



PFAC Annual Report Form

Health Care for All (HCFA) is a Massachusetts nonprofit advocacy organization. We work to create a health care system that provides comprehensive, affordable, accessible, and culturally competent care to everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us. We achieve this as leaders in public policy, advocacy, education and service to consumers in Massachusetts.

- **Why complete an annual report for my PFAC?**

Under Massachusetts law, hospital-wide PFACs are required to write annual reports by October 1st. These reports must be made available to members of the public upon request. As we have in past years, we are requesting a copy of your report, and suggest that you use our template/web based system to assist you in collecting information.

- **What will happen with my report and how will HCFA use it?**

We recognize the importance of sharing of information across PFACs. Each year, we

- make individual reports available online
- use all information submitted to develop the annual Massachusetts PFAC Report
- share the data so that PFACs can learn about what other groups are doing and HCFA can learn about the best ways for us to support PFACs

If you choose to use the template, we encourage you to use our web-based survey. Follow [this link](#) to complete your report. Once the survey is completed, you will be directed to a summary of your responses, which you will be able to either save as a PDF or copy and paste into another document for your own reporting.

If you wish to use this Word document or any other form, please email it to PFAC@hcfama.org.

- **Who can I contact with questions?**

Please contact us at PFAC@hcfama.org or call us at 617-275-2919.

Reports should be completed by October 1, 2016.

2016 Patient and Family Advisory Council Annual Report Form

The survey questions concern PFAC activities in fiscal year 2016 only.

1. Hospital Name: __VA Boston Healthcare System_____

NOTE: Massachusetts law requires every hospital to make a report about its PFAC publicly available. HCFA strongly encourages you to fill out a separate template for the hospital-wide PFAC at each individual hospital.

2a. Which best describes your PFAC?

- We are the only PFAC at a single hospital – **skip to #3 below**
- We are a PFAC for a system with several hospitals – **skip to #2C below**
- We are one of multiple PFACs at a single hospital
- We are one of several PFACs for a system with several hospitals – **skip to #2C below**
- Other (Please describe: _____)

2b. Will another PFAC at your hospital also submit a report?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2c. Will another hospital within your system also submit a report?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

3. Staff PFAC Co-Chair Contact:

2a. Name and Title: __Vincent Ng, Director_____

2b. Email: __vincent.ng@va.gov_____

2c. Phone: __857-203-6000_____

- Not applicable

4. Patient/Family PFAC Co-Chair Contact:

3a. Name and Title: _____

3b. Email: _____

3c. Phone: _____

- Not applicable

5. Is the Staff PFAC Co-Chair also the Staff PFAC Liaison/Coordinator?

- Yes – skip to #7 (**Section 1**) below
- No – describe below in #6

6. Staff PFAC Liaison/Coordinator Contact:

5a. Name and Title: __Pallas Wahl, Public Affairs_____

5b. Email: __pallas.wahl@va.gov_____

5c. Phone: ____857-203-5879_____

Not applicable

Section 1: PFAC Organization

7. This year, the PFAC recruited new members through the following approaches (check all that apply):

- Case managers/care coordinators
- Community based organizations
- Community events
- Facebook and Twitter
- Hospital banners and posters
- Hospital publications
- Houses of worship
- Patient satisfaction surveys
- Promotional efforts within institution to patients or families
- Promotional efforts within institution to providers or staff
- Recruitment brochures
- Word of mouth / through existing members
- Other (Please describe: _____)
- N/A – we did not recruit new members in FY 2016

8. Total number of staff members on the PFAC: 7 .

9. Total number of patient or family member advisors on the PFAC: 15 .

10. The name of the hospital department supporting the PFAC is: Director's Office

11. The hospital position of the PFAC Staff Liaison/ Coordinator is Public Affairs

12. The hospital provides the following for PFAC members to encourage their participation in meetings (check all that apply):

- Annual gifts of appreciation
- Assistive services for those with disabilities
- Conference call phone numbers or “virtual meeting” options
- Meetings outside 9am-5pm office hours
- Parking, mileage, or meals
- Payment for attendance at annual PFAC conference
- Payment for attendance at other conferences or trainings
- Provision/reimbursement for child care or elder care
- Stipends
- Translator or interpreter services
- Other (Please describe: _____)
- N/A

Section 2: Community Representation

The PFAC regulations require that patient and family members in your PFAC be “representative of the community served by the hospital.” If you are not sure how to answer the following questions, contact your community relations office or check “don’t know.”

