CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Zoom Conference
March 25, 2024
2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Members:

Michael Kurilla, Co-Chair	Jessica Kahn	Doris Rubio
Ruth O'Hara, Co-Chair	Mimi Kim	Kathryn Sandberg
Stephan Bour	Jennifer Kraschnewski	Randy Urban
Arleen Brown	Grace McComsey	Rosalind Wright
Vesna Garovic	Frederick "Gerry" Moeller	Ted Wun
Melissa Haendel	Elizabeth Ofili	
Tesheia Johnson	Steven Reis	

NCATS Attendees:

Heather Baker	Stephanie Ezequiel	Joan Nagel
Kris Bough	Josh Fessel	Erica Rosemond
Patrick Brown	Gallya Gannot	Joni Rutter
Penny Burgoon	Ken Gersing	Yolanda Vallejo
Soju Chang	Brittany Gibbons	Robin Wagner
Jamie Doyle	Rashmi Gopal	
Sarah Dunsmore	Francisco Leyva	

Regrets: Daniel Ford, Duane Mitchell

Guests: Kathleen Stevens, Jonathan Tobin, Reza Yousefi-Nooraie

CCOS: Lauren Fitzharris, Kerry James, Cindy Mark

Welcome and Announcements (Slide 3)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla and Ruth O'Hara

M. Kurilla welcomed the members of the Steering Committee (SC), reviewed the agenda, and facilitated the call.

He announced in the recently approved Congressional budget, the CTSA Program did not receive an increase and that the amount funded may be impacted by pending sequestration decisions. He noted a "secretaries transfer" could also lessen the overall budget, so SC funding decisions will be delayed until actual numbers are known.

He also shared a reminder that the Cycle XII Working Group proposal window is open until April 1 and the SC will review proposals from May to June 3.

Report Out: Advancing Dissemination & Implementation Science Working Group (Slides 4-18)

Speaker: Kathleen Stevens, Jonathan Tobin, and Reza Yousefi-Nooraie

Presentation Summary:

K. Stevens shared a 6-month progress report from the Advancing Dissemination & Implementation Science Working Group (WG). She noted the leaders of the WG and reviewed its primary goals for 2023-2025, which include advancing links between research and communities of practice and expanding links between clinical research and dissemination and implementation (D&I). She then summarized the deliverables, all of which relate to best practices for promoting equity-focused D&I research through partnerships between the CTSA and practice-based research models (PBRNs):

- **Case Presentations** (e.g., PBRN best practices webinars)
- **Qualitative Analysis of Best Practice Cases**
- A **Survey** to assess (1) strength of alignment between PBRNs and CTSA Hubs, (2) needs and priorities, (3) and levels of support for D&I activities across the consortium
- A **Consensus Manuscript** describing training guidelines to achieve minimum competencies in equity-focused D&I research and practice for clinical and translational researchers and implementers at CTSA Hubs
- An expanded **Compendium of D&I Resources** (e.g., model training curricula and PBRN models)

The Case Presentations deliverable has an expected completion date of June 2025, and five of eighteen anticipated presentations are complete. The slides presented highlighted the topics of completed and anticipated presentations.

The Qualitative Analysis of Best Practice Cases deliverable has an expected completion date of June 2025 and is dependent on case studies accumulated for the Case Presentations deliverable because those case studies are providing the data necessary for analysis.

The Survey deliverable has an expected completion date of March 2025 and will assess the quality and strength of alignment between PBRNs and the CTSA. The slides presented outlined the anticipated steps for conducting, analyzing, and disseminating results for the survey.

The Consensus Manuscript deliverable has an expected completion date of July 2025. The slides presented outlined the manuscript development process, including forming an author team, reviewing existing evidence, developing recommendations, obtaining feedback, and then reporting and disseminating findings.

The Compendium of D&I Resources deliverable has an expected completion date of June 2025, and steady progress has been made. A paper reporting on adoption of the compendium is under review and the WG is working with new sites to incorporate the compendium into academic research workflows and promote equity-focused D&I curricula and PBRNs. Completion of this deliverable is partially dependent on the other deliverables.

K. Stevens reported the WG has over 150 members and meets monthly to discuss and work on deliverable tasks. The WG is considering partnering with other WGs and funding agencies and will be using a Google suite shared workspace soon. She concluded by sharing WG questions for the SC relating to whether progress, goals, and deliverables are satisfactory and if the SC has any suggestions for enhancing dissemination of deliverables and maximizing efficient use of CCOS resources to enhance impact.

