

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Developmental Services  
Research Review Committee Meeting Minutes  
Date: June 2, 2023**

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

Additional Attendees: Yu-Ting Chen, Cory Whelan, Venessa Hinchliffe

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**Agenda Items**

1. Administrative matters.
2. “Psychotropic Medication Reduction and Applied Behavior Analysis,”  
Drs. John O’Neill, Dawn O’Neill, & Nathan Blenkush
3. “Effectiveness of Interventions to Improve Resiliency & Burnout in Behavioral Health Residential Staff,” Drs. Stephen J. Bartels & Giselle K. Perez

**HOUSEKEEPING**

- ☐ Chair established quorum
- ☐ Chair discussed quorum and noted the absence of Joshua Greenburg
- ☐ Chair summarized requirements for approval of research proposals pursuant to 115 CMR 10.08
- ☐ Chair presented proposals for discussion, which are the same as the proposals for the May 5, 2023, meeting

**Review and Vote on May 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved for a vote and Committee members unanimously agreed to adopt the May 5, 2023, meeting minutes (Deborah Dreyfus and Rosalie Edes abstained due to absence)

**“Psychotropic Medication Reduction and Applied Behavior Analysis,”  
Drs. John O’Neill, Dawn O’Neill, & Nathan Blenkush**

Discussion

- ☐ RRC discussed that the proposal has similar problems as a previously discussed proposal

Issues

- ☐ Similar issues as a proposal considered earlier, nature and applicability of “research”

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved, and RRC members unanimously agreed, that proposed study does not meet the regulatory definition of research and falls outside of the purview of the RRC

**“Effectiveness of Interventions to Improve Resiliency & Burnout in Behavioral Health Residential Staff,”**

**Drs. Stephen J. Bartels & Giselle K. Perez**

Discussion

- ☐ RRC discussed that the proposal studies employees rather than individuals in DDS care, and the resulting applicability of RRC authority over the proposal
- ☐ RRC discussed different ways researchers can provide notice to individuals living in homes being studied and ensuring that those individuals’ expectation of privacy is respected

Issues

- ☐ Members questioned if proposal falls under RRC purview, due to the subjects of the study being provider employees
- ☐ Ensuring individual privacy during virtual training sessions, preventing incidental/inadvertent recordings of individuals in provider care
- ☐ Proposal does not address what is the proposed communication to individuals in provider care to ensure awareness that there is research occurring in their homes
- ☐ Differing proposed controls between individual virtual training and group trainings pose different privacy concerns

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved, and RRC members unanimously agreed, that proposed study be approved conditional on receipt of satisfactory assurances on the protection of individuals’ privacy and awareness of research being conducted; as well as how they will act to ensure the protection of individuals’ privacy

**APPROVED RESEARCH**

**“Effectiveness of Interventions to Improve Resiliency & Burnout in Behavioral Health Residential Staff,”**

**Drs. Stephen J. Bartels & Giselle K. Perez**

**NON-APPROVED RESEARCH**

None

**CLOSING MATTERS**

The next meeting, including discussion of the second research proposal on the agenda, is scheduled for Friday, July 7, 2023.