

**AFRICAN AMERICAN GRANDPARENTS RESIDING IN A NURSING FACILITY:
PERCEPTIONS OF INFLUENCE WITH THEIR GRANDCHILDREN, FAMILY, AND
COMMUNITY**

by

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DEDICATION

“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together-“African Proverb

I would like to first pay homage to my ancestors who have come before me, and the loved ones I have lost during my graduate school career. I dedicate this thesis to my ancestors who never had the opportunity to obtain higher education, whether it was through systemic discrimination or the inability to afford the cost of education. It is because of the paths you created before me that I pour my libations in memory, with great thanks and appreciation.

To my parents, Paul and Delnita, thank you for giving me life and allowing me to experience different multitudes and aspects of life. It is because of you I have breath and the strong will and drive to continue blazing paths for our family and community. Thank you for all of your love and support shown during this journey.

To my grandparents Fred, Ann, and Bernice, thank you for instilling in me the values of respect, hard work, dedication, and determination. It is you who I spent the majority of my youth with. It is because of you I am interested in the field of gerontology and intergenerational relationship building. I am forever grateful for you, your wisdom, and great depth of Love shown. Nothing or no one can replace you.

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moment of completing my thesis and graduating; you have been there. I thank you for your kind words, support, genuineness, and love.

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Last but not least, I dedicate this thesis to the participants of the study. I learned a great deal working with each of you, and am thankful for being allowed into your personal space as you shared memories and sometimes moments of sadness with me. Your words have not fallen on death ears. I hope our work together can be used to help others.

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Statement of Problem

Older Adults have been viewed as key members of African American families and as important figures regarding the family's sustainability (Hill, 1962; Cox, 2002; Waites, 2008). These characteristics can be traced back to historical West African cultures, as well. Unfortunately, with time family structures change and so do those relationships. Amongst those family structural changes, an increasing number of older African Americans grandparents are now being admitted into nursing facilities in relation to a variety of reasons (Paul, 2004). With an increasing number of grandparents being admitted into nursing homes, the effects of relocation have the potential to negatively affect their involvement within the family system and community involvement (Johnson, Popejoy & Radina, 2010).

Research has shown there is a great importance regarding intergenerational relationships between grandparents and their grandchildren and community, when relating to their growth and development (Fuller & Minkler, 2000; Teirnan et. al, 2013). Unfortunately, grandparents may not have the same effect on the growth of their grandchildren after being institutionalized. The relocation of the grandparent can be viewed as restrictive, and has the potential to increase barriers to relationship building within the family and community activities (Pitkin, 2009).

Significance of Problem

This problem carries significant weight upon not only African American grandparents but their grandchildren, family, and community as well. Historically, African

American elders have been very instrumental in the development of their families and communities (Wells-Wilbon & Simpson, 2009). This researcher believes if a disconnection is created amongst those relationships as a result of nursing facility institutionalization, the individual and community involvement may be greatly affected.

There seems to be a gap in research regarding how the relocation affects the grandparents and their relationships, from their perspective. This study's aim is to learn how relocating to a nursing home has affected the grandparents' relationship with their grandchildren and community, from their perspective. I would like to know if the grandparents feel there has been a change in their relationships, and if they still consider themselves a key member of their families and communities. Another aim is to learn how they would like to be integrated and involved in their families and communities, and how we might help in the field of social work.

CHAPTER 2

Literature Review

Review of Literature

This literature review will provide a background of African American grandparents' involvement in the lives of their family, grandchildren, and surrounding communities. After reviewing the literature regarding the historical context of common cultural characteristics within West African and African American families, a foundation will be set in learning common roles the African American grandparent plays today in society. Once we have an understanding of the role of the grandparent, we can view common effects of nursing home placement on both the family and grandparent.

Through the review of literature, a framework will be set for understanding the intergenerational family system, and the changes in kinscript once the grandparent transfers from living in the community to a nursing facility. The premise of kinscript is used to provide an understanding of an individual family member's personal agenda, interpretation of role in family, and their personal perception of cultural norms and historical contexts (Stack & Burton, 1993). Through reviewing research, this researcher has found areas of research that have not been explored in great detail.

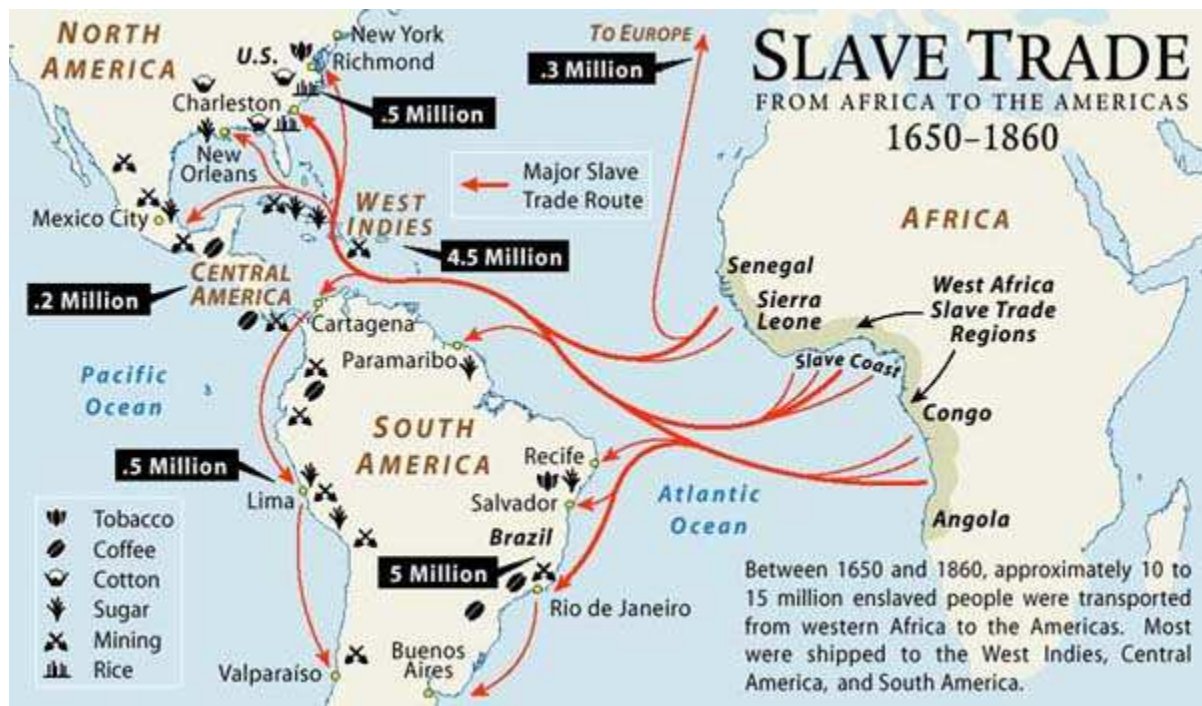
Historical role of Grandparent Involvement

Historically, African American grandparents have been viewed as an important beacon of the family and extended kin circle (Waites, 2008). African American grandparents have played a vital role in the sharing of traditions, morals, and values with their grandchildren, which helps create the child's foundation. In some families, during celebrated occasions (holidays, birthdays etc.), members of the family gather at "grandma

and grandpa's" house to spend quality time with family members and reminisce about past times. The practice of gathering at the grandparents' house often stem from the desire to return to Home's Main Station. Home's Main Station could vary, depending on the particular family. Historically Home's Main Station can be viewed as place of stability regarding the base for family traditions and comfort. This tradition demonstrates a closeness and respect for the grandparents and the memories the family share.

