

March 14, 2021:

My name is Amanda Pasciucco, and I am a resident in Downtown Hartford. I am a Latinx, the Owner and Founder of Life Coaching and Therapy (Pronounced L-Cat), and I have multiple licensed psychotherapists who work for my practice that are trained in systemic therapy.

In 2012, I administered psychological first aid to the children, teachers, and families in Newtown for about a week... I was never reimbursed. I am saying that to show you all that you do things for the good of the collective at times. However, we are in an emergency and a pandemic. We have the superpower of administering psychotherapy via text and telehealth, yet we are about to lose pay parity.

During the Sandy Hook trauma, I gave my time during the pandemic. After 8 months of working for a clinic, speaking Spanish, doing case consultations, and making \$23/hour, we put ourselves on the line. Now, telehealth pay parity is once again up for discussion. Mental health isn't being taken seriously. Please RECONSIDER us!

How? Allow us use of F Codes and Z Codes for diagnosis reimbursement.

Allow CPT Codes 90791, 90847, 90846, 90837, 90839, 90840, 90834, 90832, 90785, and 99354 to remain the same reimbursement. If we don't, there is a systemic implication that will result in the suicide and domestic violence statistics going up from 20% to even more.

I suggest that you ask the Department of Public Health their current turnaround time for providing licensure to our healers that give so much of their emotional labor (from submission of meticulous paperwork):

- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
- Licensed Professional Counselors
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors

Please, we need your leadership to remove the remaining barriers that prevent licensed mental health professionals from delivering psychotherapy (the cure) to the problem (the systemic damage).

1. Call on the Department of Public Health to immediately review and give licensure to all those therapists that are waiting since collecting their hours
2. Suggest all those who know someone with a license in psychotherapy to remain open to text therapy or any form of telecommunication to provide a strategy of coping through social distancing and family quarantine by city, state, or federal government.

DEMAND MEDICARE allow LMFTs and LPCs. Currently, Medicare only allows LCSWs so there is a shortage of Medicare providers. There is a shortage of all providers, especially because I have been promised a raise from the insurance companies multiple

times since 2013, due to having more certifications, more board certifications, and more scientific evidence. It never mattered. I still haven't gotten a raise from BCBS.

Insurance companies have a system of greed. They use their loopholes to guarantee we cannot talk to one another about wages (and unionize) and then they TAKE and PERPETRATE, so that finally... our family system and healthcare system break.

You can only take so much from us that give in healthcare.

3. Illegal Clawbacks City, State, and Federally. Illegal for the medical and mental healthcare industry.
 - Make any reimbursements from 3/10/2020 forward UNTOUCHABLE to clawbacks. If they say this was the clients benefit and then they find out a year later the client has a different insurance card, they will take it all back. JUST had this happen to me in the amount of \$1000. That is \$1000 I don't have towards my lease next month at an empty building. Please start retroactive payment from 2020, into this current 2021. Join us in envisioning a new future.
 - Connecticut LMFT, LPC, LCSW, and LADC to provide HIPAA-compliant case management funding retroactively from 3/10/2020 until 30 days after the end of this healthcare pandemic is declared over. YOU MUST DEMAND NO CLAWBACKS DURING THE YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC! It will ruin our ability to stay in practice.
4. Ask Medicaid / Husky to agree to CPT Code T1016 for ALL individuals regardless of age at a rate of \$150/hour and any part thereof. No modifiers – all equal by licensure – not by classification of what type of licensed therapist you are.
5. Fairness - allow us discretion and full support with charging fair wages. Suggested wages for FCode and ZCode Reimbursement
 - \$135 - 90837 & 90846 for individual or couple
 - \$155 – 90847 & 90839
 - \$100 – 90840

We appreciate your prudence in modeling how to manage through this.

Uncertainty is in the air and fear is the symptom. The antidote to trauma is courageous revealing in a safe place. Let us be that safe space via text to get us through without losing those due to mental illness.

Respectfully,
[Amanda Pasciucco](#)

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