

FSH COMMENTS 2014 9

DECISION LETTER: Thank you very much for submitting your manuscript "Filling in the spaces" for consideration for publication in *Families, Systems, and Health*. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to review the manuscript. It is a lovely piece about how often the therapist sees a version of herself in the patient. I have now received the reviews of your manuscript and am able to make an editorial decision.

Based on my review and on reviewer comments I am not able to accept your submission in its current form. However, with minor revisions this can make a meaningful contribution to our journal. Please consider reviewer 1's recommendations carefully, although as you can see I do not agree with all of them. For my part, I would recommend the following:

- 1) I like the line "no mother or father" although reviewer 1's recommendation works as well.
- 2) I would NOT add "early" in front of life, since I'm not sure you're referring only to fragments of the patient's early life, but to the fragmented nature of her life both in the past AND in the present. You might want to add "a" before "life."
- 4) Like reviewer 2, "wisdom and guidance" seemed awfully abstract and cliched to me. Can you come up with something grittier, more real? Something like "blood sweat and tears"? (but original!) Also, I'm not sure that, if you decide to keep wisdom, it makes sense to add "innate." Was this really "innate" wisdom, or more hard-earned wisdom?
- 5) I agree with reviewer 1 that "own" is not necessary in the last line.
- 6) Remember, you must still stay precisely with 55 words.

DECISION LETTER 2: I am pleased to inform you that your 55 word story has now been accepted for publication in *Families, Systems, and Health*. It reads very well, and conveys an important moment of transmission in the healing process.