

REGION II

Behavioral Health Board

Subcommittee: Tele Behavioral Health

Date/Time of Meeting: 10 -11 a.m.. 2-10-21

Location of Meeting: Google Meet

website: www.riibhb.idahopublichealth.com

Attendees:

X	Deborah Lind					
X	Melonie Scott					
X	John Rusche					
X	Dean Allen, chair					

Agenda	Meeting Minutes Discussion/Outcomes
Meeting Called to Order, Roll Call:	
Approval of last meeting minutes (Action Item)	Motion to approve minutes made by: NA Second by:
Topics to Discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Interstate compact for counselors – proposed legislation 2) Insurance parity for tele counseling – update of information/concern 3) Discussion of status of telehealth use and any concern 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The legislation proposed for interstate compact for counselors was reviewed. This meets some of our concerns about allowing counselor services across State lines and keeping protection for the clients by providing oversight. This is being carried to the legislature by the Idaho Counseling Association, American Counseling Association, and the Dept. of Defense. It is recommended by the subcommittee that the Region 2 Behavioral Health Board support this bill in passing the legislature this year. 2) Discussion of some insurers desiring to reduce the reimbursement rates for tele health. Discussion of the desire by payers for including some form of measurement of success of the counseling services. The subcommittee discussed the concerns about how measurements could be made with the variety of issues being treated, the differences of responses between cultural differences. Will continue to monitor this area. The subcommittee is in support of parity for services being provided. 3) The subcommittee notes that while the initial COVID response increased the use of tele health services, currently the services are transitioning back to face to face by clients requests. We note concern that many State services are not meeting the needs of those who do not have access to the internet, or are not able to navigate on line systems. We have

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concern that plans are evident to meet these needs and be available to these populations for face to face opportunities. It has the appearance of seeing a way of saving money – by not being available for face to face and by not providing needed services – shifting the costs to private providers who do not get reimbursed for the extra time to navigate the system for those in need.

Next Meeting

Date/Time: _____

Meeting Adjourned

Time Meeting Adjourned: _____