Dear Behavioral Health Stakeholders,

Behavioral health services, both mental health and substance use services, are considered essential and life sustaining services. As such, those entities that support, authorize and/or provide behavioral health services are exempt from the Governor’s directive asking for the closure of all non-essential businesses. Behavioral health services and supports are critical to the health and wellness of our communities and providers are expected to continue offering those services through the COVID-19 crisis period.

Thank you all for your support and continued dedication to providing these life sustaining services to the citizens in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Valerie J. Vicari

Valerie J. Vicari | Acting Deputy Secretary
Department of Human Services | Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
P.O. Box 2675 | Commonwealth Towers | 11th Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
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Mental illness affects 1 out of every 4 persons. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death nationally and over 1,900 Pennsylvanians died by suicide in 2016.
If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis or is considering suicide, help is available. Reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **1-800-273-TALK (8255)** or contact the Crisis Text Line by texting **PA** to **741-741**.