

S RTP - Project Description Form #247

PART I:

Name of Schulich faculty member who will supervise the project Firas Al-Dhaheer

Supervisor's Schulich, Western, Hospital or Lawson Email faldhah3@uwo.ca

Schulich Department Family Medicine

PART II - Project Description

Title of Project Needs Assessment for Community Pediatric Mental Health Resources

Background

Many families struggle with identifying and communicating mental health difficulties, especially with young patients. The challenge is not only confined to identifying when a patient might be suffering, but where to go once the issue is suspected and identified. Some patients unfortunately are afflicted for a long time before a caregiver or a teacher suspects the illness, and by the time it is approached to a family physician or pediatrician, the condition might have worsened.

Hypothesis

We hypothesize that an overwhelming cohort in our community finds it difficult and challenging to identify when a child is suffering from a mental health disorder, and that they are unaware of the resources and the tools needed to get help for their specific issues

Proposed Methodology

We intend on using a survey (launched with Qualtrics) to ask families anonymously and without personal identifiers about their own struggles with mental health (personally or with their children), what kind of community agencies and resources are they familiar with to reach out for help, how to access them, and if a mobile app that can identify their child's struggles and direct them to the right resource would be of interest and benefit.

Expected Outcomes

We expect that that there will be a statistically significant cohort of patients who value the need to identify mental health struggles in children, and would appreciate a mobile application that can help notify when an issue is at risk and navigate the system.

The outcomes for the research student specifically are:

- Identifying the challenges of mental health diagnoses in pediatrics
- Understanding the struggles of communicating when diagnoses are suspected
- Appreciating the lack of resources in the community for families.
- Survey construction and data analysis
- Potential for mobile application programming

Research Environment - Description of the number of research personnel, primary location of research, size of lab, etc

The primary location of the research would be the Central Lambton Family Health Team in Petrolia.

The research student would be working directly with PI.

We will work closely with the research coordinator at the Department of Family Medicine to assist with the

questionnaire tools, protocol, and data analysis.

Names and titles of other individuals who will be involved with the research project?

Craig Mara - Department of Family Medicine

Craig will work with Dr. Al-Dhaheer prior to the summer student starting to complete the protocol and REB approval through WREM.

Can this project be done remotely? No

Duration of Project One Summer

Expected Objectives/Accomplishments for Student?

The outcomes for the research student specifically are:

- Identifying the challenges of mental health diagnoses in pediatrics
- Understanding the struggles of communicating when diagnoses are suspected
- Appreciating the lack of resources in the community for families.
- recruiting participants
- Potential for mobile application programming
- data analysis
- manuscript and poster work

PART III - Certifications

If the project will require any certification - Human Ethics approvals from one or more of the following offices, please check the appropriate box below.

Human Ethics: If you have the protocol information, please enter it below (or enter the status of the approval). Pending

Note: certification approval should be obtained prior to the start of the summer. Projects without this approval will not be a priority for funding.
