Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 28 November 2013

Reviewer: Melissa Haswell

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This may be a cultural or national issue, but there are a few places in the paper which present young people as delinquents and their behaviours and choices as the whole problem, and that accessing mental health services is the ‘cure’. As a researcher steeped in social determinants approaches, I think it is helpful to use language that acknowledges the many systemic issues well beyond many young people’s control that promote risk of incarceration. There are also many barriers to good, effective mental health care for most people. Please note I am mainly referring to non-judgmental wording that can broaden beyond the individual perspective for the academic literature, and not to a problem in the study.

It would be valuable to see more depth in the presentation of the data – it sounds like a unique body of information relevant to such a challenging time – if not in this paper it would be great to see this in subsequent, more focused papers, perhaps giving some stories of the experiences of youth and carers through the post-release journey. In this paper, one or two mini case studies that provide a continuity of individual experience could be highly valuable to give a greater sense of how these challenges are experienced on a personal and family level.

Methods section – I suggest that the ethics approval statement go up front as the reader doesn’t have to wonder while reading, also I think it needs to be specified that the Institutional Review involved full ethical review of the protocol, especially as these are vulnerable youth.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.