

RESEARCH CONSENT FORM

Study Title: Development of a National Competency Framework for Canadian Clinical Supervisors in the Counselling and Psychotherapy Profession

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Dear potential survey participant,

We invite you to participate in a research study titled *Development of a National Competency Framework for Canadian Clinical Supervisors in the Counselling and Psychotherapy Profession*. The study is being conducted by Co-Principal Investigators Beth Robinson and Blythe Shepard, in conjunction with research team members Anne Marshall, Simon Nuttgens, David Paré, John Driscoll, and Mark MacAulay. Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time prior to submitting your online survey responses.

Purpose and Design of the Study

This study has been designed in response to anticipated heightened demand for clinical supervision across the country and across the career span (i.e., novice through veteran). The increased call for clinical supervisors will reflect developments on the regulatory landscape, dawning recognition of the benefits that accrue from clinical supervision at all levels of practitioner experience, and growing appreciation of clinical supervision as a specialty area of practice with its own unique corpus of knowledge and skills.

Currently, one of the greatest challenges with respect to the nascent specialty practice area of clinical supervision in counselling and psychotherapy is that of operationalizing definitions of “qualified” and “competent.” The current study will serve as a vehicle for forward movement at the national level in Canada. The primary objective of this study is to establish a national

competency framework to support the continued growth and development of clinical supervision practice in Canada.

Participation in this phase of the study will entail completion of an online survey that should require no more than 15-20 minutes of your time.

Possible Risks

There are no foreseeable risks related to participation in this project. Should sensitive issues or indications of psychological distress arise during or subsequent to engaging in the interview, we encourage you to contact your family physician or to seek counselling, consultation, and/or supervision as you deem appropriate.

Although there are no anticipated risks associated with this study, by consenting to participate, you have not waived any rights to legal recourse in the event of research-related harm.

Possible Benefits

The benefits of the study will be of a collective nature in that you and your fellow participants will contribute to the development of a national competency framework for Canadian clinical supervisors in the counselling and psychotherapy profession. This framework will be of value to counsellor and psychotherapist educators in graduate programs, clinical supervisors of pre-degree and post-degree counsellors and psychotherapists, and clinical supervision researchers. It will be of practical application in formal and informal supervisor self-assessment and assessment by others. This augmented awareness of crucial clinical supervision competencies will inform didactic and experiential training initiatives aimed at further establishing clinical supervision as an area of specialty practice in the counselling and psychotherapy profession.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality will be maintained via the use of an anonymous online survey in which you will not be asked for your name or contact information. The survey will use SurveyMonkey technology. Participant codes will be employed during data analysis. Anecdotal responses from the last survey item may be quoted anonymously. All hard copies of data collection and analysis will be secured in locked cabinets, and electronic data will be password-protected. Please note that if you complete this study at your place of employment, it is possible that your employer may have access to electronic data sent from the workplace.

Additionally, because SurveyMonkey stores data on a server housed in the United States, the US Patriot Act applies. The US Patriot Act gives the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) the authority to access any database without a court order, and the Act prohibits the owner of a database from telling others about any access by the FBI. Therefore, personal information that you provide may legally be accessed by the FBI without your knowledge.

Funding

The study has been approved for funding by the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association.

Dissemination of Findings

The project team for the current study offered a concurrent session presentation on April 1, 2016 at the combined American Counselling Association and Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association 2016 conference in Montreal, QC. The session was titled "Further Along the Canadian Path to Developing a Nationally-Validated Clinical Supervision Competency Profile." We have submitted another concurrent session proposal for the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association conference that will be held in St. John's, NL in May 2017. Upon completion of the competency project, we anticipate multi-venue dissemination of the findings via the CCPA listserv, Cognica newsletter, and the Canadian Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy. This dissemination will be undertaken in a manner that safeguards participant confidentiality. As CCPA members you will have access to each of the proposed presentations and publications noted above. General notice of any further dissemination will be via the CCPA listserv.

Commercialization and Conflict of Interest

There are no plans to commercialize this research and there are no known conflicts of interest.

Participation

Participation in this research study is completely voluntary. You are free to decline to participate altogether or may choose to cease participation at any time prior to submitting your online survey responses. Unfortunately, once the questionnaire has been submitted, deleting it from the data bank will not be possible due to the anonymous nature of the submission.

Questions

You are encouraged to contact either of the Co-Principal Investigators at any time with questions, comments, concerns, or to receive more information about the study. You can reach Dr. Robinson at 902.585.1125 or at beth.robinson@acadiau.ca. Dr. Shepard can be reached at blythe.shepard@uleth.ca or 403.329.2383.

In the event that you have any additional questions or concerns about your participation in this study or your rights as a participant, you also may contact Dr. Stephen Maitzen, Acadia University's Research Ethics Board Chair. Dr. Maitzen may be reached at 902.585.1407 or smaitzen@acadiau.ca.

Informed Consent

Please read the following paragraph carefully before proceeding on to the questionnaire.

As a prospective participant I have reviewed and understand the information provided about the research project titled *Development of a National Competency Framework for Canadian Clinical Supervisors in the Counselling and Psychotherapy Profession* that is being conducted by Dr. Beth Robinson, Dr. Blythe Shepard, and five other project team colleagues identified above. I understand that my participation is completely voluntary. I may cease participation at any time by exiting the survey before submitting it. Unfortunately, once the survey has been submitted, the lack of participant identifying information precludes withdrawing it from the data bank.