

Review comment-2

Yes, this manuscript addresses an urgent and underexplored area within public health and social work practice. The integration of a biopsychosocialspiritual model makes it especially relevant for interdisciplinary readers interested in holistic approaches to mental health and resilience. The program's applied, community driven design provides strong practical value and contributes to ongoing discussions about non-clinical interventions for veterans' well-being.

The current title is clear, descriptive, and well aligned with the content. It effectively captures the program name and purpose. If you wish to strengthen the scholarly tone, a possible alternative could be: "Operation Resilience: Evaluating a Community-Based Peer Support Program to Promote Well-Being and Suicide Prevention Among Veterans."

The abstract is well written, concise, and gives a balanced overview of the study's rationale, methods, and findings. You might consider adding a brief mention of the sample size and key quantitative result (such as the improvement in peer support) to make the abstract more data driven. For example, a single sentence summarizing the primary outcome would strengthen the reader's understanding of the evidence base.

Yes, the English quality is strong and readable. The tone is professional and clear throughout. A few minor stylistic adjustments could help with flow for example, limiting long compound sentences and ensuring consistent use of past tense when describing study procedures. Overall, it meets scholarly standards.

Introduction: Excellent background and strong justification for the study. It clearly situates the problem within current public health discourse. Consider condensing some of the statistics to maintain focus on the central argument.

Methods: The design is well described, and the inclusion of both quantitative and qualitative measures strengthens the rigor. Adding a brief explanation of why unpaired samples were used would enhance clarity.

Results: The presentation is clear, and the inclusion of both numerical data and qualitative themes is commendable. A visual summary (e.g., table or figure for themes) could improve readability. Discussion: The discussion is well integrated with the literature, and the implications for community based care are meaningful. To further strengthen the paper, clarify the discrepancy between the quantitative and qualitative findings, particularly the limited statistical changes versus strong qualitative themes.

Limitations/Future Directions: Thoughtfully written. Expanding on how future studies might measure long - term outcomes or include control groups would enhance research rigor.

The references are relevant, recent, and appropriately balanced between empirical and conceptual sources. You may wish to add one or two additional recent studies on peer support within community settings (post-2021) to demonstrate engagement with the latest literature.

This is an excellent and timely manuscript that offers practical insights into peer driven suicide prevention among veterans. The use of a biopsychosocial spiritual framework adds unique value to the literature, and the clear articulation of both challenges and lessons learned enhances its applicability. To strengthen the paper further, consider:

- Clarifying methodological limitations (e.g., unpaired design).
- Condensing repetitive sections in the introduction.
- Adding one or two visuals summarizing results or qualitative themes.
- Including more concrete examples of how Operation Resilience could be scaled or replicated.

Overall, this manuscript makes a valuable contribution to community based public health and social work research. With minor adjustments, it would be well-suited for publication.