Reviewer’s report

Title: Screening for Personality Disorder in Incarcerated Adolescent Boys: Preliminary Validation of an Adolescent Version of the Structured Assessment of Personality-Abbreviated Scale (SAPAS-AV)

Version: 2 Date: 29 May 2012

Reviewer: Thomas Elbert

Reviewer’s report:

The authors adapted a brief and compact screen for the identification of potential Personality Disorders (SAPAS) for use with delinquent juveniles and tested its psychometric properties in 80 adolescent boys. Results indicate that the tool is a valuable and very useful addition to the diagnostic instruments, for both, clinicians and researcher.

The ms is very well-written. The concise introduction explains the rationale and necessity of this instrument. The Method gives a sufficiently detailed description of the subjects, procedures and analyses. Statistical analysis was appropriate. Findings were summarized in a way that a reader could understand them. The Discussion relates to the essential findings. Overall, I found the ms an interesting read and a very valuable contribution to the literature.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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