Author's response to reviews

Title: Challenges to Providing Quality Substance Abuse Treatment Services for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities: A Qualitative Study

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Alice Murray
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BioMed Central
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Dear Ms. Murray:

Please find the enclosed manuscript Challenges to Providing Quality Substance Abuse Treatment Services for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities: A Qualitative Study, which I am submitting for consideration for publication as a Research Article. I; Ashley Raleigh-Cohn, M.P.H.; Alexandra Fickenscher, M.P.H.; and Douglas K. Novins, M.D., substantially contributed to the writing and editing of the manuscript. All authors approve the submission of this manuscript to BMC Psychiatry. The manuscript and data analyses used for this paper have not been previously published and are not currently under review for a separate publication. All ethical standards for protecting human subjects have been followed in accordance with standards of the designated internal review boards.

Regarding financial conflicts of interest, I have received funding from the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and this funding has supported my work on this project. Dr. Novins receives support for research, program evaluation, and technical assistance with American Indian and Alaska Native from the National Institutes of Health (NIDA, NIMHD), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Administration for Children and Families, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

In this manuscript, we report the results of a qualitative study examining the challenges to providing quality substance abuse treatment services for American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) communities. To our knowledge no papers have addressed this important issue. In fact, our project is the first multi-program study to describe the challenges to providing substance abuse treatment to AI/AN communities. Our finding that challenges associated with 1) providing clinical support, 2) the infrastructure of treatment settings, and 3) the service/treatment system interact to create a highly complex and challenging set of contexts for the delivery of services is particularly striking. The interactive and complex nature of these challenges calls for more integrated, individualized, comprehensive, and longer-term substance abuse treatment services. Our three categories of challenges also provide a useful framework for eliciting challenges to providing quality substance abuse treatment in other substance abuse treatment settings. Given these unique data and compelling findings, we believe that this manuscript will be of considerable interest to the readers of BMC Psychiatry.

A previous qualitative paper drawing from the same data set examined the role of culture in substance abuse treatment programs serving AI/AN communities[1]. The current study, however, differs in by solely emphasizing challenges and by examining the provision of quality substance abuse treatment to AI/AN communities more generally.

Please note that this version of the manuscript was revised to include page numbers and line numbering.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,

Rupinder Legha, M.D.