

## Abstract

A local focus group discovered there was confusion regarding what services substance abuse agencies provide in Joplin, leaving community members powerless in their efforts to seek treatment. Empowerment of a community is critical to all members as it can bring about necessary changes. A tool created to empower a community is a community asset map. The current study seeks to know in what ways a community asset mapping of the Joplin area will empower both the community's consumers and social service workers to get the help they desire? The following hypothesis was tested: a community asset map in Joplin will increase (H1) agencies knowledge of the Joplin community (H2) agencies' perception of the Joplin community (H3) the agency's empowerment levels, and (H4) clients' empowerment levels. The study makes use of a pre-test/post-test design, assessing 20 social service agencies in the Joplin community. Results of were analyzed using paired-sample t-tests with significance levels at  $p < .05$ . Results support H4, as client empowerment levels significantly increased. Results indicate that Joplin service professionals were empowered, but clients were not empowered. With the community asset map, clients now have a tool that empowers them in their recovery efforts.