



May 9, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great respect that I provide you with a summary of our history with Dr. Robert Berchick. Dr. Berchick has contributed substantially to our Clinic and a number of our previous research projects.

For over 25 years, David Brent, MD and I have managed the Services for Teens at Risk (STAR Clinic), located in Pittsburgh. The STAR Clinic, a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania funded program for suicide prevention, has provided outpatient treatment and research for at-risk youth and their families.

We first met Dr. Berchick while collaborating with Dr. Aaron T. Beck. At Dr. Beck's recommendation, Dr. Berchick provided CBT training and ongoing telephone supervision to Dr. Brent. Additionally, Dr. Berchick joined us as our external consultant for our first treatment trial, the FIRST Study. He reviewed videotapes and provided weekly telephone supervision to our CBT therapists, including weekly supervision with me!

Again, Dr. Berchick joined us as external CBT consultant and supervisor for our group on the Treatment of Resistant Depression in Adolescents (MH61835) study from 2004-2007. Dr. Berchick consulted in the design and conduct of this study with particular emphasis on the integrity of the cognitive treatment cell. In addition to reviewing videotapes from five sites, he also played a major role during our weekly CBT site conference call and bi-weekly calls with the CBT supervisors in Pittsburgh.

I have a great deal of respect and admiration for Dr. Berchick. He has been a powerful mentor to me over the years, and has played an instrumental role in my professional development. It has been an honor and privilege to work with him and we look forward to future endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

Kimberly Poling, LCSW
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