Reviewer’s report

Title: Dilemmas in providing resilience enhancing social services to long-term social assistance clients. A qualitative study of Swedish social workers

Version: 3 Date: 3 April 2012

Reviewer: sara sanders

Reviewer’s report:

I have one minor concern with your manuscript and one concern that may take a little more time. The minor concern is that you need to add commas throughout your manuscript. Some sentences are quite difficult to read because of the lack of commas. Some careful editing would address this. The larger concern regards your data collection and analysis. You simply need more details so the reader can better assess the rigor in your methods. Here is a list of some additions that are needed:

1. More information is needed about the observations. It is said that social workers observed. Were these observations included in the analysis and results? What data were obtained and how was it used?

2. Were field journals maintained? If no, please provide an explanation for why as they are a valuable part of qualitative research. If they were used, how did they help inform your results?

3. Was each person interviewed only once?

4. What type of member checking occurred to confirm the findings from the lens of the social workers in the field?

5. How many investigators were involved in the data analysis process? This is not clear. Did all of the investigators analyze the data? How were discrepancies in interpretation addressed? What was the inter-rater reliability between those involved in the analysis process?

6. I have some concern about the use of names in the results section. Are these the actual first names of the social workers interviewed? If so, I am a little concerned about how their identity is being protected. I would advise to change their names or identify them by number instead.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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