Reviewer's report

Title: Does a consumer training work? A follow-up survey of the PartecipaSalute training programs

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Reviewer: Martha M Funnell

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript addresses a topic of growing interest, namely the engagement of consumers and consumer organizations in health care. The study reports results of follow-up to multiple training programs and attempts to understand the impact of the training program on individuals and organizations. The article is generally well-written and the literature review was reasonable complete. It would have strengthened the study to have also done similar follow-up measures with organizational leaders to determine their view of the impact on the program. The results point out one of the major problems, which is that attendees tend to focus more on personal knowledge rather than the organizational perspective in these situations. Collecting the same information about the program impact from organizations would have strengthened the study.

Revisions

Was information collected as part of the program evaluation about intentions to act? Given that intention has been shown to be a reasonable predictor of behavior, it would have been useful.

How were participants chosen for the follow-up study?

Although the word empowerment was used multiple times, it was not measured nor is it clear how participants were "empowered". Providing information is not adequate for empowerment, which is supported by the results which show greater impact on the individual than on the organization.

Were strategies for impacting the organization based on the training included in the training or was it up to participants to figure out how to do this?

Include in the discussion how you will change the program in future presentations to address these issues.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.