

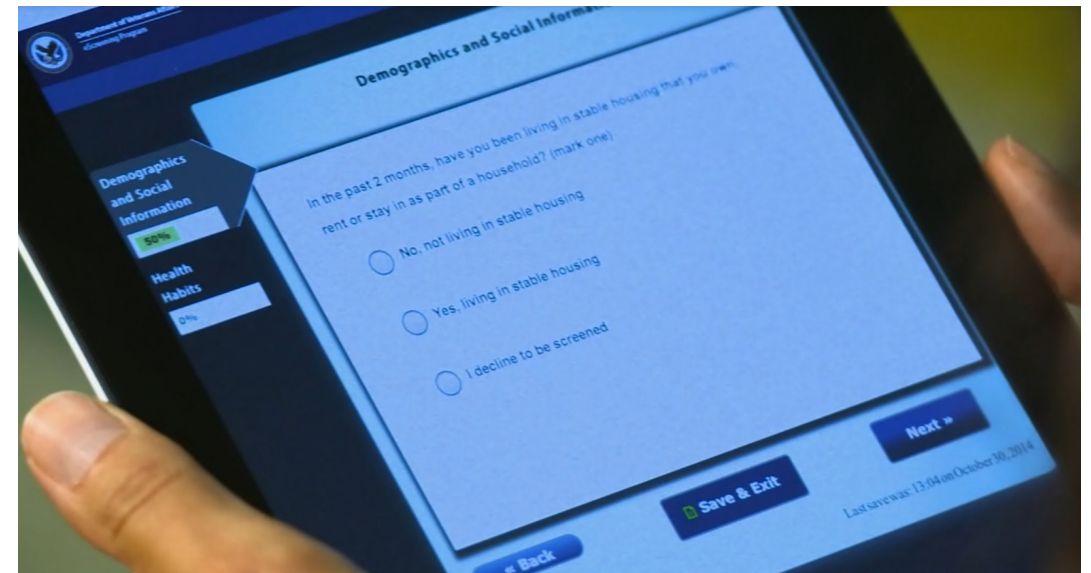
# Implementing eScreening in VHA to Improve Wellness for Veterans

James Pittman, PhD, LCSW  
Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health  
VA San Diego HCS  
University of California, San Diego

