



KENTUCKY BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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Governor

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Kerry B. Harvey
Secretary

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Greetings Licensees,

The purpose of the Kentucky Board of Professional Counselors is to administer and enforce the statutes governing the practice of professional counseling. As such, the Board typically refrains from advocacy efforts or any activities which may be construed as endorsing a product, service, entity, or group of service providers.

However, we are living in extraordinary times. The current Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is altering life dramatically for everyone, but in particular for the most vulnerable, including those with behavioral health issues. As such, the Board would like to clarify, where it can, issues related to the appropriate delivery of professional counseling services during this public health emergency.

It is clear from the number of questions received by our Board Administrator that licensees recognize that distance counseling or telehealth may be the safest mechanism to ensure that vital behavioral health services, including professional counseling, are delivered in an uninterrupted manner.

The bulk of the questions that have been submitted are some variation of the following:

1. Who can provide Telehealth services?
2. What specific training is needed to be able to provide Telehealth services?
3. How do I get reimbursement for services provided utilizing Telehealth?

Licensees wishing to utilize Telehealth for service delivery should review the current regulations governing the delivery of Telehealth services, including, but not limited to, 907 KAR 3:170 (the Telehealth regulation from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services) and our specific Counseling Regulations (201 KAR 36:040, Section 6 and 201 KAR 36:045). These regulations outline the standards for providing behavioral health services via Telehealth.

Regarding training and continuing education hours specific to Telehealth and Distance Counseling, the Board reminds licensees that they cannot practice outside their area of competence. This includes training and competence specific to the Telehealth platform they utilize.

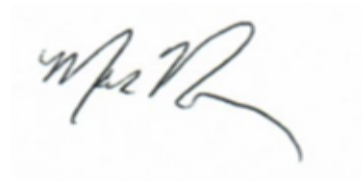
Regarding reimbursement for services provided, outside of ordinary ethical considerations related to billing practices, the Board has no jurisdiction over this issue. Contracts for payment

are negotiated privately between the Provider and the third-party pay source (Medicaid, MCO, and Private Insurance).

Please keep in mind that the organization primarily responsible for advocating for Counselors in Kentucky is the Kentucky Counseling Association (KCA) whose current President-Elect is Dr. Rebecca Pender Baum. KCA is taking a very active role in advocating for Counselors during this public health crisis and is seeking input from Counselors across the state. Most of your issues and concerns can be submitted to or answered by KCA.

Thank you for all you are doing during this time to help those in need!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hamm', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Mark Hamm

Board Chair