

## PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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### ARTICLE DETAILS

<b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b>	A community-based rehabilitation program for adolescents with mental health conditions in Israel: a qualitative study protocol
<b>AUTHORS</b>	Tuaf, Hila; Orkibi, Hod

### VERSION 1 – REVIEW

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Katherine Taylor Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust Sceptre Point, Sceptre Way Preston UK
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	30-Aug-2019

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>Participants</p> <p>The fact that analysis is subject to triangulation by four types of stakeholder including tended beneficiaries, including both young people and parents, and referring clinicians is a particular strength. For me, the Recovery Model and associated authors could be more explored. In line with this and a constructivist approach, the paper may benefit from some critical discussion of psychiatric language, or perhaps some consideration of how this impacts of the youth under study.</p> <p>The research questions and sub themes or factors to explore are appropriate. Furthermore the multiple perspectives in the methodology offer an effective method to highlight that to explore a complex phenomenon will necessarily concern multiple truths. In line with this I am wary of the term data saturation and do not believe that this is necessary, nor achievable. I would recommend that this be removed.</p> <p>The participation validation is particularly appropriate and the CORREQ is a suitable and widely used tool for such research.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>I do wonder if an IPA *Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis approach may be better suited to this data set, given the emphasis on perspectives, multiple perspectives. I would recommend that this Protocol and authors revisit Thematic Analysis and its limitations and explore whether IPA would be a better fit.</p> <p>In terms of the Discussion. I believe the rationale for such research could and should be made in stronger terms and using ethical arguments, again referencing the Recovery literature outlined in the Introduction. I also believe that adolescents, regardless of their presentation and need, are commonly creative and less inhibited than adults, moreover may wish for their voices to be heard, thus I am not sure if the claim that recruitment may be challenging is true. I imagine that the converse MIGHT be true, i.e. that they are keen to participate, and have many decent, innovative and experience/led ideas. It may be worth outlining this possibility, too.</p>
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<b>REVIEWER</b>	Carol McKinstry La Trobe University, Australia
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	29-Sep-2019

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>This is an important study, particularly for Israel. There are some wording or expression that need improvement. Where it states that participants signed an informed consent, it needs to be explained how participants were informed about the study and then signed the consent form.</p> <p>Abstract: Does triangulation increase validity rather than credibility? After data analysis, findings will be disseminated via publications. The findings will inform the development of a best practice model to meet the needs of all stakeholders... The findings may contribute to policy recommendations and legislation relating to adolescent psychiatric rehabilitation. What is meant by "Recruiting referring mental health professionals can be challenging due to a poor continuity of care between services"? Not sure how this impacts recruitment of these participants. Throughout the manuscript, please change the phrase: "adolescents who cope (or are coping) with a psychiatric or mental health condition" to "adolescents who have a psychiatric or mental health condition". Remove "in order" because it is not needed.</p> <p>Introduction Need a reference for page 1, line 40 sentence about public stigma and self-stigma. Page 1, line 54 - reword to "...insufficiently understood for adolescents with MHC." Page 2, line 8 - reword to "A worldwide meta-analysis study reported that 13% of all adolescents have MHC." Page 2, line 14 - reword to "...adolescents aged 12 to 17 were admitted to Israeli hospitals." Page 2, line 17 - -reword to "A legislative bill entitled..." Page 2, line 36 - reword to "The Bill stressed that children..." Page 2, line 42 - reword to "However, this bill has not been passed and youth ... without legislated supported rehabilitative..." Page 3, line 19 - reword to "Particularly problematic is that there is not centralized system..." What is meant by "creating a shared database" Is this of services? "Program team" is often used - is this referring to the treating team? Page 4, line 5 reword to "For many years, the medical approach in the Westernised mental health system..." "state and society" is often used - should this be government and society? Page 5, line 26 - keep tense consistently past - "consisted of representatives from each of these stakeholders..." Page 5, line 33 - reword to "... psychosocial rehabilitation services for adolescents'..." Page 5, line 40 - reword to "The program's pilot began initially in six geographical..." Page 5, line 47 - reword to "...who provides services to approximately 20 adolescents..." Page 6, line 17 - how is this a goal - "the goal of the program is to provide support from the program's coordinator"? Perhaps the program's benefit for the coordinator?</p>
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	<p>Page 6, line 33 - "What characterizes the referral procedure for the Amitim for Youth program and what are the barriers and facilitators?"</p> <p>Page 6, line 43 - reword to "What services are missing from the participants' perspective."</p> <p>Page 6 and other pages - reword "dropouts" to "those who withdrew"</p> <p>Page 6, line 54 - remove "actors"</p> <p>Page 7, line 31 - remove "the fact"</p> <p>Page 7, line 52 - replace "...adolescents who dropped out.." with "...adolescents who withdrew..."</p> <p>Page 7, line 56 - replace "about" with "approximately"</p> <p>Page 8, line 10 - reword to "The study will use a maximum variation.....and achieve data saturation when no new relevant knowledge...."</p> <p>Page 8, line 17 - reword to "The research team will contact by phone the abovementioned..."</p> <p>Page 8, line 24 - reword to "...interviewed at their workplace or via the phone, at a convenient time for them."</p> <p>Page 8, line 28 - reword to "...coordinators, providing the parents with a formal letter....consent form to sign by parents... at a time of their convenience."</p> <p>Page 8, line 44 - remove the (participants and dropouts)</p> <p>Page 8, line 51 - reword to "What do you want to get from the program? What should be maintained or strengthened in the program? What do you think should change in the program? What benefits have you received from the program?"</p> <p>Page 9, suggest rewording the questions based on suggestions above.</p> <p>Page 9, line 10 - reword "characterize" to "describe"</p> <p>Page 9, line 26 - reword "formation" to "development"</p> <p>Page 9, line 35 - reword "roughly" to "approximately"</p> <p>Page 9, line 42 - reword "express" to "discuss"</p> <p>Page 10, line 4 - reword to "Describe your role? Is your role clear to you?"</p> <p>Page 10, line 47 - reword to "The analysis will include identifying best practice guidelines..."</p> <p>Page 12, line 21 - what is meant by "...which refers to the way mental health consumers perceive and experience their care services as connected and coherent..." What does this have to do with recruitment?</p>
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## VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

