***WCTCCA Responses to Corona Virus***

**North Seattle College**, we are not providing telecounseling as we are not equipped to provide such service. There are legal, ethical implications that we are unwilling to take.

Here is a link from APA that describes the ethical and legal concerns for telecounseling. It also provides some guidelines related to telecounseling.

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2017/05/ce-corner>

What we are doing though is boosting our counseling website to refer students to online resources.

**Highline College**: So we are still researching telehealth laws and ideas but it seems too unwieldy at this point. (have to collect demographic info and get a signed self-disclosure before working with folks.) So we decided to do a little video on managing stress in the present times and put it on our webpage. We are also looking at using Zoom (encrypted) for clients we have already seen who have a computer at home. Not all our students do though so that service may be limited.

1) go to the Dept. of Health Psychology Board site to review the guidelines for Appropriate use of Telepsychology. I have determined I need training in technical, clinical, confidentiality, and ethics related to telemental service provision. See what your Department of Health Licensing Board or Committee says about what your particular licensure recommends. If the counselor or social worker pages don’t have anything, feel free to look at the Psych pages. There is also a standard of care that is expected and that is delineated on the Psych page. 2) we will need to change our Self-disclosure statements if we do telemental services. We will have to send and collect our self-disclosure (informed consent) and Student Demographics paperwork before we commence services. 3) We are looking into doing a group training either next week or the first week of the quarter in spring to learn what we need to and to practice the technology

**Spokane Community College**: uses SimplePractice, which is our Electronic Medical Records program. SimplePractice has a component that includes a HIPAA compliant telehealth system. We are able to offer therapy appointments virtually through this system and it is extremely user friendly and easy. Students simply log into the portal and the telehealth commences via their phone/tablet/computer/etc.

Carmen estimates the cost as approximately $50 per clinician per month.

**Whatcom Community College**: At this point we are not sure how we will offer counseling if the campus is closed. We have talked about tele-counseling or phone counseling but are concerned about confidentiality and for those counselors who will be home with children…how will they manage work and family.

**Bellevue College**: is not yet doing telemental health.

**Bates Technical College** Permission was obtained to provide telehealth services and the two appointments for the day classes were cancelled were successfully maintained. The online platform that was used is specifically designed for Telemedicine so meets all compliance requirements and provides the Business Associate Agreement. While I heard about it a few years ago, today was the first day I tried it and it was very smooth. Nothing to download, it's all online and easy to navigate. Both students were able to log in with no difficulty and it works with mobile phones as well as computers. Hope this helps.

For further information the web address is:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoxy.me%2F&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cdklein%40greenriver.edu%7C5ce9ff6781c0455a01c708d7c5f71eee%7Cfa40663e972749789bce776cf824bca5%7C0%7C0%7C637195537472925396&amp;sdata=NpqHs8h66iWtpdU4CsQfq7Ql5KhIkDHFwvcMvzNFuL8%3D&amp;reserved=0>

**Pierce College** is trying to figure out what is allowed for tele-mental health and phone sessions in the state of Washington for counselors if we are working all from home. I figure if we offer phone sessions that nothing special is needed and no need to even worry about whether video conferencing is allowed with our license.

**Green River College** is still meeting with students in our offices with increased hygiene and social distancing. Our campus is not closed, but many (not all) classes have moved online, still student services are open. Our IT department is surveying what people need to transition to work from home. Our Counseling Services is currently researching which training we would like to take and what platform we would like to use to provide telementalhealth counseling to our students starting in spring quarter.