

## **Program Evaluation and Efficacy Support Services (PEESS)**

### **Challenge**

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) serves to promote the effective operation of psychological health (PH) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) programs that treat service members, veterans and their families. The Defense Department tasked DCoE to evaluate the effectiveness of PH and TBI programs, identify gaps and redundancies of programmatic efforts and identify opportunities to for quality and outcome improvement.

Program evaluation is a complex and systematic process that should begin even before the program is implemented and conducted periodically throughout the life of a program. This process can be difficult due to the limited ability to gather necessary quality and outcome information. In addition, comprehensive program evaluations are costly and very time-consuming, often lasting up to three years.

### **Solution**

Engility developed a standardized evaluation protocol which applies consistent research-based standards designed to evaluate program effectiveness and also to help programs detect opportunities for quality and performance improvement. Our team of subject matter experts, including former active duty Service members, has developed a rapid evaluation process which is able to capture the same breadth and depth of information as standard evaluation processes in a shortened amount of time (usually about six months).

The protocol can be used with a variety of program types including prevention, treatment, and implementation. Engility scientists support four key areas: (1) program assessment and evaluation toward continuous quality improvement, (2) state-of-the-art training and education, (3) establishing a central and secure data repository, and (4) computational standardized and validated metrics for assessing program effectiveness. Engility efforts contribute to evidence-based decision making about resource alignment by key Defense Department senior leaders through the prioritization of initiatives and Government funds allocated to program operations. This addresses the Defense Department's most difficult resource allocation challenges for Service members.

### **Benefits/Achievements**

Engility's protocols and expertise reduce the time and expense of designing, assessing and reporting on characterizing multiple types of programs to enable decision-makers to prioritize operations and to make informed fiscal decisions. Engility has already completed over 200 baseline program evaluations - directly benefiting America's military and their families. As federal and state governments and public and private institutions increasingly call for the evaluation of new and existing programs to ensure program effectiveness and efficient use of resources, rapid evaluation approaches will become more common, particularly in the public health community.