



VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative  
EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE

# Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative

April 2024 Newsletter

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Dear *Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative* members,

**On April 11<sup>th</sup> Dr. Andrea Nevedal and Dr. George Jackson** will present, **“Understanding Pathways from Implementation to Sustainment: A Longitudinal, Mixed Methods Analysis of Promising Practices in the VHA.”**

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the United States’ largest learning health system. The **Diffusion of Excellence (DoE)** program is a large-scale model of diffusion that identifies and diffuses evidence-informed practices across VHA. During the period of 2016-2021, 57 evidence-informed practices were implemented across 82 VHA facilities.

Yes, you read that correctly, **57 evidence-informed practices and 82 facilities! Rarely do we see this breadth that we can draw conclusions about sustainment from. As we all know, sustainment is critically important to success with routinizing evidence-based medical care for Veterans and all patients.**

This setting provides a unique opportunity to understand sustainment determinants and pathways. The presenter’s objective was to characterize the longitudinal pathways of practices as they transition from initial implementation to long-term sustainment at each facility.

The registration link can be found on pg 2.

With warm regards,

Christine P. Kowalski

Director, Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative



If you know someone who would like to join the *Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative*, please share the above QR code with them. Anyone is welcome to join!

We have 652 **members** from around the globe as of this week.

**40 new members joined in the last month.**

A very warm welcome to our new members!

# Event #1: April keynote Advanced Qualitative Methods Seminar:

## **Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative Seminar:**

**Date and Time: April 11, 2024 - noon to 1 PM EST**

- **Title:** "Understanding Pathways from Implementation to Sustainment: A Longitudinal, Mixed Methods Analysis of Promising Practices in the VHA"

- **Presenter:**



**Andrea Nevedal, PhD:** Dr. Nevedal is an investigator and a senior qualitative methodologist for the Ann Arbor HSRD. She uses qualitative methods to elicit Veteran, provider, and stakeholder perspectives on the socio-cultural and organizational factors influencing health care delivery. Her primary research interests include patient-centered care, access to VA and community care, implementation and sustainment of evidence-based innovations, and de-implementation of low-value care. In December 2023 Dr. Nevedal won the distinction of the "Best of D&I" for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference on dissemination and implementation in health, led by NIH and Academy Health, for her efforts and authorship on this work.



**George Jackson, PhD:** Dr. Jackson is a healthcare epidemiologist and implementation scientist with the Center of Innovation to Accelerate Discovery and Practice Transformation (ADAPT) at the Durham Veterans Affairs Health Care System, where he leads the Implementation and Improvement Science Lab/Core. Additionally, he is a Professor and Director of the Program on Implementation and Improvement Science in the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Jackson's research focuses on the development, implementation, and evaluation of team-based systems for treatment and prevention of chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and moral injury. He also works to develop and evaluate structures to identify, replicate, and spread innovative practices within learning health systems. Among other projects, George is currently the Corresponding Principal Investigator for 2 for two VA QUERI centers.

- **Summary of seminar:** The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the United States' largest learning health system. The Diffusion of Excellence (DoE) program is a large-scale model of diffusion that identifies and diffuses evidence-informed practices across VHA. During the period of 2016-2021, 57 evidence-informed practices were implemented across 82 VHA facilities. This setting provides a unique opportunity to understand sustainment determinants and pathways. Our objective was to characterize the longitudinal pathways of practices as they transition from initial implementation to long-term sustainment at each facility.
- **The intended audience:**  
Researchers/evaluators, fellows, students
- **Please register in advance to join us for the event, using the following link:**

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/webex/register/r7e93b0535568abee89f9050c9f4b86bb>

## Event #2: April Keynote Implementation Seminar:

### **Implementation Research Group seminar**

**Date and Time: April 4, 2024 - noon to 1 PM EST**

- **Title:** Comparing the CFIR-ERIC matching tool recommendations to real-world strategy effectiveness data: a mixed-methods study in the Veterans Health Administration

