

[Learn more](#) about the Veteran Engagement in Research Group (VERG) initiative.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please email Alexis at Mary.Greenan@va.gov

Veteran Engagement in Research



Peer-led Training to Improve Veteran Digital Literacy for Telehealth Visits

Army Veteran and VA Peer Specialist Allen “Al” Kelly of VA Boston Healthcare System knows the challenges of homelessness because he counsels Veterans seeking or residing in HUD-VASH housing. While finding housing and groceries are priorities, video telehealth visits with their VA healthcare teams on VA tablets offer a potential avenue for homeless Veterans to access clinical services.



The VA Office of Connected Care Help Desk is available 24/7 to support Veterans’ telehealth needs (866-651-3180). However, research has shown that among homeless Veterans, fewer than half (46%) who received a tablet have used it, sometimes due to lack of digital skills or privacy concerns.

A potential solution is a **peer-led digital training and support session to increase computer literacy and comfort with video visits by Veterans who have experienced homelessness**. Mr. Kelly conducts digital training sessions that familiarize Veterans with the iPad tablet (ex. how to set it up, create a passcode and enable touch ID) and how to schedule and hold a video visit using the VA Video Connect app. Dr. Lynn Garvin leads this project, joined by Dr. D. Keith McInnes and Ms. Mary Alexis Greenan, Senior Project Manager, all with The Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR) at VA Boston and VA Bedford. This project is funded by the VA National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.

Veterans who have experienced homelessness, who have a VA-loaned iPad, and are interested in this training are welcome to call Ms. Greenan to learn more (617-364-6103). Group training sessions for qualified Veterans are being scheduled at multiple VA Boston and VA Bedford campus sites. Veterans who are unable to travel (due to serious mobility or travel distance challenges) may be eligible for individualized training sessions at their homes. Veteran participants receive a \$25 CVS gift card for their participation.

Subcommittee Updates

Evaluation Subcommittee

Please welcome our new Evaluation Subcommittee chairperson:
Eileen Dryden (Eileen.Dryden@va.gov)

Stakeholder Council

We are generating ideas for the Fall Stakeholders Council meeting. Please contact Katelyn Marchany (Katelyn.Marchany@va.gov) with any ideas.

Veteran Consultant Network (VCN)

The next VCN Veterans’ Research Conference will be held September 29 – please contact us if interested. The VCN is also continuing to recruit Veteran consultants – please contact Shawn Dunlap (Shawn.Dunlap@va.gov) if you are or know a Veteran who would like to learn more!

Happening Elsewhere in Veteran Engagement

Engaging Indigenous Communities via Veterans Pow Wow

Pow Wows are social gatherings held by many Indigenous Communities through the United States and Canada. The pow is a space and time, for the community to gather and honor our ancestors. In fact, within the circle space, we believe our ancestors are present.

For many within the Boston Native community, NAICOB serves as their home away from home. Owing to the long and painful history of genocide and erasure, there are no federally or state recognized tribal entities in Greater Boston; despite this fact, Boston has a significant population of not only New England first peoples, but also first peoples from across the Americas. NAICOB serves not only as an important community center, but also it serves as a premier social services organization. NAICOB is a tremendous partner for VA and offers an opportunity to engage with the Greater Boston Indigenous Community.

In supporting the Veterans Pow Wow now and in the future, VA Bedford and Boston will be able to conduct outreach, recruitment, and networking activities. The Office of Tribal and Government Relations (OTGR) is sending a representative to connect with their Veteran constituents; HSR&D via CIDER, will have outreach materials for all ongoing VA research activities and recruitments; Dr. James Shore, the Native Population Lead within ORD, will be sending representatives to recruit for a Mental Health App rollout for Native Veterans; CHOIR will be conducting outreach related to both their DEI and Veterans Engaged in Research (VERG) initiatives; HR will hopefully be able to provide support to answer questions related to specific recruitments but has committed to providing materials. The Veterans Pow Wow is an opportunity to open our doors wide to the Greater Boston Native Community and to demonstrate to the Native Community that we regard them as equals.



**NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER
OF BOSTON
S VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Emcee:
George Thomas

Head Man:
Tatanka Iap
Gibson

Head Lady:
Kerri Helme

Host Drum:
Wicozani Singers

Invited Drum:
Red Hawk Singers

Drummers
Dancers
Storytellers
Vendors
Native Foods
Activities
& More

1ST ANNUAL VETERANS POW WOW

September 17 - 18, 2022
Gates open at 10:00am
Grand Entry at 12:00pm
Prowse Farm
5 Blue Hill River Road
Canton, MA 02021
Contact powwow@naicob.org

Admission:
\$5 Adults
\$3 Elders
\$2 Children
FREE for
NAICOB Members,
Veterans, VA Staff
with ID



For more information about the upcoming Veterans Pow Wow please visit:

<http://www.naicob.org/>



GROVE presents:
Growing Rural Outreach through
Veterans Engagement Center

**VETERAN ENGAGEMENT
JAM SESSIONS 2022**

Pool Party Edition

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/92NAWfcazYRSwfuapc0FIP9>

April 20 "Good Vibrations"
Co-creating roles and responsibilities with Veterans at the grant writing stage.

May 18 "You Never Give Me Your Money"
Paying Veterans from the start.

June 15 "More than a Feeling"
Anti-racism and Inclusivity in Veteran Engagement
Co-hosted by Kimberly Max Brown, PhD

July 20 "Bridge over Troubled Waters"
Conflict facilitation
Co-hosted by Paige Backlund Jarquin, DrPH, MPH

Aug. 17 "Hey Joe"
Ask a Veteran what you've always wanted to ask.

Sept. 21 "Come Together"
Evaluation and sharing impact.

Join us!

Questions? Contact Raymond.Facundo@va.gov
Elizavinda (Lizavinda): Mark Flower, Leah Wendleton, Katie LaChappelle,
Ray Facundo, Kenda Stewart Steffensmeier

Jam Sessions Support the Veterans Engagement Community

Colleagues at the Center for Growing Rural Outreach through Veteran Engagement (GROVE) are using technology to facilitate Veteran Engagement Jam Sessions. GROVE Jam Sessions are virtual conversations hosted on Microsoft Teams, that create an opportunity for clinicians, investigators, research staff, and Veteran advisors to collaborate and share ideas about Veteran engagement. So far this year GROVE has hosted Jam Sessions on co-creating goals with Veterans, compensation strategies, anti-racism/inclusivity, conflict resolution, and an informal "Hey Joe" session where Veteran panelists answered questions those in the Veterans Engagement community always wanted to ask.

The final Jam Session of 2022 is coming up **September 21**, titled "Come Together" and will focus on evaluation and sharing impact.

Register in advance:

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/92NAWfcazYRSwfuapc0FIP9>

For questions about the GROVE Jam Sessions contact Raymond.Facundo@va.gov.