

March 27, 2020

Dear TPA Community,

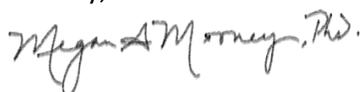
As cases of COVID-19 are on the rise across Texas and the country, I hope that you, your loved ones, and people you serve are all safe and healthy. TPA leadership continues to work diligently to ensure that we are advocating for each and every one of you and your community. We will continue to add resources to our dedicated COVID-19 webpage and provide advocacy updates via email and social media. Here are our advocacy efforts this week:

- Retained public relations consultant Jennifer Harris of JWH Communications to help promote mental health messaging and TPA's advocacy work. Jennifer has more than 20 years in key public and private sector public affairs, media and campaign leadership positions and provides comprehensive public affairs, media relations, communications and issue campaign management for her clients.
- Launched the TPA Pro Bono Project: COVID-19, an initiative that will provide up to two hours of free mental health services for qualifying Texans. For more information and to view our news coverage: <https://www.texaspsyc.org/page/ProBonoProject>.
- Sent a letter to Governor Abbott and Texas DSHS calling for DSHS to re-establish its database of mental health professionals willing to provide services for the community. Similar databases were developed in response to Hurricane Harvey and the El Paso shooting.
- Coordinated with APA to message concerns with self-funded insurance plans to the federal government. (You will receive more updates on this.)
- Worked with TSBEP to clarify rules on out-of-state providers, school mental health services, and displaying licenses. To ensure compliance with requirements to display license and complaint information publicly, see our section on Current Regulations & Guidelines: <https://www.texaspsyc.org/page/Covid19>.
- Addressed specific member questions regarding Disability Determination Services, Medicaid reimbursement, coverage of psychological and neurological testing services via telehealth, and issues with private insurers.
- Posted blogs from TPA member Dr. Kari Leavell addressing overcoming feelings of awkwardness in using telehealth for both providers and clients: <https://www.texaspsyc.org/page/TPAMemberBlogCOVID19>.

These myriad activities have taken considerable time and effort on the part of your professional colleagues and the staff of TPA. I hope that these advocacy efforts have been helpful to all of you. As such, I need to make a plea at this time that you ensure that your dues are up to date, particularly if you renew annually. Please also consider encouraging your colleagues to join TPA. We cannot maintain momentum without your financial support. I make this ask of each of you knowing that we are in uncertain times economically and socially. I want to continue to have TPA operate at the incredible level we have these past two weeks. Please check your membership status and join or renew here: <https://www.texaspsyc.org/page/MemberBenefits>.

In the meantime, I remain available to you all. As I said last week, 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 tireless Executive Director, Mrs. 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