School of Social Work

Student Proposal for School of Social Work

*exemplar*

Independent Research: SWRK 7100

*Use this proposal if you are planning to submit an elective proposal for independent research in social work.*

Note: Only full-time faculty are eligible to precept a student in an independent study

→Date: __04/01/2014____ (SWRK 7100 proposals are required to be to the Curriculum Committee Chair for review by 11/1 for Spring semester, 3/1 for Summer I and II, and 7/1 for Fall semester proposals).

1. **STUDENT INFORMATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: MSW Student</th>
<th>Phone: (269) 555-1212</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address: 1424 101st St.</td>
<td>City/State/Zip: Kalamazoo, MI, 49008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIN #: 123456789</td>
<td>Anticipated Graduation Date (mo/yr): 06/2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please check all that apply:

- [ ] Undergraduate  
- [x] Graduate Program:
  - Advanced Standing: [ ] Year One  [ ] Year Two (PT)
  - [ ] Year One  [ ] Year Two
  - [ ] Year One  [x] Year Two
  - [x] Year One  [ ] Year Two
  - [x] Year One  [x] Year Two

Program Site:

Approved 8/12/2014
II. FACULTY SECTION OF PROPOSAL:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal submitted for: Jennifer Fuzzypants</th>
<th>Semester: Fall 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year: 2014</td>
<td>Credit Hours: 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsoring Faculty: Juan Pablo Montoya, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. How often will you meet with student?:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>every 2 weeks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Format for meeting (e.g., in-person,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>telephone, synchronous on-line,</td>
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<tr>
<td>asynchronous on-line): in-person, or via</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>telephone</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Length of each meeting: 2 hours</td>
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→ **Title:** “I’ve been there too”: Peers in Co-Occurring Treatment

- What support/resources will you be providing the student to enable them to successfully complete the proposed work? Co-authorship of IRB proposal, and interview protocol; reviewing interview results; assisting with coding of results

III. STUDENT SECTION OF PROPOSAL:

1. What are the research questions?
   What is the experience of being a peer in co-occurring service in the public mental health system in Michigan over the last 7 years?

2. What research methodology will be used?
   Qualitative narrative interviewing approach involving semi-structured in-depth interviews to understand the experience of being a peer specialist

3. What data source(s) will be used?
   Transcripts of 60-90 minute semi-structured interviews with peer specialists

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4. What is the proposed process and timeline for Human Subjects Institutional Review Board approval? IRB proposal will be written and submitted by August 2014 to allow for approval even if full board is needed by October 2014 and interviews November and December 2014

_x Student has completed the HSIRB/CITI training (http://www.wmich.edu/research/) (or anticipated completion date: _03/2014___)

__ HSIRB submitted proposal for project (date submitted and by whom: _________; date approved by HSIRB: ___________)

Description of project:

The research design will involve interviews with CPSSs who currently work or have worked on co-occurring service teams from 2006 – the present in Michigan, to better understand their role, their experience, and the meaning they attribute to their work. Semi-structured interviews will get the best picture of the narrative of how people decided to become CPSSs in co-occurring services, their current role/tasks, and the meaning they ascribe to the role of peers in the recovery of those they work with and their own recovery (a narrative approach). The interviews will be interactive in nature (McHahan and Rogers, 1994, Campbell, Adams, Wasco, Ahrens, and Self, 2010), allowing for my sharing of experience in working in co-occurring services and with peers as colleagues in addition to asking about the experiences of participants. This will allow for a greater mutuality and decreased sense of power difference, and the further development of trust in using the data to help inform decision-makers about peer services in Michigan.

Participants/Settings

Participants will be selected using a snowball sampling strategy starting with key informants of CPSSs from the MiFAST team, who work with co-occurring services, and know other peers who work in the same capacity, as well as one peer from Recovery Institute who connected with peers across the state engaged in IDDT and other EBPs. I will ask each key informant if they are willing to be interviewed, and ask each of them to tell me about other peers in co-occurring service who they would recommend interviewing. A desired N of 8-12 or until I am getting no new content areas of data is preferred. Participants will be included if they are certified as peer support specialists, and currently or on the past 7 years have worked on a team in the public mental health system in Michigan with individuals with co-occurring disorders.

Due to the sampling method selected, I hope that accessing new potential participants will be relatively easy by e-mail or telephone. I will contact potential participants provided by other participants, and explain that I received their name from a peer colleague as someone who might be interested in participating in a research project about the role of peer specialists working in co-occurring teams in Michigan. At that point, I will use a script (attached) to explain the research project and ask if they are interested in hearing more about the study. If
they are, I will answer any questions, the informed content process will begin, and if participants provide consent an interview will be scheduled and take place at the participant’s preferred time, date, method, and location. At the end of the interview, I will ask participants if they would recommend other CPSSs who work in co-occurring service teams in Michigan who might be interested in participating, and obtain potential participant contact information so that I can contact them about the study.

**Relevant EPAS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competencies: E.P. 2.1.6: Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research. Social workers use practice experience to inform research, employ evidence-based interventions, evaluate their own practice, and use research findings to improve practice, policy, and social service delivery. They comprehend quantitative and qualitative research and understand scientific and ethical approaches to building knowledge.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Practice behaviors &amp; commensurate activities (apply foundation or concentration practice behavior(s)): IPPB7 Evaluate evidence-based literature and apply evidence-based practices in working with individuals, families, and groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Outcomes/Products: IRB process, study of qualitative research methods, and interview completion of an original research study</td>
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**Core readings:** List at least three references that the student will read as part of the Independent Study


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Solomon, P. (2004). Peer support/peer provided services: Underlying processes, benefits, and

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Assignments: List the proposed products (papers, presentations, etc.) on which the student’s learning will be evaluated.

- Successful completion of HSIRB approval for qualitative study with vulnerable population
- Completion and transcripting of at least 6 interviewing with the participants of interest, and coding into themes of same
- Report that summarizes interviews and addresses research question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student (signature):</th>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Comments:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Work Faculty Sponsor:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Comments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW Curriculum Committee Chair:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Comments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSW Director:</td>
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