

The Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Laws of Virginia, Annotated, 2005 Edition under section 37.2-402 states “ The regulations shall require the human research committee to submit to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Commissioner or his designee at least annually a report on the human research projects reviewed and approved by the committee and shall require the committee to report any significant deviations from the proposals as approved.”

Since the elimination of the Research and Education Office in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services several years ago, DMHMRSAS central office has not had a human research committee. Each facility has its own research committee. Research projects that involve human subjects are submitted and reviewed for approval by Independent Review Boards (IRB) selected by each facility. When a research project is approved, a copy of the proposal is forwarded to the DMHMRSAS Office of Health and Quality Care for further review. However, this office does not conduct a formal review and approval, which is done by the facility’s research committee, and, if necessary, the IRB chosen by the facility. During the past year the following research has been conducted by DMHMRSAS facilities.

Central State Hospital

“Intoxication and Settled Insanity: A finding of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity” IRB approved

“Conditional Release of Insanity Acquittees in Virginia” IRB approved

“Empirical Correlates for an Adult Inpatient Setting” IRB approved

“The use of the Test of Memory Malingering (TOMM) in individuals with Mental Retardation”

“Survey of Housing and Mental Health Service Needs for Virginians with Serious Mental Illnesses and Serious Emotional and Behavioral Disorders” IRB approved

“Preliminary Evidence for Impaired Verb Generation in Schizophrenia” IRB approved

“Correlation Between the Length of Forensic Hospitalization Required for Restoration of Competency to Stand Trial and the Use of Atypical Neuroleptics” currently under IRB review

“The Utility of the Shedler-Western Assessment Procedure-II (SWAP-II) and Forensic Risk Assessment Scale (FRAS) for Predicting Aggression in Forensic Psychiatric Patients” currently under IRB review

Central Virginia Training Center

“Research Proposal: The client – Caregiver Transactional Model: A Theoretical Framework of the client – Caregiver Dynamic in Mental Retardation Services” nor -human research

Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents

“ Psychiatric Disorder, Sexual Abuse, and Substance Use among Adolescent Inpatients”
“Addiction Epidemiology in Adolescent Presenting for Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment” nor –
human research - retrospective chart review

Eastern State Hospital

“Survey of Residents in Major Institutions (Jails/Prisons), Correctional Units and Psychiatric
Facilities/ Institutions (Va. Mental Hospitals) Re: Housing and Mental Health Service Needs of
Virginians with Serious Mental Illness and Serious Emotional and Behavioral Disorders” IRB
approved

Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute

“A Study of Challenges Associated with Educating Staff in a State Hospital System” This was a
study and not actual research

Piedmont Geriatric Hospital

“Evaluating the Efficacy of Individualized Behavior Treatment Plans and Staff Training in the
Reduction of Problem Behaviors in a Geriatric Psychiatric Sample” IRB approved

“Rapid Verb Generation in Schizophrenia-spectrum disorders” non-human research –
retrospective chart review

“ Geropsych Database Review” non-human research

“Intoxication and Settled Insanity: A Finding of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity” non-human
research

Southwestern Virginia Training Center

“Evaluation of Gait Characteristics and Slip Recovery Response for Mentally
Retarded Population” IRB approved

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. James Evans, Director, Office of
Health and Quality Care, at 804-786-4136 or email: James.evans@co.dmhmrsas.virginia.gov.