

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Institutional Review Board Meeting
Minutes
April 27, 2021

ON PHONE

Janet Ahern
Dr. Margaret Scotellaro
Bret Angelos
Tami Fuller
Kim Mann
Arricka Newingham
Robin LaSota
Gina Fedock
Robin Albritton
Brooke Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

Janet Ahern called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Dr. Margaret Scotellaro made a motion to approve the minutes March 23, 2021.

Robin LaSota seconded the motion and a unanimous vote from the remaining board members carried the motion.

FOLLOW UP

Gina Fedock. *A Study of Mental Health Concerns and Correctional Programming Needs for Incarcerated Women.*

Gina Fedock attended the meeting today and provided more information regarding her research proposal and what they are planning to review. Over 1200 women eligible for the survey and over 832 women that participated. 45% of these individuals said that they had children in the child welfare system.

Board indicated that the reasons presented for a request of waiver of consent isn't compelling.

Researcher indicated that there is a logistical concern that the university is not allowing them to do in person research. She is really concerned with not knowing who opted in to the survey and who did not. Trying to make sure that staff did not see the responses. Report was prepared for Illinois Department of Corrections.

Researcher doesn't know how she would get consent from them if she can't go into the prison to interview them.

Board asked if there is there a way to follow up with the individual, since they already received consent originally? Gina indicated that 50% could be released in 5 years or less.

Board asked can a smaller sample be utilized (or can a smaller sample size be secured?) While it is administrative data that is being used, the information regarding child welfare involvement was not part of the information that was part of the original release when individuals were interviewed.

Researcher wants a large enough sample so that they can look at things that are statistically significant instead of just using a small number of stories to make broad generalizations.

Board asked if researcher can work with a de-identified set of information given to them by Chapin. The concern is that the original consent was not given for them to access data at any time in the future. Consent was for them to participate in research to help with programming. There was no request to access DCFS files in the future. This part of the study is a way to better address the original point of the study.

Board asked about comparing the mothers with who is still in the Department of Corrections and getting consent from the women who are still incarcerated so that they can access their data. The researcher has concerns about whether the individuals would understand the consent that they are signing.

Board indicated that DCFS is currently experiencing the same things with not going into homes or seeing people in person and using technology to engage with parents through WebEx/Zoom/etc. Researcher is wondering how many that they would actually be able to get in touch with people getting released and what their sample size would end up looking like.

MOTION: Tami Fuller motioned to deny this proposal.

Robin Albritton seconded the proposed motion and a unanimous vote from the remaining board members carried the motion.

NEW PROPOSALS

Geri Donenberg. *PHAT Life: Preventing HIV AIDS Among Teens -- Amendment.*

Changes made to the consent form. Revisions detailed in the consent form are fine. Need University approval form of the new consent form.

MOTION: Bret Angelos motioned to approve the proposal.

Robin LaSota seconded the proposed motion and a unanimous vote from the remaining board members carried the motion.

Sharva Hampton-Campbell. *Through their Recall of Lived Experiences: An Exploration of the Impact of Campus-Based Support Services on the Retention of former Foster Youth During their First Year of Post-Secondary Education – Amendment..*

Wants to increase the gift card amount and expand the sample size to two other universities. Fairly minor modifications

MOTION: Tami Fuller motioned to approve the proposal.

Dr. Margaret Scotellaro seconded the proposed motion and a unanimous vote from the remaining board members carried the motion.

Judith Havlicek. *Developing Understanding of the Foster Parent Mentoring Program at Children's Home and Aid through Research -- Amendment.*

Expand from community college sample to four-year universities and doing interviews with them as well. Study is reasonable. Protocol seems well-developed.

Two phases – quantitative and qualitative phase.

MOTION: Robin LaSota motioned to approve the proposal.

Tami Fuller seconded the proposed motion and a unanimous vote from the remaining board members carried the motion.

Shannon Kugley *DCFS LifeSet Evaluation Phase I*

Program that is already involved in DCFS.

This is Phase I of the study, which is primarily descriptive. Looking at demographic characteristics of the sample. Lifeset program is for transitioning young adults – so they will look at the administrative data to see who the youth are and what their data is and use it to ask them questions around how the program is being administered.

Youth can pick supportive living conditions instead of a managed living condition. More empowering to the youth – can make arrangements with relatives or friends. A pact, but more supportive.

There is another phase for this and they will submit paperwork when that phase is ready to go.

Need to make change on the proposal summary about the study dates (she has from May 2021 to April 2021).

MOTION: Robin Albritton motioned to approve the proposal.

Arricka Newingham seconded the proposed motion and a unanimous vote from the remaining board members carried the motion.

Sue Pickett. *Intact Family Recovery Program Evaluation -- Amendment.*

Increase in the gift card amount.

MOTION: Robin LaSota motioned to approve the proposal.

Dr. Margaret Scotellaro seconded the proposed motion and a unanimous vote from the remaining board members carried the motion.

Marquinta Thomas. *Improving Access to Early Care and Education for Children and Families Involved in the Child Welfare System in Illinois.*

Birth parents/caregivers/guardians and caseworkers are the two populations that the study wants to include. Ration not specified of the different types of caregivers. Delineate when researcher wants to get information from the foster parents. Needs to indicated that she is interviewing foster parents – but only indicates parents and guardians. Consistently identify foster parents as one of the parties being included as the target population.

DCFS employees cannot accept any gifts of any amount to do their job. There were several agencies listed in the pool of who they would be including. Board is not okay with caseworkers receiving gift cards. Limit to foster parents and guardians only.

Board suggest that they expand their end date from May 21, 2021 to a more realistic timeframe.

MOTION: Kim Mann motioned to approve the proposal, pending proposed changes being implemented in the research proposal.

Robin LaSota seconded the proposed motion and a unanimous vote from the remaining board members carried the motion.

OTHER:

Ted Cross Paper. No additional feedback.

Next meeting re-scheduled for May 25, 2021 at 2 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.