A Hybrid Solution: Increasing Access to Depression Care with Peer Support For Vulnerable Older Adults

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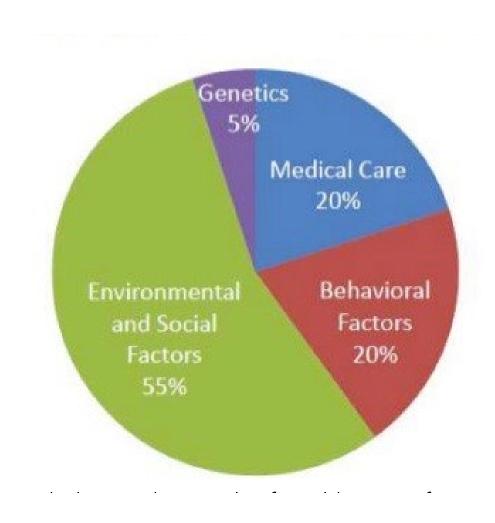


The problem, context & solution

Increase access to mental health services, specifically for low-income and older adults of color who are at greater risk and experience unique barriers to care.

IOM report on reducing disparities – using a hybrid model that integrates clinical knowledge and community resources.

Peer support as community resource and bridge to healthcare system.





Sowada, B. A Call to Be Whole: Fundamentals of Healthcare Reform, 2003.

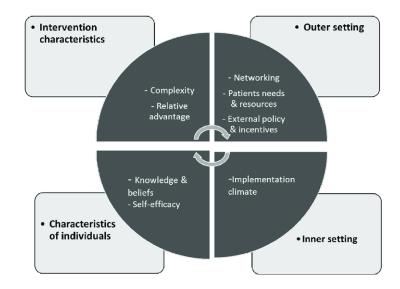
Conceptualization of Peer Support

Health System Community Peer support Psychotherapy Friendship Intentional, unidirectional Intentional, one-Naturally-occurring, directional relationship reciprocal Training & supervision relationship with with clinical professionals in peers in community In range of community and settings service settings health settings One-Directional Continuum of Helping Relationships Reciprocal Psychosocial support Peer Support Role definition Experiential knowledge Communication skills Self-care & coping Modeling



Implementation factors

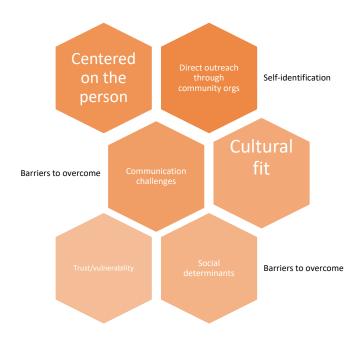
- Outer setting population health, increased, greater priority on low-income and communities of color
- Credibility in the community: Buy-in from older adults, community orgs and primary care
- "Peer support" is familiar, less intimidating, less stigmatizing
- Unfamiliar in the health system





Selection, training, coaching

- Infrastructure for peer support
- Selection is key
- Training is ongoing
- Coaching/supervision needed for accountability and performance



Thank you.

