

03/25/20

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR, DR. KOREN BOGGS...

Dear Licensee,

The LSBEP officers and administration recognize the rapid changes occurring your lives and practices. Therefore, this agency will be sending weekly updates every Wednesday for the duration of the COVID19 emergency. Additionally, should news impacting your practice require more immediate attention, additional updates may be necessary. Myself, Vice Chair, Amy Henke and Executive Director, Jaime Monic have been meeting daily via telephone or Zoom to discuss developments in regulation and resources you need to remain compliant in your practice while putting the health and welfare of your patients first. Our goal is to keep you informed, but not overwhelm your email!

In this unprecedented event, psychologists are to be commended for stepping up to the challenges in applying technology to deliver psychological services to their patients and clients safely, while respecting the health and well-being of their patients/clients, the people with whom they work, themselves, as well as the individuals who have no other choice but to be exposed to COVID19. Our Ethical Standards are established for the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom psychologists work. Therefore, our charge is to think of others before ourselves and to consider all risks when determining how to provide vital care to our clients and patients. Emergency Orders and Proclamations from Federal, State and Local Governments impose stricter but necessary restrictions and guidelines impacting the delivery of psychological services for the time being. History will remember our actions or inactions at this time. Let us remember why we all chose this profession and be on the side of history that aligns with the health and well-being of all people.

For our first Weekly Wednesday Update, we would like to advise you that the home page of the LSBEP website has new information updated today, including the following:

1. With regard to the March 22, 2020 Order from Dr. Jimmy Guidry, State Health Officer, LA Department of Health requiring psychologists to move to telehealth. LDH Attorney Latoya Robertson has advised LSBEP that is is LDH's position that the LSBEP is required to investigate all complaints of violations of Dr. Guidry's orders. Violations will be subject to disciplinary action by the LSBEP.
2. With the relaxation of HIPPA Guidelines and the Telehealth Waiver issued by CMS, insurers have been mandated to reimburse video and/or audio visits at the same rate as in-person visits. Therefore, the requirement under LSBEP Telepsychology Guidelines which require "two-way video and audio transmissions simultaneously" is likewise waived for the duration of this emergency.
3. The Louisiana Psychological Association has opened up their website for all psychologists to have information related to training (including Telehealth Webinars) and support in your practice during COVID19. You can access their page at www.louisianapsychologicalassociation.org