Questions and Discussion:

- M. Kurilla asked whether the term "PBRN" is commonly accepted and if there are other relevant synonyms that should be used to avoid missing any data.
  - J. Tobin responded, noting the term is regularly used in the profession and is an actual Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) term developed by the National Library of Medicine, so it is widely recognized.
- M. Kurilla asked whether D&I considers recommendations for alternative ways of designing work streams for primary care.
  - J. Tobin noted dissemination takes place via the workforce and its workflows, and adaptation of models for D&I is necessary for different settings to ensure effectiveness.
  - R. Yousefi-Nooraie commented, implementation is not necessarily equivalent to new interventions, and that is why the WG is focused on connecting implementation research with communities of practice.
  - K. Stevens noted training in competencies for researchers will help with implementation and will help promote common practices across the workforce.
- F. Gerard Moeller asked whether the WG is suggesting CTSA Hubs would have more effective D&I science if they collaborate with PBRNs.
  - J. Tobin stated that is a goal, but also noted science will necessitate consideration of alternative strategies and structures under different sets of practice circumstances.
- T. Wun asked how the WG officially defined PBRNs.
  - J. Tobin reported the WG followed the PBRN initiative developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), which includes a registry. The WG is using AHRQ registry data to match CTSA grantees to PBRNs identified by AHRQ.
- M. Haendel noted the need to share data and suggested including a question on the survey to identify cases where sharing of and leveraging regional infrastructure informatics data is needed to promote implementation in local healthcare systems. She also queried in the Chat which CTSAs have most successfully integrated data with PBRNs and noted work by UW and TrinetX.
  - J. Tobin stated his belief the survey includes sensitive questions that would help identify needs for regulatory, biostatistical, and informatics support.
  - K. Stevens agreed, noting broad inclusion of PBRN clinicians and the need to balance regional and national generalization with local context.
- R. Wright wondered whether there is a use case for incorporating real-world data in implementation science, noting it will likely be an important issue going forward.

- E. Ofili asked what will be needed to empower physicians serving minority populations or other special interest groups where variable electronic medical record data is available in terms of promoting implementation, noting workflow and workforce are independent entities with their own challenges.
  - o J. Tobin stated the CTSA infrastructure has the potential to reach populations of clinicians and patients sometimes excluded from research.

Real-World Data Task Force: A Sneak Peek Ahead to Las Vegas, Followed by Discussion / Q & A (Slide 19)

Speaker: Josh Fessel

Presentation Summary:

J. Fessel summarized the goals of the Task Force (TF), which are to identify real-world data needs in science and define the types of teams needed to support work using real-world data. The TF recognizes an ongoing need for education, training, and retraining on use of real-world data in science and is working on developing suggestions for offering more robust ongoing support for real-world data initiatives by sharing expertise across the CTSA consortium. He shared his excitement about the TF's work to generate guidance for responsible, safe, ethical, and impactful applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in the healthcare field. He concluded by noting a more thorough discussion of the TF will occur at the upcoming CTSA meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Questions and Discussion:

- K. Gersing noted in the Chat that TF educational materials will be available for all sites and stated the TF will have a package of information to share with the SC at the CTSA meeting regarding progress and next steps requiring assistance.
- M. Haendel noted there will be a session at the CTSA meeting to educate T/K Principal Investigators (PIs) and other senior CTSA leaders in real-world data science.

Pod Feedback (Slides 20-25)

Speaker: Soju Chang

Presentation Summary:

S. Chang introduced Pod Leads, who provided summary reports for their Pod meetings held in January.

R. Wright reported that her Pod, which includes members from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Rockefeller University, Northwestern University at Chicago and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, invited the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) team to present on ways to make real-world data more accessible and how to leverage existing infrastructures. The team answered questions relating to data sharing, data

ecos

management plan templates, formation of N3C research teams, training and education for junior scientists, financial resources available, and community engagement.

- M. Haendel noted an N3C Tenant Report is available online and acknowledged the welcome feedback received through discussion at the Pod meeting.
- K. Gersing commented that initial data sharing for N3C was rushed during COVID, but they are working on setting up a broad data sharing agreement to include all Hubs within the CTSA network.
- M. Haendel noted in the Chat that N3C is a centralized platform for machine learning applications, which is complementary to the distributed networks and these are synergistic, and stated N3C governance meetings are held every other week on Fridays and that registration is open to anyone.

J. Kahn reported that her Pod, which includes members from the University of Cincinnati, Indiana University, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Florida, and University of Iowa, discussed CTSA engagement with national repositories, such as N3C, concerns about lack of access to legacy CTSA Hub website information and its impact on work with academic institutional leaders, and questions about NCATS strategic priorities that might impact upcoming grant submissions.

- M. Kurilla noted in response to the Pod's feedback about lack of access to website information, CCOS has initiated some modifications to the website, and he invites Hubs to revisit the site to assess current information availability. He also noted NCATS is hoping to issue a new strategic plan this year.

G. Moeller reported that his Pod, which includes members from Wright Regional Center for Clinical and Translational Science (Virginia Commonwealth University), iThriv (University of Virginia), New York University School of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School Worcester, Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science, and Yale University, discussed ways Hubs are using the ENACT network, including financial concerns, options for using tools to pull real-world data, and the need for guidance related to tool options, selections, and use.

Open Discussion (Slides 28-29)

Speakers: All

Presentation Summary:

There were no additional questions or comments to discuss, however there were a couple of additional slides included at the end of the slide deck containing the agenda for the SC meeting on April 5, 2024, in Las Vegas and a note about ongoing planning for CTSA Fall 2024 Program meeting.

Adjournment (Slide 27)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla

Presentation Summary:

M. Kurilla adjourned the meeting.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Friday, April 5, 2024, at 1:30-6:00pm PT

in Las Vegas, NV