



President's Weekly Bulletin – May 29, 2020

Robyn Mehlenbeck, PhD

Dear Members, Trainees & Friends,

As I sit in the pediatric ambulatory surgery center waiting for my daughter to finish a procedure (nothing serious & we were home less than two hours from arrival!) wearing my mask, watching the front office staff manage several families checking in, moving families around as procedures finish, taking health histories in the hall to ensure appropriate physical distancing, it is striking how our world has changed. In the lobby, we were screened, along with the medical staff entering to start their work day, had to hand in our “clearance” to the nurse checking us in, and everyone is wearing masks, now mandated by the state in every public indoor space. The anesthesiologist and surgeon came in in full PPE, immediately making me think of all the kids who don’t understand what is going on, why they can’t see faces and what these “aliens” are going to be doing to them. My daughter has a great sense of humor, so easily laughed with the doctors as they joked about the PPE and were fabulous at setting her mind at ease. However, a child with developmental disability may have a much harder time “seeing” past the masks.

As we start to return to in person visits, we need to be aware of how our own presentation is perceived. With your face covered, is the child going to be able to connect in any way? How does this affect testing? Will a child who may not understand what is going on even be able to keep a mask on? How about parents? In some ways, we are in the best position to think through how to help children and families adapt to this new way of the world. None of us knows how long this will last, so this guidance continues to be critical.

SDBP CONNECT – Tuesday, June 2 at 4:00pm EST

Join us next week at a special time! Tuesday June 2nd at 4pm EST. First half of our CONNECT call will involve discussion about re-opening/in person appointment challenges. This may include expectations of our trainees, managing safety for ourselves, our staff and our patients. What are your challenges? How are you balancing virtual visits vs in person visits? What are the factors that need to be evaluated? Let’s share our collective wisdom!

For our second half, Carol Weitzman will share some updates about our ongoing international work & efforts through SDBP-IICOR – learn about why ICOR now has its new name!!

SDBP Connect Call JUNE 2, 2020 4:00 PM Eastern (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484326474?pwd=VFhSazRYOHF2S0M1cU9lMHQyeit2QT09>

Meeting ID: 854 8432 6474

Password: 740876

My favorite resources of the week:

Trauma-Informed Telehealth Considerations for Youth with Suicidal and Self-Harm Ideation and Behaviors – This is a great summary for those of you who worry about telehealth and suicidal ideation!

CLICK HERE!

Self Care Reminder:

Thanks to Mellow doodles for this reminder!



Warmly,
Robyn Mehlenbeck
President, SDBP
