Establishing a Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) for the Transitional Living Center (TLC) of LVHN

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Introduction & Background

- The Transitional Living Center (TLC) is a residential treatment program that serves residents aged 18 years and over who have a mental health diagnosis and need housing in Lehigh County, PA.[1] By providing an affordable, home-like space, the TLC fosters the development, recovery and improvement of key living skills.[2]
- Prior to the project, the TLC was storing information via written records and documents that were uploaded onto the EPIC software.
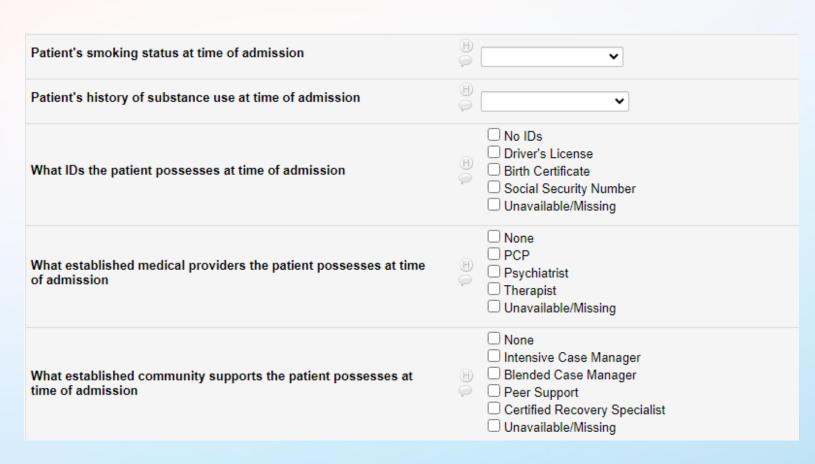- **The objective of this research project is to develop a data repository for the TLC.**

Methods

Literature Review

Determine what information should be included in the database, including data to be recorded at both admission and discharge

Data Collection

Collect data via written records, clinical shadowing, and other documents into a singular location to be processed for input

Database Creation

Utilizing Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) software, develop a client database that can be used on a daily basis for TLC operations

Results

- The creation of an efficient and organized platform, capable of storing all of the necessary data related to TLC functions
- Two databases were created: one for current clients, and one for 2022-2023 discharges.
- REDCap software can be employed to discover trends between data points to improve quality of care and promote successful outcomes during and after a client's stay in the program
- A way to track the changing conditions of clients as they progress through the program, as well as highlight any preemptive concerns one may have regarding a client.

Figure 1. *Some of the data collected within the RedCAP database*

Discussion

Homelessness and Mental Health Disorders

- Many experiencing homelessness have high rates of chronic and co-occurring health conditions, mental and substance use disorders.[3] While the TLC is a temporary housing solution, it aims to build personal and monetary skills that allow its clients to locate long-term housing.

Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders

- Out of the 62 clients currently entered in the platform, 47 clients are either former or current smokers, and 42 clients are either former or current substance users.

Future Directions / Suggestions

- The database can be utilized for research purposes – this can be conducted by comparing findings to similar programs, as well as a supplement to scholarly articles focusing on the benefits of transitional housing. In future months, we will be submitting an IRB proposal to achieve this goal.
- The database will allow for the TLC's data collection to be standardized. If necessary, certain pieces of data can be added / removed to specific client interviews as staff see fit.
- Data of past fiscal years will be uploaded to the database, which will allow for further research to be conducted, and strengthen correlations between trends.
- The data selected to be included on the database will also be converted into an EPIC form for admissions and discharges, which will assist physicians and other healthcare professionals to locate information more efficiently.

Acknowledgements:

References:

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