

## **Guidelines for Leaders**

in the project titled:

### **Nurses Perceptions of Practicing Nursing: International Perspectives**

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Thank you for agreeing to be a leader of a group in this research project! This summary is designed to help answer common questions about the study and how to go about it, but feel free to contact me anytime if you have a question that is not addressed here, or if you need more information of any kind.

- ❖ Exactly how you go about organizing your group is up to you, and can be shaped to fit your context. The main thing is to create a time a place where nurses can freely discuss what it is like to practice nursing, and examine the themes or "messages" they want to send out about their experience of practicing nursing today.
- ❖ Plan to contact nurses informally by word of mouth, and plan to NOT meet on agency time or in agency space. In part this is because of giving nurses "space" to speak openly without agency constraints. But also, if you do post notices in an agency or meet in the facilities of an agency, you will need to obtain human subject "IRB" consent to conduct this group as part of a research study. If you anticipate any issues around this, please let me know.
- ❖ You can share the "Information Sheet for Group Participants" and the "Guidelines for Groups" with prospective group participants ahead of time, or you can give them this information at an initial meeting.
- ❖ We have not specified any "qualifications" for group participants, but we do want to hear from nurses who are close to hands-on practice so that they can speak to what it is like to practice nursing today. This can include RN's, LPN's, nurse managers and clinical teachers or preceptors. Each person will have a unique perspective, but the diverse points of view will help to create a comprehensive picture of what it is like to practice nursing, and what changes might be needed.
- ❖ We have stated that groups will meet "up to 3" times. You can meet only once or more than once, but you are not obligated to meet over and over! You and your group can decide.
- ❖ You do not have to have exactly the same people present at each meeting if you do meet more than once. Anyone who appears can enter into the discussion at the point that they join the group.
- ❖ Do NOT tape record your group discussions. Not only does this simplify the process on your end, but it also assures total confidentiality of the group discussion in your local area, and total anonymity related to the larger study outcomes. Also, from a research standpoint, this method calls for the "analysis" of the information

to be actually done by the participants at the time of the discussion. So toward the end of your group meetings, you and the group together will summarize what the outcomes of your discussion. Whatever you send forward as a summary is exactly perfect - it is the outcome of your group's discussion.

- ❖ The method on which this study is based is drawn from that of Brazilian educator Paulo Freire. More about the method is summarized in the "Method Summary" that is available on request.
- ❖ Your summary can take any form you and the group decides to create. You can include things that everyone agrees on, but you can also include points that only one or two people want to put forward, but are not common to everyone in the group. Your summary can include a description of any objects that the group members considered; if your group shared a photograph or story or something that can be sent forward as part of your summary, which will be fine.
- ❖ Your summary does not have to be long - it can be any length that it needs to be. It will be helpful if you can send it to me by email as a word document. But if this presents a problem, you can mail it to the following address:

Peggy L. Chinn  
341-1 East Center Street #141  
Manchester, CT 06040-4445

- ❖ Summaries that reach me by May 19, 2003 will be included in the global discussion and synthesis of the study results. This will be done at an open Nurse Manifest gathering to be held in Boulder, Colorado on June 5, 2003. You and any group participants are welcome to join this gathering. You can find more information about the gathering on our [www.nursemanifest.com](http://www.nursemanifest.com) web site. We will share the outcomes of the June 5 gathering with all group leaders.

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Questions? You can contact the study director, Peggy L. Chinn by email anytime:  
[peggy.chinn@uconn.edu](mailto:peggy.chinn@uconn.edu).