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## **STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE USE OF TELEMEDICINE**

Telemedicine (Telemed, Telehealth) involves the use of electronic communication to enable patients to access patient care without having to attend sessions in their healthcare providers office. This service is allowable and effective for psychiatric and mental health services and is performed by live two-way audio and visual communication. Electronic systems used will incorporate network and software security protocols to protect the confidentiality of the patient identification and data and will include measures to safeguard the data and to ensure integrity against intentional or unintentional corruption.

The benefits of telemedicine are recognized by CCPW and include such things as:

- Providing ease of access to care by mitigating such obstacles as transportation, childcare, work schedules, etc.
- Improving access to medical care by enabling a patient to remain in their home while the provider performs the consultation and obtains necessary results to make decisions and assist the patient with their mental health needs.
- Obtain the expertise of a distant specialist.
- Improve efficiency of healthcare evaluations and management.

CCPW has identified some potential risks associated with telemedicine that patients should know:

- Inadequate or unpredictable technology and/or connectivity between provider and patient.
- Insufficient transmission such as poor resolution of images to allow for appropriate medical decision making by the physician or nurse practitioner and consultant.
- Delays due to failures of the equipment or in rare instances, security protocols could fail, causing a breach of privacy of personal medical information.
- In extremely rare cases a lack of access to complete medical records may result in adverse drug interactions or allergic reactions or other judgment errors.

***You have the right to decline telemedicine services at any time  
and opt to visit your provider in any of the CCPW offices.***

Through signature affirmation on the last page of this packet, you as the patient consent to engage in telehealth with a CCPW provider part of your psychotherapy. You understand that “telehealth” includes the practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, transfer of medical data, and education using interactive audio, video, or data communications. You understand that telehealth may also involve the communication of my medical/mental information, both orally and visually, to health care practitioners.

The laws that protect the confidentiality of my medical information also apply to telehealth. As such, you understand that any information disclosed or disseminated through the course of evaluation and treatment is generally confidential. However, there are both mandatory and permissive exceptions to confidentiality, including, but not limited to reporting child, elder, and dependent adult abuse; expressed threats of violence towards an ascertainable victim; and where I make my mental or emotional state an issue in a legal proceeding. The dissemination of any personally identifiable information from the telemedicine interaction will not occur without your written consent.

You further acknowledge and understand you have the right to inspect all information obtained in recorded in the course of the telemedicine interaction and may receive copies of this information for a reasonable fee. There are a variety of alternative methods of psychiatric care that may be available, and such alternatives have been explained by the provider to your satisfaction. You further agree to inform my healthcare provider of electronic interactions regarding my care that I may have with other healthcare providers. And finally, you understand that there is an anticipated benefits from the use of telemedicine, but as is the same with non-telemedicine services, no results can be guaranteed or assured.