These practices can be traced back to some West African countries' cultures. During the Atlantic slave trade, the majority of Africans captured and enslaved were from countries along the west coast of Africa, as depicted in Figure 1.

Atlantic Slave Trade, Figure 1



Source: New York Life's, Slavery in America website at http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/geography/slave_trade.htm

Some traditions from West African cultures were carried on to the family life in America during the slave trade, although the development of slavery had an institutionalized plan of separation amongst African family ties and the weakening of individuals (Hill, 1972; Nicolson, 2002). The elders (older adults) of West African cultures held powers which family members respected, regarding social rules and economic decisions (African Society and Culture, n.d.). The Elders of West African families were also involved in many areas of the family life and community efforts, which included working with the youth (Ibrahima, 2011).

A common pattern seen in both historical West African and African American family ties, is the emphasis on children and elders being of great value to the family (Billingsly, 1992; Johnson & Staples, 2005). There can be an association between feelings of satisfaction for both youth and elders, as a result of positive intergenerational relationships with each other. In some African countries, grandparents traditionally care for their grandchildren, and in others grandparenthood is even considered a prerequisite for becoming an elder (Sangree, 1992; Ibrahima, 2011). In African American families, becoming an elder may not be dependent upon having grandchildren, but a common historical tradition within the family may include family reunions. Family reunions are used to nurture intergenerational relationships, and can be viewed as an important time to learn from family elders (McCoy, 2011).

There has been a shift in family member roles within the African American community as related to the closeness of the grandparent and grandchild in modern society, which in part can be attributed to the great migration of African Americans

between the years 1915-1960. During the great migration in the 20th century, families and communities were separated as a result of relocation and abandonment, greatly related to economic opportunities found in the northern areas of the USA (Wilkerson, 2010). The great migration of African Americans from southern states to the north is one of the most significant events to occur in American history during the 20th century (Tolnay, 2003). During this time there was a great shift in population, and younger generations moved to the north. Many extended families were split during this migration, with older adults more prone to stay south (Tolnay, 2003; Wilkerson, 2010).

Although families were divided physically as a result of the great migration, intergenerational relationships were still maintained as a place of comfort and resourcefulness. During the great migration, African American women tended to play instrumental roles, and established connections between the “south” and “north” (Wilkerson, 2010; Powell, 2014). Also, during this time of migration, some families left the children “south” with grandparents, as the parent left to look for help and become established.

Grandparent Involvement Today

Even with the occurred changes throughout the centuries, such as slavery, the great migration, and changes in the economy, grandparents still play a major role in many families and communities today. With an increasing number of working parents, grandparents are often chosen to be caregivers while the parents are out of the home working (Won, 2009). There are also multigenerational families, in which the grandparent(s) lives in the home with their children and grandchildren, and provide in-home childcare (Pilkaukas, 2012). This arrangement has the potential of being

beneficial to all parties involved. The grandparent has the opportunity to provide quality childcare, the child and grandchild benefit from the grandparent's experience and wisdom, and the grandparent has a chance to develop a quality relationship with their grandchild (ren) (Bowles & Kington, 1998; Messina, 2013; Rodgers & Jones, 1999).

Currently, 1.3 million African American grandparents live with their grandchildren under the age of 18. This can be evidenced through President Obama and his family. First Lady Michelle Obama's mother is actually the caregiver to the couple's two children. The Obama's belief is, the grandmother figure has a positive and influential role in their grandchildren's lives through the transmission of family and cultural values (Gibson, 2014; Messina, 2013). Not only are multigenerational families found within the African American family, research shows African American grandparents are more likely to become primary custodial parents of their grandchildren than is true for grandparents of other cultures (Fuller & Minkler, 2000; Marshall- Jones, 2014). Of the number of grandparents living with their grandchildren, 47.6% were primarily responsible for their grandchildren's care, as well (United States Census Bureau, 2012).

The number of African American, primary custodial grandparents is increasing, with the primary reason relating to the biological parent's inability to care for the child for various reasons (Cox, 2002). Some of the most common reasons include parental substance abuse, death, incarceration, and social/behavioral disorders that may create barriers to parenting (Cox, 2002; Carlini-Marlatt, 2005; Whitley, 2011).

Using data found from The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study- Birth Cohort of 2001, Mollborn found having grandparent involvement and headed households can be helpful for the child's early and cognitive development (Mollborn et al., 2011). In a later

study conducted by Mollborn (2012), an association was found between African American children living with a grandparent and higher cognitive scores, when compared to those living with only their parents. In this study Mollborn, Fomby, and Dennis explored the associations of age two cognitive development and transitions within extended households. The study found African American children residing in stable co-residence with a grandparent, experienced increased cognitive development during the time period (Mollborn et al., 2012). Unfortunately, there is limited research available that considers how the change in family structure effects the young children involved (Mollborn et al., 2012).

Community Engagement

Outside of the home, African American older adults have been involved in important and valuable community work, which can be seen through their involvement in various activities. Being involved in activities can provide a sense of satisfaction to a person, by providing a sense of inclusiveness and personal fulfillment (Tiernan et al., 2013; Morrow-Howell et al., 2014). Some community activities African American older adults may be involved in include church activities, political causes, professional organizations, and volunteer events (Carlton-LaNey, 2007; Morrow-Howell et al., 2014). From my professional experience, I have learned African American older adults also participate in activities such as block clubs and sporting leagues.

To some older adults, being involved in the community “keeps them alive.” The act of physical activity and being around other people has the potential of providing personal satisfaction and gratification to older adults (Perry & Shen, 2014). Many African American older adults alive today were born during the time surrounding the great

depression and have lived through many monumental moments of history including the Civil Rights Movement, and the election of the first African American president. During these moments in history older adults have played an instrumental role in creating economic opportunities, maintaining active involvement in civil rights issues, and expressing their right of voting (Carlton-LaNey, 2007; Knall, 2009).

There is not much research on the impact of community involvement amongst African American older adults, but this researcher did find an interesting study surrounding older adult activity. Mason compiled the collective thoughts of 12 community-active African American older adults, between the ages of 65-85, as they went through their aging process (2005). The majority of the participants attended a local family community center on a regular basis. The community center, located in a primarily African American Community, had begun the process of working to revitalize the neighborhood, which was deemed "in crisis," by participants. During the study, a group of students worked with the participants to conduct an ethnographic diagram of their community through the years.

Information from the study revealed many of the participants were active in, or interested in, the redevelopment of their community. A few participants mentioned they believed the changing family structures had played a contributing part to the development of the youth and community. Some of the participants had the opportunity to work with the center on community master mapping, as well (2005). This was a very helpful study to learn about the community from the perspective of someone who had lived in it. Older adults can be viewed as a bridge between the unknown past and the present, for the

future generations to learn by sharing their learned experiences and wisdom (Zeldin, 2013).

Nursing Home Relocation

Although historically African Americans were not as likely to be admitted into long term care facilities, compared to other ethnic/racial/cultural groups, research has shown an increasing number of older African Americans are now being admitted into nursing facilities (Paul, 2004; Feng et. al., 2011). They are being admitted into nursing facilities for a variety of reasons, which include the decline of health, the inability to afford private home care, or decreasing home assistance (Knall, 2009; Paul, 2004).

