Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the factors affecting the implementation of tobacco and substance use interventions within a secondary school setting: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 07 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Byron Powell

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the authors' response to reviewer comments, and I do believe that the writing and organization of the paper has been substantially improved. However, I am still not convinced that this article makes a substantial contribution to the literature. In my view, the authors still do not make a convincing case about what is unique about the secondary school setting, and why it merits a systematic review of "factors affecting implementation." Making a better case for what is unique about this setting (including providing a case for the uniqueness of the UK), providing more background about gaps in understanding, and providing a clear direction for what will be done with these findings. The latter point could be focused on what will be done with these finding for the specific research group (i.e., How will these findings be used to advance implementation within secondary school settings? Is there a particular intervention that you are attempting to implement that these findings will inform?), as well as what implications these findings have for the broader field. I believe the authors do a better job of connecting the findings to extant literature, but more could be done on that front. Similarly, more could be done to suggest what is unique about these findings and how they advance the broader field of implementation science. This could focus on the specific factors identified, the methodology of their review, and/or the use of a theoretical framework to frame the review findings. However, I simply was not sold that the paper offers much that is new, nor was I clear about how one would translate these findings into meaningful action. Making these links more explicit may improve the manuscript. Another concern is that I found the results to be a hodgepodge of implementation determinants (e.g., organizational climate), implementation strategies (e.g., training), and implementation outcomes (e.g., fidelity, sustainability), with little conceptual grounding. For the most part, these "factors" were not well referenced with links back to conceptual and empirical literature. Overall, I am wondering if this article may be of greater interest to a journal audience that is specific to prevention and/or secondary schools rather than a general implementation science audience.

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