VAIRRS August Program Update

AUGUST 2022

HOT TOPICS

- VAIRRS Strategic Plan
- Track Training Dashboard
- VAIRRS Mentor Program

VAIRRS Wizard Completion Campaign

Thank you to the VA research community for increasing VAIRRS utilization. Submitted projects are at a record high, nearing 19,000 total projects. Please remember to complete the Project Cover Sheet for all new and active projects.

As of August 8, 2022, there are 18,653 active projects in the system, with 12,806 completed Project Cover Sheets (PCS). With a PCS completion rate of 68.7%, it is of utmost importance to concentrate efforts at your facility to ensuring each project has a completed PCS. Completed Project Cover Sheets are the foundation of the VAIRRS database.
IN FOCUS

Dashboard Updates
A new page has been added to the field dashboards that reflects study team training data. Training data will show all active and expired trainings for each user in each project. Please review the new page and submit all feedback to VAIRRSDashboards@va.gov. You can request access to your facility’s dashboard here.

VAIRRS Strategic Plan
The VAIRRS FY 2022 – 2024 Strategic Plan is now available to the public and can be found on the VAIRRS website (click here). The strategic plan outlines the program’s growth initiatives throughout the next two years, as we continue to improve and evolve.

The goals and objectives guiding the plan through 2024 are rooted in the VAIRRS foundational mission of supporting research-related stakeholders, while also promoting and expanding the additional value it provides. Most notably, VAIRRS has selected five programmatic goals that will frame all activities:

- Foster an educated and self-reliant stakeholder group
- Evolve and grow the VAIRRS program to meet the needs of VAIRRS stakeholders
- Continually optimize and maximize the use of VAIRRS
- Provide local and enterprise leadership and other research-related stakeholders with a decision support tool driven by an authoritative data source
- Promote the local and enterprise value and uses of VAIRRS

We invite all VAIRRS users to view the strategic plan for more information. (Click here)

Thank you to the VAIRRS Strategic Advisory Council (VSAC) for their guidance and input.

VAIRRS Mentor Program
We are sending a big thank you to the VAIRRS mentors who have volunteered to assist facilities during the onboarding phase! As we move into our third year, we are planning a major update to the program. We will soon be able to offer paid (yes, PAID!) opportunities to serve as a VAIRRS mentor. More information will be provided in the VAIRRS September Newsletter. Stay tuned...

**VAIRRS Standard Library Updates**

The most recent Change Control Board (CCB)-approved changes to the VAIRRS Standard Library include:

1. **Administrative Prereview letter template (New!)**
2. **IRB Information Sheet** – updated Exemption Category 1A and 1B definitions
3. **IRB 7.0 Waiver of Documentation/7.1A Waiver of Consent** – removed investigator signature line
4. **3.22L R&DC Annual Status Acknowledgement letter template (New!)** – available August 30th
5. **2.1A – Waiver of HIPAA** – updated IRB of Record or Privacy Board Name field
6. **IRB 7.4R Reviewer Checklist** – clarified language in summary section

**VAIRRS Monthly Webinar**

**Topic:** Central IRB Submission Process for Multiple Co-PIs

**Date:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00 PM (EDT)

**Lead Presenter:** Jessica Kroll, VA Central IRB Administrator

**Purpose:** VAIRRS will feature VA Central IRB Administrator, Jessica Kroll, MA, CIP, to review the updated submission process for multiple co-PIs,
walking users through the changes and protocol for this process.

**Target Audience:** R&D committee members, IRB members, research office staff, compliance officers, and investigator and study team members

**Webinar Registration:** Click here to register

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**New and Improved VAIRRS Webpages**

As one of the leading platforms to distribute VAIRRS information, we have refreshed and added new VAIRRS webpages on the ORD website in a comprehensive effort to benefit the end-user experience. The updates include:

**About Us Webpage** - The About Us webpage elaborates on its predecessor, the previous Overview page, sharing important information regarding program background information, our mission and vision statements, the recently published strategic plan and much more.

**New Dashboards Webpage** - VAIRRS provides dashboards that offer users customized and tailored data, metrics, analytics and decision-making tools. The dashboards webpage outlines the benefits of dashboards, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a visual representation of VAIRRS dashboards.

**New Contact Webpage** - The VAIRRS Support Team is here to answer any questions related to the VAIRRS program, resources, training and VA processes. It is important that all VAIRRS users are aware of the support resources available to them. This new webpage serves as a one-stop-shop for all communication channels connected to the VAIRRS program and how to find help when you need it!

**Visit the Site**
Reminder: All committee administrators should be included in the VAIRRS Administrators distribution group. Email VAIRRS@va.gov to let us know if anyone at your site should be added to the distribution group.

UPCOMING VAIRRS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER TOPICS

- September VAIRRS Ambassador
- September VAIRRS Webinar
- VAIRRS Mentor Program Announcement

Thank you,

VAIRRS Program Team

VAIRRS WEBSITE: https://www.research.va.gov/programs/orppe/vairrs/default.cfm

VAIRRS SharePoint: https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAORPPE/VAIRRS

ORD Policy and Guidance FAQs: https://www.research.va.gov/resources/policies/faq-search.cfm

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