Another reason for the increase in nursing home admissions may relate to the increasing numbers of African American older adults overall. Research has shown aging increases amongst African Americans will skyrocket in the United States and African countries (Waites & Onolemhemen, 2014). Older adults are at risk for relocation if they live alone, have limitations, or are in poor health. With an increasing number of grandparents being admitted into nursing homes, the effects of relocation have the potential to negatively affect their involvement within the family system and community (Johnson, Popejoy, & Radina, 2010).

Effects of Nursing Home Relocation/ Changing the Script

Among the most challenging events in an older adult's life may be decisions regarding relocation (Johnson & Bibbo, 2014). These decisions may be difficult for various reasons. Some reasons could include finding the perfect facility, lifestyle changes, involuntary admissions, or the negative stigmas surrounding nursing home care, to name a few (Pitkin, 2009; Schoenberg & Coward, 1997; Tang et al, 2009).

Amongst the challenges present regarding the preparation for relocation, there are social changes that occur within the family and community structure, as well. Some of those social changes include adjusting to a smaller living space, decreased levels of privacy, and changes in personal responsibilities of individual family members (Johnson et al., 2010; Robison, 2012; Johnson & Bibbo, 2014).

When viewing the changes that may occur when an older adult transitions into a nursing home, we may wonder how the change affects the family and community as a whole. Based on the intergenerational relationships found within African American families, we find a change in structure can have an effect on the family script. Researcher has chosen to view these changes through the lens of the Kinscript Framework.

The Kinscript Framework focuses on the sociological perspective and qualitative review of a family structure through time. This framework was developed to view interdependent family roles, transitions, the transmission of family norms, and the dynamics of family interaction through time (Stack & Burton, 1993; Chaney, 2014). The use of the Kinscript model in the context of the research being conducted, may focus solely on how the change in the family system/structure influences the family member and their life script (Chaney, 2014).

The family structure can provide a strong sense of social support to older adults, and changing the support level has the potential of negatively affecting the wellbeing/health of the older family member (Bowles & Kington, 1998). The extended family helps older adults as they define their personal identity and emotional security (Pinderhughes, 1982; Taylor, 1985). Through defining their personal identity and emotional security, the older adults act out their individual roles within the family using

their self-defined identity. Depending on the strength of the extended familial ties, they can create positive or negative emotions or social ties. If those ties are broken in the process of relocating to a nursing home, this may have a strong negative impact on the well-being of the older adult.

Relocating to a nursing facility also has an effect on the community activities an older adult may have participated in prior to moving. Transportation can be one of the key issues when evaluating the mobility of a person. If an older adult is not able to leave the nursing home, that creates a barrier (Robison et al., 2012). For example, if the older adult normally participates in their neighborhood block club, moving to a nursing home may create a barrier to their regularly participating and communicating with other members. Moving from the community setting may also create a disconnection of information received regarding the block club's business, if they are no longer physically connected to the neighborhood. This information may be valuable to ensuring their connection to the neighborhood and role in the organization.

Common Social Work Practices to Resolve Stated Problem

Although there is a great amount of research available regarding grandparent-grandchild relationships, there is not much available regarding the relationship changes that occur once a grandparent is admitted into a nursing facility. There is an even smaller amount focusing primarily on the African American grandparent-grandchild relationships, showing common social work practices used to resolve the problems identified. Among the research available, there is also a gap in available information regarding African American older adults and how they would like to be engaged with their grandchildren, family, and community activities. There appears to be a gap in social work practiced

geared directly towards these relationships and their life course transitions and changes, as well.

This study will attempt to address the changes that occur within intergenerational relationships between African American older adults and their grandchildren, family, and community. This study will explore the experiences of five grandparents residing in a nursing home, and how their experiences and relationships have changed since relocating to a nursing home. Intergenerational Family Systems Theory is the theoretical background of the research conducted. By forming the study around Intergenerational Family Systems Theory, the researcher is able to view how each component of the family plays an important role in the development and status of each family member. In this study, we are focusing on how the older adult's relationship with their grandchildren, family, and community has affected them before and after relocating to the nursing home.

CHAPTER 3

Theoretical Framework

Intergenerational Family Systems Theory

The theoretical framework/background of this study will be based on Intergenerational Family Systems Theory. Intergenerational family systems theory will be used to examine how the change in the Intergenerational family system can affect the kin script of the grandparent and family system. The known change in the family system, in the context of this study, is the participant moving into the nursing home. The effect being reviewed is the quality of the relationship between the participant and their grandchild, other family members, and community, from the participant's perspective. Viewing this study from the lens of Intergenerational Family Systems Theory will frame its content to provide an understanding of the participant and their role in the development of their grandchildren, family, and community, from their personal perspective.

Intergenerational Family Systems Theory embodies the idea that each individual family member's personal development is dependent upon the family system and the generational differences and transferences (Spark, 1974; Theory, n.d.). When a kin script within the family is affected by change, the changes have a direct and indirect impact on members within the family member's contact. Intergenerational Family Systems Theory is a branch of Family Systems Theory, which was created by Murray Bowen in the late 1960s.

Bowen developed Family Systems Theory because he believed the family can be viewed as a primary source for determining an individual member's personality and emotions, and it can be traced through multiple generations (Carter & McGoldrick, 1998;

Right Therapist, 2013; Family Systems Theory, n.d.). In viewing the family as a systems unit, Bowen believed each individual family member worked to differentiate themselves from other members of the family while still remaining a part of a joint unit (Bowen, 1968; Kerr & Bowen, 1988; Family Systems Theory, n.d.). By differentiating themselves from the family, the member's development and growth can be viewed as a more positive one, as opposed to feeling attached to other members' problems and issues. The use of intergenerational family systems theory shows although independent of each other, no member of the family is completely separate from the family system as a whole.

CHAPTER 4

Methodology

Objective

The objective of this study is to learn how African American grandparents feel their relationship with their grandchildren, family, and community has changed after moving into a nursing facility. After exploring how those relationships have changed, this study's aim is to identify ways in which social work, service providers, and family members can help to enhance those areas the grandparent wishes were different, to help create a higher quality of life.

Definition of Terms

Family: In the context of this study, *family* is defined as immediate and extended family members identified by the participant.

Community: In the context of this study, *community* is defined as neighborhood associations, activities, church organizations, and location area of the participant's home before moving to the nursing facility.

Grandchildren: In the context of this study, *grandchildren* is defined as grandchildren, related biologically, by foster care /adoption, or extended family networks.

Relationship: In the context of this study, *relationship* is defined as the exchange of information and reciprocity between participant and individual in question.

Nursing Facility: In the context of this study, *nursing facility* is defined as a rehabilitation center, skilled nursing facility, or nursing home in which the participant resides.

Sample

The sample for this study was relatively small. Five semi-structured interviews were conducted with African American grandparents residing in two different nursing homes, located in Detroit, Michigan. Each of the completed interviews lasted between 30 minutes to an hour in length, and each was held in a private and comfortable location of the participant's choice. The research sample consisted of both males (N=3) and females (N=2), ranging between the ages of 53 and 95 years old. In order to participate in the study, participants had to fit the following criteria:

- Must be an African American Older Adult;
- Must be considered cognitively aware and functioning with no cognitive impairments;
- Must have at least one grandchild between the ages of 0-20; and
- Must have not resided in the nursing facility for the entire duration of their grandchild (s) life.

