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To: Committee Members

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Subject: Discussion of Potential Telehealth Coursework Requirement

At the last Committee meeting, Board members and stakeholders suggested the possibility of requiring training regarding providing services to clients via telehealth, and also regarding supervision via telehealth, as these activities become more commonplace.

The topic of providing services to clients via telehealth could be added to the degree program requirements for new applicants moving forward. However, for existing associates and licensees who are finished with school, this would likely need to be accomplished via continuing education.

For licensees who supervise, coursework regarding supervision via videoconference could be required as part of their one-time 15 hour supervision course, or as part of their 6 hour biennial continuing professional development.

Current Required Coursework

Current applicants for a license are required to complete a number of courses covering specified topic areas. Some of these topics must be covered in the degree program, while others are a condition of licensure, or are one-time requirements that are completed as continuing education. (Hour amounts are specified for some required topics, but not all):

- LMFT, LCSW, and LPCC applicants must complete specified coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. (BCP §§4980.36, 4980.41, 4996.2, 4999.32, 4999.33)
- LMFT, LCSW, and LPCC applicants must complete specified coursework in human sexuality. (BPC §§25, 4980.41, 4996.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 16 §1807)

- All Board applicants must complete specified coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting (specified to be at least 7 hours). (BPC §§28, 4980.36, 4980.41, 4996.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 16 CCR §1807.2)
- LMFT, LCSW, and LPCC applicants must complete specified coursework in aging and long-term care. (BPC §§4980.36, 4980.36, 4980.395, 4996.25, 4996.26, 4999.32, 4999.33)
- All Board applicants must complete specified coursework in alcoholism and other substance dependency. (BPC §§4980.36, 4980.41, 4996.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 16 CCR §1810)
- LMFT, LCSW, and LPCC applicants must complete 7 hours of coursework in assessment and treatment of HIV/AIDS as a one-time requirement. Equivalent coursework or proof of teaching or practice experience may be submitted to the Board in lieu of the coursework requirement. (BPC §32, 16 CCR §1887.3)
- All applicants for a Board license must complete a minimum of 6 hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. Current licensees, at their first renewal on or after January 1, 2021, must certify that they have done this. (BPC §4980.396, 4989.23, 4996.27, 4999.66) This is the Board's newest one-time requirement.

Recommendation

The Committee should discuss the following:

- If the Board were to require telehealth training, should it specify that certain topics be covered? If so, what topics?
- Where should the coursework be located? (in-degree, continuing education once licensed, as a condition of licensure or registration, etc.)

References

Reference 1: [Current Law – BPC §4980.396: Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention Requirement for LMFT Applicants and Licensees](#)

Reference 2: [Current Law – California Code of Regulations \(CCR\) Title 16, §1887.3\(c\): Assessment and Treatment of HIV/AIDS Continuing Education Requirement for Licensees](#)