INSTITUTE FOR PATIENT- AND FAMILY-CENTERED CARE®

Building Capacity for Long-Term Care Stakeholders in COVID-Related PCOR/CER

To control the spread of infection in long-term care settings during the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns were imposed that prevented residents from seeing family and friends in person and led to increased social isolation and loneliness. These restrictions resulted in adverse impact on resident and family mental health and well-being. Future PCOR/CER should address issues in this disproportionally affected population by testing and disseminating interventions that focus on social isolation and loneliness.

In October 2021, IPFCC received a Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for this 18-month project, *Building Capacity for Long-Term Care Stakeholders in COVID-Related PCOR/CER.*

IPFCC's team built capacity for residents, families, leaders, and staff in four long-term care settings in geographically diverse locations; researchers; and other stakeholders to partner in planning for PCOR/CER by: 1) developing better understanding of social isolation and loneliness related to COVID-19; 2) modeling a program to build effective partnerships; and 3) activating a network of stakeholders to facilitate future collaboration for PCOR/CER.

Project Activities

IPFCC collaborated with leaders, staff, residents, and families from long-term care communities, researchers, and national long-term care advocacy organizations. A National Advisory Committee provided leadership and input on project activities which included:
- Conducting virtual small group conversations with residents and families to develop better understanding of root causes of social isolation and loneliness.
- Identifying and prioritizing research topics and themes appropriate for PCOR/CER based on resident and family concerns and priorities.
- Developing resources to inform future PCOR/CER and facilitate engagement of residents and families in planning for research.
- Holding a virtual International Stakeholder Summit on Long-Term Care Research and disseminating project findings and resources.

Project Outcomes

Project outcomes will contribute to future research designed to alleviate harm to mental health and well-being due to isolation and loneliness. These outcomes include:
- Summary of resident and family identified root causes of social isolation and loneliness obtained through small group conversations.
- Development of topics, themes, and interventions for future PCOR/CER.
- Guidance for engaging long-term care communities in planning for PCOR/CER.