



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System
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What is CeMHOR?

Background: Mental health and substance use disorders among Veterans are prevalent and the corresponding disability and associated treatment costs are enormous. Over the past 10 years, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the health care arm of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented new policies, programs, and improvement initiatives to increase the availability of evidence-based practices and to enhance access to care. Despite this transformation, there are gaps in scientific knowledge regarding ways to improve access to and engagement in care. Mental health services research is critically needed to continually inform efficient and effective allocation of resources as VA strives to provide Veteran-centered, cost-effective, evidence-based mental health and substance use services.

CeMHOR: The *Center for Mental Healthcare & Outcomes Research (CeMHOR)* is a VA-funded Center of Innovation in Little Rock, Arkansas. It has been continually funded since 1990. CeMHOR is the only VA-funded center that, since its inception, has primarily focused on mental health services research.

CeMHOR mission is to optimize health and well-being of Veterans through innovative research to improve access to and engagement in evidence-based mental health and substance use care and to prevent suicide.

Focus Areas: CeMHOR has two interrelated research focus areas: 1) improving access to and engagement in evidence-based MH/SUD care; and 2) suicide prevention. Investigators also conduct research to decrease risks of opioid misuse/abuse and increase treatment of opioid use disorders (OUD). All our research is planned, designed, and conducted with widespread implementation in mind.

What is the CeMHOR Veterans Council?

The CeMHOR Veterans Council is a select team of Arkansas Veteran stakeholders.

CeMHOR Veterans Council mission is to engage Veteran stakeholders and CeMHOR affiliated investigators in a bi-directional exchange of information to improve access to and engagement in Veteran-centered evidence-based mental health and substance use services via VA research.

The **CeMHOR Veterans Council will advise CeMHOR leadership and affiliated investigators on ways to improve research projects and prioritize the research agenda to achieve the mission of CeMHOR.** In addition, CeMHOR will consider new ideas and topics that are important to Veterans.

Meeting regularly, the Veterans Council will partner with CeMHOR leaders and investigators to review information on CeMHOR research and generate ideas for additional research in Mental Health.

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