

Reaching Out to Older Veterans in Need: The Elko Clinic Demonstration Project

Summary:

The challenge of providing meaningful healthcare services to veterans living in rural communities is a major public health concern that involves redefining the traditional facility-based model of care delivery employed in urban areas. The Elko Community Outreach Clinic was created to meet the healthcare needs of older veterans who expressed a desire for greater access to VA resources. The Elko Clinic was the activation of an expanded Community-as-Partner model for coordinating local, regional, and VA resources. The clinic provides a limited set of healthcare services including medication management, prescription refills, and routine lab tests.



Elko Outreach Clinic

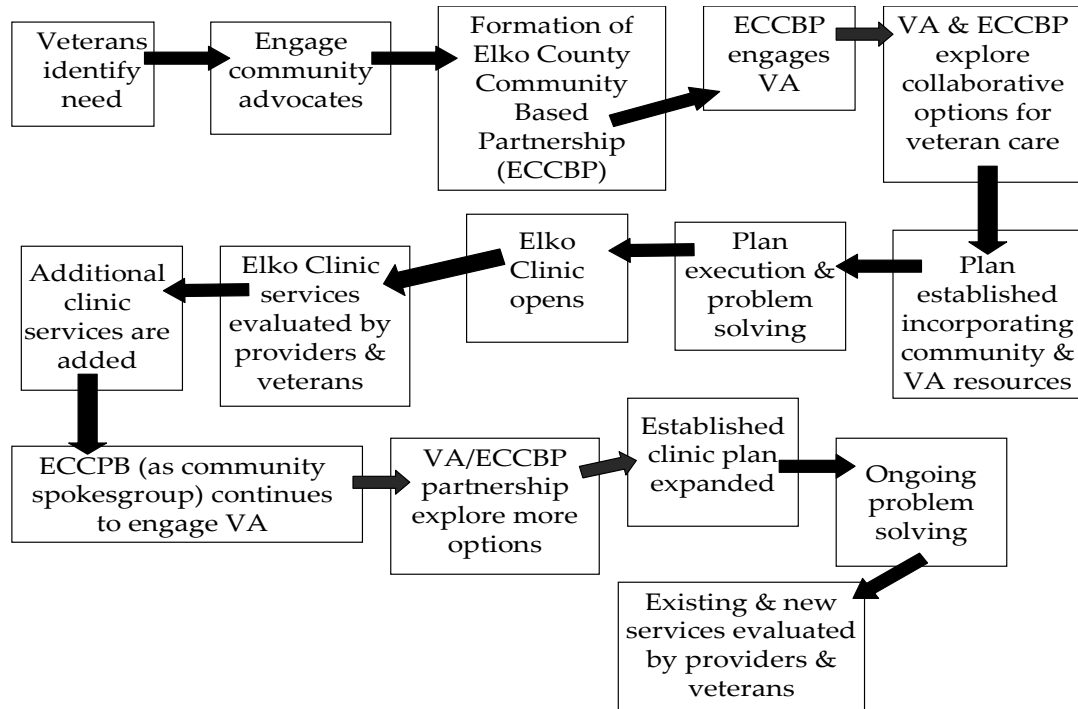
Lessons Learned:

- The veteran patient population should be consulted and activated as a first step in identification for healthcare provision and telehealth intervention.
- The empowering of the Elko County Community Based Partnership (ECCBP) and engaging local education partners enhanced the likelihood of long-term sustainability.
- It is important to link the clinic reciprocally to continuing professional education institutions (Great Basin College & University of Nevada-Reno)

Statistics of 84 Persons who Attended the Clinic in First Year of Operation

	Mean
Age (Yrs.)	64.6
# of Clinic Visits	2.8
# of Medications	9.9

Graphic of Elko Clinic Creation Process



References

- Anderson, E. & McFarlane, J. (1996). The process of community as partner. In J. Brogan & V. Barishek (Eds.), *Community as partner, theory, and practice in nursing* (pp. 165-328). Philadelphia: Lippincott.
- Juretic, M., Hill, R., Luptak, M., Rupper, R., Bair, B., Floyd, J., Westfield, B., & Dailey, N. (2009). *Reaching out to older veterans in need: The Elko demonstration project*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Contact Information:

Nancy K. Dailey, MSN, RN-BC
 Deputy Director - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center - Western Region
 VA Salt Lake City Health Care System 500 Foothill Blvd. (182)
 Salt Lake City, UT 84148
 (801) 582-1565 ext. 2696
 Nancy.Dailey@va.gov