



## **Opioid Addiction and Recovery Veteran Engagement Board (OAR-VEB)** **Member Description**

**Board Mission:** Concretely impact research, programming, and policy regarding opioid addiction and recovery by bringing diverse perspectives of Veterans with lived experience of opioid addiction to researchers, program developers, and policy makers. *While participating Veterans may experience peer-to-peer support by participating in the board, peer-to-peer support is not the mission of the board.*

**Position Title:** Opioid Addiction and Recovery Veteran Engagement Board (OAR-VEB) Member

### **Position Objectives:**

- 1) Engage in collaborative discussion to aid researchers in understanding the experience of opioid addiction and recovery.
- 2) Assist in the development of research projects related to improving the care of Veterans experiencing opioid addiction and recovery.
- 3) Assist in the dissemination of research and best practices by:
  - Identifying strategies to improve the spread of information by people experiencing opioid addiction or living in recovery and their service providers
  - Evaluating products and informational materials
  - Identifying ways to measure the impact of these efforts

**Position Summary:** Members bring their unique experience of opioid addiction and recovery to researchers, program developers, and policy makers. They engage at all stages of the processes, including coming up with topics; developing, implementing, and evaluating programs and initiatives; and sharing findings.

**Training:** One-hour phone orientation, two-day in-person kick-off meeting, ongoing training as appropriate.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Attend one one-hour phone orientation
- Attend 1-hour monthly phone meetings at least 8 times a year
- Spend up to four hours per month preparing for meetings or replying to emails
- Attend 1-2 day in person meeting in 2020 (travel will be compensated)
- Share perspectives, experiences, and suggestions during meetings and through email
- Listen well and respect differing opinions
- Speak comfortably in a group or provide written feedback after meetings
- Look for opportunities to partner and collaborate on finding solutions
- Maintain open and productive communication
- Respect confidentiality and the limitations of the research environment in meeting individual needs
- Initial appointment is for one year

## **Meeting Format**

Every month, OAR-VEB will meet by phone. An agenda and brief materials to review will be sent one week prior to the call. During the calls, VA researchers will present projects and ask for specific feedback from OAR-VEB members. Possible questions for OAR-VEB include:

- What do you think of the way that we are recruiting patients for this project?
- Do these interview questions make sense to you?
- What other questions do you think we should be asking?
- We're having trouble recruiting Veterans for this project, what other strategies should we try?
- Does our analysis make sense or do you have other ideas about what the findings might mean?
- How can we communicate our findings out to Veterans in a way that is meaningful to them?

## **Diversity**

Our community is enriched by diversity along a number of dimensions including different abilities, race, ethnicity, national origins, gender identity and expression, sexuality, class, and religion. We are committed to increasing the representation of these populations.

## **Confidentiality**

While anonymity of board members is not possible, the board takes confidentiality seriously and respects the decisions of those who chose to keep their recovery confidential. Board members will never be named publicly without member consent. If a board member publicly names another board member without their consent they will be removed from the board.

## **Selection Process for Participation:**

If you have struggled with opioids, are a Veteran, and are interested in participating, please submit a completed Statement of Interest form by email to Rachael Kenney [rachael.kenney@va.gov](mailto:rachael.kenney@va.gov). This will be followed by a phone interview.

For further questions please contact Rachael Kenney 720-275-7739 [rachael.kenney@va.gov](mailto:rachael.kenney@va.gov)

***Please note that this is not a support group, OAR-VEB members are advisors who lend their expertise to VA researchers and assist in the design, planning, execution, analysis, and dissemination of research projects.***