For the purpose of this study and maintaining the participants' confidentiality, no personal identifying information was recorded; this includes personal demographic information such as name, birthdate, and address. Participants are identified in this study by the use of the following pseudonyms: Ms. Mary, Mr. Kenneth, Mrs. Bernice, Mr. Aaron, and Mr. Robert.

Procedure

Before beginning the research, the researcher worked closely with her faculty advisor to identify research questions (N=3) and interview questions (N=8), which can be found in Appendix E.

The researcher worked with Mr. Paul Bridgewater, from the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA), to identify six potential nursing homes in the city of Detroit, MI, from which to recruit participants. Of the identified nursing homes, two nursing home administrators agreed to help identify potential participants for this study. Once the nursing homes confirmed their interest in participating, the researcher worked in close proximity with the administrators and their assistants to identify potential participants. The research procedure for obtaining participants was different at each nursing home.

The timeline from identifying potential locations, contacting each location, receiving confirmed interest, and completing the final interview spanned approximately two months.

Nursing Home 1

After receiving confirmation of interest from the Nursing Home Administrator, the researcher was recommended to work with the Activity Director to identify and speak with residents. The Activity Director helped identify five potential participants. Once potential participants were identified, the researcher approached each individual separately, according to the script found in Appendix D, and went over with them the information sheet, which can be found in Appendix B. Each participant was notified of their ability to withdraw from the study at any time. Of the five potential participants, two declined, two completed their interview, and one interview was not completed, due to the participant's limited cognitive functioning.

Each interview conducted at Nursing Home 1 was done in the participant's room, which they identified as being a comfortable and private space of choice. The timeline of

working with Nursing home 1, from the date of confirmed support to the date of completed interviews, spanned approximately one month's time.

Nursing Home 2

While in direct communication with Nursing Home 2, the researcher scheduled a meeting with the Nursing Home Administrator to go over the purpose of the research in depth. During this meeting, the researcher met with the Administrator, Assistant Administrator, and the Director of Social Services. As a result of the meeting, the researcher was advised to work directly with the Assistant Administrator and the Director of Social Services to identify potential participants and complete the interviews. Directly following the meeting, the researcher was asked to supply more information surrounding the research approval and her course registration, and to complete a fingerprint background check.

After approximately two weeks, another meeting was set with the Assistant Administrator to proceed with the research. During the visit, the researcher worked with the Director of Social Services to identify three potential participants. After the researcher approached each participant individually, they each agreed to participate in the study. Each participant was notified of their ability to withdraw from the study at any time. Every interview conducted at Nursing Home 2 was done in the Participant's room, which they identified as being a comfortable and private space. Two of the study's Participants were husband and wife, who wanted to complete their interviews together.

The timeline of working with Nursing Home 2, from the date of confirmed support to the date of completed interviews, spanned approximately one and a half months' time.

Data Collection and Analysis

Each interview was audio recorded, transcribed verbatim, and kept in a locked storage space. In an effort to shape this study and its results, the researcher used a Grounded Theory approach to analyze the data collection. With the use of Grounded Theory, the researcher was able to look for patterns and common concerns found within the research and the semi-structured interviews conducted. Grounded Theory is a common methodology found within qualitative research (Scott, 2009). Using the Grounded Theory approach, the researcher read each interview at least three times, and followed three steps to identify common codes and themes to develop the overall analysis of data. This process included the following steps:

1. Coding each interview line by line (Initial Coding)
 - a. Identified direct quotes (In vivo Codes)
2. Creating Focus Codes
3. Identifying Themes
 - a. Identified direct quotes for each theme

During the process of coding each interview line by line, the researcher identified direct quotes related to code words found that related to the research questions, wrote memos of information present, and made a note of multiple codes found. The initial coding step helped give the researcher a greater understanding of the collected data.

During the process of focus coding, the researcher read each interview again, reviewed the data, created a structure for the codes and matched related quotes, and applied the final codes.

During the process of identifying themes, the researcher reviewed the interviews and prepared a list of themes. The researcher identified common and outlier themes to continue the analysis. For each question, a list was created to display themes found, and subcategories were identified as well.

CHAPTER 5

Results

Background of Participants

The background demographics of each participant varied greatly. As outlined in the requirements to participate in the research study, all participants were African American grandparents residing in nursing facilities located in Detroit, MI. There were three male and two participants in this research study. The youngest participant was 53 years old, and the oldest was 95 years old, with an average age of participants being 79 years old. The researcher found each participant had different marital backgrounds as well. For instance, participants were married (N=2), widowed (N=1), and had never been married (N=2).

When looking at the number of children, grandchildren, and close family members mentioned, the number ranged as well. While one participant birthed 10 children, she stated she has so many grandchildren that she doesn't know the exact number. On the other hand, another participant reported he had three children and three grandchildren he was very close to. It is also important to note within the participant sample, the majority had a major focus on biological family members, while one participant focused solely on extended family relationships.

Each of the participants expressed past interests in work within their community, and some even reported they were really active in their community (N=3). Some of the activities they participated in were volunteer work, block club leadership, and activities within their religion. As we can see from Table 1, the shortest stay at their current nursing facility stay is less than a year, and the longest is 2 ½ years. The average length of stay

amongst the participants is about 1 ½ years. Two participants revealed they were in another home, prior to their current location. Information regarding previous nursing home admissions and length of stay was not reported.

When learning the background of each participant, none of them expressed having an advanced college degree, but a common value found amongst them was the importance of education. Participants (N=3) expressed their pride in and the importance of their children's and grandchildren's academic successes. Two participants discussed the importance of both education and experience during their interview with the researcher.

Participant Demographics, Table 1

Participant Name*	Participant Age	Marital Status	Family Mentioned	Number of Grandchildren	Length in current Nursing Home
Ms. Mary	90	Widowed	Biological Members	Unknown Number	< 1 year
Mr. Kenneth	95	Married	Biological Members	5	2 ½ years
Mr. Robert	66	Never Married	Extended Family	Unknown Number	< 2 years
Mrs. Bernice	93	Married	Biological Members	5	2 ½ years
Mr. Aaron	53	Never Married	Biological Members	3	< 1 year

Pseudonyms are used to protect the identity of research participants

Participant 1

Ms. Mary is a 90 year old woman who is from Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Mary stated she birthed 10 children, but one of her children died at the age of 32. The death of her son seemed to be a very emotional topic to discuss, as she expressed the very close relationship they shared. Within Ms. Mary's interview, she expressed multiple times that she experienced feelings of being alone, as well as possible feelings of guilt, which related to the type of mother she was when she raised her children.

Ms. Mary felt she may have been a bad mother because the majority of her children do not come visit nor call to check on her. She stated that of her nine children, she has communication with three of them. This is something she shared goes on with her grandchildren, as well. She stated she sees a couple of them, but the others who are old enough to visit, do not. Ms. Mary did not explicitly say moving into the nursing home caused tension between her, her family, and the community; but she felt being in the nursing home decreased her ability to "up and go" as she would want to.

