Suicidality Protocol

There are minimal risks associated with this study, however the conversations may bring up negative thoughts by the participant. The student participants will remind the older adult participant that he/she has the option to stop the conversation at any time or talk about something else if he/she is feeling uncomfortable. Symptoms of depression and emotional distress are expected and if recognized, the student volunteer will ask the participants if they would like to talk to a professional about their feelings and if so, he/she will ask them if they would like to receive call from the UTHealth Trauma and Resilience Center. If yes, the participant ID will be sent to the study coordinator Sophia Wasik, MPH and the study PI: Jason Burnett, PhD. They will then forward the participant contact information to Dr. Acierno (Co-I) and Director of the UTHealth Trauma and Resilience Center. Dr. Acierno will then get his administrative staff to reach out to the participant for further services.  If the older adult participant makes statements about suicidal ideation, the student participant will complete the 7-item Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS). If the older adult participant says yes to C-SSRS items 4 OR 5, the student participant will immediately call Dr. Ron Acierno, at 843-364-1667, on his cell phone and Dr. Acierno will personally make several attempts to contact the older adult participant immediately to assess the situation and discuss intervention and safety options.  If during the phone call, the participant is expressing or exhibiting health symptoms or conditions suggesting the need for acute medical assistance, the student participant will ask the participant for their address and will call them an ambulance. The student participant will not offer any medical advice. If the older adult participant asks for medical advice, the student participant will direct them to contact their medical provider.