

CONSENT FORM

You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted through Kutztown University. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before you decide whether you want to participate in the study. The University requires that you give your signed agreement if you choose to participate.

This study is being conducted by Sean Erreger, LCSW, Doctoral Student

Title of the Study:

A Qualitative Exploration of Direct Support Professional Usage of Mobile Technology to Track and Assess Behavioral Support Needs

Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of this research is to understand your experience with behavioral support needs, how data is collected around these behaviors, and use the behavioral data to address them. The focus will be on utilizing mobile technology (smart phones, tablets, etc). These include behaviors such as aggression, property destruction, self-harm and elopement (running away).

Procedures:

If you agree to participate in this study, first you will read and sign this consent form, then you will fill out a demographic survey so that the researcher can get a sense of who you are as a participant. A link to the survey platform Google Forms will be provided for you to register. This will help me discover the best time to schedule the focus groups. Additionally, some demographic information will help me interpret the results.

After completion of the survey, I will schedule you to then participate in one 60-75 minute online focus group. There will be a link to a WebEx video conferencing provided to you. You will also be provided instructions on how to log in. You and several other DSPs from other parts of the country will be asked questions about behavioral support needs in general, data collection practices with mobile technology, and how the data used in client care. Once the WebEx recording is transcribed, the video recording will be deleted.

Risks or Discomforts, and Benefits of Being in the Study:

The study has minimal risks, and you will only be asked to respond to what you are comfortable with answering. Your information will remain confidential. To further preserve confidentiality, if you are using a client example, please don't provide any identifying information.

The benefits to participation are you be contributing to limited research that includes the DSP perspective on the utilization of mobile technology for behavioral support needs. The researchers' intention is to include your voice and expertise on the topic.

Confidentiality and Anonymity:

Records will be kept private and will be handled in a confidential manner to the extent provided by law. In any report or presentation, the researcher will not include any information that will make it possible to identify you as research study participant. You will remain anonymous. For example, in the report you will be referred to as “Participant #1” or “P1”. Once in the group please respect the privacy of other participants by not taking screenshots or video capture of the session.

Voluntary Participation:

Your participation is voluntary, refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled, and you may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Contacts and Questions:

The researcher conducting this study is a Doctoral Student in the School of Social Work named Sean Erreger, he can be reached at serre864@live.kutztown.edu. The faculty sponsor is dissertation chairperson Dr. Yoon Mi Kim. Her email is yokim@kutztown.edu Phone: 484-646-5826

You may ask any questions you have now or at any time as the study proceeds. If you have any questions or concerns about the rights of research participants, please contact the IRB Committee at Kutztown University at 484-646-4167. This research has been approved by the IRB on November 7, 2024 (IRB #12102024)

Compensation:

Upon completion of the focus group, you will be compensated with a \$25 Amazon gift card as compensation for your time.

Future Research Studies:

Your information collected as part of the research, even if identifiers are removed, will not be used or distributed for future research studies. You will be able to view the findings once my dissertation is completed.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the information described above and have received a copy of this information. I have asked questions I had regarding the research study and have received answers to my satisfaction. I am 18 years of age or older and voluntarily consent to participate in this study.

Signature of Participant

Date

Thank you in Advance for your participation.