

July 27, 2022

Dr. Joy Mwendwa
Department of Counselor Education and Family Studies
School of Behavioral Sciences
Liberty University
Lynchburg, VA 24515

Dear Dr. Mwendwa,

I am writing this letter to offer my full and unequivocal recommendation regarding both the leadership and advocacy skills of Jennifer Smith Ramey, a doctoral student in the CES program. I have known and worked with Jennifer since August 2021 in my capacity as program evaluator on two community-based projects, mentor, and, most recently, as her dissertation chair.

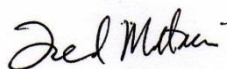
Jennifer is the project director and co-principal investigator of a four-year grant to implement an evidence-based treatment in Central Virginia to address rural health disparities. In particular, this program targets adults with serious mental illness. In this role Jennifer supervises the clinical staff, oversees the day-to-day project activities, manages the budget, and works alongside the evaluation team. This project met and exceeded the first year enrollments targets. In addition, Jennifer led development of a manuscript that was published in the *Journal of Rural Mental Health* in May 2022 on adoption of the evidence-based model in Central Virginia. Additionally, Jennifer led the development of our qualitative case study manuscript on implementation facilitators and barriers. This paper will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal by August. She works closely with project staff, the evaluation team, community stakeholders, and the funder to ensure that communication is seamless across all sectors and goals and objectives of the project are met.

Concomitantly, Jennifer works on the evaluation team for another research project in which we are conducting a qualitative case study on the Adult Drug Court program in Central Virginia. As part of this role, Jennifer meets regularly with the research team to develop and review evaluation goals and timelines. Jennifer assists with scheduling qualitative interviews, coding interviews, and ensuring that project goals and objectives are on track. In both of these projects, Jennifer demonstrates timely and professional communication and engages in a positive and supportive manner with project staff, the evaluation team, and community stakeholders. In summary, Jennifer's leadership skills support both projects through her professionalism and ability to leverage resources across sectors to meet a common goal. She uses a strong work ethic and dedication to serve the community through helping to build, sustain, and evaluate programs to vulnerable populations in Central Virginia.

It is for these reasons (not to mention the fact that she is doing an outstanding job on her dissertation—all while doing her "regular" duties) that I believe Jennifer does and will continue to excel in whatever she does. Her attention to detail and ability to work alongside and lead others to produce quality work will serve any endeavor and/or organization in which she is engaged well. Without hesitation, I am pleased to offer my highest recommendation for Jennifer and I am sure that she will be an asset in whatever future endeavors to which she applies herself.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Most Sincerely,



Fred Milacci
Professor/Associate Director Ed.D Program
Department of Community Care & Counseling
Liberty University
Lynchburg, VA