



**Center on Systems, Outcomes & Quality
in Chronic Disease & Rehabilitation**

A Research Enhancement Award Program

Providence

Research Enhancement Award Program

Director: Peter D Friedmann, MD, MPH

Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2011

During FY'11 the Providence REAP's Center on Systems, Outcomes & Quality in Chronic Disease & Rehabilitation (SOQCR) continued its commitment to focus on the evaluation of the multi-level influence of institutional and community-based health systems on the outcomes of chronic disease and rehabilitation.

Our center submitted an LOI and Concept Paper in response to the Collaborative Research to Enhance and Advance Transformation and Excellence (CREATE) initiative titled "Transforming the Spectrum of Long term Care for American's Veterans" which was accepted. We are currently preparing a full proposal request for funding to be submitted in December. Our REAP was one of eight centers (out of seventeen who applied) to receive approval. The objectives of this CREATE proposal are to provide the tools, evidence, and evaluation information necessary for Geriatric and Extended Care (GEC) policymakers and staff in VHA Central Office, VISNs and VAMCs across the nation to transform the spectrum of VHA's formal long term care (LTC) services. The goal is to provide (LTC) that is veteran-centric, cost-effective, and focused on maintaining veterans in the least restrictive setting possible.

Dr. Vincent Mor will serve as the Director of the CREATE and will be the PI on one of the four projects that make up the proposal. He has 30 years experience as a PI in health services research related to long-term care. His research focuses on the organizational and health care delivery system factors associated with variation in use of health services, and outcomes experienced by frail and chronically ill persons. The CREATE consists of 4 projects:

1. Transforming Culture in VA Community Living Centers: A Toolkit for Improving the Quality of Care
PI, Christine Hartmann, PhD, MSS/ VA Center for Health Quality Outcomes & Economic Research (CHQOER)
2. Reducing Veterans Hospitalizations from CLCs
PI, Vincent Mor, PhD/Providence VAMC
3. Increasing Veteran Use of Community-Based Long Term Living via Timely Discharge for VA CLCs
PI, Susan Allen, PhD/Providence VAMC
4. Evaluating Implementation of the Medical Foster Home Model
PI, Cari Levy, MD/VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System

REAP investigators who are part of the CREATE besides Dr. Mor include Drs. Susan Allen and Orna Intrator. Dr. Allen is Associate Director of the Providence REAP as well as Associate Director of the Center for Gerontology and Health Care Research at Brown University. Her research focuses on formal and family home care, and on the implications of unmet need for help at home for quality of life and service use among people with disability who live in the community. Dr. Intrator who has funded merit review projects will also serve on the Executive Committee for the CREATE. She is one of the most experienced quantitative researchers in the field of long-term care and is an applied statistician and health services researcher. Dr. Intrator has been studying the effect of nursing homes' organizational characteristics, nursing home markets and states' Medicaid nursing home policies on hospitalizations from nursing homes, particularly among the long-staying older-adult Medicare population.

Dr. Dan Berlowitz, a member of our Steering Committee, will also be on the CREATE Executive Committee. He is a Co-Investigator on Dr. Hartmann's CREATE project, Transforming Culture in VA Community Living Centers: A Toolkit for Improving Quality of Care and Quality of Life. Dr. Bruce Kinosian who is on our Steering Committee will also be part of Dr. Allen's CREATE team on her project, Increasing Veterans' Use of Community-Based LTC Living Arrangements via Timely Discharge from VA CLSs.

This CREATE initiative has given our group the opportunity to build important partnerships with experienced long term care investigators who work for the VA in Tuscaloosa, Palo Alto, Greater Los Angeles, and Denver. The proposal was also developed in full collaboration with VHA's Geriatric and Extended Care (GEC) leadership including James Burris, MD (Chief GEC Consultant), Thomas E. Edes, MD (Director, GEC Operations), Christa Hojlo, PhD (Director, VA Community Living Centers), Barbara Hyduke (Chief, Strategic and Transformational Initiatives), Nancy Quest, (Chief, State Veteran's Home Clinical & Survey Oversight), Daniel J. Schoeps (Chief, Community Care Program) and Kenneth Shay, DDS, MS (Director, Geriatric Programs).