SUMMARY FROM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Goal of Breakouts overall: Consider what the critical barriers are to doing research in these high priority topic areas, and identify potential solutions and potential next steps for tackling barriers. In addition to topics suggested by breakout participants prior to the meeting, areas of interest to many SP researchers are:

- Measurement (including outcomes; discuss common data elements/measures)
- Accessing data
- Accessing populations

Q1: What were the _top_ barriers to research that came up during your discussion?

RISK SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT
1. Lack of technological/data security solutions to monitor high risk Veterans
2. Inconsistencies in how risk assessment is implemented in practice
3. Social determinants not incorporated into risk assessment
4. Risk varies over time
5. Clinical priorities may limit clinician engagement in research

LETHAL MEANS SAFETY
6. Lack of data on ownership across sub-populations and lack of materials specific to populations
7. Measurement of efficacy and effectiveness of lethal means projects
8. Mistrust of VA and researchers' use of firearm data
9. Lack of clear info on what VA can and can't do with firearm ownership information?
10. Need to develop a national network that summarizes information about what can be done state by state and community by community (involving community partners)?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
11. Creating partnerships can take a long time and communities may be worried that VA will take over, and feel like the bureaucracy is actually bigger than it is.
12. Accessing data about Veterans not involved in VA care – differences in granularity and access to the data in general

IMPLEMENTATION
13. Finding/developing partnerships (linkages between operations and researchers)
14. Resistance from Staff/Engagement from Key Stakeholders within VA, which can impact every step including sustainability
15. Difficult to Assess Fidelity Without it Being Resource Intensive (audio, observation)

Q2: Were there any promising solutions or directions identified to address these barriers?

RISK SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT
1. Evaluate how we can bring innovative technology into the assessment/monitoring for Veterans
2. Develop strategies to standardize assessment and follow up across settings
3. Identify strategies for monitoring at individual level for high risk
4. Assess validity of measures across contextual variables; validity of processes providing data; fidelity of implementation

LETHAL MEANS SAFETY
5. When message comes from another Veterans, it's better received
6. Develop more innovative partnerships (manufacturers; retailers)
7. Embed/link the work we're doing within other established and community programs
8. Change the culture so that talking about lethal means is normalized

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
9. Develop resources guide about pre-existing organizations that researchers could use to guide their outreach
10. Share information about what other investigators are doing to identify data from Veterans not using VA
11. Create linkages to data sources such as APCD, and asking non-VA investigator/health systems to identify Veterans in their data/system

IMPLEMENTATION
12. Share the list of Directors of the Various Data Centers
13. Consider alternate grant funding mechanisms that may assist engagement (e.g. QUERI Partnered VISN projects)
14. Consider de-implementation efforts (low value practices) as a way to decrease competing demands
15. Develop long-range partnerships that set a good foundation for this work.
16. Consider Practice-based Research Network

Q3: High priority research project topics/ideas within this area that came up:

RISK SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT
1. Test use of technology to monitor risk among high risk Veterans
2. Study contributions of social determinants of health to risk
3. Evaluate validity of measures

LETHAL MEANS SAFETY
1. Study messaging and development of trust in VA
2. Study bundling of lethal means methods