



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Life Management Center Joins National Research Effort to Improve Treatment for Schizophrenia

PANAMA CITY, FL - Life Management Center of Northwest Florida has been selected to participate in a research study known as the RAISE Early Treatment Program (ETP). Life Management Center is one of 35 locations across the United States that will be carrying out ETP, a study looking at the best ways to help people in the earliest stages of schizophrenia reduce their likelihood of experiencing long-term disability.

The ETP study is part of the [National Institute of Mental Health's](#) (NIMH) Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) Project. ETP is one of two research teams that NIMH has funded under the RAISE Project, which aims to intervene at the earliest signs of schizophrenia. RAISE seeks to develop interventions that can be tested in real-world treatment settings and be quickly put into practice should they prove successful.

“We are pleased to have Life Management Center of Northwest Florida as a member of the ETP team. We believe that the participation of Life Management Center and its staff is essential to the success of ETP and RAISE,” said ETP Director John Kane, M.D., of the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, NY.

ETP is recruiting people between the ages of 16 and 40 who are experiencing the early stages of schizophrenia and related disorders. Symptoms include hallucinations, delusions, and strange thinking patterns. The study will compare two different ways of providing treatment. Both treatments are designed to provide a person with treatment soon after he or she experiences the early signs of schizophrenia. Participants will be offered mental health services such as medication and psychosocial therapy. These strategies are all aimed at promoting symptom reduction and improving life functioning.

“Life Management Center is honored to be a part of the RAISE Early Treatment Program. By participating in this research, our staff will be able to provide our clients with enhanced and cutting edge treatment for this very debilitating disease,” stated Ned Ailes, CEO of Life Management Center.

Schizophrenia and related illnesses often strike young people in the prime of life; however, many people do not seek treatment until they have had severe symptoms for a long time. Although the exact causes of the disease have not yet been determined, current treatments can help people with schizophrenia live independent and fulfilling lives in their communities.

For more information about the RAISE research project, contact Brady DeGrasse at (850) 522-4485.

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Life Management Center of Northwest Florida is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been providing behavioral health services to the communities of Northwest Florida since 1954. The organization serves almost 10,000 people each year in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties.

ETP is part of the [National Institute of Mental Health's \(NIMH\) Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode \(RAISE\) Project](#), under Contract No. HHSN-271-2009-00019C. It is one of two research teams conducting the RAISE Project that are being supported in whole or in part with Federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the NIMH, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. For more information on activities of the NIMH RAISE project, see www.nimh.nih.gov/RAISE.