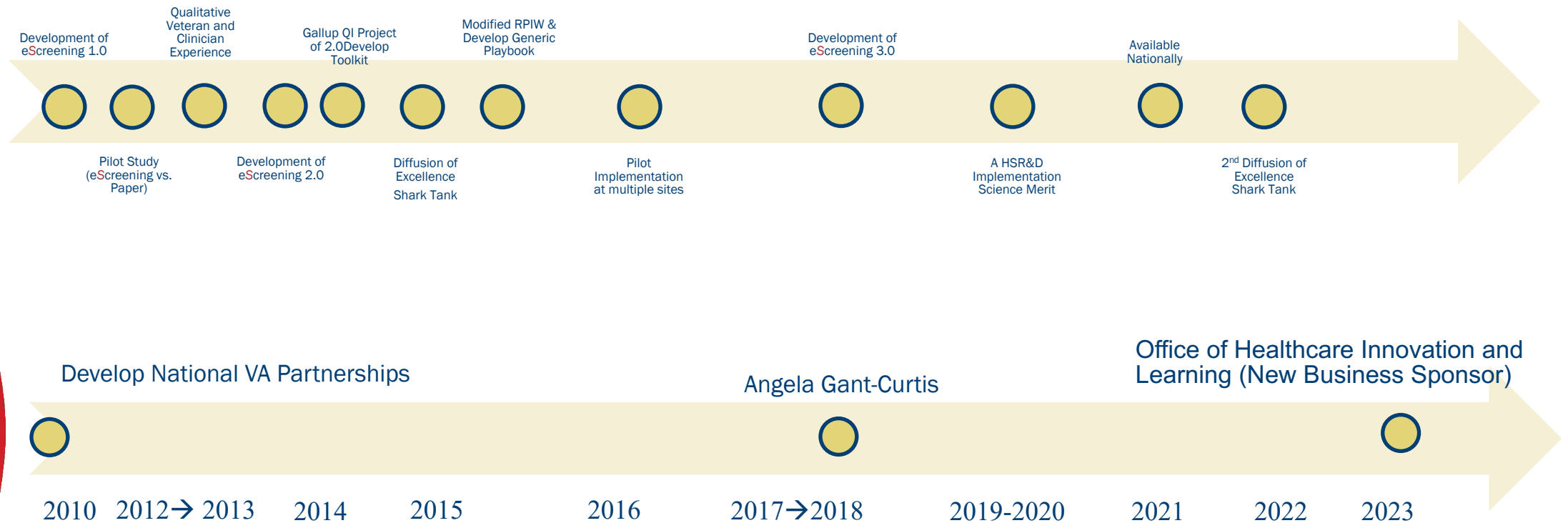


# Background

- In 2010, CESAMH set out to develop a tool to aid early identification of health problems, screening, and triage.
- eScreening is a mobile self-screening tool efficiently and effectively collects health information and provides real-time feedback to patients and providers.



# eScreening Timeline



# Features of eScreening

- Fully customizable remote data platform integrated with the electronic health record
- eScreening communicates with CPRS, reading and completing due clinical reminders, writing text notes, and satisfying measurement-based care for mental health
- eScreening provides a survey building experience on par with private sector
- Veterans can access screenings from any device with web connectivity
- Customizable dashboard alerts for real time monitoring of safety concerns
- eScreening is an evidenced-based clinical decision support tool



# Selected Research Outcomes

- High Veteran satisfaction
- Time savings in documenting in medical record
- More likely to complete over paper-based screening
- More likely to receive consults for specialty care
- Greater efficiency in suicide-risk screening and comprehensive evaluation

- [Pittman, J. O. E., Floto, E., Lindamer, L., Baker, D. G., Lohr, J. B., & Afari, N. \(2017\). VA eScreening program: Technology to improve care for post-9/11 veterans. \*Psychological Services, 14\*\(1\), 23–33. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000125>](https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000125)
- [Pittman, J.O.E., Afari, N., Floto, E. et al. Implementing eScreening technology in four VA clinics: a mixed-method study. \*BMC Health Serv Res 19\*, 604 \(2019\). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-019-4436-z>](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-019-4436-z)
- [Erin Almklov, PhD, Niloofar Afari, PhD, Elizabeth Floto, MS, Laurie Lindamer, PhD, Samantha Hurst, PhD, James O E Pittman, PhD, Post-9/11 Veteran Satisfaction With the VA eScreening Program, \*Military Medicine\*, Volume 185, Issue 3-4, March-April 2020, Pages 519–529, <https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usz324>](https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usz324)

