Questions from the Tele-Therapy Webinar

4/14/2020

**Supervision/Licensing Questions:**

1. **When will we be able to supervise RPEs via tele-supervision?**

We are awaiting word from the SLPAHADB on that. At present, only “in-direct” supervision may be provided via tele-supervision.

1. **Is a supervisor co-treating with an RPE considered “direct supervision?”**

As of 4/14/2020, only if both the RPE and supervisor are physically in the same room. The SLPAHADB has not waived the “in-person” requirement for “direct supervision.”

1. **What are the guidelines on supervising graduate students?**

<https://www.asha.org/Certification/COVID-19-Guidance-From-CFCC/>

Please, refer to the ASHA guidance documents on the supervision of graduate students.

**Special Education/School-based Questions:**

1. **Are we still required to follow HIPAA and FERPA?**

School-based SLPs follow FERPA. You can check  [https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstudentprivacy.ed.gov%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C1a0516f16cc747bf891808d7dbcdc8dc%7C7a41925ef6974f7cbec30470887ac752%7C1%7C0%7C637219549214735049&sdata=DMD34YWkfzKe0n%2BTyjWQfJr1y8%2BvlAkZ3WvHXhK2mwA%3D&reserved=0) for the most current information regarding FERPA.

1. **What are your recommendations on tele-therapy with medically-fragile students?**

Address the student’s goals the best you can. During this time, you might focus on the goals that you can work on remotely, if there are some you cannot address. If you aren’t sure what to do, contact your special education director.

1. **What does “public facing” mean?**

In terms of video-conferencing platforms, it means platforms such as Facebook Live, IG, etc. where anyone has access to them.

1. **Can we send our parent copies of the IEP goals and/or IEP at glance pages?**

Yes. It may actually help the parents meaningfully participate in their child’s IEP. Make sure that what you send before the meeting has the word “DRAFT” on the pages and the final IEP should be completed during the meeting with the parent. You can send the final copy after the meeting is over and the team has agreed on FAPE.

1. **What is the difference between Distance Learning and Tele-Therapy?**

Because all of the services in a student’s IEP are related to the student’s education, they are all Distance Learning is they are being delivered when the student is not in school, or schools are closed. Any general education classes, specialized academic instruction, or related services are all Distance Learning. Tele-therapy is one type of Distance Learning. Tele-therapy is essentially, in this instance, a way of providing related services that are in a student’s IEP, but providing them remotely.

How important is it to make the semantic distinction for families and districts?

I don’t think there really is a distinction to make; it simply is one type of Distance Learning.

1. **If General Education is optional, is FAPE optional as well?**

If general education is providing no education or services at all, FAPE would also be optional. But, if general education is providing anything, special education needs to provide FAPE. All districts should be providing something to their general education students, even if it does not look exactly like education did before the pandemic. If you have questions as to whether you need to provide services, check with your special education director.

**Technical Questions:**

1. **What is the link to the Internet speech?**

Speedtest.net

**Can you please post the HIPAA link?**

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html>

1. **Where do I find the checklist that Melissa is referencing?**

<https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/ASHA-Telepractice-Checklist-for-School-Based-Professionals.pdf>

1. **Is it $19/month for the Standard VSee?**

Yes

1. **How do you lock the meeting in Zoom?**

Click on the Participant button and there is a drop down menu where you will find it.

1. **Can you address closed caption options on the various platforms?**

I am not familiar with this.

1. **What is a recommended platform for pre-school services?**

Basic video-conferencing. Zoom is one of the better platforms.

1. **How can you get the client to manipulate your shared screen?**

It depends on the platform you use, but typically there is a button on your screen for this. Clients may not be able to manipulate your screen depending on the device they are using. (Chromebooks, tablets, phones can have issues with this)

1. **How do you enlarge your shared screen?**

There is typically a button for a gallery view that will enlarge the video feed.

1. **Do you recommend Google Meets/Google Classroom, Google Hangouts for video-conferencing?**

Google classroom does not have video. Google meets and hangout are the same thing and have limited interactive capabilities.

1. **If we use the current securities in place for Zoom, is it necessary to obtain the additional $200 HIPAA Healthcare Plan?**

Not currently. However, be aware of any changes from HHS around HIPAA regulations and keep up to date in case it changes.

1. **Have you done tele-therapy with interpreters (for parents)?**

It certainly can be done fairly easily. Just have the interpreter log in to the session. Some folks also use Google Translate, but I don’t know how accurate it is.

1. **Can you speak to scheduling components of platforms?**

There are only one or two platforms that do this. It is similar to your online calendar.

1. **How do you give a child control of the mouse during an interactive activity?**

There should be a button to click to do this. Placement will vary, depending on the video conferencing platform you use.

1. **How can we support AAC users?**

I suggest you join ASHA SIG 12. They are doing a whole month of information on telepractice and AAC. They also had a webinar earlier this month with great presenters who explain how to work with AAC users.

**Billing Questions:**

1. **Are we allowed to bill Medi-Cal for face-to-face aspects of therapy?**

The short answer is yes.

1. **Can Medi-Cal be billed for group speech therapy provided via tele-therapy?**

I believe so.

**Other Tele-therapy Related Questions**

1. **Is there a recommended session length?**

No. It will vary depending on your client.

Does it depend on the client’s age? Yes, in part. Also take into account attentions span, cognitive skills, communication abilities, and family support.

Do you include the parent/facilitator conversation as part of the therapy time? I do, but check with your agency/school district to see if it can be included.

1. **Advice for clinician’s providing services while managing small children at home.**

Be organized, have activities for your own children to stay out of your office space while providing therapy and give yourself some grace. We are all in this together and your student’s/client’s families will understand-they are in the same position!

1. **What is a realistic number of sessions per week?**

It depends on the clinician, how often you need breaks to move around, set up sessions, etc.

1. **What about parents who don’t speak English?**

Use an interpreter, or use Google Translate (although I don’t know how reliable it is as I have never used it).

Beth – check with your district. Who do you typically use to communicate with parents? Can you schedule that person into your Zoom session or phone call?

1. **Would you include parents in group sessions?**

Yes, in the sense that parents need to be available to support their students. I would not have a discussion with one parent during a session about their child’s progress with another parent in the room.

1. **Provide suggestions for children with behavioral issues.**

You really need parent support for children with significant behavior issues. You may want to switch to a parent coaching model for therapy in these cases.

1. **Is STRS considering waiving the ceiling wage for retired SLP?**

Not to our knowledge. We have inquired of our Sacramento contacts, but as of 4/15/2020 there has been no waiver to this.