Reviewer's report

Title: Behavioral Health Providers' Perspectives of Delivering Behavioral Health Services in Primary Care: A Qualitative Analysis

Version: 1 Date: 14 August 2012

Reviewer: Peter Brawer

Reviewer's report:

This is an excellently written manuscript detailing a secondary analysis of qualitative data derived from interviews of behavioral health providers embedded within VISN 2 PCMHI programs. The writing style is clear, efficient and easy to read. While this reviewer was not familiar with the qualitative analysis/methods (grounded methods) performed the authors presented them in a way in which comprehension was full.

AS an individual who has worked within the PCMHI program for 5-years, this article truly details both the facilitating factors and barriers towards full implementation and efficient functioning. The following comments are discretionary and may benefit the manuscript and further detail the PCMHI program

1) There is not a reference in which the 4-major areas of PCMHI are noted which included a) depression b) anxiety c) PTSD d) alcohol misuse. It may be beneficial to readers to know this is the mandated portion of the program

2) On page 5 while describing the “participants” it may be beneficial to describe how many pts were served, how many PCPs were involved or how many “clinics” were involved. May help the reader further comprehend the scope of the program.

3) There is a reference/quotation to “supportive counseling” (p.9) which may not be fully aligned with PCMHI reasoning

4) There are a few references to “supporting the PCP”. This wording may detract from the concept of a total shared responsibility of the patient and a true team approach

5) Page 10 – I think it would be beneficial to detail some more of the difficulties with working with specialty mental health, as I think this is a major stumbling block

6) Assessing Care Trajectory: I actually believe this is the most important part of the study and could be emphasized more.

7) Recently there have been some discussions regarding MOU’s between service lines, and having an agreement in place to have pts return from SMH to PMCHI…Although this discussion was not present in 2008 it may be worth mentioning later in the article
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests