OMB No. 0930-0274
Expiration Date: XX/XX/2016

MI/SP Counselor Consent

Purpose of the Research

This research project, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), has been designed to evaluate SAMHSA's cooperative initiative with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) to provide follow-up to suicidal hotline callers and at-risk individuals discharged from hospital emergency rooms and inpatient units. As part of this initiative, telephone crisis counselors at twelve centers in the NSPL network will receive training incorporating recent advances in motivational interviewing and safety planning (Safety Planning Intervention training, or SPI). The training is not part of the research study; however, the study will examine the impact of the training on the crisis counseling process and outcome. Your center has been selected by SAMHSA to be one of the twelve centers that are part of this research.

What the Study Involves

In the course of the study, you will be asked to complete either one or two types of self-administered questionnaire. First, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire upon completion of SPI training. This questionnaire will include questions about how prepared you feel to use SPI procedures with clients, and whether you feel the training will improve the services you provide to clients. It will also ask about your prior training, level of education, and experience as a telephone crisis counselor. Part II of this questionnaire will ask for your feedback on SPI once you have had the opportunity to implement the intervention with suicidal clients. Next, if you are responsible for conducting follow-up calls at your center, you will also be asked to complete a questionnaire for each client you attempt to follow. This questionnaire asks about the circumstances of the client's referral for your follow-up, whether contact is successfully made with the client, any safety plan you develop with the client, any additional treatment referrals you offer the client, to what extent the client follows through with referrals, and how the client is doing at the time of follow-up.

Privacy

We are very concerned about maintaining your privacy. For the purpose of linking your questionnaires, your name and the name of your center will be recorded on questionnaires *temporarily.* When we receive your questionnaires – by mail or fax – we will delete your name and the name of your center and refer to you and your center only by study numbers. Data in our computers will contain only study numbers, not any names or pseudonyms. Only group data that has no identifying information will be presented at meetings or in reports.

All records will be stored in locked files in our offices at Columbia University and will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. Records will only be available to research staff, Federal and State and Institutional regulatory personnel who may review records as part of routine audits. We will destroy the records at the end of the project.

Risks

No risks are anticipated from participating in this research. A breach of confidentiality is possible, but as we described above, we have taken precautions to minimize this risk.

Benefits
This study is not designed for the benefit of any individual. However, your center may request reports and follow up consultation from the researchers that can inform and enhance your services to individuals in crisis. Again, no individual counselor or client will be identified in these reports. Providing independent evaluation data to potential funding sources may enhance your center's ability to obtain funding and sustain its critical services. Furthermore, it is hoped that the study will provide a broader benefit to society. Previous research shows that seriously suicidal individuals call crisis hotlines, and that calls to crisis hotlines are associated with reductions in crisis and suicidal states. This study is designed to help optimize telephone crisis services as a suicide prevention strategy by evaluating how training of crisis counselors, and follow-up with suicidal clients, may improve client outcomes. In the long run, such findings may encourage federal and non-profit investment in the most effective crisis line services.

Research standards and rights of participants
Taking part in the study is up to you. There will be no penalty if you do not want to take part in the study. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time with no consequence to you by calling the study Principal Investigator (contact information is provided below).

The researchers will answer to the best of their ability any questions that you may have now or in the future about this study and your participation in it. If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the project, you may call the Principal Investigator Dr. Madelyn Gould at (212) 543-5329.

The Institutional Review Board of the New York State Psychiatric Institute-Columbia University Department of Psychiatry (NYSPI-IRB) has approved the recruitment of subjects for this study, as indicated by the stamp at the bottom of the form. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or any complaints, you may call the NYSPI-IRB Administrative Director at (212) 543-5758.

I voluntarily agree to participate in the research study described above.

Print Name_____

Signature_____Date_____

I have discussed the proposed research with this participant, and, in my opinion, this participant understands the benefits, risks and alternative (including non-participation) and is capable of freely consenting to participate in this research.

Print Name_____

Signature_____Date_____