



April 1, 2020

A message for the kids, teens, adults, families, providers, schools, and referral sources,

A big hello from Evolution staff to everyone in the local communities that we normally get to work so closely with! We wanted to give you a brief update as everyone continues to conquer the COVID-19 challenges...

First, Evolution Counseling services are still considered 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 crisis.

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 jcolbert@evolutionblair.com. Or call the number at the top of a referral form to give/get info or make a referral.

Telehealth (video) and phone sessions are being utilized as our means to work with individuals and 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 of telehealth/phone sessions. Or 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. Any request for a face-to-face session needs to be reviewed by the direct supervisor of your counselor/therapist but is a possibility. We have decided the safest manner to assist in reduction of the potential spread of COVID-19 virus is to **allow employee access only to all Altoona, PA and Huntingdon, PA office suites**. No providers/clients are allowed access to the office suites unless an appointment is scheduled with an Evolution employee in advance.

Also, all Evolution Counseling Services, LLC and Evolution Expressions face-to-face group activities have been postponed until further notice. We continue to believe at this time postponing all group activities is in the best interest of everyone's health and safety. We would encourage any group-related therapeutic activity be planned for completion on an individual basis through telehealth/ phone sessions. Taylor Clark, director of Evolution Expressions group activities, has worked with our clinical staff to have outreach with all kids/ families previously involved with any group activity. They have been working hard to keep families connected that were involved in the group activities. Also, our clinical staff have become very creative in using activities/ games/ icebreakers, etc. to get individuals and families to adjust and embrace video (or phone) sessions. All treatment plans are still being followed and adjusted as changes come up per client/family.

We are committed to the well-being and safety of everyone in our area, state and country to put a halt to the COVID-19 virus. Please be patient as we continue to work hard to be a support and resource for everyone. Please stay safe and healthy and remember, love and positivity are also contagious!

Sincerely,
Evolution Counseling Services, LLC