- **Presenter:**



#### **Shari Rogal MD, MPH**

Dr. Rogal is a CHERP Core Investigator, VA Physician at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, and the John J. Fung Assistant Professor of Transplant Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. She serves as Co-Director of CHERP's Implementation and Dissemination Core. Dr. Rogal works clinically as a transplant hepatologist with a research interest in improving waitlist and transplant outcomes by addressing symptoms and quality of life in the transplant population in the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Dr. Rogal brings her extensive, collaborative experience with Transplant Surgery and the VA Healthcare System to the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. Dr. Rogal studies liver transplant outcomes with interests in addiction and pain with chronic liver disease patients. She is also interested in the implementation of science to combat health disparities.

- **Summary of seminar:**

This presentation will advocate for why we need to refine barriers and improve strategy-matching methods and tools. We will describe our application of the CFIR-ERIC Matching Tool and how the recommended strategies, based on barriers collected qualitatively from local stakeholders, are associated with engaging in an evidence-based practice in a national effort.

- **Recommended/related reading:**

*Yakovchenko V, Lamorte C, Chinman MJ, Goodrich DE, Gibson S, Park A, Bajaj JS, McCurdy H, Morgan TR, Rogal SS. Comparing the CFIR-ERIC matching tool recommendations to real-world strategy effectiveness data: a mixed-methods study in the Veterans Health Administration. Implement Sci. 2023 Oct 12;18(1):49.*

- **The intended audience:** implementers, evaluators, researchers, students
- **Please register in advance to join us for the event, using the following link:**

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/weblink/register/r555f6331d96b8c500d26b6f1fb073e48>

# April Updates from the Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative Board:

- The **Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative Board** has been operating from July 2020 to present. **Our 39-member board** supports the following mission for **VA HSRD and QUERI**:

This month the Board expanded our mission to include (h) below:

- a. Advance qualitative methods for use within health services research and quality improvement contexts,
  - b. Build a community of qualitative researchers,
  - c. Learn and teach qualitative methods,
  - d. Address infrastructure support and resources needed to do qualitative work in VA, such as: transcription, DVRs, QDAS (such as NVivo),
  - e. Work to hire/grow and maintain high quality qualitative staff and methodologists,
  - f. Develop strategies for others interested in building qualitative communities and expertise,
  - g. Share best qualitative practices.
  - h. **Contribute to the growing literature on qualitative research in health and disseminate best practices through publications and other deliverables.**
- **Current topics the board is discussing/working on:**

1. QMLC membership: There are currently 627 members in the QMLC:
2. Dr. David L. Morgan is a professor emeritus in Department of Sociology at Portland State University. He is a sociological social psychologist, who is widely known for his work on focus groups, including his book, *Focus Groups as Qualitative Research*, and as coauthor of *The Focus Group Kit*. In addition, he has worked extensively on mixed methods, including a book for SAGE, *Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods*. Most recently, he has published *Essentials of Dyadic Interviewing* for Routledge, and *A New Era in Focus Group Research*, co-edited, with Rosaline Barbour, for Palgrave.

Dr. Morgan presented a seminar for the QMLC on March 14<sup>th</sup>. This was an excellent session! You can view the archived video recording and download his slides using the following link:

[Pushing the Boundaries of Focus Group Research \(va.gov\)](#)

3. NVivo / VA usability issue:

NVivo has some backend programs that the program is reliant on to function. This was the issue that caused NVivo to be divested before. This has, unfortunately, become an issue again. SQL 2014 will be divested at the end of this quarter. Thus far, at some VA sites (Bedford/Boston, and Pittsburgh) the ISO has already pulled SQL 2014 pre-emptively. So, for those sites, they are not able to use NVivo version 12 at all. This has caused work-stoppage.

At the end of the quarter, we expect this will be an issue for more sites once SQL 2014 is actually divested. NVivo 12 cannot run without SQL 2014. There are still 180 NVivo 12 licenses across VA.

