

January 2, 2010

Dr. Dougherty:

Thank you for the opportunity to revise the manuscript NRES-D-09-00138, titled "Measuring Implementation Fidelity in a Community Based Parenting Intervention" submitted to Nursing Research.

In the reviews, you noted two main weaknesses of the manuscript, the length and the need for more information regarding the parent study that the sample was drawn from. The length of the manuscript is 16 pages and more information regarding the parent study and sample construction was included on page 6. In addition, the paper was formatted using the APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition publication manual and the tables formatted using the APA 5<sup>th</sup> edition as requested.

The editor and reviewers commented on several concerns that will be addressed below.

- **The editor noted that the authors introduced information in the discussion section that was not included in the background.**

The authors reviewed this and amended the background to include those sources that were presented in the discussion section.

- **Reviewer 1 noted concerns regarding explanation of recruitment of the sample and asking for more information regard the sample construction. In addition, the reviewer questioned how we obtained 100% agreement by parents and facilitators to participate in the study and have all sessions audio recorded.**

Parents had already consented to be in the parent study and allow audio recordings of the parent groups as part of the larger study. This has been addressed on page 6.

**Reviewer #3: Identified the following points regarding the manuscript:**

- **The intervention was not well-described in the ms.; the specific content delivered and the specific underlying theory of the intervention are not mentioned.**

More specific information regarding the theory and content of the Chicago Parent Program was added on page 7. The main topics for each session of the Chicago Parent Program are presented in Table 2.

- **The training program for the group leaders is not described**

A broader description of the group leader training was added on p. 6-7.

- **The relevant sample characteristics of the group leaders were inadequately described (e.g. gender and age).**

Gender of the group leaders was added in Table 2. We did not collect age of the group leaders as a demographic variable, therefore age was not reported.

- **The sample characteristics of the Ss were inadequately described (e.g. ages not reported).**

Demographic data for parent participants is reported on p. 6.

- **The reviewer expressed concern about the small sample size.**  
As noted in the manuscript, we agree that this is a limitation of the study and part of the preliminary aspects of this research. This is reflected in the discussion of limitations and on p. 17-18. This issue is also addressed in our decision to set the p-value at 0.10 on p. 12.
- **Reviewer #3 identified concerns regarding the applicability and value of a fidelity checklist in a community setting**  
We respectfully disagree with the reviewer comment regarding the utility of a fidelity checklist in community settings. Although this was a preliminary study to establish the reliability and validity of The Fidelity Checklist, the goal is to use the checklist to inform both research and clinical practice for successful implementation. We believe this is an important step in implementation of evidenced based practice in community settings. In fact, in December 2009 the NIH released PARs for RO1, RO3, and R21 funding for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health. These funding mechanisms focus on research to develop empirically-supported strategies to integrate knowledge and interventions in real world settings. The NIH highlighted the need for studies on the fidelity of implementation efforts to include the identification of components of implementation that will enable fidelity to be assessed meaningfully. Therefore, we believe, our study provides preliminary support for future efforts of fidelity monitoring and address research efforts defined by the NIH.

Thank you again for the opportunity to resubmit the manuscript.