Consent Form for Pilot Study

An Exploratory Study of the Factors Impacting the Application of Empirical Research to Practice from the Perspective of Family Violence Prevention Workers

Walden University

Qualitative Interview

You are being invited to take part in a pilot study to validate an interview guide which will be used to conduct a research study exploring the factors which influence the application of empirical research to family violence prevention practices.

To be eligible to participate in this pilot study, you must be a family violence prevention worker who works directly with victims, prevention program services, or community members to prevent family violence, educate community members, or raise awareness of violence. Your opinions and experiences are valuable to understanding the unique factors that impact this process from the perspective of front line family violence workers. This data can be used to improve violence prevention research that is more useful for practitioners. This form is part of a process called “informed consent” to allow you to understand this study before deciding to participate.

This study is being conducted by a researcher named Linnaya Graf, who is a doctoral student at Walden University. Linnaya will be the primary investigator, and will personally collect all data during this study.

Background Information:

This pilot study is designed to improve and validate an interview guide and interviewing process. This interview guide will be used to conduct in-depth, open ended interviews. The purpose of the interview is to explore and identify the factors that influence application of empirical research to the professional practices of family violence prevention workers.

Definitions:

Important terms and definitions as they relate to this study:

- **Application of Empirical Research to Practice**: The act of applying empirical research or evidence based practices to violence prevention services or programs.
- **Empirical Research**: Qualitative or quantitative research which has been conducted using a published and standardized methodology to answer a question. Research that is designed to improve the understanding related to a detailed research question or test a hypothesis.
- **Family violence prevention worker**: A paid professional who works directly with victims or community members who is engaged in victims services, or is engaged in education or awareness to prevent family violence.
- **Facilitating factor**: A factor which promotes or encourages individuals to apply empirical research to their professional practices.
- **Hindering factor**: A factor which stops or discourages an individual from applying empirical research to their professional practices.
Empowered: the feeling that you are capable, and in control of achieving mastery in an area of knowledge or skill.

Participant Procedures:
If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to:
- Participate in a taped, interactive interview designed to provide answers to open ended questions over the phone or face to face.
- Provide detailed feedback identifying any questions or areas of the interview which may be confusing, upsetting, or raise concerns. You will be asked to provide any feedback which you feel would improve the interview guide and the interview process.
- This feedback may be positive, negative, or both. It is important to share honest feedback in order to ensure the interview guide and process is clear, understandable, nonoffensive, and completed within a suitable timeframe. All information conducted during the pilot study will be strictly confidential and any identifying information will be destroyed upon completion of the interviews. You will not need to give specific answers to the research questions themselves and none of the information you provide will be added to the research compilation.
- The interview is expected to take 30-40 minutes to complete.

Voluntary Nature of the Study:
Your participation in this pilot study is voluntary. This means that everyone will respect your decision of whether or not you want to participate in the pilot study. No one will treat you differently if you decide not to be in the study. If you decide to join the study now, you can still change your mind during the study. If you feel stressed during the study you may stop at any time. You may skip any questions that you feel may feel uncomfortable answering.

Risks of Being in the Study:
There are minimal risks for participating in this pilot study. However, you could experience feelings of discomfort or uneasiness in sharing negative experiences related to describing personal or organizational barriers in applying empirical research to your professional practices. Participants may find that answering questions for this interview may reveal feelings to themselves that they were not previously aware of. If you feel uncomfortable or distressed at any time during this interview you should feel free to terminate participation.

Benefits of Being in the Study:
Processing both positive and negative emotions and experiences can be mildly stressful. In contrast, participants may benefit from participating in this interview by feeling empowered and valued as part of the violence prevention process. Participants may feel encouraged by having a chance to include their own voice in a research project which directly relates to their profession. Further, participants can benefit the family violence prevention field by improving the quality of this research project through contributing unique and valuable opinions and experiences. Results of this study will contribute to an action plan to improve collaboration between researchers and violence prevention workers.

Compensation:
There is no compensation for participating in this pilot study.

Confidentiality:
Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. As the primary researcher, Linnaya Graf, will be the only individual to view and maintain your contact information. As soon as the pilot study is completed, all feedback will be assigned a unique number and any identifying information connected to the interview will be destroyed immediately. The researcher will not use your information for any purposes outside of this research project. The researcher will not save any identifying information or include any identifying information for any individual or organization in reports of the study.

Contacts and Questions:
You may ask any questions you have now. Or if you have questions later, you may contact the primary researcher Linnaya Graf at any time.

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Further, if you want to talk privately about your rights as a participant, you can call Dr. Leilani Endicott. She is the Walden University representative who can discuss this with you. Her phone number is 1-800-925-3368, extension 1210. Walden University’s approval number for this study is 06-04-10-0330058 and it expires on June 3, 2011.

Please print a copy of this form to keep.

Statement of Consent:
I have read the above information and I feel I understand the study well enough to make a decision about my involvement. By signing below, I am agreeing to the terms described above.

Participant’s Electronic* Signature

Date of consent

Electronic signatures are regulated by the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act. Legally, an "electronic signature" can be the person’s typed name, their email address, or any other identifying marker. An electronic signature is just as valid as a written signature as long as both parties have agreed to conduct the transaction electronically.

**Please note:** Your informed consent form will remain in a locked cabinet separate from any data collected and is only viewable by the primary researcher.