Hello,

My name is Emily Lake, and I am a doctoral candidate in the Counselor Education and Supervision Program at the University of South Dakota. I am collecting data for my dissertation project, and I am inviting you to participate in my research study regarding counselors’ professional counselor experiences navigating issues with managed care.

You are eligible to participate in this study if you (a) are a clinical mental health counselor (b) graduated from a counseling program in the United States (c) and are currently licensed or working towards a professional counseling license. Your participation is voluntary. Please take time to read this entire form and ask questions before deciding whether to take part in this research project. In addition, please consider forwarding this e-mail to anyone who may be eligible to participate in the study.

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to fill out a survey, including sections asking you to provide demographic information and your experience working with the managed care system. The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. There will be no follow-up survey or continued contact with the investigator.

There is minimal risk in participating in this study. The survey will be anonymous, and your identity will not be collected or in any way connected with your answers. If you would like to talk to someone about your feelings regarding this study, you are encouraged to contact services in your area. If you need assistance with finding services in your area, please feel free to contact Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association’s National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357). These services are free, confidential, and available 24/7, 365 days-a-year.

If you have any questions about the study, you may contact the Principal Investigator Dr. Adam Hardy by email at adam.hardy@usd.edu. You may contact the Student Investigator by email at Emily.lake@coyotes.usd.edu Any questions you have regarding your rights as a research subject, or complaints about the research may be directed to the Office of Human Subjects Protection at 605-658-3743, or by email at irb@usd.edu. The IRB approval number for this study is IRB-23-40.

You may print a copy of this email for your records. If you have any questions about the study later, you can contact the study team using the information provided above.

By clicking on the study link you are agreeing to the above. This study link will direct you to the survey page [https://southdakota.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_50Z2x2xVyp2UkM6](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsouthdakota.sjc1.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_50Z2x2xVyp2UkM6&data=05%7C01%7CEmily.Lake%40coyotes.usd.edu%7Cb8d32295c6534b3a00fd08db108ea0cf%7C9c36a7d0bf7b49919b78be91a52f0226%7C0%7C0%7C638121977019052651%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rzyFw6Jfq8TLNBJqBXXjAvE0WgXhgH5YXLLYO8Jskh4%3D&reserved=0)

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

 Sincerely,

Emily Lake MA, LPC