**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**Department of Developmental Services**

**Research Review Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 1, 2023

By Teams: Erin Brown (Chairperson), Janet George, Patricia Shook, Deborah Dreyfus, Rosalie Edes, Joseph Weru, Joshua Greenberg, and Freddy Torbey (observer/minutes)

**Agenda Items**

1. Administrative matters.
2. “Validity Testing of the Refractory Behavior Index (RBI) Assessment Tool,”John O’Neill, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, Director of Research, Judge Rotenberg Educational Center
3. “Understanding accessibility barriers in virtual reality (VR) environments for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,”

Krishna Venkatasubramanian, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Statistics, University of Rhode Island

## HOUSEKEEPING

* Chair established quorum
* Chair discussed quorum and noted the absence of Kathleen Gallagher, as well as Patricia Shook’s participation being audio only
* Chair summarized requirements for approval of research proposals pursuant to 115 CMR 10.08
* Chair presented proposals for discussion
* Joshua Greenberg joined meeting at 1:06 PM

### Review and Vote on November 3, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Outcome

* Chair moved for a vote and Committee members agreed to adopt the November 3, 2023, meeting minutes (Patricia Shook abstained due to absence)

**“Validity Testing of the Refractory Behavior Index (RBI) Assessment Tool,”**

John O’Neill, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, Director of Research, Judge Rotenberg Educational Center

Discussion

* None

Issues

* RRC is receiving repeated proposals that do not fall under RRC purview; discussion to be had concerning more clarification for researchers regarding appropriateness of proposals for RRC

Outcome

* Chair moved, and RRC members agreed, to find that the proposal is beyond the scope of the RRC

**“Understanding accessibility barriers in virtual reality (VR) environments for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,”**

Krishna Venkatasubramanian, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Statistics, University of Rhode Island

Discussion

* RRC discussed that researchers’ response to inquiries following last meeting were sufficiently clarificatory
* RRC discussed differing research standards applicable in researchers’ non-experimental industries and backgrounds
* RRC discussed importance of researching interactions between virtual reality and individuals with disabilities
* RRC discussed worth of allowing and encouraging research into individuals with disabilities’ unique interactions with technology and changing technological tools

Issues

* Proposal seems designed to cast a wide net in order to subsequently find a research hypothesis
* Proposal does not seem tailored to resolving an existing problem, but more aimed towards commercial ends

Outcome

* Chair moved, and RRC members agreed, to approve proposed study

### APPROVED RESEARCH

**“Understanding accessibility barriers in virtual reality (VR) environments for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,”**

Krishna Venkatasubramanian, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Statistics, University of Rhode Island

### NON-APPROVED RESEARCH

None

### CLOSING MATTERS

None