

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Developmental Services
Research Review Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: July 7, 2023**

By Teams: Erin Brown (Chairperson), Kathleen Gallagher, Patricia Shook, Joseph Weru, Deborah Dreyfus, Josh Greenberg, and Freddy Torbey (observer/minutes)

Additional Attendees: Taylor Gould, Cory Whelan, Sarah Peterson, Yu-Ting Chen (arrived 1:30)

Agenda Items

1. Administrative matters.
2. “Practical Functional Assessment and Skills-Based Treatment with Adults with Intellectual Disabilities,” Dr. Cory Whelan, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, CCC-SLP, Director of Clinical Services, Vinfen

1. HOUSEKEEPING

- ☐ Chair established quorum
- ☐ Chair summarized requirements for approval of research proposals pursuant to 115 CMR 10.08
- ☐ Chair presented proposal for discussion

Review and Vote on June 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved for a vote and Committee members unanimously agreed to adopt the June 2, 2023, meeting minutes pending addition of “satisfactory” prior to assurances (Josh Greenberg abstained due to absence)
- 2. **“Practical Functional Assessment and Skills-Based Treatment with Adults with Intellectual Disabilities,” Dr. Cory Whelan, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA, CCC-SLP, Director of Clinical Services, Vinfen**

Discussion

- ☐ RRC discussed how participants would be selected given number of individuals served; whether it was at VinFen or whether participants would come from other DDS programs
- ☐ If research would influence development of ISPs
- ☐ Whether research would incorporate behavior support plans, if applicable
- ☐ Discussed “single subject research design”
- ☐ Whether research on small “N” is applicable to larger group served by Provider

Issues

- ☐ Language in proposal is not readily understandable for non-clinical RRC non-clinical (legal, human rights)
- ☐ Ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of research subjects will be dependent on ultimate size of “N” considering that research takes place in program settings

Outcome

- ☐ Chair moved, and RRC members unanimously agreed to defer approval pending further clarifications concerning the issues raised with Principal Investigator Dr. Cory Whelan

APPROVED RESEARCH

None

NON-APPROVED RESEARCH

None

CLOSING MATTERS

The next meeting is TBD