Needs Assessment 2019-2020

MARCH 3, 2020

Wellbeing Initiative, Inc.
Authored by: Danielle Smith & Sadie Thompson
1. Overview of the Needs Assessment and Project Partners Involved

The following information was gathered in a community-based needs assessment conducted in the state of Nebraska during December 2019, January and February 2020. Project partners include stakeholders interested in Peer Delivered Services, Certified Peer Support Specialists, and Peers within our communities.

*The MISSION of Wellbeing Initiative, Inc. is to empower individuals living with mental health and substance use challenges to reach their fullest potential.*

“Cultivating communities through training, education, and opportunities for success”
2. **Methods Used to Gather Information**

Methods used to collect data included Google Form surveys. Surveys through Google Forms were distributed to participants via email addresses. There was a total of 113 completed surveys received.

3. **Participation**

Of the surveys distributed to the state of Nebraska, 113 completed surveys were returned through google forms. The cities/sub cities in Nebraska that participated in the need’s assessment were Ashland, Bellevue, Bennington, Grand Island, Gering, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Millard, Nebraska City, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha, Overton, Papillion, Scottsbluff, Sidney, Valparaiso, and Wahoo. The survey shows that 37.8% of individuals job titles are Peer Support Wellness Specialist, 14.4% of individuals are Peer Support Specialists, 8.1% of individuals are Family Peer Support Specialists, 6.3% of individuals are either an advocate or volunteer, and 5.4% of individuals are either a Recovery Support Specialist or a Consumer Specialist.

**Figure 1: Participation in each Region of Nebraska**

![Region Participation Chart]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 5</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 6</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 2: Gender Identity

What is your gender?
113 responses

- Female: 76 (67.3%)
- Male: 36 (31.9%)
- Transgender Female: 0 (0%)
- Transgender Male: 0 (0%)
- Non Binary: 1 (0.9%)

Figure 3: Race/Ethnicity

Which race/ethnicity best describes you?
113 responses

- American Indian or Alaskan Native: 3 (2.7%)
- Asian/ Pacific Islander: 2 (1.8%)
- Black or African American: 2 (1.8%)
- Hispanic: 8 (7.1%)
- White/ Caucasian: 99 (87.6%)
- Multiple ethnicity: 2 (1.8%)
- Indigenous Santee Dakota: 1 (0.9%)
4. **Strengths and Limitations of Needs Assessment**

Strengths of this assessment include the partnership between the Nebraska Coalition for Peer Delivered Services and peer community in the state of Nebraska. The relationships between 19 counties and all six regions in Nebraska are reflected in the needs assessment. The Nebraska Coalition for Peer Delivered Services and its stakeholders have developed long term relationships regarding the delivery of peer services in Nebraska. Nebraska Coalition of Peer Delivered Services also demonstrates strong relationships within our communities in each region of Nebraska.

Limitations of these activities include the level of participation or contacts in Rural areas in Nebraska, which resulted in lower engagement in the needs assessment among these communities.

5. **Key Findings**

Through the need’s assessment, the following training areas were identified:

- Trauma Informed Peer Support (68.7%)
- Crisis Management (61.6%)
- Vicarious Trauma and Compassion Fatigue (59.6%)
- Leadership Development in Peer Support (57.6%)
- Cultural Competence in Peer Support (53.5%)
- Family Education (49.5%)
- Mental Health First Aid (48.5%)
- Peer Support 101 (39.4%)

Other areas of training mentioned:

WRAP, WHAM, WRAP and Effects of Trauma, SMART Recovery, Suicide Prevention, and Prep for Peer Support Certification, and Conflict Resolution.
Needs within communities:

- Support for women incarcerated
- Training and Information on overall wellness
- Education and awareness within peer networks
- Needs for Peer Support training
- Training and education of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders
- Need for Wellness Recovery Centers
- Peer Provider/Employee Training
- Forensic Peer Support Training

6. **Recommendations**

As a result of this needs assessment, Wellbeing Initiative, Inc. and partners will prioritize specific training need’s identified by participants (i.e., “Trauma Informed Peer Support”; “Crisis Management”) and needs identified within communities, such as “Support for women” and “Training and education of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders”, among others, across the state of Nebraska.