

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Developmental Services
Research Review Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: March 4, 2022**

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. "Understanding a peer-support program developed for sexual assault survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)," Dr. Krishna Venkatasubramanian

HOUSEKEEPING

- ☐ Chair established quorum.
- ☐ Chair discussed adding new members to Committee and will follow up with DDS' General Counsel.
- ☐ Chair discussed in-person meeting requirement for meetings after April 1, 2022.
- ☐ Chair summarized requirements for approval of research proposals pursuant to 115 CMR 10.08.

Review and Vote on October 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved for a vote and a majority of Committee members agreed to adopt the October 1, 2021 meeting minutes.

"Understanding a peer-support program developed for sexual assault survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)," Dr. Krishna Venkatasubramanian

Discussion

- ☐ RRC discussed the purpose of the research and application; determined purpose is to conduct interviews with peer support staff, with the larger goal of creating a self-care app for SA victims with I/DD.
- ☐ RRC determined this proposal is separate from the research approved in 2019.
- ☐ RRC discussed researcher's qualifications and will request CVs.
- ☐ RRC discussed other participant choices for app development.

Issues

- ☐ No explicit hypothesis for proposed research.
- ☐ Whether proposed research falls within the regulatory definition of "Research."
- ☐ Participant compensation as employees of DPPC.
- ☐ Concerns regarding data retention and necessity of photos and videos.

- ☐ Privacy concerns from unstated method of recording interviews.
- ☐ Subject matter and use of audio-visual recordings may be triggering to participants; risk is unaddressed by proposal.
- ☐ Concerns regarding consent.
- ☐ Small number of participants may lead to identification.
- ☐ Who is defined as a survivor of SA? Interviewees and/or interviewers?
- ☐ What is DPPC's goal of this proposal? Is it research, or solely for app development?

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved, and RRC members unanimously¹ agreed, to defer discussion pending receipt of additional information, including researcher's CVs.

APPROVED RESEARCH

None

NON-APPROVED RESEARCH

None

CLOSING MATTERS

The next meeting of the Research Review Committee has been scheduled for April 1, 2022.

¹ At 2:00 pm, due to technological difficulties, Committee member Dr. Greenburg was inadvertently disconnected from the meeting during the roll call vote. Shortly after the meeting was adjourned, Dr. Greenburg telephoned Chairperson Brown and voted to defer discussion pending receipt of additional information.