

From: [Marisela Van Sickle, LCSW](#)
To: [Exhibits JSCVR](#)
Subject: Telehealth coverage for Mental Health Providers
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:49:58 PM

Good Afternoon,

I'm writing on behalf of myself and all mental health providers in Oregon. In the wake of COVID-19, my colleague and I are doing everything in our power to continue to support our clients who are already in a vulnerable state. For most of us, this means moving our entire practice to telehealth video platforms. As you might be aware, insurance does not always cover telehealth visits (usually it is plan-specific). Further, some insurances, like Aetna and BCBS require providers to contract with 3rd party platforms in order to provide services. These platform pay poorly and are reporting delayed processing due to an influx of applications. This means that we, as providers, bound by our Code of Ethics, will continue to provide services to many vulnerable populations, in my case, young children and families, parents with postpartum anxiety and depression and adolescents with significant anxiety, and there is, at the moment, a high likelihood that we will not be compensated for our work by insurance companies. Our only recourse would be to have clients pay us directly and I can tell you that we simply will not ask that of clients in a time like this.

Please help by mandating that ALL telehealth appointments must be covered regardless of plan limitations and regardless of platform (as long as it is HIPAA-compliant). It is simply not safe for folks to be coming into our offices and we must work together to serve Oregonians with continuity of care in a time of such distress.

With Compassion,

Mari

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