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Impact of Community Partners on a Comparative-Effectiveness Trial on Opioid Use Disorder Treatment: the HOMER Study

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BACKGROUND

- Engaging community members in comparative-effectiveness research (CER) ensures that evidence is as useful as possible.
- Home vs Office vs Telehealth for Medication Enhanced Recovery (**HOMER**) is a pragmatic CER trial aiming to improve treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) with buprenorphine in primary care settings.
- The HOMER Community Advisory Council (C.A.C.) has guided critical study decisions and offers an example of the impact of community partnerships.

METHODS

- HOMER C.A.C. consists of 7 community members, 3 clinicians, and 1 practice staff from around the United States with diverse backgrounds and perspectives related to OUD treatment.
- Quarterly virtual meetings have been held since July 2020 (start of study).
- Discussions and decisions documented in meeting notes were reviewed to identify areas of key C.A.C. contributions and describe impact.
- Contributions were categorized using the PCORI “Levels of Partner Decision-Making Authority” to further describe the community impact.

Key CAC Contributions

FUNDING APPLICATION

OUTCOME & PCORI’s level of partners’ decision-making authority*

Identified OUD as priority health issue and agreed to application for funding when approached by researchers
PCORI LEVEL – COLLABORATION

PATIENT RECRUITMENT

Informed practice and patient recruitment materials
PCORI LEVEL - CONSULTATION

MESSAGING FOR PRACTICE MATERIALS

Suggested language, tone (urgent), use of multiple materials (flyers, different “Talking Points” for clinicians vs support staff, email messages), and inclusion of support staff in patient referral protocols
PCORI LEVEL - COLLABORATION

OUTCOME MEASURES, DATA COLLECTION, & STUDY DESIGN

Selected validated instruments and identified additional topics that influence treatment outcomes to include in patient surveys, approved survey compensation amounts, endorsed multiple survey modalities, and agreed to change the study design midcourse
PCORI LEVEL – COLLABORATION

RESULTS INTERPRETATION

Helped interpret survey response rates and summary data
PCORI LEVEL - CONSULTATION

DISSEMINATION

Co-authored papers, abstracts, and practice communication
PCORI LEVEL – COLLABORATION

MOTIVATION

Provided ongoing validation of project value and motivation and demand for team to persist in the face of challenges
PCORI LEVEL – COLLABORATION

*PCORI’s Levels of Partners’ Decision-Making Authority

Input

- Info flows from partners to researchers; researchers make decisions

Consultation

- Researchers seek info from partners; researchers make decisions influenced by partners

Collaboration

- Bidirectional info flow; researchers and partners make decisions together

Shared Leadership

- Partners and researchers equal; collective ownership

See <https://www.pcori.org/engagement-research/engagement-resources/foundational-expectations/meaningful-inclusion>

CONCLUSIONS

- Community partners provide unique and valuable perspective, ideas, and interpretations that support all phases of research.
- The HOMER C.A.C. members’ expertise and ideas changed research protocols as well as influenced team spirit and motivation.
- C.A.C. members have helped ground this research in reality and enhanced the relevance of the research to patients and practice teams that stand to benefit.

CONTACT



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Research reported in this poster was funded through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Award IHS-2019C1-16167.

