



Human Subjects Protection Review Committee

Project Description -- Qualitative

NAME: _____

TITLE OF PROJECT: _____

I. Description of the Project:

a. Purpose:

Include a purpose statement here

The purpose of the research study is to examine the lived experiences of African American church members regarding the stigma of mental health in the church community, and how the stigma about mental health in the African American church affects church members from receiving mental health intervention.

b. Number and description of participants.

Include number and description here. State how you will find participants.

I will conduct a one-on-one interview with each participant. The participants for this study will include eight to ten African American Catholic and Baptist church members in the Louisiana area. However, as with a phenomenological study, the number of participants will depend on data saturation. Participants will range between 30 - 40 years of age. I will use snowball sampling and solicit help locating participants from church members who can refer additional people for my study. I will share with the participants the purpose of my study. The interviews will allow participants to share their experiences as African American church members who have dealt with the stigma of receiving mental health interventions.

c. Procedure:

If interviews are conducted, include interview outline.

I will use a qualitative, phenomenological interview process to gather information from each participant in person or using Zoom. I will be the data collector to ensure that participants' confidentiality is maintained throughout the research process. The interviews are expected to last 45-60 minutes. I will record each interview and have a professional transcriptionist transcribe each interview. I will closely examine transcriptions of each interview to find central themes that emerge. In addition to the interviews, I will use a field journal to document my experiences as I move through the research. I will also select similar themes from the participants' experiences. I will use open-ended questions to solicit information from each participant. All participants will be 30-40 years of age. Demographic forms will be used to record basic identifying information. Follow-up interviews may be conducted to ensure accurate accounts of the experiences of African American church members dealing with the stigma of mental health intervention

II. Protections

a. Privacy:

How will you make sure that you respect the privacy of the participants?

Before anyone participates in the study, they will be assured that their information will be kept confidential. Their names and identities will be protected using pseudonyms. Data collection will be conducted in person or using Zoom, to which only the researcher, a peer reviewer, a professional transcriptionist, and dissertation committee members will have access. After each interview, the participant's information and recordings will be stored securely in a locked file cabinet and require a 4-digit passcode for access.

b. Informed Consent:

What will you tell participants beforehand about the research?

I will gain consent from each participant, informing them of their rights, the purpose of the study, the risks involved, and their responsibility. I understand that I am responsible for the participants' welfare throughout the research process and will take reasonable precautions to avoid causing emotional, physical, or social harm to participants. Participants will be notified that at any time during study, they can withdraw from the study without negative consequences. Care will be given to explain to participants the purpose of the data collection to remove any misconceptions about the research. The consent form is attached.

c. Risks/Unforeseen Consequences/Protections

Include any risks and how you will handle the situation if this happens. For example, if you upset someone, will you refer them to the counseling center, the counselor on site, or somewhere else?

During this study, participants may become triggered by past or current experiences. Participants who show signs of emotional distress will be given the option to withdraw from the study. I will provide the participants with references to mental health providers, including the Thomas E. Chambers Counseling and Training Center.

d. Benefits

Include benefits to respondents for participating in this study. Extra credit is optional, and not sufficient. For example, might they think more about some important topic if they answer the questions?

Participants will benefit from this study by sharing their experiences as a way to share their voice about the stigma of mental health in the African American church.

Researcher Signature

Date

NOTE: Save using your name, such as Jane.Doe.HumanSubjects

DUE: Monday 6:00 p.m. before the Wednesday noon meeting

Submit electronically to:

Michaela Hartline, Ph.D., LPC

Board Certified Counselor

Co-Chair, UHCNO Human Subjects Protection Review Committee

O: (504) 398-2233

mhartline@uhcno.edu