



October 2020

An update from Evolution for the kids, teens, adults, families, providers, schools, and referral sources,

Hello everyone! Evolution hopes everyone is staying healthy and safe during this continuing challenging time. We, as an agency, have not given a COVID-19 update in a while so we felt it was important to reach out and say hello with a brief message. First, Evolution Counseling services continue to be essential and life sustaining services. There have been no changes per governmental order/law to this. As before, mental/behavioral health services and supports are critical to the health and wellness of our communities and providers are expected to continue offering these services through the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we stated at the beginning of the pandemic, we at Evolution will continue to work with any current person or family who has consented to treatment in the most safe and healthy manner possible. Evolution is still accepting referrals for all programs. Referral forms can be accessed on the website and emailed to contact@evolutionblair.com. Or call the number at the top of a referral form to give/get info or make a referral.

Evolution is conducting sessions with individuals and families mainly face-to-face at this time. We are utilizing telehealth/phone sessions with the individuals and families we work with as needed or requested. This is mainly dependent upon the health and safety of our staff and the individuals/ families we work with as well as the preference of an individual/family. We have been asking all individuals/families who request or accept face-to-face session options to complete a **"Informed Consent For Face-to-Face Services During COVID-19"**. We also recently have implemented a **"COVID-19 Active Screening Questionnaire"** to be utilized within our programs with individuals/families. We ask you please communicate directly with your counselor or therapist to discuss details of your future session options as they have been given clear direction regarding delivering both face-to-face and telehealth/phone sessions. Contact Evolution via phone at (814) 201-2751 during office hours (Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) to be guided to your counselor/ therapist. Providers/clients are allowed access to the office suites **only if an appointment is scheduled with an Evolution employee in advance**. Otherwise, we continue to believe the safest manner to assist in reduction of the potential spread of COVID-19 virus is to continue to allow employee access only to all Altoona, PA and Huntingdon, PA office suites.

Evolution Counseling Services, LLC and Evolution Expressions face-to-face group activities have begun resumption of some face-to-face groups following state and CDC guidelines in regard to small groups and maintaining the health and safety of all individuals involved. Taylor Clark,



director of Evolution Expressions group activities, has worked with our clinical staff to have up to date communication and outreach with all kids/families involved with any group activity. They have been working hard reconnecting all involved in the group activities. Any group-related therapeutic activity can be planned for completion on an individual basis through telehealth/ phone sessions if face-to-face involvement is not appropriate, safe, or healthy. All treatment plans are still being followed and adjusted as changes come up per client/family. Please contact Taylor or your counselor/therapist with any questions about group activities.

As an agency, we continue to stay up to date on COVID-19 protocols and meet as an agency weekly to share, discuss and process updates among our employees, interns, and volunteers. We ask you continue to be patient with us as we work hard to maintain the highest level of service delivery possible in these ever-changing times. Feel free to contact Evolution Clinical Director Jeff Colbert at (814) 201-2751 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Evolution Counseling Services, LLC