

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD  
CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted by Marriage and Family Therapy Solutions, LLC, Addie R. Whitaker, Principal Investigator, to develop a statewide Historically Black Colleges and Universities Behavioral Health Engagement/Assessment project. Federal passthrough to the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is the funding source.

We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

**STUDY PURPOSE**

The purpose of the study:

- is to talk with groups of HBCU students to understand their academic needs as Social Work, Psychology, and Counselor Education students,
- to understand the students' attitudes toward Social Work, Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Counseling as a profession,
- to understand the best way to inform the student of the benefits of a career in Social Work, Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Counseling and attract them to getting their Clinical License as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist,
- and to understand how to retain the student to get them to graduate once they decide on one of these programs.

**PROCEDURES FOR THE STUDY:**

If you agree to be in the study:

Students will be asked to volunteer to participate in this study by signing and returning this consent form. As part of this study, 60 students will be placed in a focus group of approximately 10 students per group. A moderator will ask several open-ended questions while facilitating the discussion. The focus group will be video recorded via Zoom or another video conferencing service. Face-to-face focus groups may occur based on Virginia State University and CDC COVI policy. If face-to-face contact occurs, a meeting room setting on the campus of Virginia State University will be the site location. If you begin the process, you may stop at any time you feel uncomfortable.

40 Students will also be asked to participate in a one-time online survey which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. You have the option to participate in the focus group and the online survey. If you begin the process, you may stop at any time.

**RISKS OF TAKING PART IN THE STUDY:**

- The risk of participation in the study is minimum; however, students completing the survey or participating in the focus group may be uncomfortable answering the questions.
- There is a risk of possible loss of confidentiality. Students will be told not to share information outside the group but, ultimately, we cannot guarantee all students will abide by the rule,

While participating in the focus group, you can tell the researcher you feel uncomfortable or do not care to answer a particular question.

### **IN CASE OF INJURY:**

In the event of physical injury resulting from your participation in this research, necessary medical treatment will be provided to you and billed as part of your medical expenses. Costs not covered by your health care insurer will be your responsibility. Also, it is your responsibility to determine the extent of your health care coverage. There is no program in place for other monetary compensation for such injuries. However, you are not giving up any legal rights or benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

### **BENEFITS OF TAKING PART IN THE STUDY:**

Students may benefit by increased field placements/practicum opportunities in the fields of Social Work, Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Counseling. Participation may also increase the student's opportunity for employment in an area that has a shortage of available mental health trained recruits in the fields of Social Work, Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Counseling. Further, the student may be in a position for employment in an area that is trying to increase its diversity hires, the student may gain skills that will be useful in personal, entrepreneurial, and other career aspects of the student's life. Students will have the opportunity to participate in free mentoring and career coaching. Gift cards valued in the amount of \$20.00 to Starbuck and Amazon will be provided to students for their participation.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Efforts will be made to keep your personal information confidential. We cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. Your personal information may be disclosed if required by law.

Participants in the study will be asked to respect the privacy of other focus group members by not disclosing any content discussed during the focus group. By signing this consent form, the student agrees not to disclose any information about other students from the research project. Researchers will remove all identifying information from the data collection.

Data will be stored on a password-protected computer, and a password-protected data storage system on a separate Qualtrics server. The findings will be displayed on Marriage and Family Therapy Solutions, LLC. Webpage.

### **COMPENSATION**

Gifts valued in the amount of \$20.00 to Starbuck and Amazon will be provided to students for their participation.

### **CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study, please contact the lead researcher, Ms. Addie Whitaker, Marriage and Family Therapy Solutions, LLC, [addie.whitaker@mftsva.com](mailto:addie.whitaker@mftsva.com) or 571-643-2912 (cell) or 703-670-2535 (home) during regular business hours (i.e., 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM).

For questions about your rights as a research participant or to discuss problems, complaints or concerns about a research study, or to obtain information, or offer input, contact Dr. Ayana Conway, IRB Chairperson, [aconway@vsu.edu](mailto:aconway@vsu.edu) at (804) 524-5446 or [irb@vsu.edu](mailto:irb@vsu.edu).

**VOLUNTARY NATURE OF STUDY**

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or may leave the study at any time. Leaving the study will not result in any penalty, risk or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your current or future relations with Virginia State University.

Your participation may be terminated by the investigator without regard to your consent in the following circumstances: Violation of confidentiality of the group.

**SUBJECT’S CONSENT**

In consideration of all of the above, I give my consent to participate in this research study.

I agree not to disclose any information about other students from the research project.

I will be given a copy of this informed consent document to keep for my records. I agree to take part in this study.

**My signature certify that I am 18 years or older** \_\_\_\_\_

**My signature certify that I am a student enrolled in VSU** \_\_\_\_\_

**My signature certify that I am enrolled at VSU in a degree program from one of the three Departments (Department of Social Work, the Department of Teaching and Learning or The Department of Psychology)**\_\_\_\_\_

**Subject’s Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject’s Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**  
(must be dated by the subject)

**Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Person Obtaining Consent:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**