Reviewer's report

Title: Shift Work to Balance Everyday Life? An interview study with a salutogenic perspective among registered and assistant nurses in home help service in Sweden

Version: 2 Date: 26 August 2014

Reviewer: Sandra S Bassendowski

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. I found it interesting to read especially since it focused on the positive/contributing factors for work/life balance. I had to check on the definition of salutogenesis as it is not a term that I see in articles on a regular basis!

Minor Essential Revisions:
As far as the sample for this research - I am wondering if you thought about not including the one registered nurse who participated? Do you think her comments about the work life balance were considerably different from the category of assistants who may have only high school preparation? Why didn't more registered nurses participate in the study? Why were the majority of participants who volunteered from the assistant nurses? Do you think it made a difference having a physician rather than another nurse researcher review the results? I think one of the limitations was the fact of having such a small group of participants - especially the registered nurses. Also - I think the title of the article is misleading about the perspectives from registered nurses since you only had one registered nurse. Perhaps - you could think about changing the title and remove all references to the registered nurse. Is it possible that the RN carried more emphasis due to her education and experience than the assistant nurses in surveys and focus groups?

I have some questions about the strategies that employers use to promote a caring, supportive and positive environment for employees - for example, did employees indicate that having access to (and valuing) services such as hot meals, access to gyms, self-scheduling, or employee assistance programs, etc made a difference to their perspective about work?

I would like to see an updated reference list as the majority of references are more than 4-5 years old. Worklife and balance issues are critical to health care with the impending retirements, illnesses, and employee stress so I believe that there are more recent research articles available to support this article.

As far as grammar- focus on third person and avoid the statements that begin with "We…"

Thank you again for this study that provides the positive perspective about
work-life balance.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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. Dr. Sandra Bassendowski