**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Family Empowerment (FAME): Study protocol for a pilot implementation and evaluation of a preventive multifamily program for asylum seeker families

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 19 Nov 2018

**Reviewer:** Geetha Gopalan

**Reviewer's report:**

**Introduction**

* This manuscript describes a pilot study protocol to examine the feasibility and preliminary effectiveness of the Family Empowerment (FAME) multifamily program for asylum seeker families. This is an Important topic, and FAME represents a promising intervention to assist a vulnerable group of families

* More detailed information about processes of MFT would be helpful - how many sessions? What kind of activities? What are the specific core content? Similarly, more details about FAME would also be helpful, particularly if authors integrate the TIDierR checklist into this manuscript : http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/tidier/

* Page 4, lines 99-109: Authors indicate they want to look at differences between families in asylum centers and families in family facilities - what is the justification for looking at these differences? More information about author's rationale for these sets of analyses should be included in the introduction section

**Methods**

* To clarify, are there multiple T2 assessments (as it indicates that after each session assessments will be conducted) - this should be reflected in Table 2 -- or clarified that at only one point during the intervention that T2 assessment will take place.

* It is unclear what the Outcome Rating Scales (ORS) measure — it would be helpful if sample questions were included representative of the main factors being assessed.

* For the program integrity checklist, what is the goal # of sessions to be observed?

* Authors have indicated this is a mixed methods study. However, there is no information regarding how the quantitative and qualitative will be integrated - at what point during the study will they be integrated, and what are the procedures for doing so?
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal

Were you mentored through this peer review?

No