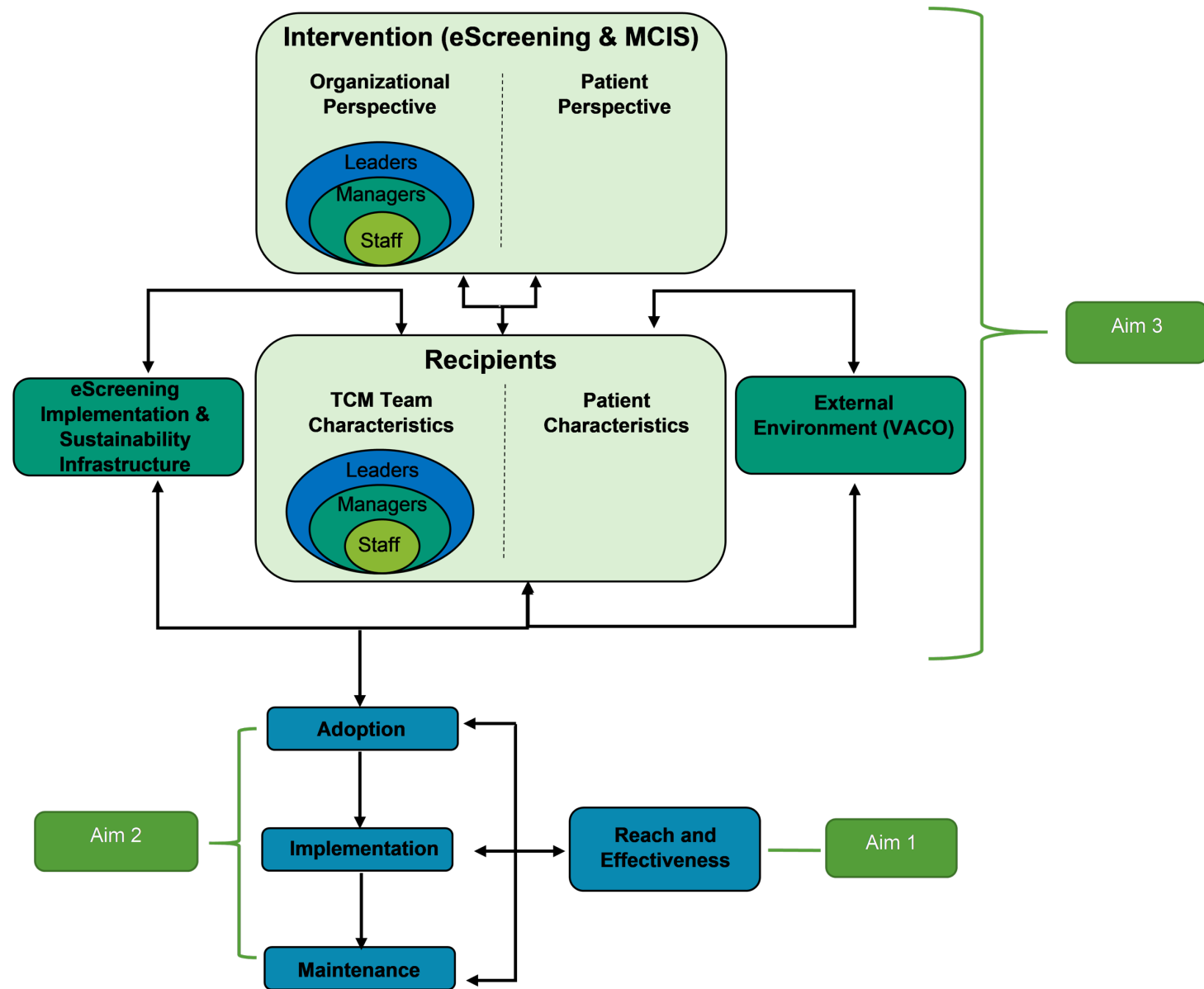


# HSR&D MERIT Study Overview

- This is a mixed methods hybrid 2, effectiveness-implementation, stepped-wedge trial of eScreening in eight VHA sites. Our study aims address the questions of:
  - » *1) whether screening with eScreening compared to oral and paper-based methods in transition and care management (TCM) programs is associated with improved rates (reach) and speed of PTSD, depression, alcohol, and suicide screening & evaluation, and increased referral to mental health treatment (effectiveness)*
  - » *2) whether and to what degree our eScreening multi-component implementation strategy(MCIS) is feasible, acceptable, and has the potential to impact adoption, implementation, and maintenance of eScreening*
  - » *3) how contextual factors influence the implementation of eScreening between high and low eScreening adopting sites.*

