

Consent Information Sheet

Title of the Project: Engaging church teams to support youths aging out of care.

Principal Investigator: John Honeycutt, Doctoral Candidate School of Behavioral Science, Liberty University

Invitation to be Part of a Research Study

You are invited to take part in a research study. You must be 28 or older and a church member for two or more years or a church clergy to take part. Taking part in this research project is voluntary. Please take time to read this entire form and ask questions before deciding whether to take part in this research.

What is the study about and why is it being done?

The study is being done to discover how to encourage church members to form a team and help one young adult exiting from foster care into independent living.

What will happen if you take part in this study?

If you agree to be in this study, I will ask you to do the following:

1. Participate in an initial focus group session with all participants. The session will last about 30 minutes. I will audio record the session and take notes.
2. Participate in a second focus group session with all participants. The session will last about 30 minutes, followed by a 15 minute break, or as needed. I will audio record the session and take notes.
3. Write your ideas on an anonymous form and place it in a slotted cardboard box. This individual ideation session will last about 30 minutes.
4. Participate in a final focus group session with all participants. The session will last about 30 minutes. I will audio record the session and take notes.

If permission is given, I will collect relevant artifacts such as a church bulletin or brochure and I will photograph my notes written on a whiteboard or presentation pad.

How could you or others benefit from this study?

Participants should not expect to receive a direct benefit from taking part in this study.

Benefits to society include that some youths aging out of the foster care system might transition into independent living more safely, confident, and with support (such as mentoring).

What risks might you experience from being in this study?

The expected risks from participating in this study is minimal, which means they are equal to the risks you would encounter in everyday life.

In this case, while the chances are unlikely, participants may be affected by the statistics presented or triggered by the information provided during the event. Additionally, some may feel that their ideas and opinions won't be helpful or valuable, which can be discouraging. To minimize these risks, I have taken several steps.

Firstly, before beginning, your pastor or one of the other participants will lead us in prayer. Secondly, during my introduction, I will present the "rules of brainstorming" to ensure everyone feels comfortable sharing their ideas. Thirdly, I will remind the group that they can stop taking part, listen, or leave if needed.

Your pastor or other clergy will be present to offer comfort if needed. Lastly, we will stop a session altogether and pray if needed. These measures will help create a safe and supportive environment for all participants. Lastly, I will remind you and describe Oklahoma's 988 mental health lifeline should it be needed after the session.

I am a mandatory reporter. During this study, if I receive information about child abuse, child neglect, elder abuse, or intent to harm self or others, I will be required to report it to the appropriate authorities.

How will personal information be protected?

The records of this study will be kept private. Research records will be stored securely, and only the researcher and members of his doctoral committee will have access to the records.

- Focus Group will be kept confidential by replacing names with pseudonyms. Participant written responses of the ideation form will be anonymous and placed in a slotted box.
- Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in focus group settings. While discouraged, other members of the focus group may share what was discussed with persons outside of the group.
- Data will be stored on a removable, external hard drive and stored in a locked closet within a locked room when not used. The researcher and members of his doctoral committee will have access to the data. After three years, all electronic records will be deleted, and hardcopy records will be shredded.
- Voice recording data will be stored on an external hard drive locked in a lockbox behind a closed door in my home when not in use. Transcriptions of voice-to-text documents and pdf versions of individual ideation forms will be stored on the same external hard drive. Password protected, transcribed text will be formatted into a Word document and Excel for analysis. Those files will also be saved on the external drive. Only after high-level themes are established will the summarized results be placed in the dissertation document

How will you be compensated for being part of the study?

Participants will be compensated for participating in this study. At the conclusion of the the focus group discussions and individual ideation session participants will receive a \$25 in person.

Any participant who chooses to withdraw from the study after beginning but before completing all study procedures will receive a \$10 Visa gift card in person when they withdraw..

Snacks, soft drinks, and water will be available to participants throughout the focus group sessions and individual ideation session.

I receive no financial benefit from conducting this study.

Is study participation voluntary?

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your participation will not affect your current or future relations with Liberty University. If you decide to take part, you are free not to answer any questions or withdraw at any time.

What should you do if you decide to withdraw from the study?

If you choose to withdraw from the anonymous ideation form, please inform the researcher that you wish to discontinue your participation, and do not submit your individual ideation materials. Your responses will not be recorded or included in the study.

If you choose to withdraw from the focus group, please contact the researcher at the email address/phone number included in the next paragraph. Should you choose to withdraw, data collected from you, apart from focus group data, will be destroyed immediately and will not be included in this study. Focus group data will not be destroyed, but your contributions to the focus group will not be included in the study if you choose to withdraw.

Whom do you contact if you have questions or concerns about the study?

The researcher conducting this study is John Honeycutt. You may ask any questions you have now. If you have questions later, **you are encouraged** to contact him at 918-315-2205 and/or jahoneycutt@liberty.edu. You may also contact the researcher's faculty sponsor, Professor McMillan, at wcmillan7@liberty.edu.

Whom do you contact if you have questions about your rights as a research participant?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher, **you are encouraged** to contact the IRB. Our physical address is Institutional Review Board, 1971 University Blvd., Green Hall Ste. 2845, Lynchburg, VA, 24515; our phone number is 434-592-5530, and our email address is irb@liberty.edu.

Disclaimer: The Institutional Review Board (IRB) is tasked with ensuring that human subjects research will be conducted in an ethical manner as defined and required by federal regulations. The topics covered and viewpoints expressed or alluded to by student and faculty researchers are those of the researchers and do not necessarily reflect the official policies or positions of Liberty University.

Before agreeing to be part of the research, please ensure you understand the study. You can print a copy of the document for your records. If you have any questions about the study later, you can contact the researcher using the information provided above. Although you are not required to sign a consent form, if you prefer to do so, please contact the researcher.

I have read and understood the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers. I consent to participate in the study.

The researcher has my permission to audio-record me as part of my participation in this study.