Reviewer's report

Title: A technical assistance framework for building organizational capacity of health programs in resource-limited settings

Version: 4 Date: 23 June 2014

Reviewer: suzzane mcqueen

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Compulsory:

While the paper mentioned that other capacity building tools were reviewed, the sense one gets from reading this article is that the author's review found that there are no other good tools for undertaking this kind of organizational assessment (i.e., the phrase "little info exists," etc). However, there are some very strong and useful tools out there. The article should be tweaked to recognize that other ICB tools do exist, have been used for years, and are quite helpful. The article would benefit from having the authors explain further how this tool is different from these other tools or how it compliments these other tools. Or if this tool is equal to the other existing tools (which I suspect it is), then focus the article on how this tool has been used and how ITECH/HRSA has been able to demonstrate results by using it. It is great to have these types of tools, however from reading this article I am not clear why I might choose to use this tool instead of another one.

Discretionary:

PEPFAR is now using "country led programming" instead of country ownership.

It would be useful to explain further about the pool to trainers. Are these folks located at one institution? How can they be accessed by others? Are their skills being sustained?

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.