### **Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:**

Reviewer: 1

Reviewer Name: Katherine Taylor

Institution and Country: Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, Sceptre Point, Sceptre Way, Preston UK

Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None declared

### **Participants**

**Comment:** The fact that analysis is subject to triangulation by four types of stakeholder including tended beneficiaries, including both young people and parents, and referring clinicians is a particular strength. For me, the Recovery Model and associated authors could be more explored.

**Response:** Thank you for this comment. We have added a comment about the recovery approach for adolescents which is the focus of this project. Page 8, lines 15-20.

**Comment:** In line with this and a constructivist approach, the paper may benefit from some critical discussion of psychiatric language, or perhaps some consideration of how this impacts of the youth under study.

**Response:** Thank you for this comment. We have added a comment about the subject on page 5, lines 23-24 and page 6 lines 1-2.

**Comment:** The research questions and sub themes or factors to explore are appropriate. Furthermore, the multiple perspectives in the methodology offer an effective method to highlight that to explore a complex phenomenon will necessarily concern multiple truths. In line with this I am wary of the term data saturation and do not believe that this is necessary, nor achievable. I would recommend that this be removed.

**Response:** Thank you for this suggestion, we removed the term saturation. See changes on page 12, line 19.

**Comment:** The participation validation is particularly appropriate and the CORREQ is a suitable and widely used tool for such research.

**Response:** Thank you.

#### Methodology

**Comment:** I do wonder if an IPA Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis approach may be better suited to this data set, given the emphasis on perspectives, multiple perspectives. I would recommend that this Protocol and authors revisit Thematic Analysis and its limitations and explore whether IPA would be a better fit.

**Response:** We gave thorough consideration to this suggestion but decided to retain the thematic analysis approach because (a) this method has already been approved by the funding body of this study and the ethics committee. (b) according to Braun and Clarke, because our “primary emphasis is on themes/commonalities across the data set, rather than the detail of individual experiences, we elected to follow the TA process of coding and generating themes across the data set. (With the IPA case-by-case approach, there is a risk that the codes and themes generated for the first case become the lens through which the entire data set is viewed and interpreted.)”<sup>1</sup>, which we would like to avoid. Please note that we updated the term “thematic analysis” to “reflexive thematic analysis”, to be consistent with Braun and Clarke’s most recent publication.<sup>2</sup>

**Comment:** In terms of the Discussion. I believe the rationale for such research could and should be made in stronger terms and using ethical arguments, again referencing the Recovery literature outlined in the Introduction.