13. Our hospital’s catchment area is geographically defined as: _____ Greater Boston _____

Don’t know

14. Tell us about racial and ethnic groups in these areas (please provide percentages; if you are unsure of the percentages check “don’t know”):

	RACE						ETHNICITY	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	White	Other	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	
14a. Our defined catchment area								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don’t know
14b. Patients the hospital provided care to in FY 2016								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don’t know
14c. The PFAC patient and family advisors in FY 2016								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don’t know

15. Tell us about languages spoken in these areas (please provide percentages; if you are unsure of the percentages select "don't know"):

	Limited English proficiency (LEP) %	
15a. Patients the hospital provided care to in FY 2016		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't know
15b. PFAC patient and family advisors in FY2016		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't know

15c. What percentage of patients that the hospital provided care to in FY 2016 spoke the following as their primary language?

	%
Spanish	
Portuguese	
Chinese	
Haitian Creole	
Vietnamese	
Russian	
French	
Mon-Khmer/Cambodian	
Italian	
Arabic	
Albanian	
Cape Verdean	

Don't know

15d. In FY 2016, what percentage of PFAC patient and family advisors spoke the following as their primary language?

	%
Spanish	
Portuguese	
Chinese	
Haitian Creole	
Vietnamese	
Russian	
French	
Mon-Khmer/Cambodian	
Italian	
Arabic	
Albanian	
Cape Verdean	

Don't know

16. The PFAC is undertaking the following activities to ensure appropriate representation of our membership in comparison to our patient or catchment area:

___Regular communication with a variety of partners including Veteran Service Organizations, Veteran Service Agents, Military Partners, Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans National Cemetery Administration, and individual outreach. Methods used include Community Outreach Events, Town Halls, Quarterly Meetings, Invitation. _____

Section 3: PFAC Operations

17. Our process for developing and distributing agendas for the PFAC meetings (choose):

- Staff develops the agenda and sends it out prior to the meeting
- Staff develops the agenda and distributes it **at the meeting**
- PFAC members develop the agenda and send it out prior to the meeting
- PFAC members develop the agenda and distribute it **at the meeting**
- PFAC members and staff develop agenda together and send it out prior to the meeting. (Please describe below in #17a)
- PFAC members and staff develop agenda together and distribute it **at the meeting**. (Please describe below in #17a)
- Other process (Please describe below in #17b)
- N/A – the PFAC does not use agendas

17a. If staff and PFAC members develop the agenda together, please describe the process:

__Agendas are developed by VA staff to address the questions, recommendations and/or concerns raised by council attendees _____

17b. If other process, please describe:

18. The PFAC goals and objectives for 2016 were: (check the best choice):

- Developed by staff alone
- Developed by staff and reviewed by PFAC members
- Developed by PFAC members and staff
- N/A – we did not have goals for FY 2016 – Skip to #18

19. The PFAC had the following goals and objectives for 2016:

___Improve Veteran Access to Care _____

___Communication with both Internal and External Stakeholders _____

20. Please list any subcommittees that your PFAC has established:

___Veteran/Family Consumer Council (VFCC); Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Community Meetings, Residential Program Stakeholders Meeting, Center for Integrated Wellness Steering Committee and Peer Leadership Committee, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Stakeholders Committee, Veteran Center Meetings, Community Living Center Resident Council _____

21. How does the PFAC interact with the hospital Board of Directors (check all that apply):

- PFAC submits annual report to Board
- PFAC submits meeting minutes to Board
- Action items or concerns are part of an ongoing "Feedback Loop" to the Board
- PFAC member(s) attend(s) Board meetings
- Board member(s) attend(s) PFAC meetings
- PFAC member(s) are on board-level committee(s)
- Other (Please describe: _____)
- N/A – the PFAC does not interact with the Hospital Board of Directors

22. Describe the PFAC's use of email, listservs, or social media for communication:

 We utilize email and social media for event announcement and/or distribution of agendas and minutes. _____

- N/A – We don't communicate through these approaches

Section 4: Orientation and Continuing Education

23. Number of new PFAC members this year: 2

24. Orientation content included (check all that apply):

- "Buddy program" with experienced members
- Check-in or follow-up after the orientation
- Concepts of patient- and family-centered care (PFCC)
- General hospital orientation
- Health care quality and safety
- History of the PFAC
- Hospital performance information
- Immediate "assignments" to participate in PFAC work
- Information on how PFAC fits within the organization's structure
- In-person training
- Massachusetts law and PFACs
- Meeting with hospital staff
- Patient engagement in research
- PFAC policies, member roles and responsibilities
- Skills training on communication, technology, and meeting preparation
- Other (Please describe below in #24a)
- N/A – the PFAC members do not go through a formal orientation process

24a. If other, describe:

25. The PFAC received training on the following topics:

- Concepts of patient- and family-centered care (PFCC)
- Health care quality and safety measurement
- Health literacy
- A high-profile quality issue in the news in relation to the hospital (e.g. simultaneous surgeries, treatment of VIP patients, mental patient discharge, etc)
- Hospital performance information
- Patient engagement in research
- Types of research conducted in the hospital
- Other (Please describe below in #25a)
- N/A – the PFAC did not receive training

25a. If other, describe:

Section 5: FY 2016 PFAC Impact and Accomplishments

The following information only concerns PFAC activities in the fiscal year 2016.