Solutions for sites experiencing this, per Amanda Taylor are:

- Consider upgrading to the latest version of NVivo. The issue only applies to NVivo Version 12. The current version of NVivo does not use SQL 2014.
- Submit a POAM (Plan of Action and Milestones document) for each local site. This can be used when a piece of software is not approved at a site. This will need to be done at each facility level. Amanda will work on a version of this that can be shared, as a model. Note that when a POAM is used, someone at the facility must take responsibility for that risk and some of the sites. Amanda has already heard there are some facilities will not sign a POAM, so we already know this will not work for every facility. POAM's usually last for 12 months.
- Use the 20 rolling VINCI licenses available in VA.

4. **Expertise / training required for qualitative methods: data collection, analysis, and reporting.**

Following up on the board discussion about the raising awareness on the training required to conduct rigorous qualitative work, Monica Matthieu, Andrea Nevedal, and Christine Kowalski have formed a workgroup and will co-present a seminar on this topic (in planning now for ~fall 2024).

5. **Support hiring and retention of well-qualified qualitative staff and methodologists across VA and National Qualitative PDs and qualitative staff promotion and retention-** (George Sayre, Gemmae Fix, Alison Hamilton, Christine Kowalski).

The new GS 13 Qualitative Scientist national PD is almost complete. Our workgroup has been working for many months with HR to develop this national PD. The very good news is that Tony Laracuenta estimates that the GS-13 qualitative scientist PD should be ready to share with the field and final in about 3-4 weeks. He will let us know when it is final and ready to be shared with the field. Per Brian Penz This PD will be listed in the 101 series with the caveat of 4 years of relevant experience helping someone to qualify.

6. **Seminars, education in planning for the collaborative by our board:**

- a. What is a theme?
- b. How to use CFIR thoughtfully in conjunction with other frameworks, such as NPT & RE-AIM
- c. Longitudinal qualitative analyses
- d. Visual display of results from qualitative analysis
- e. Qualitative repositories
- f. Staffing/effort needed for qualitative work
- g. Counting in qualitative work, when and how
- h. Learning to be a reviewer for journals to review manuscripts and abstracts
- i. When to use models, theories, and frameworks in qualitative work—throughout the process, including, theoretical- informed interview guides



ResearchTalk's spring and summer schedule includes 4 events that will help you build your understanding of qualitative analysis and apply the principles presented to your own work.

- *Spend 3.5 days working with your data and learning from our qualitative mentor team.*
  - **Qualitative Data Analysis Camp**, with Ray Maietta, Alison Hamilton, Kevin Swartout and Kristin Black, April 22-25
- *Learn specific qualitative analysis tools that you can integrate into your work.*
  - **Integrating Coding and Memo Writing in Qualitative Analysis**, with Paul Mihas, May 1 (at Spring Seminars)
  - **Visual Strategies for Working Through and Presenting Qualitative Data**, with Ray Maietta and Alison Hamilton, July 24 (at QRSI)
  - **Coding and Analyzing Qualitative Data**, with Johnny Saldaña, July 31-August 1 (at QRSI)

**Qualitative Data Analysis Camp**, April 22-25, 2024

- <https://www.researchtalk.com/QDAC2024>

**Spring Qualitative Inquiry Seminars**, March 25-June 6, 2024

- <https://researchtalk.com/spring2024/>

**21st Annual Qualitative Research Summer Intensive**, July 22-26 and July 31-August 2, 2024

- co-hosted with UNC's Odum Institute for Research in Social Science
- <https://www.researchtalk.com/QRSI2024>

Special offer: Use the discount code ANALYZE18 to receive an **18% discount** off registration for any camps and courses on our current Upcoming Events page - <https://www.researchtalk.com/upcoming-events>. This discount code expires on March 28, 2024. Please email [info@researchtalk.com](mailto:info@researchtalk.com) with any questions.