Author's response to reviews

Title: Deliberative Dialogues Focussed on Healthy Public Policy

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Public Health Editors,

Thank-you for the encouraging feedback you provided on our manuscript "Deliberative Dialogues Focussed on Healthy Public Policy”. A point-by-point response to your comments and how we addressed them is below. We also included a response to the comments we recently received from the Associate Editor.

Response to comments received Oct 1st
1) "Version one is better given the potential problems with the regression analysis. Additional references ok but given your centre’s expertise in HIA and (healthy) public policy see Harris et al – 2012 (BMJ open) and 2014 (Social Science and Medicine) – which empirically then theoretically move beyond the Kemm reference to HIA and HPP to explain practitioners experiences about what it is about Public Policy which HIA is trying to influence (rather than a generic and unexplained ‘Healthy Public Policy’ which Kemm refers to simply by citing Milio – which you have already cited). “
Response: Thank-you for taking the time to provide us with feedback about the manuscript versions we recently submitted. We are resubmitting the version without the regression analysis. Our revised resubmission also includes the references you suggested (see response 3 below).

Response to comments received Aug 18th
1) “Although the statistics were reviewed by a statistical expert who seems okay with including this analysis, both Hilary and I had concerns about this and I suspect readers will too. Your new point in the limitations of the study actually serves to suggest that there was not enough statistical power to include this in the paper and I think you could delete this section while suggesting that future research focus on these three core issues.”
Response: As you suggested, we removed the regression analysis from the paper. We also added an area for future research related to using statistical methods such as regression to support generalizability of results (p.11).
2) “A final minor point concerns two references (also noting that the number of references seems quite short at present). Please add reference for the new section about known features of deliberative dialogues in the background.”
Response: We added the appropriate references to this section (p.3) and hope that doing so will also help to address your concern about the small number of references.
3) “I have no doubt that the definition of healthy public policy from the organization who funded the research is a good one, but there are additional references from peer reviewed - theoretical and empirical - sources about HPP and Public Policy which it would be good to include and which support the definition presented here.”
Thank you for considering our revisions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jboyko@uwo.ca.

We look forward to your response,

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Boyko

[On behalf of the other study authors]