

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Developmental Services
Research Review Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: May 7, 2021**

By Webex: Erin Brown (Chairperson), Kathleen Gallagher, Joshua Greenberg, Janet George, Patricia Shook, Julie Moran, and Oliver Stark (observer/minutes).

Agenda Items

1. Administrative matters
2. "Examining cognitive accessibility and clinical applications of the VIA Character Strengths Survey," Boston University, Dr. Ariel Schwartz

HOUSEKEEPING

- ☐ Chair established quorum.
- ☐ Chair summarized RRC subcommittee's approval of Drs. Venkatasubramanian and Skorinko's Renewal Request for R3: Recognizing, Reporting, and Responding to Abuse (RRC Proposal 2019-7) because the research proposal modification represented only minor changes to previously approved research, to be implemented during the period for which approval is authorized. *See* 115 CMR 10.09(2)(b).
- ☐ Chair reviewed requirements for approval of research proposals pursuant to 115 CMR 10.08.

Review and Vote on January 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved for a vote and Committee agreed by majority vote to adopt the January 29, 2021 meeting minutes.

"Examining cognitive accessibility and clinical applications of the VIA Character Strengths Survey," Boston University, Dr. Ariel Schwartz

Discussion

- ☐ RRC asked several questions and uncovered numerous unresolved issues regarding the proposal, including: psychological risks associated with asking individuals about their IQ, gender identity, and mental health diagnoses; psychological risks to guardians; psychological risk assessment; informed consent; guardian consent, verification, and documentation; consent procedures and scope; HIPAA and access to medical records; data privacy, access, use, and disposal; audio and visual recordings and disposal; participant selection; participant's capacity to participate; survey procedures; participant compensation;

withdrawn assent and compensation; recruitment procedure; current participants and whether DDS clients are already being used as participants as the research has been ongoing since September 1, 2020.

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved for a vote and present Committee members voted unanimously to disapprove the proposed research pursuant to the requirements of 115 CMR 10.08.

APPROVED RESEARCH

None

NON-APPROVED RESEARCH

"Examining cognitive accessibility and clinical applications of the VIA Character Strengths Survey," Boston University, Dr. Ariel Schwartz

CLOSING MATTERS

The next meeting of the Research Review Committee has been scheduled for: TBD upon receipt of research proposals.