

Review comment-1

Yes, community-based supports are critical for veteran mental health progress. The suicide rates for veterans, male and female, are significantly higher than those for non-veterans. This is important for researchers to be aware of as more effective interventions are designed and implemented.

The manuscript is well organized including the appropriate sections for a research article.

The mixed method approach appears appropriate. I do not have expertise in research methodology. However, the explanations seem complete. Some additional explanation and citations of the choice of methods and their suitability would help those with limited research methodology knowledge.

Overall, yes. Some of the in-text references were not included in the references section.

A qualitative methodology source would be helpful.

Specific Comments:

This article is important for researchers to be aware of as more effective community-based interventions are needed. The discussion is succinct and focused. However, a statement or two regarding research that notes the overall effectiveness of community education and communitybased mutual aid would enhance the context. For example: Barnes, L. A., et al. (2018). Community health workers' role in mental health care in lowresource settings: A systematic review. *The Lancet Global Health*, 6(10), e1122-e1131. Ehsan, A. M., et al. (2019). Social capital and health: A systematic review of systematic reviews. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 41(5), 951-965. Repper, J., & Carter, T. (2011). A review of the literature on peer support in mental health services. *Journal of Mental Health*, 20(4), 392-411. World Health Organization. (2022). mhGAP Intervention Guide for Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Disorders in Non-Specialized Health Settings (Version 3.0). Geneva: WHO. The limitations section should mention and address the absence of women in the sample.