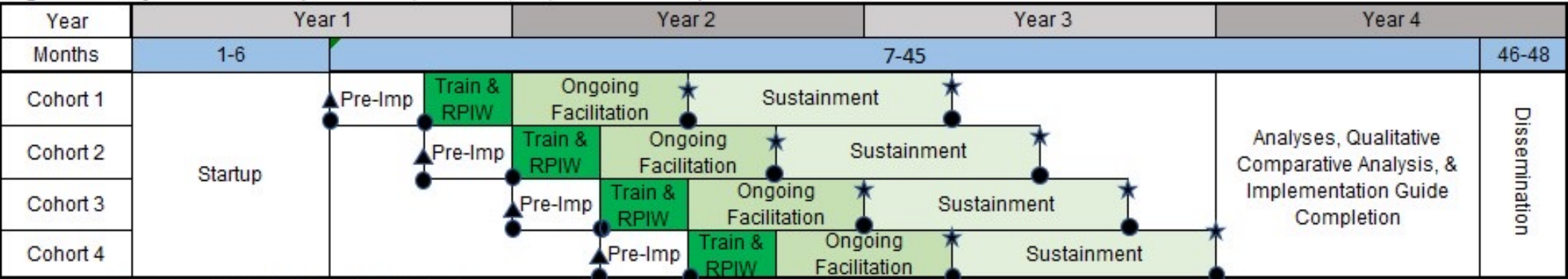


# PRISM Model



# Study Timeline

Figure 2. Project Overview (N=8 Sites, 45 Staff, 27,600 Veterans)



- Electronic Medical Record Data Pull
- ★ Staff Measures and Interviews
- ▲ Initiate Ongoing Data Collection: Field notes and time motion tracking





# Current Use

- 60 sites have implemented or are in in pre-implementation planning
- ~15,000 eScreening assessments were completed in FY19-21
- ~15,000 for FY22
- ~100k have been completed nationally since inception
- Primary and specialty care programs are in pre-implementation phases at multiple sites
- National collaborations with M2VA, Whole Health, and PACT Act
- HSR&D QI Project Race/Ethnicity Module



