

March 20, 2020

Dear TPA Community,

First, let me say that I hope that you, your loved ones, and people you serve are all safe and healthy. These are extraordinary times we are living in right now with the pandemic of COVID-19. I want to acknowledge that and just give “voice” to these strange circumstances. I also want to make sure that each of you knows that TPA will do whatever we can to support you, your profession, and your clients in this difficult time.

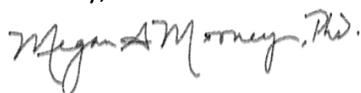
Second, as you hopefully know, my Presidential theme is “Inclusion”. This concept has an even more important meaning as we all address concerns regarding social distancing, social isolation, and quarantine. We are all rapidly seeking out ways to stay connected with others, both professionally and personally. This week, TPA has actively been working to bring you breaking news and up-to-date information so that you feel included in what’s happening surrounding your profession and with TPA. Here are some of the steps we have taken since last Friday:

- Partnered with our other mental health colleagues in communicating with the Governor’s Office regarding the importance of telehealth and ensuring coverage for the public and reimbursement for providers
- Communicated with the Texas Department of Insurance to ensure equal coverage without limitations for telemedicine and telehealth services
- Coordinated with APA to message concerns to the federal government and to coordinate efforts to allow for the practice of psychology across state lines
- Created a dedicated page on our TPA website to provide COVID-19 specific information:
<https://www.texaspsyc.org/page/Covid19>
- Emailed four updates to members
- Posted multiple updates to the TPA Facebook page and Twitter
- Responded to countless requests for additional information and support for members on social media, emails, and phone calls
- Hosted a free webinar on "Behavioral Health & Ethical Challenges as We Respond to Pandemics" by Dr. Rebecca Hamlin, including PD credit for 100 members
- Partnered with our Disaster Response Network members to develop a resource to advertise for pro bono services for the public
- Developed a press release regarding mental health in the face of the outbreak and TPA’s response

Starting next week, TPA will push out even more materials, including information to distribute to your friends, family, and clients.

Unfortunately, it appears that we may be at the beginning of this health crisis in our country. We anticipate that many of our loved ones and communities may be directly impacted by the COVID-19 virus. I am already hearing many concerns about how members’ private practices may be negatively impacted by the crisis and how students and trainees may be negatively impacted at early stages of their path towards becoming a psychologist. Although I do not have all of the answers, I am willing to listen, to brainstorm, and to fiercely advocate on behalf of each and every one of you. Please feel free to contact me directly at meganmooney@sbcglobal.net or our amazing Executive Director, Ms. Jessica Magee at jessica@texaspsyc.org with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

Sincerely,



Megan A. Mooney, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
President, Texas Psychological Association
She/Her/Hers