Reviewer's report

Title: Person-Centered Care Planning and Service Engagement: A Study Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial

Version: 2 Date: 17 February 2015

Reviewer: Nicola Small

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer’s report
Version: 1 Date: 16-02-15

Manuscript title: Person-Centred Care Planning and Service Engagement: A Study Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial

General comments: Thank you for inviting me to review this study protocol. It is a relatively well written manuscript describing interesting work to train mental health care staff to deliver person-centred care planning to engage consumers more actively in their care in the United States.

I have a number of recommendations for major compulsory revisions and minor essential revisions to be addressed.

Major compulsory revisions

1. (a) Please clarify the timeline of the mixed-methods study in the methods section for both the RCT (currently 2 days staff training, plus 12 months intervention) and qualitative study (starting post 6 months intervention?).

2. (b) Discussion section, first paragraph, start of the second sentence, please clarify the reference to a five year study 'Given the five year duration of the study, we anticipate there may be structural changes…' is the study the first in a 5 year programme?

3. Please insert information on the statistical analysis plan for the quantitative study in the abstract and in the methods section, this information is currently missing.

4. Please insert whether or not the CONSORT guidelines were adhered to in the Methods section.

5. In the methods section, first paragraph, please define all of the participants - ‘leadership’, ‘clinical supervisors’, and ‘direct care staff’ - in the study and their roles in the agencies (you have only defined leadership staff in the second paragraph).

6. Methods section, Intervention subsection, please give more information on the content of the ‘provider training manual’ and the ‘consumer toolkit’.

7. In the measurement subsection, PCCP Competency, please insert whether PCCQ and the Person-Centred Care Planning Documentation Quality Review Tool are unvalidated or validated measures. If validated measures, please insert
psychometric data like in the Organizational Factors subsection below.

8. Qualitative methods, participants subsection, please insert the number of consumer participants you hope to recruit in each focus group.

9. Try and be consistent when describing ‘person-centred care plans’ throughout the main text, sometimes these are referred to as ‘action plans’, or are these outcomes the same?

10. Trial status: please insert the date when recruitment of staff began.

Minor essential revisions

11. Please specify the number of participants to be trained (n = 280) across all sites in the text in the methods section, like in the abstract.

12. Currently the authors report in the abstract ‘fourteen sites in Delaware and Connecticut serving upwards of 13,000 consumers will be randomized’ but in the methods section this figure is quoted as ‘8,000 consumers’ please be consistent and correct this.

13. Abstract, Methods/Design, sentence starting ‘The PCCP intervention involves intensive staff training…’ please remove the end of the sentence ‘with the consumers driving the process’.

14. Methods, Participants subsection, first paragraph, please clarify what you mean by the sentence ‘each supervisor will nominate two direct ‘reports’ (?) who fulfil the criteria of ‘change agents’.

15. Please ensure all abbreviations are spelled out before first use in the body of the manuscript and then consistently use the abbreviations or acronyms for the rest of the manuscript: person-centred care planning process (PCCP), Community Mental Health Clinics (CMHC)

16. Please include in a footnote to Figure 1 or in the abbreviations the spelling out of PCCP-PL.

17. Please complete the list of abbreviations used throughout the manuscript, this is incomplete: Person-Centred Care Questionnaire Provider version (PCCQ-P), alpha (#), IMR.

Minor issues not for publication (spelling, typos, grammatical errors, stylistic suggestions)

• Please check the size of the font is consistent throughout the manuscript, there appears to be smaller font used in some sections, see Background section, Person-Centred Care Planning subsection third paragraph, sentence starting ‘In addition…’

• Background, Outcomes subsection, last paragraph last sentence, typo, please remove the ‘s’ from ‘support(s)

• Randomization subsection, please insert the word ‘software’ following SAS 9.3

• Please remove abbreviation PCCP from the abstract.

**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.