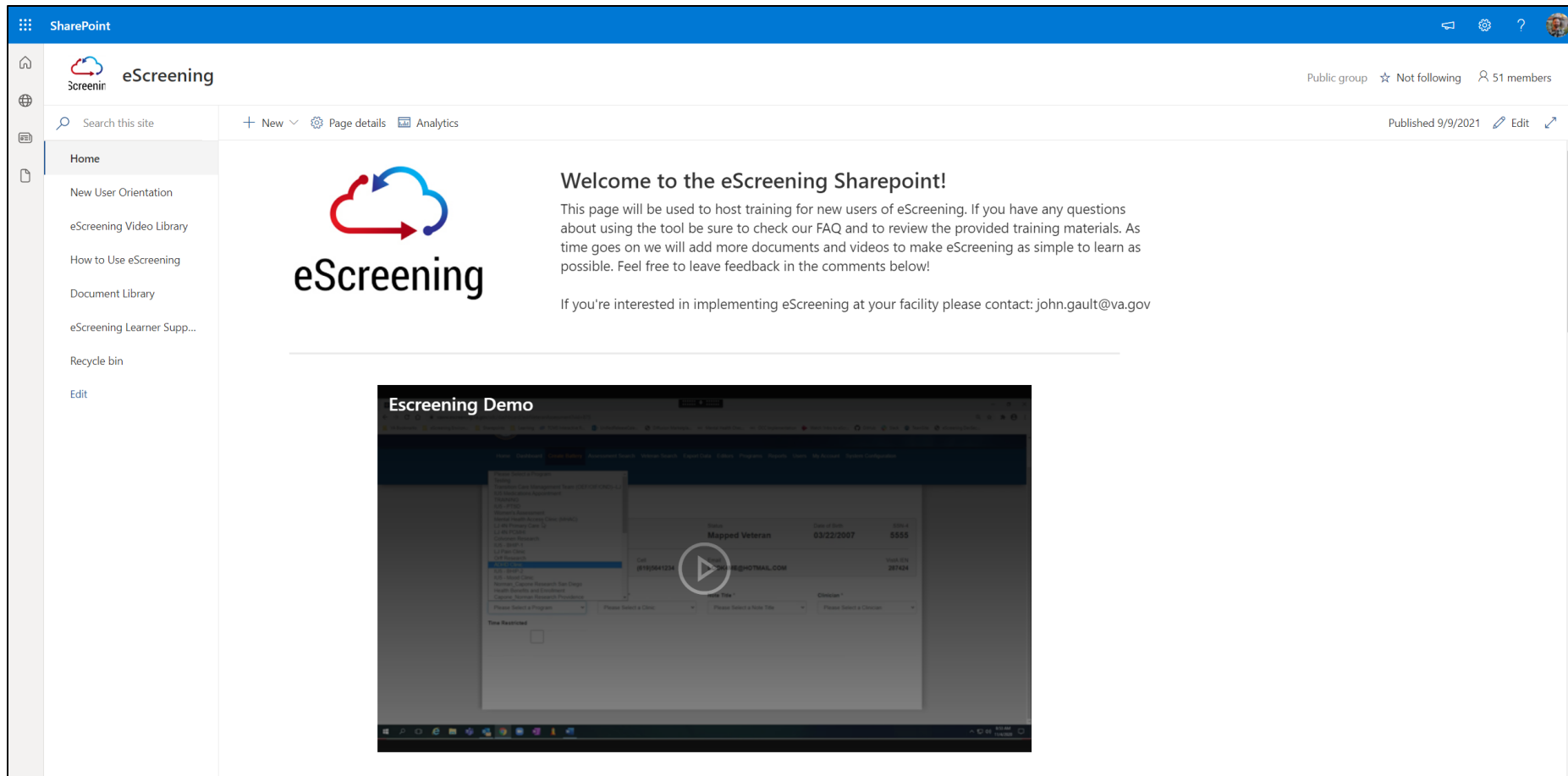
# Support for eScreening

- Won 2022 Innovations Ecosystem Shark Tank competition
- In 2016, the eScreening program was named a Gold Standard Practice for diffusion throughout VHA by the Under-Secretary for Health.
- Executive Sponsor– Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning
- Kit Teague, Executive Director of Innovations Ecosystem
- Angela Gant-Curtis, OIT Innovation/Emerging Technologies



# eScreening Sharepoint

- <https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/vhaescreening>



The screenshot shows the SharePoint interface for the eScreening site. The top navigation bar includes the SharePoint logo and the site name 'eScreening'. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with items like 'Home', 'New User Orientation', 'eScreening Video Library', 'How to Use eScreening', 'Document Library', 'eScreening Learner Supp...', 'Recycle bin', and 'Edit'. The main content area features the eScreening logo (a cloud with a red and blue arrow) and a welcome message: 'Welcome to the eScreening Sharepoint! This page will be used to host training for new users of eScreening. If you have any questions about using the tool be sure to check our FAQ and to review the provided training materials. As time goes on we will add more documents and videos to make eScreening as simple to learn as possible. Feel free to leave feedback in the comments below! If you're interested in implementing eScreening at your facility please contact: john.gault@va.gov'. Below the text is a video player titled 'Escreening Demo' showing a screenshot of the eScreening application interface.



# Diffusion Marketplace

- <https://marketplace.va.gov/innovations/e-screening>

The screenshot shows the VA Diffusion Marketplace interface. At the top left is the VA logo and 'Diffusion Marketplace' text. A search bar and 'Your profile' link are on the top right. A navigation menu includes 'About us', 'Partners', 'Shark Tank', and 'Browse by locations'. The main content area features a breadcrumb link to 'Home', the title 'eScreening', and a note 'Last updated 25 days ago'. Below this are 'Bookmark', 'Share', and 'Print' icons. The main text describes eScreening as a web-based tool for clinical screenings, developed by the Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health (CESAMH) at VA San Diego in 2012. A blue box highlights that the innovation is replicating across multiple facilities. The 'ORIGIN' is listed as June 2012 at the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Diego, California. 'ADOPTIONS' are noted as 19 successful and 18 in-progress. 'AWARDS AND RECOGNITION' include being named Gold Standard Practice by the Under Secretary of Health in 2016, a Diffusion of Excellence Promising Practice in 2021, and the Robert L. Jesse Award. 'PARTNERS' are Care Management and Social Work Services and Diffusion of Excellence. On the right side, there is a cloud icon with arrows and the title 'eScreening', followed by a 'CATEGORIES:' section with buttons for: ACCESS TO CARE, COMMUNITY CARE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, MENTAL HEALTH, OUTPATIENT CARE, PRIMARY CARE, SPECIALTY CARE, TELEHEALTH, VETERAN EXPERIENCE, and WHOLE HEALTH.



# Questions & Discussion

James Pittman, PhD, LCSW  
James.Pittman@va.gov  
Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health  
VA San Diego HCS  
University of California, San Diego

