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**Telepractice Committee
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

October 23, 2013
8:00 a.m.
1400 West Washington, Ste. 240
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners Telepractice Committee was called to order by Chairman Bohanske at 8:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Bob Bohanske, Ph.D – Chair
Janice K. Brundage, Ph.D
Frederick S. Wechsler, Ph.D., Psy.D., ABPP

Staff Present

Dr. Cindy Olvey, Executive Director
Heather Duracinski, Licensing Coordinator

**3. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
SENATE BILL 1353 PERTAINING TO PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES IN RURAL REGIONS OF ARIZONA VIA TELEMEDICINE**

Dr. Olvey summarized highlights of a House of Representatives information sheet regarding S.B. 1353. Bill requires insurance companies to reimburse for all seven areas of services for telemedicine in rural regions just as with in-person services. Rural regions are defined in the fact sheet and bill. The Committee discussed the importance of creating telepractice guidelines for psychologists who wish to provide these services when the bill goes into effect on January 1, 2015.

**4. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR REGULATING
TELEPRACTICE**

Committee members further discussed development of guidelines for regulating telepractice. Concerns were expressed regarding ensuring confidentiality when using electronic equipment. Committee members commented that SB 1353 is timely in requiring payment for services for both mental and physical health whether the services are performed in-person or via telecommunication.

Committee members indicate that telepractice guidelines should be broad enough to ensure the best interest of patients while avoiding technical issues. Practitioners who use telepractice should be bound to the same ethical standards of practice as those who provide services in person.

Additional discussion focused on concerns including cross jurisdictional issues, standard of care, confidentiality, potential abuse of telemedicine, and quality of care. Committee members underscored the need for standard policies and emphasized the confidentiality and legal liability would fall on the practitioner. The shortage of psychologists, especially in rural areas was also discussed as well as scarcity of sites for trainees seeking internship and postdoctoral experiences. The need for research in the area of best practice for telepractice was discussed.

Committee members indicate that an initial policy guideline using the APA Guidelines for Telepsychology may be the best place to begin.

5. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NEXT STEPS FOR THE TELEPRACTICE COMMITTEE

Committee member discussed drafting a substantive policy statement while evaluating the literature regarding effectiveness of telepractice. The Committee discussed possible resources to provide information for developing telepractice guidelines. Ohio, for example, has developed rules that could be used as a model for forming telepractice guidelines. The APA Telepsychology guidelines could provide direction for enforcing standard of care. An additional education requirement for psychologists engaging in telepractice may need to be considered.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 8:00 am November 20th

7. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Brundage moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Wechsler. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Bob Bohanske, Ph.D.
Telepractice Committee Chair