

CTSA Strategic Goal Four Committee: Comparative Effectiveness Workgroup

Teleconference

March 10, 2009

Attendees: D.J. McCloskey, NCCR; H. Selker, Tufts; D. Hodgkins, Brandeis, J. Lau, Tufts, K. Noyes, Rochester; P. Neumann, Tufts; D. Shepard, Brandeis; C. Tompkins, Brandeis; S. Tunis, Center for Medical Technology Policy, E. Rich, AAMC; F. Wolf, University of Washington; N. Shah, Mayo; T. Concannon, Tufts

- The Comparative Effectiveness Workgroup (CE Workgroup) has been formed to address sub goal 4B of Strategic Goal Four around health services research. The Community Engagement Key Function is already addressing the sub goal 4a, and there has been a workgroup formed to complete deliverables associated with the sub goal. The CE Workgroup also has representation from the Community Engagement Key Function Committee.
- There are four deliverables associated with sub goal 4b, and members thought it might be best if Workgroup members chose one deliverable they wished to work on and made a commitment to work on that deliverable until it is completed. The deliverables for the sub goal are:
 - Compile a capacity and needs assessment for CER and related resources across CTSA.
 - Articulate in a White Paper how the CTSA Consortium can act as a portal to facilitate CER for ICs, other federal agencies, outside stakeholders, and the healthcare system.
 - Make recommendations for research agenda, including methods development, and training to fulfill Sub-goal 4B.
 - Facilitate links among the potential participants of CER (ICs, agencies, others) to conduct CER. (face-to-face meeting and description of mechanisms for linking capacity).
- In discussing the timelines associated with the various deliverables, Dr. Selker referenced the default timelines of one year for the completion of each deliverable. The timeline of one year for the white paper to be authored on the topic of comparative effectiveness research, was deemed

to be far into the future given the timeliness of the topic and rapid developments in the field. It was suggested that leaders for writing groups should be CTSA based even though the expectation is that contributors will come from AHRQ and other agencies and organizations.

- The CE Workgroup attempted to address the question of how to properly address authorship. The historical record indicates that in the past there has been a CTSA listing of names and that a corporate model has been employed. The suggested rule set about authorship will be circulated for reference.
- The Workgroup discussed the need for resources to complete the deliverables. Support from Booz Allen Hamilton and CTSA's will be necessary for completing deliverables like the capacity needs assessment. Stimulus funds will likely provide a down payment for the future of community engaged research.

Action Items:

1. Determine schedule of meetings for the Workgroup (possibly the fourth Monday of each month).
2. Gather names of volunteers for the various groups working on deliverables.
3. Explore opportunities for CTSA's to gain greater exposure such as the April 15th meeting with Mark McClellan.
4. Review challenge grants and explore opportunities associated with the grants including those specifically focused on CER.
5. Circulate suggested rule set about authorship.