**Recruitment Letter for Service Providers**

Dear Potential Study Participant,

We are requesting your agency’s participation in the research study entitled *Access to Mental Health Services in Rural Pennsylvania*, sponsored by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a legislative agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and Kutztown University’s Department of Social Work. This study assesses the demand for mental health and substance abuse treatment services in rural Pennsylvania with a focus on youth and the elderly and identifies challenges faced in accessing mental health, substance abuse, and physical healthcare (treatment).

Your participation is vital. Your perspective will help us better understand what is working as well as the challenges and barriers faced by rural Pennsylvanians who attempt to engage in treatment, as well as mental health service providers. Your participation will also inform and guide legislative decision-making about the health care needs of Pennsylvanians and the agencies that serve them.

We are conducting focus groups with consumers, service providers, and insurers to provide an in-depth exploration of the barriers and challenges to mental health and substance abuse services that exist in rural areas of Pennsylvania, based on the perspectives and practice experiences of the professionals who provide direct behavioral and mental health services. Service providers have valuable insight into the various systems of practice including accessibility, challenges, and barriers to services along the continuum of care.

We kindly ask you to identify up to 5 people and select a date to participate in an online focus group comprised of mental health service providers to help us explore care coordination along the continuum of care from prevention to assessment, treatment, recovery, and follow-up, based on your perspectives and practice experiences as a mental health service provider. Use this link [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MHFocusGroup](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.com%2Fr%2FMHFocusGroup&data=02%7C01%7Csvistova%40kutztown.edu%7C6934ac0d03d54e9575e808d8063cb033%7C03c754af89a74b0abd4bdb68146c5fa4%7C1%7C0%7C637266205002915718&sdata=AVkLTWBlQUdSb1vqrgvrI3chEflHtQI3hm71rYhOu%2BA%3D&reserved=0) to provide contact information of the identified participants and select a date and time of the focus group. The focus group is expected to last for approximately 90 minutes. 20 people will be randomly selected to receive a $25 store gift card.

If you have any questions regarding the study, please contact Dr. Juliana Svistova, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work via email at svistova@kutztown.edu or call 610-683-4330. Thank you in advance for contributing to the Access to Mental Health Services in Rural Pennsylvania (AMHSRP) research study. We look forward to hearing back from you

Sincerely,

Juliana Svistova, PhD, MSW

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