Reviewer's report

Title: Is Research Working for You? Validating a Tool to Examine the Capacity of Health Organizations to Use Research

Version: 1 Date: 10 March 2009

Reviewer: Cary Perry

Reviewer's report:

When assessing the work, please consider the following points:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

The authors make a very good case for the importance of offering organizations a structured tool to record its baseline and post-intervention research capacity while maintaining consistent terminology and meanings. There is increased interest among technical assistance providers in organizational capacity building for measures that capture group as well as individual level processes. This is a new and evolving area and the authors define it well.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?

The methods to test for item response variability, discriminant validity and potential usability of the tool are very well described with treatment of missing data explained as well as the process for using the data in group discussions.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?

The authors admit that the biggest weakness of the study was in the response rate both from organizations participating and from individuals who did not submit individual ratings. However, this study was exploratory in nature and not a purely quantitative study, so that this weakness is less important in my view. I would either redo Table 1 to include response rates at the individual level or remove the table altogether and simply describe the response rates in the methodology section (my preference in order not to give them so much weight).

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

Yes.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

Yes
7. Is the writing acceptable?
The writing is very good.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.