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To: Board Members

Date: August 7, 2023

From: Rosanne Helms
Legislative Manager

Subject: Telehealth Committee Update

The Telehealth Committee (Committee) held its most recent meeting on June 8, 2023. The purpose of the Committee is to determine if any of the Board's statutes and regulations related to the practice of telehealth by Board licensees, registrants, and trainees need to be updated or clarified.

During the last meeting the Committee members and stakeholders reviewed and discussed the following:

- The results of a Board survey to gather information about licensee and registrant experiences working for online-only therapy platforms. (*Status: Staff directed to meet with the Senate and Assembly Business and Professions Committee staffers to discuss the survey results, concerns, and potential next steps, and also to draft a letter to online-only therapy platforms. This item will be discussed again at the next Telehealth Committee meeting.*)
- The current efforts in other states to develop an interstate compact for social workers and counselors (*Status: Staff will continue to monitor these efforts.*)

Several law changes that were previously developed by the Telehealth Committee are currently either running as a bill proposal or were recently signed into law. These include the following:

- Creating a temporary practice allowance in law for out-of-state licensees whose clients are visiting in California, or whose clients are transitioning to living here. (Currently running as legislation; AB 232 (Aguiar-Curry).)
- Amendments to permit supervision via videoconferencing in all settings (Signed into law in 2022 via AB 1758 (Aguiar-Curry).)
- Amendments requiring applicants for licensure and current licensees to complete 3 hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via

telehealth, including law and ethics related to telehealth, as a one-time requirement (Signed into law in 2022 via AB 1759 (Aguiar-Curry).)

- Clarifications that certain pre-licensees may provide services with clients via telehealth (Signed into law in 2022 via AB 1759 (Aguiar-Curry).)

The next Telehealth Committee meeting will be held on September 7, 2023.