querying methods for access and community care datasets and disseminate annually.
- Compiling lessons learned from objective 1, create summary documents of frequently asked and important questions asked quarterly.

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Veteran & Caregiver Engagement Panel (VCEP)

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(VCEP) Team Members

Michelle Mengeling (mPI)

Heather Davila (Co-I)

Deborah Gurewich (Co-I)

Stephanie Shimada (Co-I)

Tony Pomales (VCEP Facilitator)

Kenda Steffensmeier (VCEP Liaison)

Agnes Jensen (Veteran Consultant, Engagement)

Shylo Wardyn (RA)

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Goal: Identify Patient Perspectives on Access and Community Care through Veteran and Caregiver Engagement Efforts

Recruitment

- 8-10 VCEP Members 75% Veterans 25% Caregivers
- Ad-hoc members for specific topics
- Deploy inclusive recruitment methods
  - Standardize interview process to reduce bias
  - Diversify outreach methods (e.g., phone, internet, in-person)

Veteran-focused Dissemination

- Share results from VCEP-engaged studies
- Identify dissemination outlets – e.g., Veteran-facing publications and social media networks
- Create Veteran-Engagement newsletters

Continual Improvement

- Conduct periodic reflections among VCEP Workgroup
- Evaluate engagement process from presenters' and VCEP members' perspectives
- Solicit Veterans' priorities

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HELP US RECRUIT!

Recruitment Contacts:

Tony Pomales
(tony.pomales@va.gov)
Shylo Wardyn
(shylo.wardyn@va.gov)

Recruitment Packet

- Flyer
- Member description
- Statement of Interest

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CONSIDER JOINING

WE ARE SEEKING VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS OF VETERANS TO JOIN OUR ACCESS AND COMMUNITY CARE ENGAGEMENT NETWORK TEAM (ACCENT).

YOUR MILITARY VETERAN AND OTHER LIFE EXPERIENCES WILL HELP INFORM VA ACCESS AND COMMUNITY CARE RESEARCH.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS WITH OTHER VETERANS, CAREGIVERS, AND VA RESEARCHERS EVERY TWO MONTHS (COMPENSATION: $50/MEETING)

SHARE YOUR MILITARY VETERAN AND VA HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCES TO HELP GUIDE RESEARCH TO IMPROVE VETERANS' ACCESS TO CARE

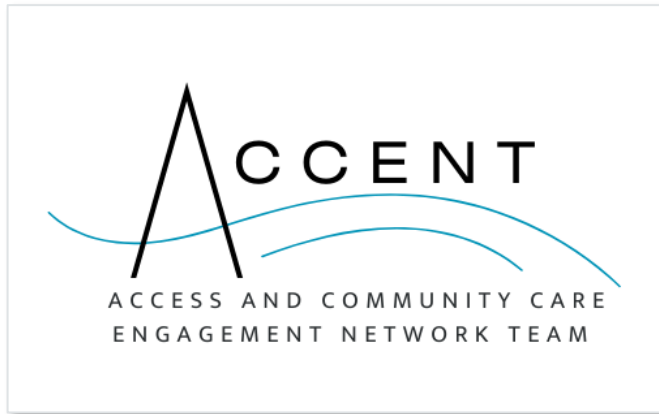HONORING ALL WHO served

PLAY A PART IN ENSURING VA RESEARCH INCLUDES THE VETERAN PERSPECTIVE

Interested in joining?
Contact Tony Pomales, panel facilitator
Email: tony.pomales@va.gov
Phone: (319) 338-0581 ext. 7711

Communication and Dissemination

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Communication & Dissemination Team Members

Amy Rosen

(mPI)

Anna Zogas

(Co-I)

Madisen Brown

(PM)

Goal: Establish Fully Integrated Partnership with Key Stakeholders, Operations Program Partners, HSR&D Leadership, and the Research Network

Communicate Information

- Develop regular information sharing and exchange between VA key stakeholders (i.e., critical audience).

- Examples:

  - Meet quarterly with HSR&D to develop annual reports that include key research findings from the current year's goals.

  - Monthly cyberseminars on topics relevant to access and community care

Monitor Research Impact

- Track and monitor the impacts of research.

- Examples:

  - Reach out to investigators working on current projects, grants and manuscripts related to access and community care

  - Offer consultation and guidance on planning future implementation activities with collaboration from HSR&D/QUERI

Disseminate Key Information

- Develop and facilitate publication and dissemination of products relevant to key stakeholders.

- Ongoing communication to foster implementation of initiatives in access and community care.

- Example: Tailor products to specific groups of key stakeholders(e.g., disseminate current ACCENT funding opportunities to research network).

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To join the mailing list, send an email to:

✉ VHAACCENTCORE@va.gov

Thank You!

The ACCENT CORE and VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care (IVC)

✉ VHAACCENTCORE@va.gov

🖥 www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/core/accent/

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Q & A