

Information Sheet

Daniel's Law Task Force: Building an Equitable and Responsive Mental Health System

Project Purpose: In support of the Daniel's Law Task Force and the State of New York, we are asking community members with experience contacting crisis services for their opinions. One way the Task Force is collecting this information is by conducting interviews with people ages 18 or older who have experienced a behavioral health crisis or supported another person through a crisis. These interviews will help us understand the needs of people using these services and improve these services for all New Yorkers. We are offering an honorarium of \$50 to each participant who takes part in a qualitative interview. We value all participant's time and insights, and we hope this honorarium acknowledges their efforts in contributing to this project. All responses will remain confidential.

During the interview, we will touch on many topics around mental health and substance use.

Main topics of discussion include:
➤ Experiences with mental health and/or substance use crisis responses and other behavioral health services
➤ How people respond and care for themselves during stressful situations?
➤ How easy or hard it is to access behavioral health resources in the healthcare system and in the community?
➤ Racism and other forms of discrimination in the behavioral health crisis system
➤ How behavioral health policies impact different communities, including lack of services in some communities?
➤ Suggestions for improving the behavioral health system

Interview Process – What to Expect:

- **Approach:** The interview will be conversational, allowing you to share your experiences and opinions openly. There are no right or wrong answers, and your honesty is greatly appreciated.
- **Duration:** The interview should last between 45 and 60 minutes.
- **Confidentiality:** All information shared during the interview will be confidential. Your name and identifying details will not be used in any reports or publications resulting from this project. We

value your privacy and will ensure that all information shared during the interview is kept confidential.

- **Referrals and Support:** We understand that discussing mental health and/or substance use can be challenging. You can take a break or stop the interview at any time. If you would like support after the interview, the interviewer can provide you with information about local behavioral health resources and referrals to professional services.

We want to emphasize that we deeply respect and acknowledge your experiences, and we are here to learn for you, not to judge.

Interviewers are peers who have experience and skill in conducting qualitative research. They are equipped to handle sensitive topics with care and respect.

Contact Information: If you have any questions or need further information about the project, please contact Anica Maggard (amaggard@nystec.com), Ian Rodgers (ian.rodgers@omh.ny.gov) or Gilbert Nick (Gilbert.Nick@nki.rfmh.org).