Appendix D

PEERS® Clinic

Social Skills Group For Young Adults

We invite you to participate in a research study:

PEERS® Training is a 16-week evidence-based parent-assisted social skills intervention to teach young adults, between the ages of 18-23 years, how to make and keep friends. After intake surveys and interviews are conducted (75-90 minutes) and eligibility is determined, social skills groups and social coaching groups will take place once per week for a total of 90 minutes at the University of Maine, Orono. Participants and their social coach will meet in two, separate but concurrently timed groups. Virtual videos recorded will be of the participant and their social skills group role-play partner (another participant) using a 360 camera (e.g.: Samsung Gear 360) with 4K resolution to fully immerse both participants in the virtual experience. Only participants who have given consent to be in the study will be video-recorded. In addition, a four-question survey will be completed by both parents/social coaches and participants at the end of the study. There are 16 weekly sessions.

Young Adults will learn about:

• Conversational Skills
• Appropriate Use of Humor
• Electronic Communication
• Handling Direct and Indirect Bullying
• Handling Arguments & Disagreements
• Organizing Get-Togethers with Friends
• Dating Skills
• Strategies for Handling Sexual Pressure

For enrollment information, please contact (207) 581-2352 or email: maineautisminstitute@maine.edu