**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**Department of Developmental Services**

**Research Review Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 2, 2024

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

Additional Attendees: Sofia Langman

**Agenda Items**

1. Administrative matters.
2. Modification Request for“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
3. “Assent in Applied Behavior Analysis: A Proposed Assessment Tool,” John O’Neill, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA Director of Research, Judge Rotenberg Educational Center (JRC)

## HOUSEKEEPING

* Chair established quorum
* Chair discussed quorum and noted the participation of Patricia Shook via audio only
* Chair summarized requirements for approval of research proposals pursuant to 115 CMR 10.08
* Chair presented proposals for discussion

### Review and Vote on January 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Outcome

* Chair moved for a vote and Committee members agreed to adopt the January 5, 2023, meeting minutes following edits (Deborah Dreyfus, Rosalie Edes, and Joseph Meyer abstained due to absence)

**Modification Request for “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 proposed including RRC identification number on notices provided to individuals to ensure participants understand the official approval of research being conducted
* RRC discussed notices’ technical level language, as well as participants’ ability to adequately comprehend and cooperate in research

Issues

* None

Outcome

* Chair moved, and RRC members agreed, to approve proposed study conditional on the inclusion of the research proposal number to notices provided to participants

**“Assent in Applied Behavior Analysis: A Proposed Assessment Tool,”** John O’Neill, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA Director of Research, Judge Rotenberg Educational Center (JRC)

Discussion

* RRC discussed that research falls outside the scope of RRC purview
* RRC discussed unclear nature and definition of consent in proposed study

Issues

* None

Outcome

* Chair moved, and RRC members agreed, to find proposal falls outside the purview of the RRC

### CONDITIONALLY APPROVED RESEARCH

**Modification Request for “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

### OUTSIDE OF PURVIEW

**“Assent in Applied Behavior Analysis: A Proposed Assessment Tool,”** John O’Neill, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LABA Director of Research, Judge Rotenberg Educational Center (JRC)