Reviewer’s report

Title: Developing Community-based Preventive Interventions in Hong Kong: A Description of the First Phase of the Family Project

Version: 4 Date: 30 September 2011

Reviewer: Rosemary Veniegas

Reviewer's report:

General comments: This manuscript describes the development of a brief primary prevention intervention to promote family health, happiness and harmony (3Hs) in Hong Kong. This was a descriptive paper rather than a main results paper. The effort invested in developing culturally responsive measures and intervention constructs is commendable.

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

Not applicable

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The text on p. 9 and p. 21 are partially responsive to this reviewer’s request that the authors clearly and consistently operationalize constructs in the intervention. The measures which were developed and which now define the 3Hs are explained but they are not listed in Table 1 which includes a row labeled Key assessments. Constructs listed on p. 16, e.g., intention and self-efficacy, from the HAPA model are not described in the measures section and are not listed in Table 1 in Key assessments.

The qualitative methods descriptions on pages 10-12 also include results. Please consider moving the “themes [which] emerged from the groups” to the results section.

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Not applicable

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

I declare that I have no competing interests.