Reviewer’s report

Title: The Social Pediatrics Initiative: A RICHER model of primary health care for at risk children and their families

Version: 1 Date: 29 December 2011

Reviewer: Amy Houtrow

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

*The authors are commended on their mixed methods approach. It is very hard to present this information succinctly. A major issue for this reviewer is not having enough background about RICHER on the outset to frame the rest of the manuscript. This reviewer would also recommend considering doing 2 papers -one quant and the other qualitative with more than 7 interviews.

*From a qualitative methods perspective, it is unlikely that data saturation occurred with just 7 interviews. It is also unclear how the 7 interviewees were chosen. Because of these issues, it may strengthen the paper to pull out the qualitative analysis.

*The second to last paragraph of the Discussion section doesn’t stem from the study. There was not an evaluation of the innovation of RICHER in this study. This needs to be taken out because the study did not intend to evaluate these factors.

- Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

* This reviewer would recommend that all abbreviations are spelled out at first use.
* This reviewer would recommend taking out the last sentence of the results in the abstract because it is written as a discussion point.
* This reviewer recommends re-writing the conclusion section of the abstract because the first sentence doesn’t flow from what is presented before it.
* This reviewer does not think a question mark belongs at the end of the last sentence of the background section of the abstract

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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