**Response:** Thank you for this suggestion. We have detailed and emphasized this issue in the discussion. See changes on pages 17-18.

**Comment:** I also believe that adolescents, regardless of their presentation and need, are commonly creative and less inhibited than adults, moreover may wish for their voices to be heard, thus I am not sure if the claim that recruitment may be challenging is true. I imagine that the converse MIGHT be true, i.e. that they are keen to participate, and have many decent, innovative and experience/led ideas. It may be worth outlining this possibility, too.

**Response:** Thank you for this observation. We have revised the text accordingly and clarified the two possibilities. See changes on page 3, line 13 and page 17, lines 20-23.

Thank you for the support. We believe that the changes we have made based on your comments helped improve the protocol.

Reviewer: 2

Reviewer Name: Carol McKinstry

Institution and Country: La Trobe University, Australia

Please state any competing interests or state ‘None declared’: None declared.

**Comment:** This is an important study, particularly for Israel. There are some wording or expression that need improvement. Where it states that participants signed an informed consent, it needs to be explained how participants were informed about the study and then signed the consent form.

**Response:** Thank you for this comment, we have clarified the concept process. See changes on page 12, in the procedure section.

Abstract:

**Comment:** Does triangulation increase validity rather than credibility?

**Response:** Thank you, we have changed the term to validity (page 2, line 16 and page 16, line 5) because triangulation "has been viewed as a qualitative research strategy to test validity through the convergence of information from different sources". See: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25158659>

**Comment:** After data analysis, findings will be disseminated via publications.

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 3, lines 2-3.

**Comment:** The findings will inform the development of a best practice model to meet the needs of all stakeholders...

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 3, line 8.

**Comment:** The findings may contribute to policy recommendations and legislation relating to adolescent psychiatric rehabilitation.

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 3, line 11-12.

**Comment:** What is meant by "Recruiting referring mental health professionals can be challenging due to a poor continuity of care between services"? Not sure how this impacts recruitment of these participants.

**Response:** Thank you for this observation. We omitted this remark to avoid confusion. see page 3, lines 15-16.

**Comment:** Throughout the manuscript, please change the phrase: "adolescents who cope (or are coping) with a psychiatric or mental health condition" to "adolescents who have a psychiatric or mental health condition".

**Response:** We have revised accordingly.

**Comment:** Remove "in order" because it is not needed.

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 4, line 20.

Introduction

**Comment:** Need a reference for page 1, line 40 sentence about public stigma and self-stigma.

**Response:** We added the reference, page 4, line 18.

**Comment:** Page 1, line 54 - reword to "...insufficiently understood for adolescents with MHC."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 4, line 24.

**Comment:** Page 2, line 8 - reword to "A worldwide meta-analysis study reported that 13% of all adolescents have MHC."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 5, line 4.

**Comment:** Page 2, line 14 - reword to "...adolescents aged 12 to 17 were admitted to Israeli hospitals."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 5, line 7.

**Comment:** Page 2, line 17 - -reword to "A legislative bill entitled..."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 5, line 8.

**Comment:** Page 2, line 36 - reword to "The bill stressed that children.."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 5, line 16.

**Comment:** Page 2, line 42 - reword to "However, this bill has not been passed and youth ... without legislated supported rehabilitative..."

**Response:** Thank you for this remark. We have retained the word "state" and added a comma after consulting with a professional English editor.

See changes on page 5, line 21.

**Comment:** Page 3, line 19 - reword to "Particularly problematic is that there is not centralized system..."

**Response:** Thank you for this comment. We have revised the text to clarify, see changes on page 6, line 15.

**Comment:** What is meant by "creating a shared database" Is this of services?

**Response:** Yes, a database of information on services consumers that is shared across the three ministries. Thank you for this comment, we also clarified it in the text, see page 6, lines 15-17.

**Comment:** "Program team" is often used - is this referring to the treating team?

**Response:** It refers to the team of the *Amitim for Youth* program.

**Comment:** Page 4, line 5 reword to "For many years, the medical approach in the Westernised mental health system..."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 7, line 11.

**Comment:** "state and society" is often used - should this be government and society?

**Response:** No, governments come and go, so we prefer the term 'state'.

**Comment:** Page 5, line 26 - keep tense consistently past - "consisted of representatives from each of these stakeholders..."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 9, line 11.

