Reviewer’s report

Title: A Mixed Methods Study to Adapt and Implement Integrated Mental Healthcare for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Version: 0 Date: 28 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Clare Harrop

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Review: PAFS-D-18-00095: A mixed methods study to adapt and implement integrated mental healthcare for children with autism spectrum disorder

It was a great pleasure to review the Study Protocol for "A mixed methods study to adapt and implement integrated mental healthcare for children with autism spectrum disorder." It is great to see clinicians and scientists pre-publish their protocols ahead of final results and it offers transparency in the process of reporting what was established in the protocol. I look forward to following the project progress and seeing the final results in years to come.

With a few minor revisions, I think the protocol adds to our small, but growing, base of pre-study protocols in ASD intervention research. Below I outline my minor concerns:

Abstract: It would be helpful to know the age range for the children to be included in the abstract. The study name (ATTAIN), rather than just the EPIS framework, would also add to the completeness of the abstract.

Background: Could the authors list some common comorbidities in ASD? As an ASD researcher, I know these rates but as the journal is not ASD specific, this might aid readers not familiar with common comorbidities in ASD.

Page 3, line 41: There seems to be a typo "Integrated care can is an….

Page 4, line 46: MH has not been defined yet.

On page 5, the authors discuss the distinction between psychiatric and non-ASD psychiatric disorders. Even as a researcher familiar with MH in ASD, I struggled to see the difference in this distinction. Could the authors expand on this especially for those not in the field of MH and ASD.

I thought the inclusion of different models of care (Medicaid, lower-income, private insurance) was a real strength to the protocol.

Information about whether the study is registered with clinical trials.gov should be included.

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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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