Reviewer's report

Title: Voices from the frontline: Counsellors' perspectives on TB/HIV collaborative activities in the Northwest Region, Cameroon.

Version: 1 Date: 4 July 2011

Reviewer: Kayla Laserson

Reviewer's report:

Minor revisions
The paper was generally well-written and addresses a timely topic. A few points that should be corrected or addressed:

1) The background/intro too long and the literature review in it should form part of the discussion
2) In terms of centers chosen- were they hiv/aids centers or TB centers- not clear in methods
3) Data collection- page 8- should discuss how they knew they were "saturated" in the interviews
4) Trustworthiness of the study-- seems like an odd wording to justify the data collection, etc methods; plus, its not very clear what the safeguards were exactly to ensure credibility and validity--what did "many joint sesssion" accomplish? This comes up again in the discussion-- please describe more specifically which measures were taken to reduce bias
5) Not clear how the centers chosen compare to others-- are these the best? some discussion of this should be included?--how generlaizable are these results?
6) How were the two traditional healers chosen? how would you scale up the relationship between them and the public facilities?
7) Need some discussion of how to scale up all of these practices-- how can they be incorporated into other places?
8) how common is the therpeutic committee? Not really discussed in results but was discussed in discussion?
9) discussion talks about patient delay but this was not clearly presented as a problem in the results
10)The discussion should describe how these practices will be scaled up across the country and how that will happen
11) use of "expert patients" as lay volunteer counselors not described in results
12) How are the support groups really relevant to the front line workers? please make this clearer

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