**TELEHEALTH AND OFFICE PROCEDURES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

During the Coranvirus Pandemic, telehealth has been expanded on an emergency basis and allows that telehealth visits maybe used for new and existing patients and families. Telemental health visits can be conducted via phone calls; smartphones such as Facetime; Skype; Google Duo; Zoom and etc… These platforms are not as secure but are allowable in response to the unprecedented times. Once the crisis has passed, more secure platforms will be sought.

With Telehealth:

1. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time without it affecting your right to future care, services or programs to which you are entitled.
2. You have the understanding that there are risks, benefits and consequences associate with telemental health, including but not limited to, disruption of transmission by technology failures, interruption sand or breaches of confidentiality by unauthorized persons, and/or limited ability to respond in emergencies. You understand that if your privacy maybe comprised by your location, for example, other family members may enter the room that you are engaged in telemental health sessions from.
3. You have the understanding that there will be no recording of any of the online sessions by either party. All information disclosed within sessions and written records pertaining to those sessions are confidential and may not be disclosed to anyone without written authorization, except where the disclosure is permitted and /or required by law.
4. You have the understanding that privacy laws that protect the confidentiality of my protected health information (PHI) also apply to telemental health unless an exception to confidentiality applies (i.e. mandatory reporting of child, elder; or vulnerable adult abuse; danger to self or others)
5. You understand that if you are having suicidal or homicidal thoughts, actively experiencing psychotic symptoms or experiencing a mental health crisis that cannot be resolved remotely, it maybe determined that telemental health services are not appropriate and a higher level of care is required.
6. You understand that during a telemental health session, we could encounter technical difficulties resulting in service interruptions. If this occurs, we will end and restart the session. If we are unable to reconnect within 10 minutes, please call me at 815-235-0009 to discuss since we may need to reschedule.
7. You understand that I may need to contact your emergency contact or other appropriate authorities in case of an emergency. Therefore, you agree to provide me your location and a contact person who I may contact in case of a life threatening emergency. This person will only be contacted to go to your location or take you to the hospital in the event of an emergency.

**OFFICE PROCEDURES DURING COVID**

We are practicing the CDC’s guidelines and recommendations about how to stay safe during the pandemic. If you have concerns about your physical health and safety please consult with your physician to figure out the next steps. When coming into the office, please wear a mask. I will also wear a mask until we are situated and seated in my office with social distancing. After that, we can discuss if we feel comfortable removing our mask until the end of the session. If you are not comfortable, then we will both continue to wear our masks for the duration of our time together. If you are sick, running a fever or showing any other symptoms, please stay home. We could consider holding the session through telehealth in this case. I will make every effort to wipe down surfaces in my office and keep it disinfected. However, I cannot guarantee that face to face sessions are completely safe. If after a session you become ill and are tested and found to be positive with the Coronavirus, please let me know so that I may quarantine for 14 days. If I become ill and test positive for the virus, I will extend the same courteous so that you may quarantine for 14 days so that we do not spread the virus.