

Respondent



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Sondra Thomas



86:13

Time to complete



1. Please provide your name, position title, and contact information. \*

Sondra Thomas, Management Analyst, 703-249-3083

2. Is this submission an idea for a Promising Practice or existing Promising Practice? \*

☒ Idea for a Promising Practice

☐ Existing Promising Practice

3. What is the name of your Promising Practice? \*

Our Community and We're All in this Together!

4. What type of Veterans does this practice serve? \*

☐ Rural

☐ Urban

☒ Both

5. How does this practice promote vaccine acceptance? \*

Mobile and Stationary Mobile Units: It allows the community to see "Action," first-hand and people who look like them taking Action versus sitting on the sidelines taking about past historical content of fear and lack of trust, especially in communities of color. Do a promotional mobile unit in strategic locations to serve vulnerable communities of color. Have volunteers and Allied staffers on-hand to distribute information and knowledge to build trust, ease fears, and disseminate accurate information about vaccines, and explain in laymen terms (not high-tech technical terms) based on the audience we are serving. Everyone do not act, learn, or speak the same language. Meet people where they are! Explain the benefits and possible reactions to the vaccines. People just need to know that their safety is our "Priority!"

6. What are the specific steps you took, or would take, to implement your practice and the timeline/timeframe for each? \*

Steps, I would take-is do a PSA announcing a roll-out plan to strategic urban and rural locations in selected cities, especially those greatly effected by COVID19 within communities of color with dates/times/informative sessions to receive the vaccine, or just learn about the benefits and to earn their TRUST.

7. What departments are involved in implementing your practice? \*

Occupational Health Medical Personnel and a few Administrative staff members and Logistics for drivers/schedulers to strategic locations. Volunteers within the agency and community.

8. What are the costs associated with your practice? \*

Look for free opportunities to advertise via radio announcements, internal agency notifications, and local churches and seek volunteers within the agency; however cost associated with set-up/travel for personnel members and mobile vehicle set-up at location site for vaccine distributions could be drastically reduced if VHA employees volunteer some of his/her time on a rotation basis that lives closer to these strategic locations. Get community involvement and local elected leaders on-board to collaborate on efforts to combat the COVID19 crisis. It's a partnership! When lives are being "Saved," at all cost, you can't put a realistic number on a person's life.

9. What primary metric data is tracked and collected to determine your practice's success? \*

Utilize metric data for those communities with high-level "hot-spots," based on CDC and Census statistics. Review the populations greatly effected, what age group is being affected more gravely, look for indicators such as transportation issues, maybe do some hot-shot quick visits to disable population, get local churches involved that serve within the communities to support or sponsor COVID drives.

10. What are the potential risks or barriers of implementing your practice and the proposed mitigations? \*

The potential risk is lives are at stake (being lost) due to fear, mistrust and misinformation on the benefits of vaccines; however, nothing is 100%/perfect, we all have our part to do in this current climate/culture to make it safe as possible.