MEMORANDUM FOR SURVEY RECIPIENTS

SUBJECT: Survey of Behavioral Health Care Providers and Technicians

The Department of Defense and the Psychological Health Center of Excellence (PHCoE) have asked the RAND Corporation (RAND) to assess the current functional operation and utilization of behavioral health technicians (BHTs) within the Military Health System (MHS).

A key component of this assessment is a survey of military behavioral health care providers and technicians titled "Functional Analysis of the Behavioral Health Technician within the Military Health System." This survey provides an important opportunity to identify a baseline description of the current BHT role and identify opportunities to improve how BHTs are utilized across service branches. Understanding the current scope of the BHT role across service branches is an important step in determining how they can best be utilized in the provision of high quality behavioral health care within the MHS. RAND will work with the Defense Manpower Data Center to select two stratified, random samples of 1) behavioral health providers (psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and social workers) and 2) BHTs for survey fielding. Selected licensed behavioral health providers and BHTs will be invited to participate in a survey via web or telephone.

This memorandum requests your assistance and cooperation to facilitate this important project. Behavioral health care providers and technicians who are selected are highly encouraged to participate. Survey fielding is projected to begin on 1 JUN 2019. The findings from this project could be used to inform the development and implementation of BHTs across the MHS. The Behavioral Health Technician Work Group (BHTWG) endorsed this project on 2 OCT 2017 and assisted in the development of the survey instrument. The BHTWG has representation from all four Services, the Medical Education and Training Campus, the National Capital Region, and the Defense Health Agency. The BHTWG promotes BHT capabilities and integrates knowledge, resources and efforts to support BHTs across the MHS. The Behavioral Health Clinical Community (BHCC) endorsed this project on 4 MAY 2017. The BHCC provides the MHS with behavioral health strategic oversight. The PHCoE point-of-contact for this communication is MSgt Bradley K. Blair; bradley.k.blair.mil@mail.mil; (301) 295-8465. Thank you for your assistance with this important effort.

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