**The Impact of ClubGEN on Personal and Professional Skills**

IRB Application# 2009B6502

1. We are conducting a pilot program. This pilot program is an extension of GENaustin’s afterschool program ClubGEN, which is in AustinISD middle schools as well as a few other ISDs surrounding Austin. Our pilot program involves hiring Texas State University-San Marcos students to facilitate the afterschool program in HaysCISD middle schools. For this study, we will collect data only from Texas State University students, not from the middle school students participating in ClubGEN.

The sources of potential subjects, materials and data all come from the afterschool program. The goals of ClubGEN are to improve self-esteem and critical thinking skills, as well as decrease risky behavior.

GENAustin collects pre and post tests as a means of evaluating their program. The Texas School Safety Center will use this data collected by GENaustin for an evaluation of our pilot program.   
There are two population groups that will be studied for this evaluation. The first study group is approximately 50 girls in three Hays CISD middle schools currently participating in ClubGEN afterschool program. The first population ranges from 11-14 years of age as well as ethnic background. This population will also consist of mostly healthy girls. We will analyze the data already gathered by GENAustin.

The second population consists of three female students from Texas State University who serve as facilitators of ClubGEN in three Hays CISD middle schools. This second population ranges from 18-19 years of age, includes Caucasian and Hispanic ethnic backgrounds, and healthy young women.   
We will be evaluating the first subject group via GenAustin’s data because the afterschool program targets middle school girls. In addition, the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) will also evaluate the three facilitators because of their in-depth involvement with the curriculum and the middle school girls. The goal of the study is to evaluate the impact the program has on the lives and health of both the middle school girls and facilitators.

1. Both groups of participants are recruited based on their involvement in ClubGEN, either as middle school girls or as facilitators. GENAustin collects consent forms as part of the application process from the middle school girls (Appendix A). Each girl’s parent/guardian must agree to participate in the evaluation process at the beginning of their child’s participation in ClubGEN. Each consent form is kept on file both onsite at each middle school and at GENAustin. The researchers provided consent forms to each facilitator allowing them three weeks to sign and return (Appendix B). The facilitators are fully aware of the study, their role in the study, and the purpose of the study including that their participation is completely voluntary and in no way will impact their employment status or performance evaluation. Facilitators received a signed copy for their records and returned a signed copy to TxSSC. The consent forms are scanned and stored on the researchers’ computers.
2. The facilitators will participate in a 20-week curriculum of ClubGEN. This project will use interviews to determine the effect ClubGEN has on the facilitators’ personal skills and professional skills. We will evaluate the influence of ClubGEN on their perceptions about their professional careers. As mentioned prior, the purpose of ClubGEN is to improve self-esteem and critical thinking skills, as well as decrease risky behaviors. We will examine if facilitators are also impacted in these key areas as a result of leading the program three times a week. Facilitators will complete one-hour group interviews once at the end of every semester, one in January and one in May. The group will be asked to respond to and discuss a set of questions about ClubGEN posed by two outside interviewers (one interviewing and one taking notes), who are Texas School Safety Center employees but not associated with the research project. These interviews will focus on two key areas: personal skills and professional skills. The interviews will be tape recorded and participants will be aware of the presence of a tape recorder. These documents are attached (Appendix C).
3. Because data collection will only involve the three facilitators, potential risks are low.
4. Because potential risks to the facilitators are low, they will be minimized by confidential procedures, including transcribing the recordings without assigning names and then destroying these recordings.
5. By evaluating ClubGEN in Hays CISD, the researchers intend to provide valid data to support the incorporation of this afterschool program across the state of Texas. Research has shown that middle schools could benefit from implementing ClubGEN. Not only may ClubGEN decrease risky behaviors among middle school girls, it also could increase academic achievement. As a state with one of the highest teen pregnancy rates[[1]](#footnote-1) and lowest Scholastic Achievement Test scores[[2]](#footnote-2), it could benefit the entire state if ClubGEN effectively influences behaviors of middle school girls. In addition, we want to evaluate whether the facilitators’ lives are also impacted by their involvement with ClubGEN.
6. No compensation or incentives will be offered to participants in relation to the two group interviews.
7. Risks include sensitive nature of the information and because these topics are already part of ClubGEN’s evaluated curriculum, this risk is outweighed by the anticipated benefits to the subjects and society.
8. ClubGEN is held at Wallace, Simon, and Chapa Middle Schools in Hays CISD. Agencies involved are GENAustin (Appendix D), who owns the afterschool program and the agency submitting this proposal, Texas School Safety Center.
9. The researchers are not students at Texas State University- San Marcos.
10. This research project is not a student project, theses, or dissertations as part of any Texas State University- San Marcos course.
11. This study has not been approved by any other IRB.
12. Research will be held on TxSSC server and only research department and the researchers will have access to the data. The results have the potential to be published and will be available to the facilitators and GENaustin upon their request.

1. Guttmacher Institute, *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics* (September 2006). Online.

   Available at: <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2006/09/12/USTPstats.pdf>. Accessed November 19 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, *Window on State Government: Where We Stand: Comparative Facts and Figures about the Lone Star State* ( February 2006). Online. Available at: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/comptrol/wwstand/wws0512ed/>. Accessed November 19, 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)