Reviewer’s report

Title: Connection to Mental Health Care upon Community Reentry for Detained Youth: A Qualitative Study

Version: 1
Date: 25 November 2013

Reviewer: Yanying Huo

Reviewer’s report:

This paper by Matthew Aalsma and colleagues explored the perceptions of youth and their caregivers in accessing mental health care at the time of community reentry through qualitative research method. The work is both interesting and informatics which found that the time period immediately after reentry was as important for youth and caregivers of motivation for behavior change and a coordination between the family, mental health, and juvenile systems was critical important which can facilitate connection to mental health care. The method which used in this paper is appropriate and well described, the title and abstract accurately convey what they found, the discussion and conclusion are well balanced and adequately supported by the data, and the authors clearly acknowledge all works which they are building.

Discretionary revisions: It is good for authors to clarify that

1. In a total of 19 youth, how many were getting connected to mental health care after detention release, and how soon?
2. In the current study, the median time period between community reentry and receiving communication from court officials.

No major compulsory revisions and minor revisions.

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'