

## **Member Description**

### **Rural Colorado Veteran Engagement Group**

**Position Title:** Rural Colorado Veteran Engagement Group Member for the COIN, MIRECC, and GRECC Centers at Eastern Colorado Health Care System, and VHA's Office of Rural Health

- **Center of Innovation for Veteran-Centered and Value Driven Care (COIN) Focus Areas:**
  - Promote Veteran-centered care and improve patient experiences in VA healthcare and community settings.
  - Advance value driven care by providing Veterans the highest quality care at lowest financial burden.
- **Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) for Suicide Prevention Focus Areas:**
  - Promising clinical interventions, as well as the cognitive and neurobiological underpinnings of suicidal thoughts and behaviors that may lead to innovative prevention strategies.
- **Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) Focus Area:**
  - Supporting Veterans as they age through workforce development/training, aging related research and clinical innovation that leads to the development of new services and new ways of providing care to serve those who have served.
- **VHA Office of Rural Health (ORH) Mission:**
  - Conduct, coordinate, promote and disseminate research on issues that affect the nearly five million Veterans who reside in rural communities.

#### **Position Objectives:**

- 1) Engage in collaborative discussions with VA researchers and other rural Colorado Veterans during virtual meetings scheduled every other month;
- 2) Provide feedback on VA research, educational, and quality improvement projects with the intent of improving care and resources for rural Veterans;
- 3) Evaluate aspects of programs and materials to ensure they are relevant and useful to rural Veterans and caregivers, and,
- 4) Provide input on ways to share information, such as the results of research.

**Position Summary:** A Rural Colorado Veteran Engagement Member is a Veteran that brings their unique military background and other life experiences to help plan aspects of diverse projects, including research studies. As the most important stakeholder in the VA healthcare system, members will engage with researchers and others around topics spanning from idea generation to project implementation to the sharing of final results.

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

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Shares perspectives, experiences, and suggestions during virtual meetings and through online collaboration.
- Commits to the Rural Colorado Veteran Engagement Group by upholding its purpose through meaningful engagement.
- Provides ideas for improvement.
- Respects the collaborative process and is willing to listen to differing views.
- Encourages all group members to share ideas and viewpoints.
- Respects and protects member and research confidentiality at all times.

- Commits to attending virtual 2-hour meetings held every other month and engage by email or phone outside of meetings when necessary.

**Successful Rural Colorado Veteran Engagement Members are able to:**

- Share perspectives, insights, and information in constructive ways
- Demonstrates interest in a variety of topics and perspectives
- Actively listens, seeks understanding
- Respects differing opinions
- Speaks comfortably in a group
- Looks for opportunities to partner and collaborate on finding solutions
- Maintains open and productive communication

**Diversity**

We believe that our community is enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions including different abilities, race, ethnicity and national origins, gender identity and expression, sexuality, class and religion. We are committed to increasing the representation of diverse populations. Please apply to be members of the Rural Colorado Virtual Veteran Engagement Group!

**Compensation:**

- \$300 annually

**Selection Process for Participation:**

- Submit Rural Colorado Veteran Engagement Group Statement of Interest to Kelty Fehling ([Kelty.fehling@va.gov](mailto:Kelty.fehling@va.gov)) and Amber Lane ([amber.lane2@va.gov](mailto:amber.lane2@va.gov)).
- Complete virtual interview with group liaisons.

**Questions:**

- Call Amber Lane at (303) 406-1576
- Email [Kelty.fehling@va.gov](mailto:Kelty.fehling@va.gov) or [Amber.lane2@va.gov](mailto:Amber.lane2@va.gov)