Ms. Mary was a homemaker, in which role she expressed having the duties of a "seamstress, a barber, a beauty shop lady, a chauffeur, and a cook... maid... washed and dried clothes and the whole nine yards." Ms. Mary revealed she spent all of her time raising her children and making sure everything with her family was well. She didn't mention much about community activities, outside of going shopping and spending time with her children doing outdoor activities. She stated her favorite thing to do, up until being admitted into her current home, was to walk around the second hand thrift stores to look for bargains. When asked how social work could help her, Ms. Mary stated her greatest concern was transportation to her desired destination, and her ability to walk.

Participant 2

Mr. Robert is a 66 year old man from Detroit, Michigan. During the interview, Mr. Robert revealed he was in a long-term relationship within which he considered his partner as his wife. He stated his relationship is very close, in which he see his partner's children, grandchildren, and family as his own. During the course of the interview, he spoke of his extended family, and revealed little to no information about his biological family. Although he did not mention biological children, he spoke with great fondness of his relationships with his partner's family.

Mr. Robert did not reveal the exact number of grandchildren, but he spoke about three of them during the interview. He was especially fond of his four- year-old granddaughter, Destiny, and revealed the close relationship they have. Mr. Robert was unhappy about being in the nursing home and expressed multiple times how badly he wanted to be home with his family. He felt the nursing home was a restrictive setting, and although he called home every day, he preferred to physically be in the presence of his family.

When asked about community engagement, how he used to be involved in the community, and how he would like to be involved; Mr. Robert revealed he was very active in his neighborhood. He said he "don't like to be bored" and would "Cut the grass, be outside, [and] walk around the block." When asked how he would like to be involved in the community, and how social work could help; Mr. Robert revealed he wanted to get back in the community.

Participant 3

Mr. Aaron is a 53 years old male from Detroit, Michigan. During the course of his interview, Mr. Aaron shared he has three children and grandchildren. Mr. Aaron revealed he has always had a close relationship with both his children and grandchildren. He used to babysit his three grandchildren in effort to provide support to his daughter so she could go to work. During his times of babysitting, Mr. Aaron had the opportunity to spend much time with his grandchildren and worked to instill important values in their life. Mr. Aaron stated one of the important areas for him is education.

Mr. Aaron did not reveal why education was so important to him, but he did mention his son was working on his “doctorate degree” at Kentucky State. With a smile he stated, “I’m proud of him...proud that he is being successful...he is like the only one who graduated in our family.” Mr. Aaron stated two of his children currently live in Detroit, but he doesn’t see them often anymore. With the changes in his family, Mr. Aaron revealed he wished he was closer with his family now. Although he sees them on different occasions, he stated he did not see them as often as he did before moving into the nursing home.

When talking about community engagement, Mr. Aaron revealed he used to go to church, and attend sporting events with his son and close friends. He also stated his family gets together annually for various holidays and family picnics. Although he is in the nursing home, he is still able to attend these events when transportation is available. When asked how social work could help him be involved with his family and community, he responded “They could help me by taking me to my daughter’s house.”

Participants 4&5

Husband and wife, Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Bernice, are both older adults from Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Kenneth was 95 years old and Mrs. Bernice was 93 years old at the time of the interview. During the course of their interview, they did not reveal their age. Although they did not share their ages, they told the researcher their oldest daughter is in her 60s. Together they had four children (three are alive) and five grandchildren (three are alive), all of with whom they have a close relationship. Mr. Kenneth was a husband, father, and traveling missionary for about 41 years. He stated he graduated from National Baptist Convention, and helped start a Baptist school named Tennessee School of Religion in Detroit in 1987, where he taught as well.

Mrs. Bernice stated she was a very involved mother, and she served as a cook at their school district for 14 years. She stated she cooked, sewed, cleaned, and taught Sunday school where her husband Mr. Kenneth preached. Currently, both Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Bernice shared they are close with their children and grandchildren. When asked about the last time they had seen them, they stated they went to their daughter's home in Rochester to celebrate the most recent Christmas, before the interview, together. Although the couple shared their family was very close, it was revealed they were not in direct communication with one of their grandchildren. It was shared the relationship was not close, due to the child being born out of wedlock.

As a very active member of the church, Mrs. Bernice also was a part of the choir and often traveled with Mr. Kenneth to their various annual convention meetings. Both Mrs. Bernice and Mr. Kenneth spoke highly of their "calling" and their purpose in life, which was to spread the news of Christianity.

When asked about what other community activities they participated in, Mr. Kenneth stated he was very active in his community block club, where he served as President. Currently, the couple is not involved much in community activities outside of the nursing home, due to health reasons and transportation. They stated they are very active in activities available in the nursing home, such as church services, bingo, and various shopping trips. With the changes in their life and relocation from home, Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Bernice were okay with the changes that are occurring.

Although they both miss their community and home church, they believe there is a time and place for everything, and feel at peace with the current stages of their lives. This peace was expressed through their love in God, in relation to which Mr. Kenneth stated he has no regret about being in the nursing home.

Emerging Themes

After reviewing the transcribed interviews multiple times, the researcher identified multiple in vivo codes and quotes. Table 2 displays an example of identified codes and quotes, in response to the following research questions:

1. How do African American grandparents feel their family structure and relationship with their grandchildren have changed since moving into the nursing facility?
2. How do African American grandparents feel their community ties and their ability to interact within the community, have changed after moving into the nursing facility?
3. How might families, service providers, and programs integrate older adults into community activities

Research Question	Ms. Mary	Mr. Robert	Mr. Aaron	Mr. Kenneth	Mrs. Bernice	Codes Identified
Research Question 1	<p>“Half of em come and half of em don’t come...on e day they will be old [poop] just like I am... Our relationsh ip was good before I went into the nursing home”</p>	<p>“It changed, cause I’m in here. I’m supposed to be at home... instead of talking on the telephon e... They want me at home”</p>	<p>“I don’t get to see them that often. I wish I could see them more often.”</p>	<p>“They don’t come cause some of em is uh... married out of wedlock...s o they don’t come around.”</p>	<p>“They come and see me, and give me present s and stuff like that.”</p>	<p>Don’t come Often See them They come Was good Before</p>
Research Question 2	<p>“There is nothing like being in your own home.”</p>	<p>“I would cut the grass, be outside, walk around the block when I got ready.”</p>	<p>“I don’t know ‘cause I’m not out there no more.”</p>	<p>“We participate in activities they have here... not outside... They miss us in the neighborho od, they miss us.”</p>	<p>“Being involved... see, we then grew older now... you got to keep forward, push... pressing on.”</p>	<p>Own Home Don’t Know Miss Us</p>
Research Question 3	<p>“I can’t go very often ‘cause I can’t walk, so I mostly see them on holidays and</p>	<p>“I want to go home.”</p>	<p>“They could help me by taking me to my daughte</p>	<p>“ Being involved... it’s a mind thing now.. we then grew older now... what had been in the past... we haven’t</p>	<p>“Oh, we’re close...m y family...w e are real close...al ways</p>	<p>Go Home Taking Me The Past</p>

<i>sometime s on weekend s.”</i>	<i>r’s house.”</i>	<i>lost anything that we should have done.”</i>	<i>have been.”</i>
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Table 2. Research Questions, In Vivo Codes, and Quotes

From the responses received from each participant, the researcher was able to identify common codes in order to find themes. The themes found within the data are identified below.