26. The five greatest accomplishments of the PFAC were:

Accomplishment	Idea came from...	PFAC role can be best described as...
<p>26a. Accomplishment 1: Improve Veteran Access to Care</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being informed about topic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing feedback or perspective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussing and influencing decisions/agenda <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leading/co leading</p>
<p>26b. Accomplishment 2: Improve Communication with Internal and External Stakeholders</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being informed about topic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing feedback or perspective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussing and influencing decisions/agenda <input type="checkbox"/> Leading/co leading</p>
<p>26c. Accomplishment 3: Improve Menu Selections for Inpatient Programs</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Being informed about topic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing feedback or perspective <input type="checkbox"/> Discussing and influencing decisions/agenda <input type="checkbox"/> Leading/co leading</p>
<p>26d. Accomplishment 4: Protect Patient Privacy</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC <input type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Being informed about topic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing feedback or perspective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussing and influencing decisions/agenda <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leading/co leading</p>

<p>26e. Accomplishment 5:</p> <p>Implemented comprehensive patient centered care & customer service program. Standardized new employee orientation.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient/family advisors of the PFAC</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, committee, or unit that requested PFAC input</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being informed about topic</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing feedback or perspective</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Discussing and influencing decisions/agenda</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leading/co leading</p>
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27. The five greatest challenges the PFAC had in FY 2016:

27a. Challenge 1: JP Flood – maintaining access to care after severe water damage to clinical areas at JP campus.

27b. Challenge 2: IT – Developing a plan to share medical record information to support patient care in accordance with VA guidelines/firewalls.

27c. Challenge 3: Implementation of an ambassador program. Made great strides at our West Roxbury campus; need to deploy to other campuses.

27d. Challenge 4: Establishment of Boston Bedford enclave clinic to facilitate Bedford patient access to facility care. Confronted with space challenges that prevented implementation. Program is moving forward in FY17.

27e. Challenge 5: Contracting Issues with obtaining a point of service patient satisfaction survey system. Contract finally awarded at end of FY16 and scheduled for implementation in FY17.

N/A – we did not encounter any challenges in FY 2016

28. The PFAC members serve on the following hospital-wide committees, projects, task forces, work groups, or Board committees:

- Behavioral Health/substance use
- Bereavement
- Board of Directors
- Care Transitions
- Code of Conduct
- Community Benefits
- Critical Care
- Culturally competent care
- Discharge Delays
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Drug Shortage
- Eliminating Preventable Harm
- Emergency Department Patient/Family Experience Improvement
- Ethics
- Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) – sensitive care
- Patient Care Assessment
- Patient Education
- Patient and Family Experience Improvement
- Pharmacy Discharge Script Program
- Quality and Safety
- Quality/Performance Improvement
- Surgical Home
- Other (Please describe: _____)
- N/A – the PFAC members do not serve on these – **Skip to #30**

29. How do members on these hospital-wide committees or projects report back to the PFAC about their work?

_____ We are working to standardize this process across the medical center. _____

30. The PFAC provided advice or recommendations to the hospital on the following areas mentioned in the Massachusetts law (check all that apply):

- Institutional Review Boards
- Patient and provider relationships
- Patient education on safety and quality matters

- Quality improvement initiatives
- N/A – the PFAC did not provide advice or recommendations to the hospital on these areas in FY 2016

31. PFAC members participated in the following activities mentioned in the Massachusetts law (check all that apply):

- Advisory boards/groups or panels
- Award committees
- Co-trainers for clinical and nonclinical staff, in-service programs, and health professional trainees
- Search committees and in the hiring of new staff
- Selection of reward and recognition programs
- Standing hospital committees that address quality
- Task forces
- N/A – the PFAC members did not participate in any of these activities

32. The hospital shared the following public hospital performance information with the PFAC (check all that apply):

32a. Complaints and serious events

- Complaints and investigations reported to Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Healthcare-Associated Infections (National Healthcare Safety Network)
- Patient complaints to hospital
- Serious Reportable Events reported to Department of Public Health (DPH)

