



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 9, 2024

Dr. Valerie L. Williams-Sanchez
VALORENA ONLINE, L.L.C.

Subject: Reference Letter for Valorena Online, LLC

Dear Dr. Williams-Sanchez,

In January 2023, Health Research Incorporated (HRI), in partnership with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), awarded Valorena Online, LLC, a contract through the Small Wellness Mini Bid procurement, which was funded through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant OT21-2013.

Through this contract, Valorena Online, LLC developed a plan to expand the children's mental health literacy program *Social, Emotional Reading Program (SERP)* to include youth ages 6-8 and their families in Rockland and Westchester Counties. The program curriculum was expanded to include COVID-19 information and education, including how COVID-19 is spread, and how to prevent and protect yourself and your family through proper handwashing. Four sessions were conducted across Rockland and Westchester counties for youth ages 6-8 and their families.

They also held several meetings of community members to develop the curriculum, resources, and materials for the Poetry, Prose, and Pandemic workshop, also known as Pandemic Reflections, for underserved individuals in Rockland and Westchester counties. Valorena Online, LLC held five Poetry, Prose, and Pandemic workshops across Rockland and Westchester counties for Black or African American; Hispanic, Latino or Latinx; LGBTQ+, Adults aged 65 or older; and/or Youth and young adults. These workshops provided a platform for individuals to reflect on and share their pandemic-related experiences and discuss the effects the pandemic has had on them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Siegenthaler".

Kirsten Siegenthaler, PhD
Director, Division of Family of Health
New York State Department of Health