**Comment:** Page 5, line 33 - reword to "... psychosocial rehabilitation services for adolescents'..."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 9, line 14.

**Comment:** Page 5, line 40 - reword to "The program's pilot began initially in six geographical..."

**Response:** Thank you for this comment, but the word "gradually" is more accurate in this case and therefore we wrote: The programs' pilot was gradually implemented in six geographical districts (page 9, line 17).

**Comment:** Page 5, line 47 - reword to "...who provides services to approximately 20 adolescents..."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 9, line 21.

**Comment:** Page 6, line 17 - how is this a goal - "the goal of the program is to provide support from the program's coordinator"? Perhaps the program's benefit for the coordinator?

**Response:** We have clarified the text. See changes on page 10 lines 5-7.

**Comment:** Page 6, line 33 - "What characterizes the referral procedure for the Amitim for Youth program and what are the barriers and facilitators?"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 11, line 1.

**Comment:** Page 6, line 43 - reword to "What services are missing from the participants' perspective."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 11, line 5.

**Comment:** Page 6 and other pages - reword "dropouts" to "those who withdrew"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 11, line 9, page 12, line 11 and page 13, line 21.

**Comment:** Page 6, line 54 - remove "actors"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 11, line 10.

**Comment:** Page 7, line 31 - remove "the fact"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 11, line 1.

**Comment:** Page 7, line 52 - replace "...adolescents who dropped out.." with "...adolescents who withdrew..."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 12, line 11.

**Comment:** Page 7, line 56 - replace "about" with "approximately"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 12, line 12.

**Comment:** Page 8, line 10 - reword to "The study will use a maximum variation.....and achieve data saturation when no new relevant knowledge...."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly, see changes on page 12, line 17. And we have decided to omit the term "saturation", according to reviewer's 1 suggestion.

**Comment:** Page 8, line 17 - reword to "The research team will contact by phone the abovementioned..."

**Response:** We have revised and clarified the text accordingly. See changes on page 12, lines 21-22.

**Comment:** Page 8, line 24 - reword to "...interviewed at their workplace or via the phone, at a convenient time for them."

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 13, line 2.

**Comment:** Page 8, line 28 - reword to "...coordinators, providing the parents with a formal letter.... consent form to sign by parents... at a time of their convenience."

**Response:** We have revised and clarified the text accordingly. See changes on page 13, lines 3-7.

**Comment:** Page 8, line 44 - remove the (participants and dropouts)

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 13, lines 12-13.

**Comment:** Page 8, line 51 - reword to "What do you want to get from the program? What should be maintained or strengthened in the program? What do you think should change in the program? What benefits have you received from the program?"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 13, lines 16-18.

**Comment:** Page 9, suggest rewording the questions based on suggestions above.

**Response:** We made the corresponding changes (see page 14, line 25).

**Comment:** Page 9, line 10 - reword "characterize" to "describe"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 14, line 1.

**Comment:** Page 9, line 26 - reword "formation" to "development"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 14, line 9.

**Comment:** Page 9, line 35 - reword "roughly" to "approximately"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 14, line 13.

**Comment:** Page 9, line 42 - reword "express" to "discuss"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 14, line 15.

**Comment:** Page 10, line 4 - reword to "Describe your role? Is your role clear to you?"

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly. See changes on page 14, line 24.

**Comment:** Page 10, line 47 - reword to "The analysis will include identifying best practice guidelines..."

**Response:** We have decided to omit this sentence.

**Comment:** Page 12, line 21 - what is meant by "...which refers to the way mental health consumers perceive and experience their care services as connected and coherent..." What does this have to do with recruitment?

**Response:** Thank you for this comment. We omitted this comment to avoid confusion.

Thank you for the support. We believe that the changes we have made according to your comments helped improve the protocol.

References

1. Huxley CJ, Clarke V, Halliwell E. "It's a Comparison Thing, Isn't It?": Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Accounts of How Partner Relationships Shape Their Feelings About Their Body and Appearance. *Psychology of Women Quarterly* 2011;35(3):415-27. doi: 10.1177/0361684311410209
2. Braun V, Clarke V, Hayfield N, et al. Thematic analysis. In: Liamputtong P, ed. Handbook of research methods in health social sciences. Singapore: Springer Singapore 2019:843-60.

