



**Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Nina Glaser
Communications Coordinator
Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service
Cell Phone: 561-909-7014
Email: Nina.Glaser@AlpertJFS.org

**FERD & GLADYS ALPERT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE CLINICAL DIRECTOR AND LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST
TO FACILITATE VIRTUAL TELEMENTAL HEALTH TRAINING SESSIONS FOR
NETWORK OF JEWISH HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES MEMBERS FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2020**

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – August 13, 2020 – In the age of Coronavirus, TeleMental Health counseling has become and an integral part of clinicians’ daily activities, and a necessity in providing service to clients. Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service (Alpert JFS) Clinical Director and Chair of the National Jewish Health Services Agencies (NJHSA) Clinical Services Professional Affinity Group Elaine Rotenberg, Ph.D., together with Licensed Psychologist Iris Kiner, Psy.D. will facilitate experiential, interactive webinars for the NJHSA over a three-month period. Participants will learn counseling nuances, ethical do’s and don’ts, compliance procedures and in-session best practices for telemental health.

“Given the unprecedented pandemic, mental health professionals everywhere had to learn how to communicate with their patients in a virtual way. The way this occurred was almost completely opposite the typical course of events when learning a new skill. Rather than attending classes, learning best practices, and taking time to gain confidence, most of today’s mental health professionals had to jump headfirst into the unfamiliar world of telemental health,” said Dr. Rotenberg. “This series is being offered specifically to answer some of the questions that mental health professionals wish they had known six months ago! We hope it will be so helpful.”

“Following the stay at home orders that came when Covid-19 impacted our communities, most providers jumped into offering telehealth services to their clients. As a result, there was little knowledge or true understanding of the legal implications, ethics, and barriers that providers and clients may face,” said Dr. Kiner. “As telehealth becomes more standard practice, it is important to backtrack, taking the time to learn and educate ourselves as providers in an effort to protect those we serve, and offer the best services possible.”

The “TeleMental Health 2.0 Training Series” is being offered to NJHSA members in a series of five trainings for 7.5 CEUs. Among the training series’ offerings: *“Unblocking the Mysteries of Telehealth: Back to the Basics of Building a HIPAA Compliant Foundation”* on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.; *“Virtual Supervision and Student Training”* on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.; *“Managing Risk – Managing My Two Identities: Mental Health Expert and Zoom Expert”* on Thursday, October 22, at 3:00 p.m.; *“Virtual Couples and Family Treatment”* on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.; *“Virtual Transference and Countertransference”* on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Call Lisa Loraine Smith at the NJHSA at 201-977-2400 or email info@networkjhsa.org for more information.

Established in 1974, Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service (Alpert JFS) is a nationally accredited service provider for children, adults, seniors, and Holocaust survivors. The non-profit, non-sectarian organization is a trusted leader, with a team of nearly 200 highly skilled professionals delivering high-quality care to community members. Alpert JFS works to ensure the well-being of children and families, independence of older adults, and quality of life for individuals with disabilities. For more information, visit www.AlpertJFS.org/ or phone 561-684-1991.

###

