VA Research & Development

Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D)

COIN Review Process

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VA HEALTH CARE Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century

Thank you!

- We greatly appreciate your involvement in the review of applications for the new HSR&D initiative—Centers of Innovation (COIN).
- Your time, energy, and insights are invaluable to us.
- The COIN mechanism is new and we will be asking you to think about research centers in new ways.

Outline

A. Brief Follow-up from first Cyber Seminar
B. Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality
C. Scoring
D. Reviewer Roles
E. Discussion of Proposals at Meeting
F. Questions, Clarifications, and Highlights

Centers of Innovation (COIN)

- Build on the past successes of HSR&D research centers
- Provide more effective mechanisms and incentives to reward research and partnerships that accelerates innovation and translation from research to practice
- Ensure that research has the greatest possible impact on VHA policies, health care practices, outcomes for Veterans, and the field of health services research

What would you expect to see?

- Applications that describe centers with a strong track record of success and previous productivity
- Value added by both small and large centers

What do we mean by innovation?

- Does the research challenge and seek to improve upon existing paradigms of health care organization, health services delivery, health outcomes?
- Does the application propose the use of novel methods?
- Is the research program likely to contribute to new, generalizable knowledge in health services research for the VA and the nation?

Common Narratives of Impact

- Influential Publications
- National Media
- Invitations to Present and Contribute
- Findings Integrated
  - Guideline Panels
  - Practice standards
  - Policy
  - Health Professional Education
  - Clinical practice, health care delivery, outcomes

Narratives of VA-Specific Impact

- VHA investigators tapped by clinical and operational leaders for consultation, advice, collaboration
- VHA researchers mentor next generation of VHA clinical and operational leaders
- VHA investigators initiate major shift in agenda for VHA health services research

Conflict of Interest

Real Conflict

- You, a family member, general partner, professional associate, or your organization will be directly and predictably affected financially by the outcome of the review decision.

Perceived Conflict

- Appearance of a potential conflict because your impartiality or objectivity in the review could be questioned.

What is a conflict of interest in this review?

- Serving as a Core Investigator at any center or
- Serving as a member of a center's steering committee or executive committee.

Confidentiality

Each reviewer has signed a confidentiality statement.

The proposals submitted for review and the review discussions are confidential.

After a proposal is discussed, hard copy materials must be given to HSR&D staff for shredding.

Scoring Applications

- Overall Score
- Scores for Five Categories
  - Strategic Plan for Focused Area(s) for Research
  - Contributions in Research Areas Outside of Focused Areas
  - Mentoring and Career Development
  - Collaboration and Service
  - Research Capacity, Infrastructure and Leadership

Scoring Examples

- **1.0 – 1.5: EXCELLENT—**The proposed center addresses exceptionally important scientific foci and there is a very high likelihood of success.
- **1.6 – 2.2: VERY GOOD—**The proposed center addresses important scientific foci and their is a high probability of success.
- **2.3 – 2.8: GOOD—**The proposed center addresses important scientific foci and success is probable, but there are weaknesses that may require a site visit or other evaluation prior to funding
- **2.9 – 3.4: FAIR—**The proposed center addresses valid scientific foci, but there are key weaknesses that would limit the probability of success.
- **3.5 – 5.0: POOR—**The proposed center does not address important scientific foci and there is limited potential for success.

