**Community Care Research Evaluation & Knowledge (CREEK)**

**Quarterly Call Minutes**

**January 25, 2023**

**WEBSITE:**

[Community Care Research Evaluation & Knowledge (CREEK) Center](https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/creek/default.cfm)

**Members:** Dr. Kristin Mattocks, Dr. Denise Hynes, Dr. Megan Vanneman, Dr. Michelle Mengeling, Dr. Amy Rosen, and Dr. Melissa Garrido

1. **CREEK Welcome (Dr. Kristin Mattocks)**
2. Please reach out if anyone would like to do a brief (5-10min) presentation at the next IVC meeting. The last meeting there was a presentation on the Tele nephrology Hub and Spoke program which was very informative.

2. **CREEK Awardees Updates (Dr. Kristin Mattocks)**

Dr. Anna Zogas – *Impact of the Referral Coordination Initiative on Veterans’ Decisions to Use Community Care*

**HSR&D Presentation**- Title: *An early evaluation of the implementation of the Referral Coordination Initiative*. Thursday, February 9, 12:15-12:30.

Recruitment in progress. Interviews will begin in February.

Dr. Deborah Gurewich – *Examining the Impact of the MISSION Act on Disparities in Access to and Utilization of Primary Care*

Aims 1 and 2 (determinants of use and wait times for primary care in CC vs. VA overall and by facility): Largely completed. The remaining analysis (examining drive time) is underway.

Aim 3 (availability and use of HPP CC providers). Not likely that we can complete this analysis because we learned the HPP data has a lot of missing data and inconsistencies that need be resolved before it is ready for research use.

Dr. Lynn Garvin – *Incorporating Virtual Care into VA Care Options to Encourage Veterans to Remain in VA Care*

**HSR&D Presentation** - Presenting a paper that involves VA virtual care, but it is not closely aligned with our CREEK study. On Tues 2/9 at 3:15, I present “Increasing Use of Video Telehealth among Veterans Experiencing Homelessness with Substance Use Disorder: Design of a Peer-led Intervention.”

Our CREEK project “Veteran Attitudes and Intentions toward VA and Community Care: Virtual Access” is in good shape: IRB approval received, Qualtrics survey website is ready, national push-to-web mailing to 4,000 Veterans begins next Mon, Jan 30th.

Dr. Zachary Hahn – *Fragmented Care Analysis – GeoMapped Encounter Networks (FRAGMENT)*

Current status is that we are IRB exempt and working to pull all of the data from the CDW now for analysis. We have written most of the code to perform the analysis, so once we have the data in hand, we should be able to proceed rapidly.

Dr. Liam Rose – *Intended and Unintended Consequences of the MISSION Act for Medicare-Eligible Veterans*

**HSR&D Presentation** - February 9, 11-12:30 (Paper Session: Health Policy and Legislation) and February 10 2:45-4:15 (Paper Session: Access to Care). Neither is exactly the CREEK grant but very closely related. The latter is the very last session of the conference, so I’ll be happy if anyone shows up.

Our update is that we have all the data and are just slogging through the cleaning. The Medicare data is (unsurprisingly) very large, and we are taking steps to make sure we categorize care equally across VA, VACC, and Medicare.

Dr. Aimee Kroll-Desrosiers – *Assessing the Quality of Community Obstetrical Care for Veterans*

We are currently finalizing our cohort number which we anticipate is the most time-consuming aspect of our study. This involves matching our existing sample of pregnancies and associated delivers to hospital billing data from the HER. Once we have completed this, we will move into the analysis phase of our project and then begin to write-up results.

3. **Communication Hub (Dr. Kristin Mattocks)**

* 1. Roundtable Meeting with Dr. LaPuz and Virtual Care Core (re: IVC vision and research priorities). Friday February 10th 7:30 am (Key Ballroom 11)

b. A Conversation with Assistant Under Secretary for Health and the VHA Office of Intergrated Care (IVC), VHA HSR&D Leadership, and the VHA Community Care Research Evaluation and Knowledge (CREEK) Team. *FORUM*. (article attached)

4. **Policy & Implementation Hub (Drs. Mengeling & Hynes)**

a. Notice of a new ESP publication out that is pertinent to Community Care ("Intranet-only")  
For VA employees, to access the intranet only report, copy and paste http://vaww.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/reports.cfm into your browser. Once published, a final report will be available on this website. If you would like to be notified when a particular report is released to the public, please contact [esp.cc@va.gov](mailto:esp.cc@va.gov).

Shekelle P, Maggard-Gibbons M, Blegen M, et al. VA versus Non-VA Quality of Care: A Systematic Review. Washington, DC: Evidence Synthesis Program, Health Services Research and Development Service, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs. VA ESP Project #05-226; 202

5. **Data and Measurement Science Hub (Dr. Amy Rosen & Dr. Megan Vanneman)**

a. Community Care data access (Ms. Erin Beilstein-Wedel)

* 1. Updated Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping data in VINCI (Mr. Warren Pettey)
  2. Workshop at HSR&D/QUERI National Meeting, Thursday February 9th from 3:15-4:45pm, Key Ballroom 12, *VA-Purchased Community Care: Addressing High-Priority Access and Quality of Care Research Questions with Available Data and Appropriate Methods* (Dr. Megan Vanneman, Dr. Amy Rosen, and Ms. Erin Beilstein-Wedel)

**Q&A**

**Q1:** What is the timeline for validation work for CDS for Operations access?

A1: They don’t have an exact timeline, but we have made significant progress since we started in December. By the time CDS makes it onto the DART, all of the issues with CCRS, eCAMS, FBCS (and probably VISTa) will be resolved.

**Q2:** I know some of us are now venturing into acquiring data from private insurance companies and my experience has not been smooth or easy to say the least. And I think that there is a need and probably some benefits from establishing somewhere those of us dealing with this type of work can share ideas and kind of get some kind of help from other people's experience. I'm wondering whether that group can be gathered either this group or some other group and have maybe some periodic meetings or some other type of contact to share information about this? I am specifically thinking about hospital discharge data.

A2: There are so many limitations with this needing the SSMS to link data across different systems. There are discussions of having a standardized form to request all payer claims data from the different states. Will follow up to see if there is any progress in that area.

National Association of Health Data Organizations <https://www.nahdo.org/>

**Q3:** Wondering if anyone’s aware of a sort of side-by-side comparison of Choice and the MISSION Act as it pertains to community care? A legislative comparison? We’re thinking about putting together our own comparison but did not want to replicate work if someone else has already done it?

A3: I think there is a lot of value to that and if there was a way to capture areas like emergency care, different specialties, Medicare coverage, telemedicine, and dialysis as the MISSION Act made coverage for this very different. We’re looking at Next Generation, so there could be something in a historical file somewhere that does a side-by-side comparison.

Thank you!