***Dear Primary Care Provider or other Specialist:***

***Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Department of Psychiatry has two fellowship trained child and adolescent psychiatrists. According to recommendations from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and due to the severe shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists, we have designed a clinic with an outpatient consultative model.***

***We are interested in working together with pediatricians and other primary care providers or specialists to coordinate the best care for a child with disorders of thinking, feeling and behavior. We also train other doctors, medical professionals and students to care for the mental health needs of children.***

***Appropriate referrals for our clinic include children who have:***

1. ***Suspected comorbidity of at least 2 major psychiatric disorders***
2. ***Suspected or diagnosed Bipolar Disorder or Schizophrenia***
3. ***Any psychiatric disorder which has not responded to adequate treatment***
4. ***Any psychiatric disorder in a child 2-5 years of age.***

***Children who meet the referral criteria for our clinic will be scheduled for an appointment based on the time line indicated on the referral form. For children who do not meet referral criteria, we will be happy to provide general recommendations and treatment strategies in a telephone consultation with you.***

***At the first appointment, a child will be evaluated by a trainee in the field of psychiatry or pediatrics and by a fellowship trained child psychiatrist. The child and parent will be seen together and separately. If the patient is a small child who is unable to sit alone, an additional adult should be present at the visit.***

***The family will leave the first appointment with a care plan that may include therapy, medications and/or the need to gather more information from teachers or past providers. We will send you a letter detailing this care plan. The child will be followed in our consultation clinic until symptoms are better controlled. At that time, the child will be discharged from the consultation clinic to be followed for continued medication monitoring by their PCP or other specialist. You may call or re-consult our clinic any time there is a need.***

***If you care for a child who you believe would benefit from psychiatric consultation, please fill out the attached referral for. Include the form with insurance information and any other pertinent referral data faxed to our clinic. We are excited to partner with you to provide mental health care for the children of west Texas. We know we cannot do it alone!***

***Sincerely,***

***Sarah Wakefield, MD***

***Manish Aligeti, MD***