Theme 1: Noticing Changes in Interactions

Subcategories:

- Decreased interaction with Grandchildren and Family
- Wanting to be included in Grandchildren and Family’s life

Theme 2: Noticing Changes in Community Interactions

Subcategories:

- Decreased Community Interaction
- Displaying Mixed Feelings about Community Engagement

Theme 3: Being Actively Involved in Family and Community Interactions

Subcategories:

- Increasing Communication and Activity with Family
- Maintaining Engagement with Family
- Helping Increase Accessibility to Community Activities

Theme 1: Noticing Changes in Interaction

The common theme found within the interview data, was

notable changes had occurred within the participants' interaction with their grandchildren, family, and community since being admitted into a nursing facility. Notable changes found within each participant's interview revealed a decrease in interaction between their grandchildren and Family. A common reason was related to the grandchildren and family members not visiting and/or calling the participant. Participant Ms. Mary stated in her interview, "Half of em come, and half of em don't come...one day they will be old [poop] just like I am... Our relationship was good before I went into the nursing home."

Within those notable changes, it was found participants wanted to be included in their grandchildren and family's life in some way or another. For instance, participant Mr. Aaron stated, "I don't want to miss no graduations." He revealed in his interview both his son and grandchildren are in school; his son is working on his doctorate degree, and his grandson is in primary school. Seeing them finish school meant a lot to him. He used to babysit his grandchildren when he lived in the community, which meant he saw his daughter and grandchildren daily. In his interview, he stated it had been almost a month since he had last seen them.

Participants Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Bernice both reported their grandchildren and family didn't visit often, due to different reasons. One reason was because one of their children lives in New York with their grandchildren. Another reason resolves around differences surrounding pre-marital sex and children born out of wedlock. This seemed to be an important area for the couple, when relating to their beliefs and religious practices. Kenneth stated in the interview, "They don't come because some of 'em is uh... married out of wedlock...so they don't come around." This is an area the researcher observed to be a family dynamic that had occurred prior to their nursing home admission.

Theme 2: Noticing Changes in Community Interaction

The second common theme found within the interview data, was notable changes had occurred within the participants' community interactions. Notable changes identified were decreased community interactions, and a display of mixed feelings surrounding community engagement. Common reasons found included the inability to leave the nursing home, and no longer feeling connected to their community. Both Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Bernice expressed deep feelings of contentment of no longer being engaged in their communities as they once were. Although they expressed the joy they had received from being involved and demonstrated nostalgia surrounding their community, they were content with where their life is right now, living in the nursing home and utilizing the activity opportunities offered by the nursing home.

From the participants' interviews, the researcher found the participants spent a great deal of time with their children, grandchildren, family, and close friends doing activities outside. Unfortunately, community engagement in areas such as volunteering, professional organizations, and political causes were not expressed in detail. Participant Mr. Kenneth stated he was involved in his neighborhood block club, serving as the president. Participant Mr. Aaron revealed his joy in sports and attending sporting activities, and Participant Mrs. Bernice spoke about her involvement with her children and church activities.

Theme 3: Being Actively Involved in Family and Community Interactions

This theme emerged from reviewing commonalities found in response to research question three. This research question focused on what families, service providers, and programs could do to integrate older adults into community activities. Common ways

identified in the data were increasing communication and activity with the families, maintaining engagement with family, and helping to increase accessibility to community activities. For example, Mr. Kenneth, Mr. Aaron, and Ms. Mary explicitly stated transportation was an issue with them being involved with their family and community. Another aspect found within the accessibility of community engagement was reasons related to health. Ms. Mary, Mr. Kenneth, and Mrs. Bernice identified health reasons as being a key reason for their inactivity outside of the nursing home.

When looking at family integration and interaction, Mrs. Bernice stated in her interview, "Oh, we're close...my family...we are real close... always have been." The researcher found this to be very interesting when relating the response to research question three. By exploring what makes Mrs. Bernice and her family close, social work could utilize close relationships to encourage community engagement and interaction. Social work could also take this information as a learning tool when looking to work with other residents who may not have close familial relationships to identify methods of integration and family involvement.

CHAPTER 6

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to explore the perceptions of African American grandparents residing in a nursing facility and their influence with their grandchildren, family, and community after being admitted into a nursing facility. This study had a major focus on each of the grandparents' perspective, to learn their feelings surrounding the nursing facility relocation and the changes that may have, or may not have occurred after being admitted. The researcher predicted there would be differences between those relationships, but wanted to explore what might be the different causes surrounding the changes, and how those changes affected the grandparent. From the research, it is safe to say the participants wanted to be involved in their grandchildren and family's lives, but mixed results were received regarding community involvement.

This study took a qualitative approach with a grounded theory framework to analyze the research data. Included in this study were five African American grandparents, with an average age of 79. Learning the background history and current relationships of the grandparents' involvement with their grandchildren, family, and community helped the researcher gain a greater understanding of how those relationships used to be, compared to how it they are now with the highlighted changes in interaction. Although this sample was selected using a convenience sampling method and was not large enough to generalize findings to the entire population, having a diverse group within this small sample provided the researcher with an opportunity to experience different perceptions.

The participants of this study, although all African American, came from different backgrounds. Some participants were married, some had never been married, one was widowed; some of the participants explicitly spoke about their religion's practice and activities; and others spoke about other recreational activities of interest such as partying, drinking, and having fun with family and friends. All of the participants had children, by their personal definition. Four of the participants discussed their biological children, while one of the participants spoke in great detail about extended family members he considered as his children and grandchildren. None of the participants mentioned obtaining a higher education, but participant Mr. Kenneth stated he had graduated from the National Baptist Convention, and helped establish the Tennessee School of Religion in Detroit, where he taught for many years.

The participants of this study all spoke about the differences in interaction with their grandchildren, family, and community, with a great emphasis revolving around family interactions as a whole. It seems from the interviews, body language, tone of voice, and analysis, that some of the grandparents felt forgotten and somewhat disconnected from the family since being relocated to the nursing home. Although none of the participants shared this feeling, seeing the joy they expressed when talking about earlier family interactions, the researcher felt those communications meant a lot to all of the participants.

When looking at the research available surrounding the emotional wellbeing of an older adult when engaged with their family or community, the researcher can conclude those positive relationships and involvement provide the grandparent with a sense of identity, inclusivity, and value. On the other hand, if the shared lived experiences were

not positive in their eyes, it still has an effect on the individual, which can result in positive or negative reinforcement. For instance, participant Ms. Mary stated multiple times during her interview she was depressed; which related to and was a result of her current condition and relationship with her family.

Community interaction, although it was mentioned, did not seem to carry a great deal of weight now that participants of this study resided in a nursing facility. They were reminiscent and easily shared past community involvement and interests. Participant Mr. Aaron mentioned his love for sports and attending different sporting events, Ms. Mary stated her joy in going to second hand stores, Mr. Robert expressed his love for staying busy and performing multiple outdoor yard work activities, and Mr. Robert and Mrs. Bernice both expressed their joy in attending church services and activities surrounding their practice of faith.

Although they expressed their joy in participating in these events, the participants did not have clearly identifiable conclusions for how social work, staff, or their family could help them maintain their community engagements and activity level. There could be multiple reasons as to why each of the participants did not provide detailed information surrounding current community engagement. Reasons for this could relate to the questions not being clear enough to yield needed responses, the researcher not asking in-depth follow-up questions, or the participants did not have a desire to be involved in the community. As we can see from the results, each of the participants were engaged in their community, in some way, prior to being admitted into the nursing facility. When looking at reasons why the participants hadn't been involved within their communities

outside of the nursing facility once being admitted, the greatest concerns were related to transportation and the restrictive setting of the nursing facility.

