Reviewer's report

Title: Systems thinking in Practice: The current status of the Six WHO building blocks for Health System Strengthening in three BHOMA intervention districts of Zambia: A BASELINE QUALITATIVE STUDY

Version: 2 Date: 23 March 2013

Reviewer: Juliet Kiguli

Reviewer’s report:

1. This is a well written manuscript. It has a great insight to health systems thinking which is the current topic for discussion in planning and policy.

2. Would the author have a quote to make the title read with humor( well you can choose to ignore this comment and leave it as it is. Many times, humorous titles attract readership in ethnographic studies.)

3. Regarding the methodology, please remove the word in depth interviews when talking about key informants as this may mislead the reader. An in depth interview is a detailed interview whereas a key informant is someone knowledgeable on the subject though it is also a long depth interview.

4. on p.14, why does the author say attitudes towards patients is important in the eyes of the community. This appears as lay man language or sounds colloquial. I would suggest the author says that important to the community.

5. p.14,add some detail to why certain gender is preferred in service delivery. For example, are there any cultural issues which lead to females being preferred in service delivery or why? Is age important such that older people prefer older people to examine them when sick or is it that young people are preferred by young people? What is the relationship?

6. p.17, align properly reference 7. so that this is similar to other references written.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.