Member Description
PRIME Center Veteran Engagement Board

Position Title: Veteran Engagement Board Member for the PRIME Center at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System
  o Pain Research, Informatics, Multimorbidities and Education (PRIME) Center of Innovation

Mission: To study interactions between pain and other health conditions and develop and implement effective interventions to reduce pain and improve health.

Position Objectives:
1) Engage in collaborative discussion to aid VA researchers and the VA research mission.
2) Provide feedback on VA research ideas.
3) Provide guidance on the dissemination of research results and best practices by:
   - Identifying strategies to improve the spread and utilization of information
   - Evaluating products and informational materials to ensure they are relevant and useful to consumers
   - Identifying ways to measure the impact of dissemination efforts

Position Summary: A Veteran Engagement Board member is a Veteran who brings their unique military background, health conditions, and health consumer perspective to the research arena. He or she engages as a stakeholder with the PRIME Center researchers spanning the research process from topic generation to dissemination and implementation of results.

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

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Shares perspectives, experiences, and suggestions during meetings and through online collaboration
- Commits to the Veteran Engagement Board by upholding its purpose through meaningful participation
- Acts as a sounding board for research ideas
- Presents ideas to improve VA research processes as consumer of the end product
- Respects the collaborative process and is willing to listen to differing views
- Encourages all board members to share ideas and viewpoints
- Respects Veteran and research confidentiality at all times
- Commits to attending quarterly meetings and engaging electronically outside of meetings when necessary

Successful Veteran Research Engagement Board members are able to:
- Share perspectives, insights, and information in constructive ways
- Show concern for more than one issue
- Listen well
- Respect differing opinions
- Speak comfortably in a group
- Look for opportunities to partner and collaborate on finding solutions
- Maintain open and productive communication with researchers
- Respect the limitations of the research environment in meeting individual needs

Adapted from Denver COIN-MIRECC Veteran Research Engagement Board
Compensation:
- $200 annually

Selection Process for Participation:
- Submit Veteran Engagement Board Statement of Interest to Kathryn LaChappelle, MPH, 203-932-5711 x2812 (kathryn.lachappelle@va.gov)
- Complete in-person interview with PRIME Center liaison and standing Board members

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