Even though the participants did not explicitly identify areas to help increase their involvement, this researcher was able to identify, within context, areas that seem to provide barriers and other areas that were working to form opportunities. The informed content helped the researcher frame identified implications for future practice.

Although this data shows community engagement can come in many forms, it also leaves the researcher questioning if it is a necessity for all individuals. During the interviews, the majority of the participants expressed the nursing facility provided activities for them to participate in, and they enjoyed them. Some of the activities mentioned were: bingo, shopping trips, casino trips, and church service. Although he was not happy about being in the nursing facility, Mr. Robert stated he would help the staff clean the dining room area on the evenings in order to keep busy. These are all activities that keep an older adult active and engaged with others and their immediate surroundings in the nursing facilities, but in many ways the residents are still separate from their community and activities outside of the nursing facility.

Unfortunately, when looking at the data from the framework of Intergenerational Family Systems Theory, the researcher believes the nursing facility relocation has put a strain on the family system and how the grandparent now view themselves within the family unit. While reviewing the data, the researcher identified moments within the interviews that displayed feelings of disconnection as the participants shared their past relationships compared to their current relationships and roles in the family. With reported changes in regard to relationships with children and grandchildren, the participant's

intergenerational relationships had been affected. For example, Ms. Mary stated multiple times during her interview she gets depressed when she thinks about her family relationships. Although her grandchildren had previously come to her during their times of need, she now felt as if she no longer had an influence within their lives and decision making.

Limitations of the Study

Being this study did not reach saturation of the population being researched, limitations of findings are present. The following limitations were identified when reviewing the research data, findings, and participants' demographics/background:

- Research sample is not representative of entire population of African American grandparents residing in nursing facilities
- There was a limited amount of time available for interviews
- Unknown family and medical dynamics may influence current relationships and community involvement
- Unknown length of nursing home admissions prior to current admission may affect results

Implications for Future Research and Practice

This study presents multiple areas regarding future research and implications for practice in the area of social work and related fields. As a result of the identified noticeable changes in intergenerational relationships, kinscripts, and their community involvement, the older adult is faced with adapting to those changes. In response to those changes, it would be important for nursing homes to address the changing dynamics by

working closely with the older adult and family members to ensure the changes aren't negatively affecting their quality of care and life.

The results of this study would suggest an importance of the nursing home working with the resident and identified family members when developing personal care plans and plans for integration in the community. While interviewing Mr. Aaron, he attributed his daughter not coming to visit him with her having a busy schedule. Although he understood she had a busy schedule, he was also aware she still had a busy schedule when he lived in the community; which didn't stop them from communicating often. This highlights a change in their interactions and relationship. Families should be educated on the changes that occur when an older adult is admitted into a nursing facility and how it has the ability to affect the older adult and family unit as a whole. By opening the door of communication with the family unit, we are allowing the older adult to share their thoughts and feelings surrounding how they would like their family relationships to flow in response to relocation.

For future research in this area, it would be important to carry out the study with a larger sample size in order to generate a better picture, and to tease out clearer themes. It may also be useful to generate additional questions geared towards family structure, by including all family members. This information would help to inform the participant's intergenerational relationships, perspectives, and influence.

Overall, this study displays the importance of understanding our clients, their background, relationships and individual desires. What may work for one older adult, may not work for another when it comes to community involvement, maintaining and augmenting familial relationships, and enhancing their quality of life. Local agencies and

individual practitioners must work with each older adult to develop a plan and course of action to create and maintain close relationships they find valuable.

CHAPTER 7

Summary

Nursing facilities with African American grandparents should work to ensure they are enhancing and maintaining a high quality of life, by ensuring their relationships with their grandchildren, family, and community are intact and of quality as defined by the individual. Due to the increasing number of African American older adults being admitted into nursing facilities, this is a problem that must be identified and targeted as a way to improve relationships for not only the grandparent, but others in the identified family system as well. Nursing facilities will have primary responsibility regarding addressing the changes in the family system and script, to ensure their client's quality of life does not diminish due to life changes related to nursing facility admissions.

Although this study does not reach saturation to provide a generalized view of African American grandparents residing in a nursing facility, it does provide enough information to show there is indeed a change that occurs within their relationships when admitted into nursing facilities. Those changes may range from positive and negative perspectives, but it is the responsibility of nursing facilities, social workers, care providers, and families to provide the best care and quality of life to older African American grandparents during those transitions. By providing an analysis of current strengths, relationships, and points of interests, we may be able to work with the grandparent to identify areas they would like to keep intact, areas they see needing improvement, and areas of their life that no longer suit their needs. We must make sure their needs are met and support the achievement of the best quality of life possible.

APPENDIX A

IRB EXEMPTION DOCUMENT

**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

IRB Administration Office
87 East Canfield, Second Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48201
Phone: (313) 577-1628
FAX: (313) 993-7122
<http://irb.wayne.edu>

CONCURRENCE OF EXEMPTION

To: Monica Bester
Social Work Instruction Un

From: Dr. Deborah Ellis D. Ellis/AB.
Chairperson, Behavioral Institutional Review Board (B3)

Date: December 16, 2014

RE: IRB #: 123514B3X
Protocol Title: "African American Grandparents Residing in an Assisted Living Facility: Perceptions of Influence with their Grandchildren, Family, and Community"

Sponsor:
Protocol #: 1412013648

The above-referenced protocol has been reviewed and found to qualify for **Exemption** according to paragraph #2 of the Department of Health and Human Services Code of Federal Regulations [45 CFR 46.101(b)].

- Social/Behavioral/Education Exempt Protocol Summary Form (received in the IRB Office 12/4/2014)
- Protocol (received in the IRB Office 12/4/2014)
- Research Information Sheet (dated 11/21/2014)
- Sample Script
- Data Collection Tool: Interview Questions

This proposal has not been evaluated for scientific merit, except to weigh the risk to the human subjects in relation to the potential benefits.

- Exempt protocols do not require annual review by the IRB.
- All changes or amendments to the above-referenced protocol require review and approval by the IRB **BEFORE** implementation.
- Adverse Reactions/Unexpected Events (AR/UE) must be submitted on the appropriate form within the timeframe specified in the IRB Administration Office Policy (<http://irb.wayne.edu/policies-human-research.php>).

NOTE: Forms should be downloaded from the IRB Administration Office website <http://irb.wayne.edu> at each use.

APPENDIX B

RESEARCH INFORMATION SHEET

Research Information Sheet

Title of Study: African American Grandparents residing in a Nursing Facility: Perceptions of influence with their Grandchildren, Family, and Community

Principal Investigator (PI): *MONICA BESTER*
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
517-505-4011

Purpose:

You are being asked to be in a research study of African American grandparents residing in a nursing facility, because you are a grandparent and reside in a nursing facility. This study is being conducted at Wayne State University and your nursing home. In this research study I am looking to find out how African American grandparents living in a nursing facility feel their relationship with their grandchildren and community has changed since moving from home. I want to find out if there has been a change in your interactions and if so, how? In addition, I hope to find out how African American grandparents, living in a nursing facility, would like to be involved in their family and community.

Study Procedures:

If you take part in the study, you will be asked to participate in a recorded interview..

