



**Partnered Project: Community Care Technical Assistance**

**Project Lead:** Steven D. Pizer, PhD

**Operations Partner:** Office of Community Care (OCC)

This collaboration is new in FY17. OCC is engaged in planning for the transition from the original VA Choice program, established by the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, to the future vision of VA community care as part of an integrated network that includes traditional VA facilities and community partners. As part of that planning, PEPReC is assisting OCC in targeted data analysis and evidence synthesis tasks.

PEPReC will also assist OCC by facilitating collaborations with other research and evaluation organizations within and outside VA. Within VA, HSR&D has funded three service-directed research projects to investigate strategic topics selected collaboratively with OCC via a special solicitation this past winter. Topics include how to measure network adequacy, cost and utilization as well as how to evaluate new systems for care coordination and information exchange. Outside VA, PEPReC is working with OCC, OMHSP, and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to develop a pay-for-performance program designed to contract with community providers for opioid use disorder treatment services for Veterans living in areas with limited access to traditional VA treatment programs.

PEPReC staff are currently engaged in the following specific tasks:

- Writing a Policy Brief on bundled payments for particular conditions
- Facilitating regular calls between OCC and SDR project teams
- Designing supply and demand modeling with SDR research partners
- Reviewing published evidence on pay-for-performance and opioid treatment
- Convening advisory meetings regarding pay-for-performance design issues
- Investigating the effect of clinical data sharing on service duplication between VA and community providers