I would like to introduce **HOPE**, which is an early intervention program for adolescents and young adults experiencing their First Episode Psychosis. **HOPE** has been serving Luzerne/Wyoming County since 2016 and has recently expanded to serve 6 counties. Our team has been specially trained in Psychosis.

So, let me present **HOPE** to you.

**What is HOPE?** HOPE stands for Helping to Overcome Psychosis Early. HOPE is an evidenced based, early intervention program for individuals between the ages of 15-25 who are experiencing their first episode of psychosis within a 2-year period.

**How do we help individuals?** HOPE’s treatment consists of a collaborating team that focuses on shared decision making, recovery, resiliency and achieving aspirations for the client.

**What are the Symptoms?**Symptoms of psychosis can be vague but also highly disruptive and unfamiliar to the individual. For example, a person may experience confused thinking, unwanted thoughts, false beliefs, hearing/seeing things that others can’t experience, and paranoia.

**What causes these symptoms?** They can be genetically inherited, caused by substance abuse, trauma, severe stress or anxiety, and brain abnormalities. Often, these symptoms can interfere with everyday life skills such as school, work, and social interactions.

**Benefits?** By working closely with the HOPE team, the client will benefit from strengthening their own **socials skills**, **preventing hospitalizations**, **minimizing the risk of suicide**, **managing disruptions with school or work, improving and enhancing family and social relationships**, and **lowering the risk of relapse and the opportunity for a successful recovery**.

Enclosed is our brochure for additional information on the program. Our goal is to work with local resources to help individuals in our community. We would like to meet with you and your team over zoom to further explain our purpose, our roles in the team, and how we can help any client that is exhibiting any of the above symptoms for the first time.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me with a convenient date and time that we can schedule a virtual presentation to share with your staff and to meet our team.

With regards,

Mackenzie Paul, BSW

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