**VERSION 2 – REVIEW**

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Carol McKinstry La Trobe University, Australia
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	21-Nov-2019

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>Many thanks for the revisions made to the manuscript. Below are some further minor ones that I believe would enhance the manuscript:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that all 'youth' is replaced by 'adolescents' including changing the title.</li> </ul> <p>Abstract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- remove 'all' in the first sentence.</li> <li>- Last sentence of the first paragraph is very long - suggest making two sentences.</li> <li>- Methods and analysis - replace "different types" with "various" stakeholders in the third sentence.</li> <li>- dissemination via publications - is this through journal manuscripts or reports?</li> <li>- Suggest removing 'and goals' in the third last sentence when referring to the needs of all stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fifth paragraph - suggest changing wording to: "Aligned with the recovery approach described below, the widely used umbrella term "mental health conditions (rather than mental illness or psychiatric disorders or disability) was adopted, ...."</li> </ul> <p>Next paragraph, suggest "Services for adolescents with MHC are different than those for adults given their needs and ...."</p> <p>Same paragraph at the end, suggest: "This may lead to inconsistent continuity of care, how mental health consumers perceive and experience...."</p> <p>When referring to the State, this needs a capital S because it is a noun.</p> <p>Second paragraph in the "The Recovery Approach" suggest rewording to: "The program was established in 2001,..." however what is meant by 'mental disability' - is this disability due to MHC?</p> <p>Same paragraph, suggest wording change to: "It currently serves approximately 3000 adults with MHC."</p> <p>Second last paragraph before Research Question section, suggest the following rewording: "More specifically.....facilitators for the implementation of adolescents psychosocial rehabilitation..."</p> <p>Research Questions</p> <p>suggest changing to the second question wording: "What are the characteristics of the adolescents who participate in the program?"</p> <p>This wording needs changing in later sections when referring to this research question.</p>
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	<p>Regarding the development of best practice guidelines, I would suggest that the study will identify best practices but would not be sufficient to develop best practice guidelines which need to be based on more extensive evidence.</p> <p>Data Collection</p> <p>In the first paragraph, reword to "Examples of questions for the adolescents who withdrew from the program are:..."</p> <p>Remove the '(frequency, satisfaction)'</p> <p>The start of each sentence should have a capital.</p> <p>Remove 'Note that'</p> <p>Data analysis</p> <p>Second sentence - when referring to 'dataset', better to say 'the participants'.</p> <p>Saying that best practice guidelines will be identified is making too large claims - best practice guidelines are developed on much more than one research project and utilises all the research evidence.</p> <p>Suggest reword: "A qualitative data analysis software (ATLAS) will be used for data management and to assist data analysis'.</p> <p>Study Trustworthiness</p> <p>In the last sentence, remove 'we will use' but add 'will be used' at the end of the sentence. 'Finally, to enhance.....the study, the 32-item checklist....(COREQ...) will be used.'</p> <p>Patient and Public Involvement</p> <p>reword the first sentence to: 'Patients or the public are not involved in the project.'</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Remove 'Moreover' in the third sentence</p> <p>Second paragraph - reword to 'The Amitim for Youth program will enable a better understanding..."</p> <p>Ethics and dissemination</p> <p>Reword: 'Informed consent will be obtained from all participants and they will sign a consent form ....anonymity. Consent for adolescents' participation will be also obtained from their parents or guardians via written consent.'</p>
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## VERSION 2 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

### Detailed response to reviewer's comments

Reviewer: 2

Reviewer Name: Carol McKinstry

Institution and Country: La Trobe University, Australia

Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None declared.

**Comment:** Ensure that all 'youth' is replaced by 'adolescents' including changing the title.

**Response:** Thank you for this comment. We have revised the title and text accordingly, see changes on page 8, line 18. We decided to retain the term 'youth' in the name of the program (*Amitim for Youth*) because it is more accurate for the Hebrew translation of the name.

### Abstract

**Comment:** Remove 'all' in the first sentence.

**Response:** Revised accordingly.

**Comment:** Last sentence of the first paragraph is very long - suggest making two sentences.

**Response:** Revised accordingly.

**Comment:** Methods and analysis - replace "different types" with "various" stakeholders in the third sentence.

**Response:** Revised accordingly.

**Comment:** Dissemination via publications - is this through journal manuscripts or reports?

**Response:** This is described in the 'Ethics and dissemination' section at the end of the manuscript (page 17, lines 2-4): A report in Hebrew will be submitted to the National Insurance Institute. The results will be disseminated in articles that will be written in English as part of a doctoral dissertation.

