Hello! My name is [Name] and I am a part of a research team at VA looking into ways to improve care and access to care for Veterans experiencing serious illness. It is very important to us that this project includes the perspectives of Veterans as part of the project team.

We are recruiting a group of 3-7 Veterans throughout Eastern Iowa/Western Illinois to help with this project. The group is asked to meet virtually 2 or 3 times over the next year for 1-2 hours each time, with the first meeting planned in September 2020.

We will discuss how and why Veterans engage in conversations with their providers and families about advance care and serious illness. We will look at the consequences of having or not having these discussions for them in their medical and other care. Topics such as serious illness, palliative care, elder needs, advance care directives, mental and functional decline, and dying will likely be discussed.

You will not need any prior medical knowledge, nor will you receive access to any sensitive medical information (per HIPAA or VA definition). No research or statistical knowledge is needed. We ask that you bring a willingness to help your fellow Veterans deal with serious illness and get the needed support.

If interested or have any questions, please contact [Name] at [email address] or [phone number].