



**New Jersey Association of  
Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.**

June 23, 2020

The Honorable Herb Conaway, Chair  
Assembly Health Committee  
Delran Professional Center  
8008 Rt. 130 North, Bldg. C, Suite 450  
Delran, NJ 08075

**Testimony in Support of A4179 with Amendment**

**Revises requirements for health insurance providers and Medicaid to cover services provided using telemedicine and telehealth.**

Dear Chairman Conaway, Vice-Chair Jimenez and Members of the Assembly Health Committee:

On behalf of the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies (NJAMHAA) and its members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in regard to Assembly Bill 4179. NJAMHAA fully supports this bill, though we recommend that the bill be amended to reflect that clients may receive services at any location.

Until waivers were issued due to the current pandemic, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services had required Medicaid clients to be in a licensed mental health clinic or outpatient hospital program in order for providers to be able to bill for telehealth services. This requirement is found in Medicaid Newsletter Volume 23 No. 21 which was published in December 2013.

This requirement has deterred the use of telehealth by providers as most clients who are going to travel to a facility for care prefer a face-to-face encounter. Additionally, this Medicaid rule makes it fiscally illogical for providers to invest in the space and equipment needed for telehealth services when faced with high levels of no-shows, the same staffing costs and overall higher costs.

Continuity of care and the sustainability of providers requires a clear directive to permanently allow clients to receive services in their homes or other place of their choosing. We therefore respectfully request that b (1) in A4179 be amended as follows (underline is added):

- (1) Impose any restrictions on the location or setting of the distant site used by a health care provider to provide services using telemedicine and telehealth or on the location or setting of the individual receiving said services;

and urge all members of the Committee to vote “yes” on A4179 with the recommended amendment.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D.  
President and CEO