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TITLE: Research on Using Cellular Technology for a Motivational Intervention Among OEF/OIF Veteran's with PTSD

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Maurice Adams

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: Detroit-Wayne County Mental Health Agency
Detroit, MI 48201

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14. ABSTRACT Established contract between Wayne State University (WSU) and the Detroit-Wayne County CMH Agency (Agency) to collaborate on implementation of the randomized controlled trial of the intervention as well as adapting the Motivational Enhancement intervention for use in a group modality. The contract with Southwest Counselling Solutions (SWCS) was also finalized which will now allow us to move forward with setting up training seminars for the clinical staff who will be responsible for provision of clinical services to participants in a manner that ensures model fidelity. WSU's IRB has approved the protocol for the study and has agreed to "IRB of Record" for both the Agency and SWCS. We are also in receipt of the approved FWAs. Efforts are continuing relative to FMU IRB reviewing the protocol for approval. The unplanned retirement of the original Principal Investigator (PI), Elaine Thomas, necessitated the assignment of new PI and request to USAMRMC for a modification/amendment to change the PI on the subject award					
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Annual Report
26 Sep 2011- 25 Sep 2012

Introduction

This is a two year social/behavior research study funded by DOD's Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC). Purpose of the study is to address the needs of returning veterans experiencing mental and emotional challenges in transitioning back to civilian life as well as barriers to treatment engagement.

The main objective of the study is to test a motivational enhancement intervention to address barriers to engaging in mental health treatment for recently returned veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The long term goal of the study is to increase veteran's participation in mental health treatment by using a 'Stages of Change model to reduce perceived stigma and barriers to treatment. The central hypothesis put forth is that veterans who receive motivational enhancement will demonstrate greater readiness to change and higher treatment program attendance than veterans who receive treatment as usual.

The projects milestone or time-table identifies events and outcomes that are projected to be achieved from September 2011 through November 2013. The first year of the project involves multiple administrative project goals and objectives in preparation for the second year of the project involves participant recruitment; pilot study implementation; participant screening for eligibility to participate in the study; monitoring treatment and follow up activities followed by data analysis and write up of results and findings at the end of the time table. This report focuses on the first year of activities which are all administratively related.

Body

During the first year, the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental health Agency (Agency) spent significant time clarifying and establishing sub-contract language and agreements with Wayne State University (WSU); Francis Marion University; and the treatment service provider Southwest Counseling Solutions (SWCS). In the first 9 months, two of the three contractual relationships were finalized.

Monthly project study team meetings were convened and chaired by the Principal Investigator/Project Director to ensure that tasks and activities were on targeted and obstacles were addressed.

A major obstacle confronted the project in June of 2012 when the Agency's Principal Investigator retired from her Wayne County employment. A formal request was submitted to USAMRMC requesting a modification / amendment approving change of the PI on the subject award to Maurice Adams. In the interim, Division Director Lorraine Taylor Agency staff Muhammad, LMSW assured continuity of monthly Project Team meetings while the Co-Principal Investigators, Dr. Shirley Thomas of WSU and Dr. Ronald Murphy of FMU, were intimately involved in all discussions and planning

pertaining to their areas of expertise with research protocol and discussions about employing and adapting the Motivational Enhancement intervention.

Prior to the end of the first year of the grant, 75% key project staff had taken the required human research courses and successfully completed those courses with passing marks. WSU is a participating CITI institution with the University of Miami's Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI).

We had an extensive and effective telephone consultation in early 2012 with Ms. Brigit Ciccarello, M.A. Regulatory Compliance Specialist, in preparation to submitting of our protocol for HRPO review.

In May of 2012, we received notice of Full Board Approval by WSU's IRB for our protocol.

In September of 2012, we received letter from FMU, IRB granting conditional approval of the study provided revisions were made to the consent form; phone protocol and revisions to the treatment manual.

Accomplishments

Two of the three sub-contracts were finalized. At time of this report, we are still waiting to finalize sub-contract with FMU. Anticipate completion within 30-45 days.

- Regular Project Team Monthly meetings convened
- Recruitment protocols finalized (eligibility criteria, instruments, recruitment & screening script for research assistant, flyers.
- IRB approvals WSU and FMU conditional approval revision.
- HRPO consultation on submitting packet for secondary review.
- 75% of all Project staff has completed research training courses with passing marks. New PI will need to complete courses once he's on board.

Reportable Outcomes

The aforementioned previous administrative **accomplishments** also serve as reportable 'administrative' outcomes for the project's first year time frame.

Conclusion

Our preliminary research study pre-proposal application in early 2011 on '*Using Cellular Technology for a Motivational Intervention Among OEF/OIF*', submitted in response to the Congressional Special Appropriations and the USAMR&MC, DOD was not accepted, therefore, in 2011, we modified the research proposal to '*Using Motivational Enhancement Among OIF/OEF Veterans Returning to the Community*'.

Further, the sub-contracting arrangements with two separate universities and working through both IRBs, presented unanticipated challenges that posed some delay, however, at this point, it appears that all entities are on the same page as we are moving into revision and finalizing the treatment manual, training treatment and peer staff on the treatment manual; getting feedback from staff on manual content and preparing to conduct pilot testing of the adapted Motivational Enhancement intervention.

There will be no involvement or recruitment of research participants until we have submitted and received an **Approval Memorandum from HRPO**. We anticipate that we can reach this milestone during the first quarter of the second year of the award. As it stands, we are still on track with our time table given minor time line revisions.

References

No additional references at this time.

Appendices

No additional appendices at this time.