Author’s response to reviews

Title: Family Spirit Nurture (FSN) – A Randomized Controlled Trial to Prevent Early Childhood Obesity in American Indian Populations: Trial Rationale and Study Protocol

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Editor Comments:

Thank you for submitting your manuscript and for providing the ethical and funding documentation. As the protocol has been peer-reviewed by the funding bodies during the grant-awarding process it will not be necessary to send your manuscript out for further review. Therefore I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been provisionally recommended for acceptance in BMC Obesity. However, before we can pass your manuscript on to our production team, there are a couple of minor stylistic points that need to be addressed as outlined below:

--Please remove the header “Running Head: FAMILY SPIRT NURTURE 1” - Author response: The header has been removed in the revised manuscript.

--Please incorporate the words ‘Study Protocol’ into the title. - Author response: New title: Family Spirit Nurture (FSN) – A Randomized Controlled Trial to Prevent Early Childhood Obesity in American Indian Populations: Trial Rationale and Study Protocol
--We note that in your ethics statement, you state “The manuscript will be reviewed and approved by the participating tribal communities’ governing bodies prior to publishing”. Does that apply to the study protocol? Was this permission sought for this manuscript? - Author response: The tribal communities mentioned in the manuscript (White Mountain Apache Tribe and Navajo Nation) request that we submit the manuscript for approval upon submission to the journal. We have started this process. We have drafted a cover letter and our Regulatory Specialist will submit that along with the manuscript to the WMAT Health Board and Tribal Council for approval. She will then forward their approval letter to the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service IRB for their records. She will also submit the same materials for review at the next Navajo Nation ethical review board for approval. Approval letters will be secured prior to publishing.

--Under ‘Availability of data and material’, please state ‘Not applicable’ as the manuscript contains no data. Please visit our submission guidelines (https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials) for advice on the different forms that the data availability statements can take. - Author response: I have replaced existing language with "not applicable" in the 'Availability of data and material' section.

--Please remove the SPIRIT and cover letter files as these are no longer needed at this stage in the editorial process. Author response: I have removed the SPIRIT and cover letter.