The Gronowski Center Policy on Research

Objective

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear written guidelines for conducting research projects at the Gronowski Center (GC). These guidelines will be kept on file with the Palo Alto University Institutional Review Board (IRB) and shared with investigators, faculty, and students.

Mission

- The Gronowski Center supports quality research that advances our understanding of community mental health clients, treatment interventions and assessment, supervision and training strategies, and therapy outcomes.
- We endorse research opportunities for both faculty and students in order to complement and enrich our clinical training model.

Guidelines

1. Studies must conform to established ethical standards for psychological research (APA, 2002, 2010) and be approved by the PAU IRB.
2. Research at the Gronowski Center should fit into existing policies and procedures without disruption to patient care, clinical practice, and student training or additional workload for staff, supervisors, or directors.
3. Research projects should be designed to augment clinical services or enhance the training experience and skills of practicum students.
4. Research study proposals must demonstrate feasibility in the context of an established community mental health training clinic.
5. Projects should be well-planned, scientifically justified, appropriately designed, ethically sound, with results that are properly analyzed and accurately interpreted.
6. The Investigator should determine who needs to provide informed consent/assent (i.e., client, student therapist, supervisor) and the level of informed consent (i.e., exempt, expedited, full board) required for human subject protection, commensurate with PAU IRB policies and procedures, and all legal and ethical requirements.
    a. Studies involving student therapists may require consent from their clinical supervisor.
    b. Studies involving clients may require informed consent from therapists and supervisors
    c. Studies involving clients may require a release of information.
    d. Archival data studies may be covered by the standard GC consent form, which states that routine client data may be used for research purposes.
7. The protection of clients is a fundamental requirement for all GC research projects.
    a. GC clients should not be used as a convenience sample. That is, GC clients should not be used if the data could be obtained from non-clinic community samples (e.g., administering attitudinal surveys; conducting assessment batteries or brain scans that do not offer a clinical service or enhance student training).
    b. Clients should not be subjected to excessive study requirements or burdened with extensive or redundant assessment batteries. A list of measures currently being administered as part of the Intake Assessment and during therapy sessions is listed in **Appendix A**.

   c. It is the responsibility of the Investigator to determine whether the client is already enrolled in another research study before obtaining informed consent.
      i. Clients can participate in only one **treatment** study at a time during the duration of their treatment at GC.
      ii. Clients can participate in one **non-treatmen**t study simultaneously with a treatment study during the duration of their treatment at GC.
8. The protection of student therapists is a fundamental requirement for all GC research projects.
   a. Research studies should not evaluate the performance of individual student therapists.
   b. Student therapists should not be burdened with excessive study responsibilities.
   c. Student therapists should not be coerced or pressured into participating in research.
   d. When recruiting students for research, the Investigator should ensure that the student's participation or non-participation in research does not affect their clinical training, the evaluation process, or other requirements (e.g., practicum forum, coursework).
9. Investigators using archival data should work closely with the Research Director to determine how the data will be used and stored with careful attention to security, de-identification, and confidentiality.
10. External Investigators (non-PAU) must request PAU institutional approval (i.e., Dean and/or Provost) to conduct research at GC or to examine archival data, in additional to PAU IRB approval.
11. Case study reports being considered for publication may require client consent.
12. The Faculty Investigator or Sponsor should provide formal supervision for all research projects. This includes quality control, data management, and record storage.
13. Manuscripts being prepared for publication using any data collected at the GC should be reviewed and approved by the Research Director prior to submission.

Procedures

1. Investigators (faculty or student) who are interested in conducting research at the Gronowski Center should contact the GC Research Director, Dr. Nancy Haug, to discuss their ideas.
2. Investigators should complete a Gronowski Center Research Proposal Form and submit to the GC Research Director. *GC Research Proposal Form*
3. The GC Research Director will review the proposal and consult with the GC Clinical Directors to determine whether the study is appropriate and feasible.
4. If accepted, the Investigator will be asked to draft a proposed protocol for the PAU IRB. This protocol must be reviewed by the GC Research Director before it is submitted to the IRB.
5. Any research being conducted at the GC will require a letter of support from the GC Clinical Director, Dr. Sandra Macias.
6. Once approved by the IRB, the Investigator should work closely with the Research Director to implement the study in a timely fashion (i.e., within 6 weeks of approval) in accordance with the GC academic schedule.

7. If the Investigator obtains IRB approval for research at the GC, there is no guarantee that the GC will have the resources required to implement the study. Thus, it is the responsibility of the investigator to obtain administrative approval for the use of space and other University resources.

Appendix A: Measures currently administered at The Gronowski Center

Adult Measures	**Time of Administration**	**Notes**
Hopkins Adult Reading Test (HART)	Intake	Not administered to Latino clients or those with English as a second language
Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)	Intake	Alternative version available in Spanish or other languages
Outcomes Questionnaire - 45 (OQ-45)	Intake, every session or as determined by supervisor	OQ-30 may be substituted at therapy sessions, available in Spanish
Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS)	Intake, every session or as determined by supervisor	DASS, Short Form may be substituted at therapy sessions, available in Spanish
Personality Assessment Screener (PAS)	Intake	Not available in Spanish
Session Rating Scale (SRS)	Every session	Available in Spanish
Working Alliance Inventory, Client form (WAI-Client)	Every 6th session	Available in Spanish
Working Alliance Inventory, Therapist Form (WAI-Therapist)	Every 6th session	
Couple Measures	**Time of Administration**	**Notes**
Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS)	Intake, periodically during treatment as determined by supervisor	
Gottman 17-Areas Scale	Intake, periodically during treatment as determined by supervisor	
Child and Family Measures	**Time of Administration**	**Notes**
Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC-2) - child	Intake, periodically during treatment as determined by supervisor	Available in Spanish
Behavior Assessment	Intake, periodically during	Available in Spanish

System for Children (BASC-2) - Parent	treatment as determined by supervisor	
Parenting Stress Index (PSI)	Intake, periodically during treatment as determined by supervisor	
Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents (SIPA)	Intake, periodically during treatment as determined by supervisor	