

## ***Emotions Matter, Inc.***

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[www.EmotionsMatterBPD.org](http://www.EmotionsMatterBPD.org)

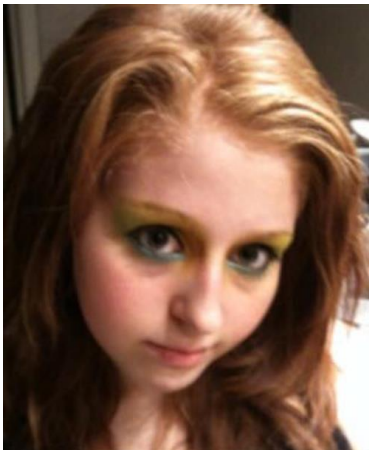
Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

October 3, 2017

Dear Dr. McCance-Katz,

Do you know that up to 75% of individuals diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder attempt suicide?  
Are you aware that up to 10% of them succeed in ending their lives?

As a 501c3 organization representing the 16 million Americans who suffer from this serious mental disorder, Emotions Matters urges you to take immediate action on their behalf. There is no reason why others should end up like Lara Dolgoff from Westbury, New York, who at age 23, lost her life to an illness she could not control. “She was beautiful, sincere, with an incredible sense of humor, but unable to manage her symptoms, said her grieving mother.



Lara Dolgoff, Westbury, NY

Yet, how is Lara Dolgoff and those like her represented by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)?

**The SAMHSA website does not list BPD as a mental disorder under its section on “Issues, Conditions, and Disorders.” There are no publications about BPD available to improve mental health literacy on BPD, and BPD is not even listed as a special population impacted by suicidality.** The minimal information exists about BPD is outdated, and does not reflect current research and evidence-based treatment for the disorder.

This lack of representation is unacceptable to those who are suffering from BPD, their family members, who are their chief support systems, and clinicians – all working hard in communities across America to find ways to improve detection, treatment, and management of this disorder.

**A simple solution would be to add the most current information and resources about BPD to SAMHSA’s website. We are counting on you to do that.**

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Emotions Matter's has brought this issue to you to save lives. Its leadership would welcome extending the dialogue further to fill you in on what SAMSHA can do on behalf of those with BPD who have been left out of the big picture for too long in the government's mental health initiatives. Lara Dolgoff would deserve as much.

Sincerely,

Paula Tusiani-Eng, LMSW, M.Div.  
President/Executive Director, Emotions Matter Board

Owen Muir, MD, Board Member  
Medical Director, Brooklyn Minds Psychiatry, P.C.  
Attending Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center  
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c.c. Anita Everett, M.D., D.F.A.P.A., Chief Medical Officer, SAMHSA  
Kana Enomoto, Acting Deputy Director, Assistant Secretary SAMHSA  
Joshua A. Gordon, MD, PhD, Director, National Institute for Mental Health  
Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, Director, National Institutes of Health

