

February 3, 2009

Dear Texas State University Institutional Review Board:

Elly Haskard Ternieren

I am writing to express my approval of Stephanie Schlacks' honors thesis project to be conducted at Austin State Hospital (ASH). I have supervised Stephanie's work as a research assistant in my lab for the past year where she has observed physician-patient interactions in videotaped and audiotaped medical visits. Her past research experience prepares her for the challenges of this naturalistic observation study of nurses and patients at ASH as does her volunteer experience working with patients at ASH. I will be supervising her completion of her thesis at Texas State, and she will be supervised at ASH by Anna Williams. This project is a valuable opportunity to learn more about the interactions of nurses and patients and determine which types of communications by nurses result in productive behaviors by patients. Knowledge generated from this work could improve the care of hospitalized mentally ill patients in Austin and at other hospitals. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about this proposed project.

Kelly Haskard Zolnierek

Assistant Professor

Department of Psychology