**FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK**

Southern Alberta Region

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 Reconceptualizing the Role of Diversity in Group Development (Practitioners-Phase 3)

**WHAT?**

Do you want to play a part in developing a new model of group work practice? You’re invited to be part of a research project by researchers at the University of Calgary. The purpose of this project is to discover how group work practitioners can utilize diversity to promote group development. We believe that group work practitioners who participate in this study can make an enduring contribution to our understanding of the use of diversity and group development.

This is the third phase in a larger five-phase research project that is running over five years. In this current phase, we will test the model by comparing groups lead by practitioners without the implementation of the model to groups lead by the same practitioner after receiving training on and implementing the model. This study has been approved by the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (REB13-0309) and endorsed by the SPARC Committee of the IASWG.

**HOW?**

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to engage in the following process:

1. Lead a treatment group of approximately 6-12 sessions as you normally would. A research team member will be present to audio record these sessions and collected measurement tools from the group participants related to their experiences. **Informed consent will be obtained from all participants before the group meets for the first time.** The audio recording can be stopped at any time at the request of the facilitator or group member.
2. Engage with the research team in training regarding the model of working with diversity that has been developed from this project. Training will be delivered through online methods, including both independent learning and group meetings, totaling around 6 hours of learning.
3. Repeat step #1, this time implementing the model and training. The same process and measurement tools will be used.
4. The research team will analyze the model of diversity by comparing the group recordings and measurement tools from steps 1 and 3.

If you agree to participate we will also collect basic demographic details on a brief questionnaire concerning your race, gender, age, ethnicity, income, religion, education and previous experience with support groups.

**BENEFITS?**

Your participation will add to our understanding of how practitioners work with diversity in their groups and contribute to the development of a new model of practice and group development. As an expression of our gratitude, a small honoraria ($50.00 CAD value) will be provided to you upon completion of the first group recordings prior to receiving training. A second honoraria ($50.00 CAD value) will be provided upon completion of the second set of group recordings, occurring after training is complete.  Group members will receive $25.00 CAD per group session for completion of study instrumentation.

**YOUR CHOICE!**

Participating in this research is completely up to you – You may freely choose not to participate in this Project at any time without any negative consequences of any kind including any penalty or loss of benefits to which you would be otherwise entitled.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?** If you are interested in participating in this project or have any questions or would like some further detail, please email William Pelech- Principal Investigator - pelech@ucalgary.ca

Please forward this letter to anyone you think may be interested in participating.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING IN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT!