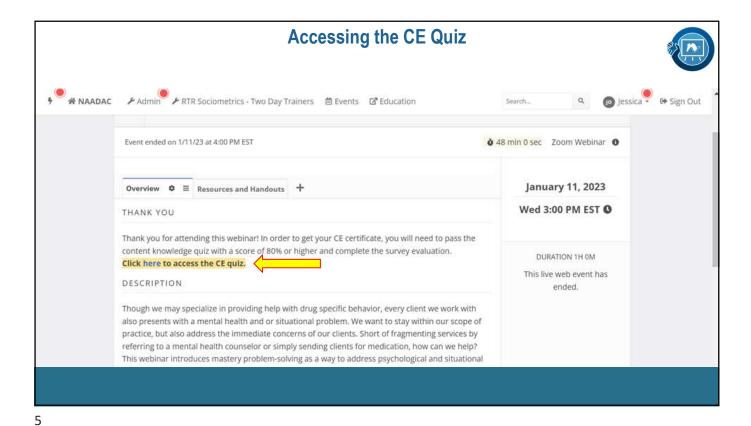


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Webinar Presenter:

Melissa Dittberner, PhD, CPS, PS

Www.naadac.org/webinars

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals 6

## Peer Support via Telehealth Platforms

Dr. Melissa "Mo" Dittberner

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#### **Objectives**

- Understand the importance of being up-to-date of laws surrounding telehealth.
- Identify telehealth skills to best work with clients through text, email, chat, video and apps.
- Recognize the need for safety when working with peers online.

#### **Outline**

- HIPAA importance
- Understanding and rules
- Online tools and skills to work with peers online
- Practical applications
- Questions

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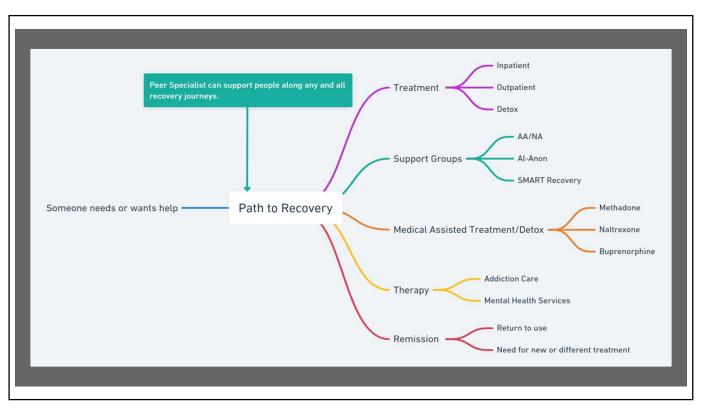
The opposite of addiction is not sobriety, it's **support**.



## Peer Support

**Quick Overview** 

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#### What is HIPAA?

HIPAA is "The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability". HIPAA is comprised of the Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules, which protect the privacy and security of health information and gives individuals rights to their health information. HIPAA establishes standards to protect PHI held by these entities and their business associates:

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#### Considerations

- State certifications
- Boards state to state requirements

#### Diligence

Compliance with HIPAA is an ongoing exercise. There is no one-off compliance test or certification one can achieve that will absolve a Covered Entity from sanctions if an avoidable breach or violation of HIPAA subsequently occurs.

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# Skills and tools for online work

text, email, chat, video, apps

#### Skills

- Verbal (tone)
- Nonverbal
- Active Listening
- Motivational Interviewing
- Body Language
- Using a Headset
- Organization
- Time management

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#### Considerations

- Integrating technology into existing services
- Keeping in your scope
- Clients who are not good candidates for technology based therapy
- Significant barriers for teens

#### Differences and Similarities Between In-person and Telehealth Practices

Both service delivery options have pros and cons to them. When deciding what method works best for you and your client, consider their goals and level of support needed, the environment you'll be providing services and the environment they'll be receiving them, scheduling concerns, and other obstacles.

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#### **Pros and Cons**

#### In Person

- Pros
  - Greater control over environment
  - Confidentiality
  - Non-verbal communication
- Cons
  - Transportation
  - Child care
  - Rural barriers
  - Anxiety associated with in person interactions

#### **Telehealth**

- Pros
  - Pros
  - Convenient
  - More conducive for clients with high anxiety
  - Decreased interruption in daily activities
- Cons
  - Confidentiality
  - Regulations can be confusing
  - Equipment and technology

#### Things to Think about

- Client Privacy
- Secure software
- Confidentiality
- Work across state lines
- Privacy during sessions (others present)

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#### Tools

Not secure

VOIP phone number: Call & Text

Free Zoom

Payment processors

Email

Calendar

Secure

Software with a Business Associates Agreement

HIPAA compliant servers

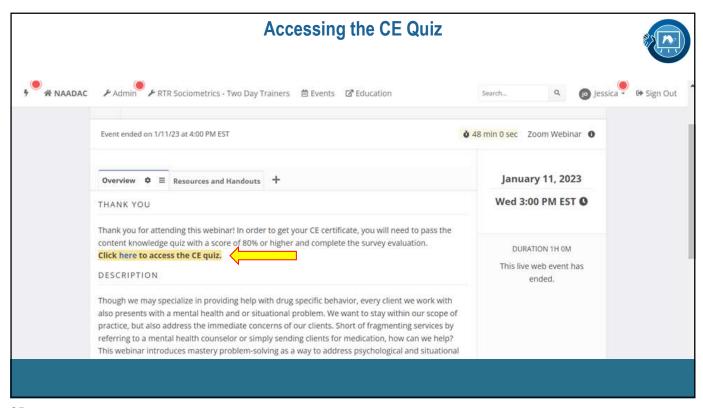
#### **Facilitation Changes**

In the wake Covid-19 we found that being flexible with meeting space and the use of telecommunications was a valuable option for meeting clients. It is imperative that you remain up to date and compliant with all telehealth regulations. When circumstances necessitate pivoting from in person meetings to virtual meetings it is critical that your client understands why and agrees to this new format. This might require a pre-meeting call to ensure your client has both access to the technology needed, and they feel comfortable executing the required steps for a successful virtual meeting.

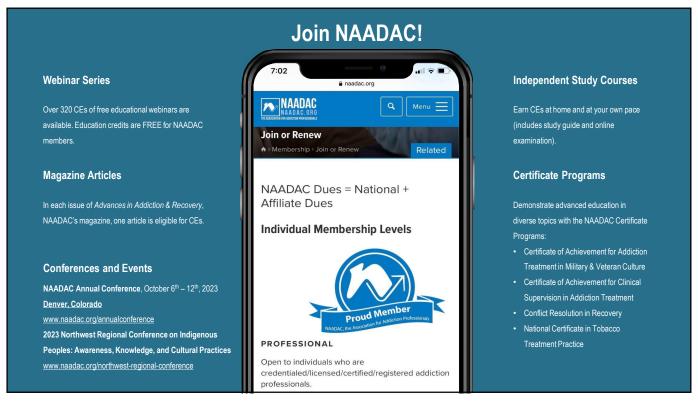
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### Thank You for Your Time

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