

Practice Management Insight

A report on events affecting behavioral health and substance abuse providers

December 2016

LPC/LMFT Board Proposed Rule Change

OrionNet Systems' has learned about a week ago that the board for the LPC's and LMFT's are proposing new rules that would no longer allow Candidates to provide services in schools or home based unless their license supervisor was on site with them . The rationale is that a Candidate should have immediate access to their supervisor for consulting on difficult cases. I have already written to the board members to express concern for this lack of logic and how damaging it could be to hundreds of Candidates working across the state.

The board is set to meet on Friday and the agenda will come out on Wednesday. It is important they hear from as many people as possible. If it does show up on the agenda Wednesday, I will be going to the board meeting in OKC at 10 on Friday. Anyone who is affected by this or feels strongly about it is welcome to go as well. I may be going up Thursday night to meet with a couple of others I am working with to get the word out so you would need to plan transport with others etc.

This issue would affect several of our current staff. Fortunately we have several who are close to being done that I don't think it would affect. In general, it's just a bad rule because any Candidate should be able to call their supervisor anytime just as they would if they were in the same building together.

[More Information](#)



OrionNet Systems - ThinkHealth Software Update/Deployment v 3.91

ThinkHealth Software Updates v 3.91 was a huge success, our end of the year update went as planned. It covered the changes and improvements in

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 1 – 31

[National Drunk & Drugged Driving \(3D\) Prevention Month](#)

National Calendar

December 1

[Worldwide Food Service Safety Month](#)

National Calendar

December 2

[National Special Education Day](#)

National Calendar

December 8

[OHCA Board Meeting](#)

OHCA

[More Information](#)

December 12

[Oklahoma Determination of ASAM Service Level](#)

ODMHSAS

[More Information](#)

December 14

[Drug Utilization Review Board Meeting](#)

OKC

[More Information](#)

December 24

[Christmas Eve](#)

December 25

[Christmas Day](#)

December 31

[New Year's Eve](#)



December is ...

ThinkHealth Software Updates v 5.51 was a huge success, our end of the year update went as planned. It covered the changes and improvements in ThinkHealth. These updates will help our customers, make their ThinkHealth process seamlessly easier.

The update were done with our automatic update application, please make sure your staff know when the updates will occur and that all work will need to be saved during or before the 15 minute chat message. Thank you again for you continued support and commitment to OrionNet Systems.

OrionNet Systems is a small Oklahoma business founded in 2001. OrionNet Systems has designed, developed and supported applications created both for the client-server and web environments, as well as developing, marketing and supporting a commercial application for the counseling centers industry.

December is ...
Safe Toys and Gifts Month
Prevent Blindness
America



Avoiding spiritual struggles and existential questions is linked with poorer mental health

Fear of confronting the tensions and conflicts brought on by existential concerns -- the "big questions" of life -- is linked with poorer mental health, including higher levels of depression, anxiety and difficulty regulating emotions, according to a new Case Western Reserve University study.

"Religious and spiritual struggles -- conflicts with God or religious people, tough questions about faith, morality, and the meaning of life -- these are often taboo topics, and the temptation to push them away is strong," said Julie Exline, professor of psychological sciences at Case Western Reserve and co-author of the research.

[More Information](#)

Senate Passes Sweeping 21st Century Cures Act Funding Medicine

The Senate passed an extensive medical funding bill Wednesday, sending it to the desk of President Barack Obama, who says he'll happily sign it.

It was a rare demonstration of unity in a Congress badly split by politics and usually determined to thwart any initiatives coming out the White House. The 21st Century Cures Act has been two years in the making and it was one of the most heavily lobbied pieces of legislation in recent history. It pays for cancer research, pays to fight the epidemic of opioid abuse, funds mental health treatment, helps the Food and Drug Administration to speed up drug approvals and pushes better use of technology in medicine.

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Gov. Fallin Forms Task Force to Review Occupational Licensing Requirements

The Oklahoma Occupational Licensing Task Force will provide recommendations to the governor to remove unnecessary or burdensome regulations that are a barrier to potential workers.

"Occupational licensing often can be overly burdensome, which can hinder a person from earning a living and providing for their family," said Fallin. "These unnecessary or outdated barriers make it harder for many Oklahomans, particularly those who may not have completed a formal education as well as some minorities. This can help them to obtain jobs and build new businesses that create jobs."

The Oklahoma Department of Labor will provide administrative support for the task force, including necessary personnel.

[More Information](#)

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What Does Depression LOOK Like?

This is the kind of thing I hear muttered again and again about people with mental health issues. Everyone says they are more "aware" of mental health problems, but when push comes to shove they don't always want to accommodate people who have real issues. Worse than that, I've actually heard the above phrase said by someone who

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U.S. Sues Mississippi Over 'Discriminatory' Mental Health System

The Justice Department sued Mississippi on Thursday, accusing it of using segregated state-run hospitals to warehouse mentally ill people who could thrive in the community, instead.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Jackson, alleges that the state — whose budget crisis has led to deep cuts for the state Department of Mental Health — refuses to provide adequate community-based services, unnecessarily forcing "hundreds of people a day" to enter the state's four mental institutions, which it described as illegally segregated.

[More Information](#)

The Mental Health Crisis in Trump's America

A few days after Donald J. Trump was elected president, I started getting anxious phone calls from some of my patients. They were not just worried about the direction President-elect Trump might take the nation, but about how they were going to fare, given their longstanding and serious mental illnesses.

"Will I still have insurance and have my medications covered?" one depressed patient asked me.

As a psychiatrist, I wish that I could be more reassuring to my patients during a highly stressful political transition, but in truth, they have reason to worry.

[More Information](#)

than that, I've actually heard the above phrase said by someone who has suffered from depression themselves. I find it strange that a person cannot empathize with someone else who has the same condition but displays different symptoms. There are some symptoms that are common in everyone but others that are completely absent.

"Everyone says they are more 'aware' of mental health problems, but when push comes to shove they don't always want to accommodate people who have real issues.

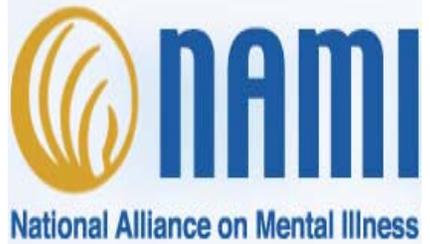
When I was trying to define my own mental health problems I remember my GP explaining to me that sadness is a normal human emotion and obviously something that we all have to deal with in life. Some people will feel "depressed," and although it may feel very intense, it will last a relatively short period of time and the mind can recover from the situation naturally

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Over the coming years, the federal government will be issuing many regulations with guidance on how the provisions of the Affordable Care Act must be implemented. For each regulation, there is typically a comment period where the issuing agency seeks public input on the proposed content of the regulation. Public comments are often incorporated into the final rulemaking – **this means that YOU can influence the rollout of healthcare reform by submitting comments!**

The National Council will keep you updated about upcoming opportunities to submit comments. Stay tuned to MentalHealthcareReform.org for more details!

