

UNDERSTANDING PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS DELIVERED BY CANADIAN SCI COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: PERSPECTIVES ON ORGANIZATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Background

SCI community-based spinal cord injury (SCI) organizations provide peer support/mentorship programs for individuals with SCI

Purpose

Understand the organizational considerations of peer mentorship programs



Method

36 adults were interviewed from four provincial SCI community-based organizations (Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario)



- + Peer mentors (providing mentorship)
- + Mentees (receiving mentorship)
- + Family members of mentees
- + Organizational staff

Findings



ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

“[The government] agreed to nominally support our chapter but they wouldn’t fund it. So, we launched a fundraising program” - Kenneth (Mentor)



Visibility and access (e.g; informing recruiting)



Funding (e.g; to support programs)



Collaborations (e.g; working with other organizations)



Barriers (e.g; not enough staff)



Create a peer mentorship team (e.g; identifying experiences of mentors)



Mentorship matches (e.g; considering mentees needs)

ORGANIZATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS



Formats (e.g; informal vs. formal)



Introductions (e.g., timing and location)

“ I’ve actually linked two spouses of husbands with SCI together so they could talk on how they cope with being the spouse of an individual with a SCI and how that impacts your relationship” – Maria



Peer support for families (e.g; need for families to be educated and connected to mentees)



Modes of delivery (e.g; face to face, online, groups, one-on-one.)

Conclusions



Delivering peer support/mentorship programs for people with SCI is a complex enterprise for organizations



We know a little more about the organizational considerations of peer support/mentorship programs that are delivered by community-based organizations in Canada

Reference:

Sweet, S.N., Hennig, L., Pastore, O.L., Hawley, S., Clarke, T.Y., Flaro, H., Schaefer, L., & Gainforth, H.L. (2021). Understanding peer mentorship programs delivered by Canadian SCI community-based organizations: perspectives on mentors and organizational considerations. *Spinal Cord*, 59, 1285-1293 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41393-021-00721-6>



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