School-Based Counseling, Health and Related Services in a Remote Learning Environment

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS)

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Welcome

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Telehealth for Student Services Professionals

School-Based Mental Health Services and Other Related Services

- Florida districts have done a tremendous job developing instructional continuity plans to ensure our state's students continue receiving a world-class education.

- We have made tremendous strides enhancing the mental health services that are available to **all** students in Florida schools, and it is critically important that they continue to have access to mental health professionals during this difficult time.

- The purpose of today's webinar is to offer schools and districts guidance to serve students' mental health needs remotely and to share information that the Agency for Health Care Administration has issued related to Medicaid-billable services.

Addressing the Need with Agility

- Many students rely heavily on school-based mental health services, and the difficult circumstances surrounding COVID-19 have likely increased students' need throughout the state.

- Just as our state's educators have adapted their instructional practices, we should make full use of the technology that enables our hard-working and highly skilled practitioners to connect with students and help them and their families navigate these very trying times.

Taking Advantage of Available Technology

- There are a myriad of web-based, online platforms, and teletherapy and tele-intervention platforms that provide avenues for communication that comply with CDC guidelines, such as:
  - Video chats, including Apple FaceTime, Facebook Messenger video chat, Google Hangouts video, or Skype;
  - Updox;
  - Vsee;
  - Zoom for Healthcare;
  - Doxy.me; and
  - Google G Suite Hangouts Meet.

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Taking Advantage of Available Technology

- We recommend that Florida's school psychologists and school social workers consider the available options and determine what will work best for their individual caseload.

- We also understand that this is a new way of work and that some may request assistance. The Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Network offers weekly online series for providers who are unfamiliar with telehealth that may be helpful: Telehealth Learning and Consultation (TLC) Tuesdays.

The Role of School Psychologists

- Assist identifying students needing additional support during school closures;

- Provide mental health support services;

- Conduct components of initial evaluations and re-evaluations that can be completed virtually; and

- Provide virtual services for students as it relates to the individual education plans and 504 plans.

School Social Worker

- Complete pending, Social History evaluation and re-evaluation;

- Provide mental health support services;

- Collaborate with community agency stakeholders to assist in providing services and support to families in need; and

- Provide virtual services for students as it relates to the individual education plans and 504 plans.

The Role of School Counselors

- Continue to deliver virtual social and emotional supports and character education lessons for students and families;

- Provide mental health support services; and

- Provide virtual services for students as it relates to the individual education plans and 504 plans.

The Role of School Nurses

- Contact parents of students who have an individualized health care plan (IHCP), IEP or 504 plan to:
  - Ensure access to health care services, medication and equipment;
  - Evaluate effectiveness of IHCP interventions in preparation for the new school year; and
  - Develop and disseminate a list of community resources for families with need (e.g., www.211.org).

- Provide virtual services for students as it relates to the individual education plans, 504 plans, and health plans.

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Additional Resources

- [Parent/Caregiver Guide to Helping Families Cope With the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)](#)

- [Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting from COVID-19](#)

- [Virtual Service Delivery in Response to COVID-19 Disruptions](#)

- [Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

- [School Psychologists Providing Telehealth Services](#)

- [The School Counselor and Virtual Counseling](#)

- [Planning for Virtual/Distance School Counseling During an Emergency Shutdown](#)

Telehealth, S/L and OT/PT

National Telehealth Definitions & Resources

- **American Speech-Language Hearing Association:** Telepractice is the application of telecommunications technology to the delivery of speech language pathology and audiology professional services.
https://www.asha.org/Practice/Telepractice-Services-and-Coronavirus/

- **American Occupational Therapy Association**: Telehealth is the application of evaluative, consultative, preventative and therapeutic services delivered through information and communication technology.
https://www.aota.org/Practice/Manage/telehealth.aspx

- **American Physical Therapy Association:** Telehealth is defined as the use of electronic communication to remotely provide health care information and services.
http://www.apta.org/Coronavirus/

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Telemedicine During COVID-19 State of Emergency

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) issued guidance to school districts, private and charter schools outlining coverage of Florida Medicaid school-based therapy and behavioral services via telemedicine when they cannot be delivered face-to-face or in-person due to school closures.

- Telemedicine defined as health care delivery by a practitioner who is off-site, using interactive telecommunications equipment that minimally includes real time, two-way interactive communication between a recipient and a practitioner using audio and video equipment

- Grants temporary use of telemedicine for services to ensure that schools and school districts can maintain continuity of care

- [Current telemedicine policy in the fee-for-service delivery system is available on the Agency's website](#).

To view all of AHCA's COVID-19 alerts, [visit the agency's website](#).

Examples of Effective Practices

- We appreciate the following schools and districts for agreeing to share the ways they have addressed students' health needs remotely:
  - Hillsborough County Schools
  - Bay County Schools
  - Collier Schools
  - UCP Charter Schools
  - Somerset/Academica

FDOE COVID- 19 Link

- http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/index.stml

www.FLDOE.org