Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of the Living with Hope Program for Rural Women Caregivers of Persons with Advanced Cancer

Version: 1 Date: 29 March 2013

Reviewer: Matthew Loscalzo

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Major Compulsory Revisions
The topic of hope is an important one and has direct relevance for family caregivers. The information presented however is difficult to assess because of the challenging way the paper is constructed. On a practical level the many abbreviations (most not generally known) detract significantly from the flow of the paper. But the bigger challenge is that the paper simply does not flow from one sections to the next. These problems in editing, taken together, undermine the credibility of the (already too limited) data presented. There are also typos (see page 5) that further reduce the competiveness of this manuscript. The sample size is too small for any serious conclusions to be drawn and the design is confusing. The theoretical connections with the data are not adequately supported. Table 1 in particular is poorly edited. Overall, the reader had a sense that the investigators were trying to tell too many stories.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'