Dear Editors,

We thank you for your previous review of the manuscript and suggestions. We believe that combining the two manuscripts improved the overall manuscript. Enclosed is our revised manuscript titled Rationale, Design, Methodology and Sample Characteristics for the Family Partners for Health Study: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Study. As requested we have combined the two manuscripts. The study is a cluster-randomized controlled trial for a community-based obesity prevention and management program for children and parents. The manuscript describes the rationale, design and methodology for the study. We have inducted a total of 358 African American, non-Hispanic white, and bilingual Hispanic 7-10 year old children with a BMI >85th percentile and 358 parents with a BMI >25 kg/m2 over 3½ years and randomized by cohort to either the experimental or wait-listed control group. Cohorts have been randomized to a
12-week intensive intervention of nutrition and exercise education, coping skills training and exercise (Phase I), 9 months of continued monthly contact (Phase II) and then 6 months (follow-up) on their own, or to a wait-listed control group. Safety endpoints include adverse event reporting. The intention-to-treat approach will be applied to all analyses.

The study is funded by The National Institutes of Health and The National Institute of Nursing Research and is approved by The North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States Institutional Review Board. The authors have no potential competing interests to declare. As peer reviewers I would suggest the following individuals who are experts in obesity research.

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I looked through all of the Editorial Board Members areas of research on pubmed and was unable to find someone who specialized in family, adult, or child obesity or community interventions. I need to request your assistance in assigning an Editorial Board Member whose interests may be related to the subject of the manuscript.

Sincerely,
Diane Berry, PhD, ANP-BC
(e-signature)