**Assessing the Benefits of Attending a Support group for SLP Student Training**

1. Subjects for the study will be recruited from students enrolled for CDIS 5336. The only inclusion criteria used will be enrollment in the course and consent to participate in the study.
2. The data collected for this study will be part of an assignment all students will be required to complete for the course. Students will be given the option to allow their assignments to be used as data for this study by signing a consent form.
3. As part of the final assignment for CIDS 5336 course, all students are required to make a good faith attempt to find and attend at least one meeting of a local support group. They can chose to attend a support group for the disorder they have been assigned to study in detail for the class assignment, or alternatively, any other related disorder if they are not able to find one in the area.

As part of the assignment, students are required to write a reflection of their thoughts about, and what they learned from attending the support groups. For students giving consent to participating in the study, an additional hard copy of the reflection paper will need to be submitted at the end of the semester. Students will be advised to not provide their name on this additional copy. Further, the additional copy will be submitted separately to the department administrative secretary and the primary investigator will not have access to this copy till final grade submissions for the course have been completed.

Following the completion of the course, the primary investigator will complete a thematic analysis of the reflection papers submitted and develop a coding scheme to help answer the research questions. The codes will then be re-coded by two independent judges to establish reliability and validity of the codes.

The working hypothesis of this study is that students will report significant benefits to attending support groups. Further, students will also report in an increased understanding of the personal aspects of the disorders with a resulting increase in empathy for the clients and their families.

1. The potential risks to participants in this project are no more significant than risks faced in everyday life. The participants will not be required to do anything in addition to what they will be required to do to complete the assignment.
2. Due to the nature of this study, participants are not exposed to any more risk that they face by enrolling in the course. Participants are not required to do anything over and above what is required as part of the final assignment for this course. All students whether they participate in this study or not, will be required to complete this assignment as part of the coursework.
3. There are no immediate benefits for the participants to gain from agreeing to participate in this study. The primary benefit of this study is to evaluate the role of this particular assignment in student learning and the results of this study would have an impact on how this assignment is conducted in the future thereby benefitting future generations.
4. No compensation will be offered to participate in this study.
5. Due to the nature of this study, the risks in relation to the anticipated benefits are no greater than one would face by enrolling and completing CDIS 5336 successfully.
6. Not applicable
7. Not applicable
8. Not applicable
9. No, the proposed study has not been reviewed by another IRB.
10. The primary Investigator and one research assistant will have access to the data and results after completion of the study.