

COVER COMMISSION VETERANS FOCUS GROUP BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE RECRUITER

WHO: The Creating Options for Veterans Expedited Recovery (COVER) Commission was established under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016, Section 931 to examine the evidence-based therapy treatment model used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for treating mental health conditions of Veterans.

WHY: Veterans are invited to participate in a Focus Group discussion. We would like to hear about Veteran experiences with mental health treatments received either through VA or outside the VA. Veterans also will be asked about their preferences regarding mental health treatment options, challenges related to seeking mental healthcare, and any suggestions for improvement of services. This Focus Group discussion will last 2 hours. Participation is completely voluntary, and Veterans may discontinue participation at any time for any reason. Veterans do not have to answer any questions that make them uncomfortable, and anything said will be kept private to the extent provided by law.

WHAT: We will screen potential participants and select up to 10 Veterans to participate in the Focus Group to discuss their experiences. **Recruiters are asked to identify candidates and offer them the opportunity to be considered as a participant in the Focus Group.** Criteria to consider when recruiting potential participants include:

Criteria for Veteran Focus Group
Veteran must be comfortable speaking in a group setting.
Must have reliable form of transportation and arrive on time.
Both men and women Veterans, any age, combat duty or peacetime service, will be selected for this Veterans Focus Group.
The Veteran has received care for Mental Health conditions through VA or outside of VA.

HOW: The information shared will remain private and will be compiled in a brief report that summarizes major findings, and this summary report will be available to the public. None of the feedback will be attributable back to any specific participants. **Interested Veterans should be given the Veterans Focus Group Information Sheet that provides an email address number for the Veteran to contact the COVER Focus Group Support Team. Please complete all recruitment by **Month XX, 2019**.** The Support Team Member will ask the Veteran a few screening questions to ensure that participants are a representative cross section of the Veteran population.

WHEN: xxxxx

WHERE: xxxxx

**Specific directions will be
provided to the Veteran after screening.*

QUESTIONS?

Please email the COVER Commission at:

COVERCommission@va.gov