Author's response to reviews

Title: Trained volunteers to support chronically ill, multimorbid elderly between hospital and domesticity - A systematic review of one-on-one-intervention types, effects, and underlying training concepts

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Reviewer reports:

Grace Warner (Reviewer 1): The authors have made the suggested changes. There are still some minor changes/typos that need to be addressed

P4

Line 103-take out e.g.and put in For example

Answer: revised: “At the same time, against the backdrop of social and demographic developments, care is being increasingly viewed as a task for society as a whole, as exemplified by caring communities. Further, in Germany, for example, legislators and nonprofit or community-based organizations in the field favor the increased integration of volunteers” (Page 3, Line 92 – Page 4, Line 94)

Line 115- should be has been instead of was- The authors need to do a thorough review of the verb tense throughout the manuscript

Answer: Revised as proposed (Page 4, Line 101). The entire manuscript was reviewed by a professional english editorial service.

Line 113 take out colon

Answer: revised as proposed (Page 4, Line 102)

P5
Line 124-edit...community, THAT ARE predominantly group based.

Answer: revised as proposed (Page 4 Lines 109-111)

Line 125-...engage individuals to increase cancer...

Answer: revised as proposed (Page 4, Lines 112)

Line 128-...and volunteers have already taken on...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Page 4, Line 115-116)

Line 130-whether, and how, chronically ill...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Page 4, Line 117)

Lines 134-135- take out Tthere were...some publications have addressed.

Answer: Revised as proposed (Page 5 Lines 121-122)

Line 136-change to...However information on how to train volunteers...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Page 5, Lines 122-123)

P 7

Line 165 change to ...Assuming the search would be unsatisfactory, it was supplemented...institutions offering voluntary engagement.

The search was conducted on German institutions focused on research and practice...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Page 6, Lines 144-146)

Line 176- ...s supplementary search (within?) organizations made sense...the effort of an institutional search generated additional results. Our group did not have the expertise to locate international institutions...

Answer: Revised as follows: “First, due to the limited data available in the field, a supplementary within-organizations search made sense. Second, it was necessary to examine whether an
institutional search generated additional results. Our group did not have the expertise required to locate international institutions.” (Page 6, Lines 152-155)

P.*

Line 203-they evaluated transitional care support delivered one-on-one at home...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Page 7, Lines 179-180)

Lines 208-209 look at sentence structure to make it clearer

Answer: bullets added (to make it clearer; Page 7, Lines 180-189)

P 11

Line 270-That the data was not sufficient to form well supported categories...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Section Results, Page 10, Lines 249-250)

Line 272- We added to these initial categories by inductively identifying additional types of volunteer support...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Section Results, Page 10, Lines 252-253)

p 19

Line 474- The review identified three evaluated fields of one-to-one...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Section Discussion, Page 18, Line 443)

p 21

Line 521- This could be due to the rationale that focusing...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Section Discussion, Page 19, Line 488)

Lines 525-526 I don't understand that sentence

Answer: Revised as follows: The longer training period resulted from extensive units on "Sensitization of the target group" and "Tasks (theory / practice)". (Section Discussion, Page 20, Lines 492-494)

p 23
Line 559-The supplementary institutional search generated additional...

Answer: Revised as proposed (Section Discussion, Page 21, Line 518)

Elizabeth Orsega-Smith (Reviewer 3): You did a nice job addressing the comments of both myself and the other reviewers. The manuscript is much improved. I would just suggest some revisions to the tables.

Specifically on Table 3, I am unsure what is BL-postintervention or BL 3 month follow up and the statistics that you have below those.

Answer: “BL-postintervention” is the effect from the beginning of treatment until the end of treatment, “BL – 3 months follow up” is the effect from the beginning of treatment until three months after the end of treatment. Explanatory footnotes added. (Table 3, Page 30-32)

I checked on your abbreviations and the footnote at the end of the Table 3 and did not find anything to describe that.

Answer: The abbreviations have been extracted from the original studies, additional information can be found there. Explanatory note added: “Further information on the instruments can be found in the original studies” (Table 3, Page32). Statistical terms are explained in the section “Study Selection, Data Extraction, and Synthesis” (Page 8). A summarizing table can be found at “List of abbreviations” (Pages 23-24)

On Table 4, it seems as if you are double referencing. You do not need the APA style and the AMA (numerical ) reference, unless that was specified elsewhere. It gets confusing to the reader.

Answer: Revised as proposed (Table 4, Page 33-34)