**Comment:** Suggest removing 'and goals' in the third last sentence when referring to the needs of all stakeholders.

**Response:** Revised accordingly.

### Introduction

**Comment:** Fifth paragraph - suggest changing wording to: "Aligned with the recovery approach described below, the widely used umbrella term "mental health conditions (rather than mental illness or psychiatric disorders or disability) was adopted, ...."

**Response:** Revised accordingly, on page 5, lines 20, 22.

**Comment:** Next paragraph, suggest "Services for adolescents with MHC are different than those for adults given their needs and ...."

**Response:** Revised accordingly, on page 6, lines 2-4.

**Comment:** Same paragraph at the end, suggest: "This may lead to inconsistent continuity of care, how mental health consumers perceive and experience...."

**Response:** To clarify what "continuity of care" is, we revised to "This may lead to inconsistent continuity of care, in terms of how mental health..." on page 6, lines 16-17.

**Comment:** When referring to the State, this needs a capital S because it is a noun.

**Response:** Revised accordingly, on page 5, line 19, page 7, lines 8,15.

**Comment:** Second paragraph in the "The Recovery Approach" suggest rewording to: "The program was established in 2001,...." however what is meant by 'mental disability' - is this disability due to MHC?

**Response:** Yes. To avoid confusion, we revised to "mental health disability."

**Comment:** Same paragraph, suggest wording change to: "It currently serves approximately 3000 adults with MHC."

**Response:** Revised accordingly, on page 7, line 23.

**Comment:** Second last paragraph before Research Question section, suggest the following rewording: "More specifically.....facilitators for the implementation of adolescents psychosocial rehabilitation..."

**Response:** Revised accordingly, on page 9, line 12.

### Research Questions

**Comment:** suggest changing to the second question wording: "What are the characteristics of the adolescents who participate in the program?" This wording needs changing in later sections when referring to this research question.

**Response:** Revised accordingly, on page 9, line 24 and page 12, line 16.

**Comment:** Regarding the development of best practice guidelines, I would suggest that the study will identify best practices but would not be sufficient to develop best practice guidelines which need to be based on more extensive evidence.

**Response:** Thank you for this comment. We have revised the text accordingly, see changes on page 2, line 7; page 3, line 6; page 9, line 9; page 10, lines 7, 9-10 and page 16, line 11.

### Data Collection

**Comment:** In the first paragraph, reword to "Examples of questions for the adolescents who withdrew from the program are:..."

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see page 12, line 10.

**Comment:** Remove the '(frequency, satisfaction)'

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see page 12, line 12.

**Comment:** The start of each sentence should have a capital.

**Response:** All sentences start with a capital letter.

**Comment:** Remove 'Note that'

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see page 13, line 14.

#### Data analysis

**Comment:** Second sentence - when referring to 'dataset', better to say 'the participants'.

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see page 14, line 4.

**Comment:** Saying that best practice guidelines will be identified is making too large claims - best practice guidelines are developed on much more than one research project and utilises all the research evidence.

**Response:** Revised accordingly, as indicated in the response above.

**Comment:** Suggest reword: "A qualitative data analysis software (ATLAS) will be used for data management and to assist data analysis'.

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see changes in page 14, line 16.

#### Study Trustworthiness

**Comment:** In the last sentence, remove 'we will use' but add 'will be used' at the end of the sentence. 'Finally, to enhance...the study, the 32-item checklist...(COREQ...) will be used.'

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see page 15, lines 9 and 11.

#### Patient and Public Involvement

**Comment:** reword the first sentence to: 'Patients or the public are not involved in the project.'

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see page 15, line 13.

#### Discussion

**Comment:** Remove 'Moreover' in the third sentence

**Response:** We have revised the text accordingly, see changes in page 15, line 19.

**Comment:** Second paragraph - reword to 'The Amitim for Youth program will enable a better understanding...'

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see changes in page 16, line 3.

#### Ethics and dissemination

**Comment:** Reword: 'Informed consent will be obtained from all participants and they will sign a consent form...anonymity. Consent for adolescents' participation will be also obtained from their parents or guardians via written consent.'

**Response:** Revised accordingly, see page 16, line 22-25.

**Thank you for the constructive and thorough feedback that helped us improve the protocol.**