Reviewer's report

**Title:** Sustained impact of community-based physical activity interventions: a framework for implementation

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 2 July 2013

**Reviewer:** Mark L Wieland

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well written descriptive manuscript that outlines lessons learned from important community-based health promotion interventions aimed at improving physical activity.

**Major compulsory revisions:**

1) The primary concern with the manuscript is that it is not clear that a new "framework" needs to be (or should be) articulated. To coin a new term implies the creation of new testable model that can explain why a health promotion intervention is successful or not. Instead, this manuscript highlights the use of three domains that are frequently (not unique to these highlighted projects) used together in health promotion research. PAR and CBPR (domain 1) are approaches to research that necessarily utilize interdisciplinary teams of academic and community expertise (domain 2). Social-ecological theory (domain 3) frequently provides a theoretical framework for the multis-modal interventions that are the norm for PAR and CBPR efforts. Therefore, to name the combination of these 3 domains as a new framework (framework for sustained impact) is not helpful. HOWEVER, the manuscript is still very well written and useful if re-formatted as a "lessons learned" manuscript that highlights these 3 domains as keys to the success of what appear to be very successful health promotion programs.

2) The first paragraph of the methods section is not clear. If the authors choose to re-format the manuscript according to suggestions in the previous comment, then this paragraph can likely go away or be significantly revised. It sounds like researchers brainstormed what made their interventions successful. The purpose of the literature review is not clear, particularly since the search was informed entirely by the researcher's brainstorming session. The fact that the two most specific search key words (PAR and social-ecological theory) ended up comprising 2 of the 3 domains for the "framework", lends further credance to the idea that naming a new framework is not helpful.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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