Veterans Engagement Council
Member Training

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Position Summary: A CINDRR Engagement Council member is a Veteran or a caregiver of a Veteran that brings their unique military background, health conditions, and health consumer perspective to the research arena. He or she engages as a stakeholder with CINDRR researchers spanning the research process from topic generation to dissemination of results.
Member Description

**Position Objectives:** Provide individual viewpoints and provide individual viewpoints non-consensus advice to:

- Aid CINDRR researchers and support the CINDRR research mission
- Make CINDRR projects and research ideas more Veteran centric
- Increase the dissemination of research to Veteran communities:
  - Suggesting strategies to improve the share and utilization of information
  - Reviewing informational materials to ensure they are relevant and useful to consumers
Monthly Meetings

• 2 weeks prior to meeting
  – You will receive a 5-7 slide power point presentation from the investigator
  – There will be 1-3 questions that the research team would like feedback on
Day of Meeting

• 90 min to 2 hours
  – 5 min introductions
  – 20 minutes on presentation
  – 50 minutes discussion
  – 10 minutes questionnaire

• Sandy and Valerie will be present. Valerie will take notes and Sandy will monitor FACA rules

• Determine best time for meeting
What are the observed benefits of Veteran engagement?

• Improves enrollment
• Decreases attrition
• Increased dissemination
• Dissemination
  – More meaningful
  – Understandable
What are the harms and barriers of Veteran engagement?

• Frustration with time involved in training, transportation, and attendance
• Extra time to complete research
• Tokenism (false appearance of inclusiveness, devaluated patients’ input)
• “Scope creep” - engaging patients in research may include irrelevant community concerns and issues, which would make the research unfeasible
Solutions to harms and barriers of Veteran engagement

• Solutions
  – Time to build relationships
  – Foster mutual respect
  – Clear, explicit expectations documented in study protocols
Engagement

Engagement defined as

- Partnership
- Shared decision-making

- Citizen control, delegated power - partnership, delegated power, control, co-learning
- Tokenism - informing, consultation, placating
- Non-participation, manipulation
Engagement

**Degrees of Subject Power**
- Veteran control
- Delegated power
- Partnership

**Degrees of Tokenism**
- Placation
- Consultation
- Informing

**Non-participation**
- Therapy
- Manipulation

- Lack power to insure their voices will be heeded by powerful
- No follow through, No muscle, No change of status quo
- Subjects hear and have a voice
Engagement

Degrees of Subject Power

• Full managerial power
• Majority of decision-making seats
• Negotiate and engage in tradeoffs with investigators

And then there is **FACA** (Federal Advisory Committee Act)
What is Group Process

• Trust
• Sharing
• Open communication
• Flexibility
• Adaptability
• Shared vision
Measuring What the VEC Does

*Modified* PCORI Ways of Engaging Form (WE-ENACT) completed at the end of each session

- Degree and impact of engagement
- VEC member experience
- Trust, shared decision-making, perceived benefits

Confidential. We will collect one from everyone at the end of each session but you will NOT put your name on the form.
Comments?

Questions?
References


• [https://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Research-Services/Documents/Wilder%20Collaboration%20Factors%20Inventory.pdf](https://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Research-Services/Documents/Wilder%20Collaboration%20Factors%20Inventory.pdf)