



Doctoral Dissertation Defense Announcement

**"Investigating Key Elements of Peer Support Programs Focused on Recovery and Reentry
in Community-Based Organizations: A Qualitative Implementation Science Study"**



Kelli E. Brown

Candidate for Doctor of Public Health

School of Graduate Studies

Medical College of Wisconsin

Committee in Charge:

Staci Young, PhD (Mentor)

Katherine Quinn, PhD

David Nelson, PhD

Date: Wednesday, April 10 2024

Time: 10:00 AM (CST)

Defense Location: HUB A4520/A4628

Zoom: <https://mcw-edu.zoom.us/j/94368124622?pwd=Vks5b0xtZHE4TE5MWdJEU2INZkRWZz09>

Meeting ID: 943 6812 4622 Passcode: YEUDw9ix

Graduate Studies:

Public Health Practice I-Building a Foundation for Public Health

Public Health Practice II-Building Community Partnerships and Coalitions

Public Health Practice III-Strategies to Eliminate Health Disparities

Public Health Practice IV: Public Health Applied Research

Research Theory

Data Collection and Analysis

Public Health Research Study & Design

Executive Communication in Public Health

Introduction to Community Engagement

Executive and Organizational Leadership for the Public's Health

Doctoral Seminar

Applied Practice Experience

Doctoral Dissertation

Dissertation

“Investigating Key Elements of Peer Support Programs Focused on Recovery and Reentry in Community-Based Organizations: A Qualitative Implementation Science Study”

Peer support programs are recognized as an evidence-based practice to effectively support individuals in recovery from substance use and reduce recidivism. Peer support is provided by individuals with lived experience who have overcome personal challenges and are positioned to guide individuals currently navigating similar challenges in their own lives. Peer support mentors may be employed in a variety of settings including hospitals, inpatient and outpatient recovery programs, respite centers, within the justice system, crisis services, and more, the setting of focus of this study is community-based organizations. Organizations design and structure peer support programs differently, and some have developed unique approaches to meet the needs of the individuals they serve.

The integration of peer support into behavioral health services has grown significantly in recent years. This growth is partly due to Medicaid expansion to reimburse peer support services and the formalization of state certifications for peer support specialists. As peer support is becoming more widespread and incorporated into a variety of behavioral health services, there is a need to establish guiding principles for organizations that are developing or delivering peer support programs. There is opportunity for organizations to share the lessons they have learned about implementing successful peer support programs, identify key elements that have supported their successes, and modifications that they have made to their programs based on challenges and successes.

This study used the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) as the framework to guide data collection and analysis. The CFIR is part of implementation science which aims to facilitate the uptake of evidence-based strategies into practice and considers the design and delivery of interventions to ensure their sustained impact. Interviews were conducted with leaders of community-based organizations to identify key elements of successful peer support programs. Barriers and facilitators to successful implementation were highlighted resulting in actionable insights to develop and deliver peer support programs.

Kelli E. Brown
Curriculum Vitae
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Education:

2012	B.S.	Exercise Science, Minor Psychology Carroll University, Waukesha, WI
2015	MPH	Master of Public Health University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
2024 (expected)	DrPH	Doctorate of Public Health- <i>Current student</i> Medical College of Wisconsin, Wauwatosa, WI

Relevant Employment:

Medical College of Wisconsin

Wauwatosa, WI

Education Coordinator III

April 2019- Present

- Independently execute tasks for the Master of Science Global Health Equity program, including program development and promotion, course development, faculty support, inter-institutional agreements, and facilitating and maintaining international partnerships.
- Collaborate with the program director and faculty to oversee the development of the program's curriculum and smooth implementation of student enrollment and course completion.
- Develop reports and present program updates to internal and external stakeholders, collaborate with multi-disciplinary partners, evaluate program performance, and develop innovative program materials to promote effective teaching strategies and recruitment of diverse students.
- Implement outreach initiatives with institutions and community organizations, maintain the program website and social media pages and identify funding opportunities.

Carroll University

Waukesha, WI

Adjunct Instructor

January 2020-May 2021

- Taught Environmental Health (2 credits) and Introduction to Public Health (4 credits).
- Responsible for developing and delivering lectures, grading course assignments, and communicating with the students and program director to ensure effective student learning

Harris County Public Health and Environmental Health

Houston, TX

Investigator

April 2016- January 2018

- Educated business owners and managers on food safety and public health policies while monitoring progress of each establishment to ensure compliance with local regulations and promote quality health practices.
- Responded to community complaints about environmental safety hazards and ensured the necessary cleanup was completed through effective communication and relationship building.
- Demonstrated acute attention to detail through thorough documentation and persistent follow-through to ensure establishments were in compliance with all state regulations.

Adventures in Missions

Gainesville, GA

International Team Leader

January 2013- April 2014

- Developed outreach programs in twelve countries in collaboration with international partners to meet community needs such as health education, clean water initiatives, and disaster relief.
- Supervised groups consisting of 5-10 volunteers tasked with humanitarian work made possible by overseeing operational tasks such as budgeting, logistics, conflict resolution, and effective management of resources.
- Collaborated with colleagues to collect and evaluate feedback regarding volunteer participation, program efficacy, and group dynamics to improve the quality of services provided and volunteer satisfaction.

Publications:

1. Barker, A., **Brown, K.**, Siraj, D. *et al.* Barriers and facilitators to infection control at a hospital in northern India: a qualitative study. *Antimicrob Resist Infect Control* 6, 35 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-017-0189-9>
2. Barker AK, **Brown K**, Ahsan M, *et al* What drives inappropriate antibiotic dispensing? A mixed-methods study of pharmacy employee perspectives in Haryana, India *BMJ Open* 2017;7:e013190. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2016-013190
3. Barker, A. K., **Brown, K.**, Ahsan, M., Sengupta, S. & Safdar, N. (2017). Social determinants of antibiotic misuse: a qualitative study of community members in Haryana, India. *BMC Public Health*, 17(1), 333. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-017-4261-4>