



Bedford

Center of Excellence

Director: Dan R. Berlowitz, MD, MPH,

Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2011

The Center for Health Quality, Outcomes & Economic Research (CHQOER), a VA HSR&D Center of Excellence located at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, Bedford, Massachusetts was established on November 1, 1990. The Center has linked its structure, operations and research themes with the health services research expertise present at Boston University, and especially with the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Boston University School of Public Health; and with the University of Massachusetts Medical School and its Departments of Psychiatry and of Quantitative Health Sciences. The dual affiliation, new since 2007, remains strong with many joint projects and close collaborations among all faculty.

CHQOER is highly integrated with 3 additional Centers located at the Bedford VA. These include the HIV/Hepatitis QUERI for which Allen Gifford is co-Director; the eHealth QUERI under the leadership of Thomas Houston, MD, and the Bedford node of the National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans which is led by David Smelson, PsyD. CHQOER investigators also work closely on select project with investigators at both the Bedford GRECC and MIRECC. Operational partners include the Office of Clinical Public Health, Geriatrics and Extended Care, Office of Dentistry, and the Veterans and Consumers Health Informatics Office.

The CHQOER research mission continues to focus on three priority areas; patient-centered care, patient safety, and medication effectiveness. New VA research funding has been obtained in each of these areas. Additionally, the Center focus on implementation remains exceptionally strong with two QUERI programs now being based here.

The strength of the CHQOER research program rests with its faculty and CHQOER has continued to recruit new faculty. In 2011, CHQOER successfully recruited another statistician. Additionally, a search is currently underway for the Implementation Research Coordinator for the eHealth QUERI. CHQOER training programs have long been a source of new faculty, and new HSR&D post-doctoral and physician fellows have been recruited.

CHQOER efforts to expand its pool of Career Development Awardees have also been extremely successful. One new CDA was awarded to a CHQOER faculty member this past year so that there are now five funded Awardees based at CHQOER, two physician-investigators and three PhD-investigators. Additionally, two physician investigators have K awards through NIH and are eligible to submit HSR&D grants.

CHQOER funding remains strong. There has been continued growth in VA funding with particular expansion in IIR funding which has more than doubled in the past 5 years. Local support for the program from the Medical Center and VISN also remains exceptionally strong so that CHQOER is well-positioned for an exceptional FY2012.