32b. Quality of care

- High-risk surgeries (such as aortic valve replacement, pancreatic resection)
- Joint Commission Accreditation Quality Report (such as asthma care, immunization, stroke care)
- Medicare Hospital Compare (such as complications, readmissions, medical imaging)
- Maternity care (such as C-sections, high risk deliveries)

32c. Resource use, patient satisfaction, and other

- Inpatient care management (such as electronically ordering medicine, specially trained doctors for ICU patients)
- Patient experience/satisfaction scores (eg. HCAHPS - Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems)
- Resource use (such as length of stay, readmissions)
- Other (Please describe: _____)

- N/A – the hospital did not share performance information with the PFAC – **Skip to #35**

33. Please explain why the hospital shared only the data you checked in Q 32 above:

34. Please describe how the PFAC was engaged in discussions around these data in #32 above and any resulting quality improvement initiatives:

35. The PFAC participated in activities related to the following state or national quality of care initiatives (check all that apply):

35a. National Patient Safety Hospital Goals

- Identifying patient safety risks
- Identifying patients correctly
- Preventing infection
- Preventing mistakes in surgery
- Using medicines safely
- Using alarms safely

35b. Prevention and errors

- Care transitions (e.g., discharge planning, passports, care coordination, and follow up between care settings)
- Checklists
- Electronic Health Records –related errors
- Hand-washing initiatives
- Human Factors Engineering
- Fall prevention
- Team training
- Safety

35c. Decision-making and advanced planning

- End of life planning (e.g., hospice, palliative, advanced directives)
- Health care proxies
- Improving information for patients and families
- Informed decision making/informed consent

35d. Other quality initiatives

- Disclosure of harm and apology
- Integration of behavioral health care

- Rapid response teams
- Other (Please describe ____Above are reviewed by the medical center but not with PFAC at this time. We do provide an overview of how VA measures quality (Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning/SAIL report) and provide additional information as requested by the PFAC ____)

N/A – the PFAC did not work in quality of care initiatives

36. Were any members of your PFAC engaged in advising on research studies?

- Yes
- No – Skip to #40 (Section 6)

37. In what ways are members of your PFAC engaged in advising on research studies? Are they:

- Educated about the types of research being conducted
- Involved in study planning and design
- Involved in conducting and implementing studies
- Involved in advising on plans to disseminate study findings and to ensure that findings are communicated in understandable, usable ways
- Involved in policy decisions about how hospital researchers engage with the PFAC (e.g. they work on a policy that says researchers have to include the PFAC in planning and design for every study)

38. How are members of your PFAC approached about advising on research studies?

- Researchers contact the PFAC
- Researchers contact individual members, who report back to the PFAC
- Other (Please describe below in #38a)
- None of our members are involved in research studies

38a. If other, describe:

_____Members are provided with informational updates at quarterly meetings. _____

39. About how many studies have your PFAC members advised on?

- 1 or 2
- 3-5
- More than 5
- None of our members are involved in research studies

Section 6: PFAC Annual Report

We strongly suggest that all PFAC members approve reports prior to submission.

40. The following individuals approved this report prior to submission (list name and indicate whether staff or patient/family advisor):

Badzmierowski, Joe	PVA/Patient
Cherniak, Heather	NSO/PVA/Patient
Costa, Maria	Occ Health Nurse MA NG
Ingram, Emanuel	Veteran/Patient
Leonard, Patrick	Volunteer/Veteran
McCarthy, Dave	Vet to Vet Boston/Patient
Minor, Paul	Chaplain MA NG/Veteran
Myers, Jersouk	MA NG MST/Veteran/Patient
Nankin, Michelle	Patient Experience Coordinator
Noble, Robert	Am. Ex-POW/Veteran/Patient
O'brien, Ray	Chelsea Soldiers Hm./Veteran/Patient
Perenchief, David	VSO Beverly MA/Veteran/Patient
Reynolds, Greg	Veteran
Sellars, Tom	Patient/Veteran
Christine Snow	QM/Staff
Smith, Carin	VSO Marshfield/Veteran/Patient
Hencke, David	Outreach/Staff

41. Describe the process by which this PFAC report was completed and approved at your institution (choose the best option).

- Collaborative process: staff and PFAC members both wrote and/or edited the report
- Staff wrote report and PFAC members reviewed it
- Staff wrote report
- Other (Please describe: _____)

Massachusetts law requires that each hospital's annual PFAC report be made available to the public upon request. Answer the following questions about the report:

42. We post the report online.

- Yes, link: _____
- No

43. We provide a phone number or e-mail address on our website to use for requesting the report.

- Yes, phone number/e-mail address: _____
- No

44. Our hospital has a link on its website to a PFAC page.

Yes, link: _____

No, we don't have such a section on our website