**CAFM Educational Research Alliance (CERA)**

Date: January 2021

Individuals Submitting This Report: **Dean Seehusen, MD**, director; **Melissa Abuel, CMP**

1. **Status of Program (please type an X before appropriate option):**

**X Green: On target with achieving objectives/timeline.**

**Yellow: Caution - program moving forward but key areas need attention.**

**Red: Not hitting multiple targets.**

1. **REQUESTED ACTIONS FOR STFM Board: (i.e., feedback requested on areas of concern, additional fiscal note/resources requested, etc.):** None at this time
2. **Program Goals**

CERA Vision

excellent family medicine educational research

CERA Mission

Provide a centralized infrastructure to:

• Produce rigorous and generalizable medical education research

• Facilitate collaboration among medical education researchers

• Provide training and mentorship in educational research methods

1. **Program Smart Objectives**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SMART Objectives** | **Measurement Data to Date** |
| **Between January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020:** | |
| 1. CERA will receive at least 100 survey applications | 206 submissions/applications were received between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2020  ***Objective achieved*** |
| 1. CERA participants will generate at least 30 presentations and/or peer-reviewed papers | 43 papers were published between 1/1/18 and 12/31/20  69 presentations were completed between 1/1/18 and 12/31/20  ***Objective achieved*** |
| CERA will develop 1-2 new projects/collaborations in order to expand the breadth of our impact on family medicine scholarship | 1. CERA collaborated with AAFP to survey residents and students in 2020. 2. CERA collaborated with ABFM in 2018 to develop a survey that will be linked to a future ABFM survey.   ***Objective achieved*** |

1. **Attendance/program participation (3-year history, if applicable):** Expect maintenance or some growth in attendance for activities. Steady decline in attendance is an indication that issues need to be addressed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **(2020)** | **(2019)** | **(2018)** |
| **# Program participants** | This is extremely difficult to measure, as we don’t know how many people are involved in each research study. We can count the number of accepted submissions (above), and possibly the number of mentors. We could potentially count the # of authors, but there would be duplication (an author could be listed on a paper and multiple presentations), and it would be difficult to determine which year to attribute them to. | | |

1. **Program’s budgeted income/expenses & actual income/expenses:**

(net profit accounts for direct staff salaries, not indirect)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **(2020)** | **(2019)** | **(2018)** |
| **Projected Income** | $16,000 NAPCRG, ADFM, AFMRD, STFM contrib. | $10,000 NAPCRG, ADFM, AFMRD, STFM contrib. | $10,000 NAPCRG, ADFM, AFMRD, STFM contrib. |
| **Projected Expenses** | $22,800 | $23,500 | $24,000 |
| **Projected NET PROFIT** | -10,800 | -13,500 | -14,000 |
| **Actual Income** | $12,000 (reflects 3 other CAFM orgs. STFM’s contribution is an expense.) | $10,000 NAPCRG, ADFM, AFMRD, STFM contrib. | $10,000 NAPCRG, ADFM, AFMRD, STFM contrib.  Plus $4,622 previously held in deferred but recognized income in 2018. Total $14,622\* |
| **Actual Expenses** | $15,860.06 | $24,454 | 26,737 |
| **Total NET PROFIT** | -$3,860.06 | -$14,454 | -12,115 |
| **Comments on trend or overall financial performance:**   * CAFM organizations increased their annual support from $2500 to $4000 in 2020. * \*2018-see note within actual income line above. In 2013 and 2014, CERA received funding from MedU to support grants to investigators and IRB fees. * 2020 expenses were lower due to no travel expenses with all virtual meetings | | | |

**BACKGROUND:**

1. **Program Description:**

CERA, the CAFM Educational Research Alliance, is a framework to focus and support medical education research. CERA is a joint project of CAFM. Direct expenses are shared by STFM, ADFM, NAPCRG, and AFMRD, and STFM provides administrative support for the initiative.

CERA conducts 4-5 surveys per year, generally of various subsets of CAFM membership. Each survey includes questions submitted by CAFM members on multiple subjects, as well as a [set of recurring questions](http://www.stfm.org/initiatives/CERA_corequestions.cfm) to provide data for historical comparisons. CERA added resident and student surveys in 2020.

Researchers receive their individual survey results, plus the demographic and organizational information. Individuals who submit survey questions are given 3 months to analyze the data before it is released to the general membership. The expectation is that investigators will write and submit a paper within those 3 months. Data is collected through STFM and housed at STFM under the oversight of CERA.

1. **Accomplishments to Date:**

* In collaboration with AAFP, CERA completed the first student and resident surveys in 2020. The CERA chair currently serves as director over these surveys.
* The Robert Graham Center now has a representative on the CERA Steering Committee.
* The first call for the CERA fellowship opened in January 2021 with an application deadline of early April. This fellowship year will begin virtually.
* CERA had its 100th published paper in 2020. To date, CERA research has resulted in 112 published papers and 153 presentations.
* Starting in 2021, the ABFM Foundation agreed to financially support CERA with $4,000 per year and will continue to have a representative on the steering committee.
* CERA has had three directors: Chip Mainous, PhD (Founding director), Dean Seehusen, MD, and now Heather Paladine, MD.

1. **Areas we are watching or working to address:**

* Heather Paladine, MD, took over as CERA director in October 2020, and the CERA Steering Cmt plan to review and update the objectives over the next year.
* The first student and resident surveys received very low response rates. The steering committee is looking into options for incentivizing students and residents for future surveys.
* In February 2021, a presentation introducing ACOFP to CERA will be presented at their national meeting. We believe this will likely increase our PD survey response rate and increase the overall interest in CERA among osteopathic family physicians.
* In March 2021 with the start of new committee terms, the committee will have new members in all the director roles. We are working on a transition and on-boarding plan for this change.

1. **Estimated staff time required to administer program:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **(2020)** | **(2019)** | **(2018)** |
| **High=>30 days per year** | X | X | X |
| **Mod=8-29 days per year** |  |  |  |
| **Low= <8 days per year** |  |  |  |

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1. **Impact on Field: *(Add X to designate your evaluation.)***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **High** | **Med** | **Low** | Prior Assessment | Level to which the program is, or has the potential to, contribute meaningfully to advancing FM. |
| **X** |  |  | **2020: High**  **2019: High** |

1. **Program Differentiation: *(Add X to designate your evaluation.)***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **High** | **Med** | **Low** | Prior Assessment | This indicates the level to which the program offers something particularly unique to the discipline that we can do better than anyone else. Is another organization providing this service through another program? |
| **X** |  |  | **2020: High**  **2019: High** |

1. **Member Need: *(Add X to designate your evaluation.)***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **High** | **Med** | **Low** | Prior Assessment | In general, the more specialized the audience is that a program addresses, the greater the need for the program to address a high priority for the discipline or be a strong revenue generator. |
| **X** |  |  | **2020: High**  **2019: High** |

**Project Leaders:**

**Current CERA Steering Committee Members:**

* **Dean Seehusen, MD, MPH, CERA director**
* **Sandra Burge, PhD, mentor director**
* Aimee Eden, PhD, MPH, ABFM representative
* Kelly Everard, PhD**, clerkship director survey director**
* **Diane Harper, MD, NAPCRG representative**
* Christy Ledford, PhD, general membership survey director
* Heather Paladine, MD, program director **survey director**
* F. David Schneider, MD, MSPH**, ADFM representative**
* **Kim Stutzman, MD, AFMRD representative**
* **Meg Coffman, MS, Robert Graham Center representative**

**STFM staff:**

* Melissa Abuel, CMP, project liaison
* Ray Biggs, IT support