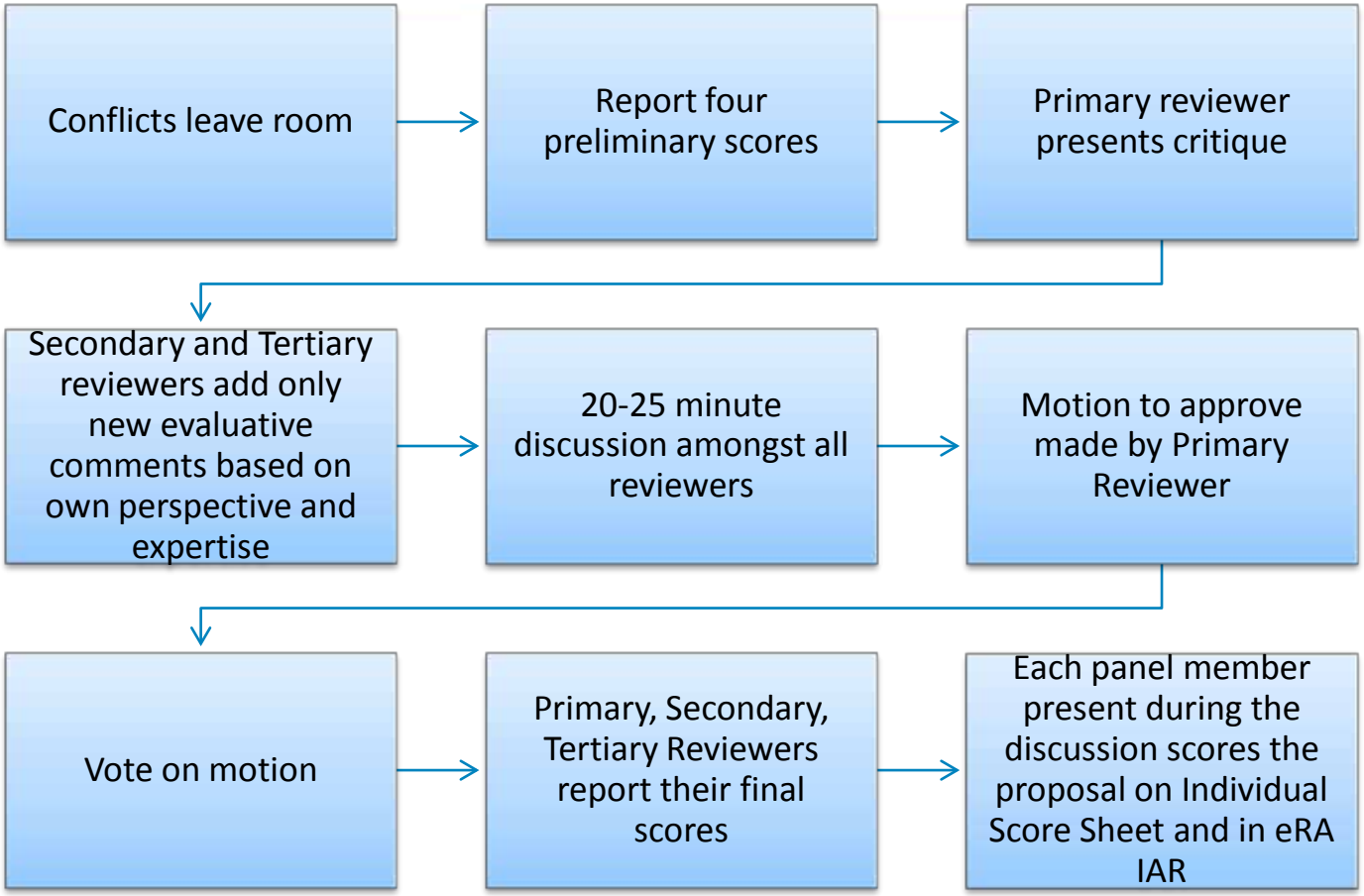
Reviewer Roles

- Each application is assigned to 4 reviewers
  - Primary
  - Secondary
  - Tertiary Reviewer 1
  - Tertiary Reviewer 2
- Tertiary Rev 2 has been selected based on her/his substantial experience working within the VA.
  - Special role during review panel meeting
  - Ensure VA relevance of the discussion

Discussion of Proposals at Meeting

- The entire presentation and discussion of each proposal should not exceed ~40-45 minutes
- All proposals will be discussed
- The four reviewer presentations should not exceed 20 minutes
- More time should be available for the primary reviewer

Review Group Process



Primary Focus of Review Panel Discussion

- Does the application present a coherent, forward-looking strategic plan?
- Do they have the leadership, organization, investigators, resources to accomplish what they have set out to do in the strategic plan

Questions?

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Thank you, again!!

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