

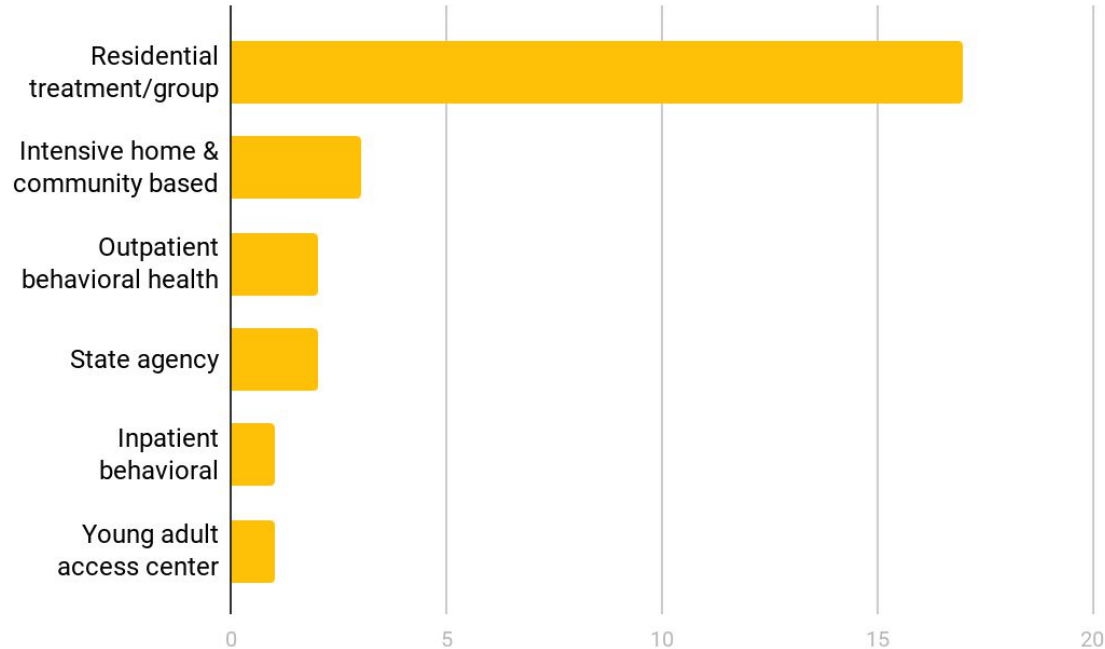
LEARNING FROM COVID-19

Week 6

WHAT CREATIVE WAYS
HAVE YOU USED TO
MAINTAIN **FAMILY**
CONNECTIONS FOR
YOUTH IN GROUP HOMES
AND RESIDENTIAL
SETTINGS?

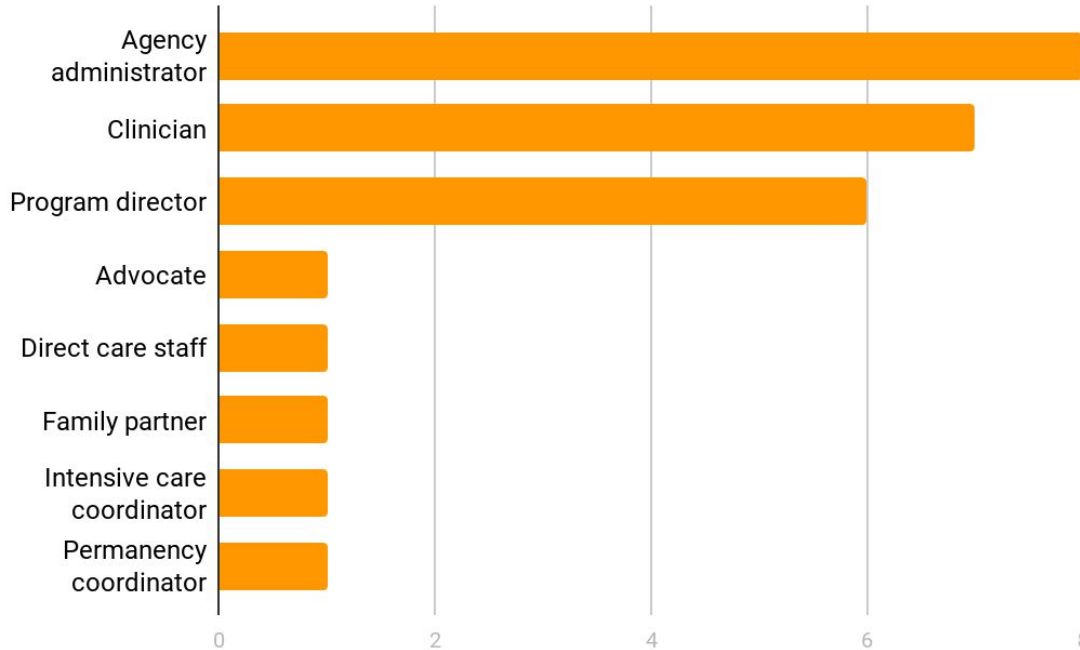
Respondent Data (n = 26)

Service delivery setting



Respondent Data (n = 26)

Respondent role



1.

Residential settings are using video conferencing to maintain family connections, especially through **finding virtual alternatives** to structured activities. Staff recognize children may be **tired from virtual interaction** and have devised solutions.

- ▶ *“We have done video visits! Where kids and caregivers get to play board games together read stories share pictures play tic-tac-toe”*
- ▶ *“option of phone calls to replace virtual family time for kids who are tired of virtual interactions”*
- ▶ *“Also using zoom and adding it special fun features in zoom like changing backgrounds and adding special effects”*

2.

Residential settings and inpatient facilities **use writing letters** and sending cards as a way of connecting children and their families, and they have **provided supplies** to make this possible.

- ▶ *“Also sending envelopes with stamps to the families so they can write letters.”*
- ▶ *“Youth were assisted in writing letters to their connections and these were mailed with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope and card/writing paper to facilitate responses.”*
- ▶ *“Sending cards and letters through the mail.”*

3.

Residential settings and inpatient facilities have arranged **in-person visits following social distancing** procedures, such as **meeting outdoors**.

- ▶ “supporting in program visits following social distancing guidelines in either ‘clean’ rooms or outdoors”
- ▶ “For the in program group, we have continued to support visits as much as possible, engaging in screening of youth and families both before and after any contact”
- ▶ “Driveway tailgate visits while social distancing”

4.

Staff have **actively communicated with families** to support them in maintaining connection with their children.

- ▶ *“We developed a list of fifty activities that families can do virtually.”*
- ▶ *“We’ve increase communicate to help families be informed and feel connected... strategies include weekly Covid-19 response updates and virtual Town Hall meetings”*
- ▶ *“Coaching milieu staff to engage with caregivers and support kids with staying connected”*

5.

Other platforms residential settings and inpatient facilities have used to keep youth and their families engaged include **phone calls, emails, social media, and telehealth services.**

- ▶ “Phone calls”
- ▶ “Weekly emails”
- ▶ “Social media”
- ▶ “Telehealth services”