Reviewer’s report

Title: Observational Measure of Implementation Progress: The Stages of Implementation Completion (SIC)

Version: 2 Date: 18 July 2011

Reviewer: Jennifer L. Magnabosco

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Please briefly enhance the description of "PRISM", "Multi-systemic Therapy", and "MTFC" as some readers will not be familiar with them, While MTFC is described a bit it is still not clear what it is exactly. This is important so that the logic of the paper carries all the way through.

2. In the Background section, two transition statement(s) seem needed to better link arguments: One to introduce the sentence starting, "The evidence base program being implemented is MTFC...", and one to introduce the paragraph starting, "The current trial compares...".

3. Clarification is needed to better understand, "The current trial....". That is, "current" is not clear, e.g., is the study ongoing?, and "trial" seems a bit misleading as the paper is about the instrument, not so much the actual implementation.

4. In the Methods section the relationship between the Center and CIMH is not clear, as well as both of their roles. It's not clear if the final N includes sites from both states, and if so, how this was treated in data analysis.

5. In the Results section Table 2 discussion does not seem to match the date presented in the actual Table. The Table headers need definition and some clarification, e.g., what is "Act #"? Several of the results described do not have Ns associated, e.g., what is the # of sites associated with the description that starts with, "so far, we have noted"?, so it is difficult to assess the nature of the "variation" described..

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 that I have no competing interests.