- *Participate in a privately recorded interview with me.*
- *Only 1 visit will be planned. The interview will last about 1 ½ hours. If follow-up information is needed, I will contact you to schedule the follow-up interview.*
- *Questions asked will be about your relationship with your family, grandchildren, and community. You have the option of not answering a question if you wish not to.*
- *No identifying information will be collected during this process.*

Benefits

- *As a participant in this research, there may be no direct benefit to you, however participating in the study has the potential of providing personal satisfaction through releasing personal feelings and perceptions.*

Risks

By taking part in this study, you may experience the following risks:

Submission/Revision Date: 11/21/14
Protocol Version #: 1

Page 1 of 2

Form Date: 10/2013

African American Grandparents in Nursing Homes: Perceptions of Influence

- *You might feel sad or upset when you are recalling some of your relationships. You can stop the interview at anytime. And you can decide to not answer any questions that you don't want to answer.*

Costs

- *There will be no costs to you for participation in this research study.*

Compensation

- *You will not be paid for taking part in this study.*

Confidentiality:

- *You will be identified in the research records by a code name and number. There will be no list that links your identity with this code.*

Voluntary Participation /Withdrawal:

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to take part in this study, or if you decide to take part, you can change your mind later and withdraw from the study. You are free to not answer any questions or withdraw at any time. Your decision will not change any present or future relationships with Wayne State University or its affiliates

Questions:

If you have any questions about this study now or in the future, you may contact Monica Bester at the following phone number (517) 505- 4011. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, the Chair of the Institutional Review Board can be contacted at (313) 577-1628. If you are unable to contact the research staff, or if you want to talk to someone other than the research staff, you may also call (313) 577-1628 to ask questions or voice concerns or complaints.

Participation:

By completing the interview you are agreeing to participate in this study.

APPROVED

DEC 16 2014

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

Submission/Revision Date: 11-21-14
Protocol Version #: 1

Page 2 of 2

Form Date: 10/2013

APPENDIX C

RESEARCH LETTER OF SUPPORT



Serving Detroit, Hamtramck,
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and the five Grosse Pointes

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f 313.446.4445
www.daaa1a.org

Paul Bridgewater, MPA
President/CEO
Wayne W. Bradley, Sr.
Chair, Board of Directors

November 20, 2014

IRB Review Committee
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Greetings IRB Review Committee,

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA), I would be pleased to assist Ms. Monica Bester with identifying potential participants for her proposed project, entitled "African American Grandparents residing in an Assisted Living Facility: Perceptions of Influence with their Grandchildren, Family, and Community." The DAAA currently provides home-care support services to many older adults in the Detroit area, assistance is also provided to older adults transitioning from nursing homes back into the community.

I am certain I will be able to help Ms. Bester identify participants whom fit within the required criteria she has set for inclusion in the project. Ms. Bester's project is of interest to me, and I believe it has the potential to enhance the current information and research available for working with Older Adults and their families in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Bridgewater'.

Paul Bridgewater
President and Chief Executive Officer

PB/tw
G: Administration/Admin2014/Paul B/Monica Bester Letter of Support



To educate, advocate and promote healthy aging to enable people to make choices about home and community-based services and long term care that will improve their quality of life.

The Detroit Area Agency on Aging is an Equal Opportunity Employer
The Michigan Relay Center-1-800-649-3777 (Voice and TDD)

APPENDIX D

INTERVIEW SCRIPT

ATTACHMENT 3

Sample Script

Investigator: Hello ma'am/sir, how are you doing today?

Potential Participant: answer...

Investigator: Respond to potential participant's response in a respectful way and with proper context

Investigator: I am a student at Wayne State University and wanted to talk to you for a few minutes regarding a research study I am doing, would you be willing to talk for a few minutes about it?

Potential Participant: answer...

If no,

Investigator: Thank you for your time, I hope you have a great day today

If yes,

Investigator: Thank you, I'm conducting interviews with residents of nursing homes about their relationship with their grandchildren. Do you have any grand children who are 20 years old or younger?

IF YES: Were they born before you came to a nursing home?

IF YES; it looks like you would be eligible to participate in the interview. Can I show you the Information Sheet which has more information about the study?

pull out information sheet about research Go over study information sheet with potential participant.

APPROVED

DEC 16 2014

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

APPENDIX E

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

ATTACHMENT 1

Interview Questions

1. Tell me about your family?
 - a. Who is in it?
 - b. Who are they?
 - c. Where do they live?
2. Tell me about how your family structure has changed since you moved into the nursing facility?
3. Tell me about how your relationship with your grandchildren has changed since moving into the nursing home?
4. Tell me about how your community ties have changed since you moved into the nursing home?
5. How do you feel moving into the nursing home has impacted your ability to work with your community?
6. Do you feel you still have an impact within your community and family?
 - a. If yes, tell me about some of the influences you have?
7. Tell me about some of the ways you would like to be involved in community activities?
8. In what ways would you like to be involved with your family and the life/lives of your grandchild (ren)?

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ABSTRACT**AFRICAN AMERICAN GRANDPARENTS RESIDING IN A NURSING FACILITY:
PERCEPTIONS OF INFLUENCE WITH THEIR GRANDCHILDREN, FAMILY, AND
COMMUNITY**

by

MONICA BESTER**May 2015****Advisor:** Dean Dr. Cheryl Waites**Major:** Social Work**Degree:** Master of Social Work

African American older adults have historically been identified as vital members of the African American family and community (Hill, 1972; Cox, 2002; Waites, 2008). Unfortunately, research has shown an increasing number of older African Americans are being admitted into nursing facilities (Paul, 2004; Feng et al., 2011). Between the years of 1998-2008, it was projected African Americans living in nursing homes increased by 10.8% (Feng et al., 2011).

This study explores the intergenerational relationships of older African American adults with their grandchildren, family, and community through the lens of Intergenerational Family Systems Theory. By viewing this qualitative study through the lens of Intergenerational Family Systems Theory, changes in the older adults' kinscripts were analyzed to obtain a greater understanding of affects associated with nursing home relocation and the older adults' relationship with their grandchildren, family, and

communities since being admitted. By utilizing a grounded theory approach, this study has found key areas to influence future social work practice and research.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

I have always been the child that loved to be with her grandparents, and their friends for multiple reason. I always felt safe with my grandparents, and knew I could trust them to love me and guide me in directions from their personal wisdom gained through life experiences. After my grandfather was placed in a nursing home in 2007, I knew life was going to change. Although I was gone off to college, I visited him as much as possible. Unfortunately, I realized quickly not all older adults in nursing homes have family support like my grandfather did. After my grandfather's passing in 2013, I thought of how many people died in nursing homes "alone."

I live amongst a generation who were taught to attend college, get a good job, and make a decent living. Unfortunately, in the midst of us working on our individual goals many of us have forgotten the importance of personal relationships with our elders. Our elders are our bridge into the future, with the great amount of wisdom and valuable life experiences they hold. It is my hopes in the future to continue working on bridging intergenerational gaps in families and communities. One day we will all become older adults, I believe we shouldn't wait until then to establish stronger relationships.

As an "old soul," I thank my grandmother and her friends for taking me in and nurturing me into the woman I am today. It is with their love and support I am passionate about older adults and our youth populations. When I become an older adult, I hope and pray I am able to live a high quality life as a member of my family and community. When looking at future practice and research, it is my goal to continue learning how we can bridge gaps between the younger and older generations without sacrificing the quality of life of both.