Week 5 Policymaking Assignment (Answer the four prompts. Bullet points are fine.)

Name: [redacted] Class: POLI 330 Professor: Professor Joseph LeGer [redacted]	
Name of Topic	Mental health service access
Provide a brief background of the issues leading to the policy.	• Mental health services in the United States have historically been underfunded and difficult to access due to high costs, stigma, limited insurance coverage, and a shortage of mental health professionals. • Rising rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide — especially among youth and underserved communities — exposed major gaps in care. • Many rural areas lack trained providers, leading to long wait times or no available services. • These concerns pushed federal, state, and global health agencies to expand insurance coverage, improve early intervention, and integrate mental health into primary care systems.
Who are the Affected Individuals Domestically OR Internationally	• **Domestically:** Individuals with depression, anxiety, PTSD, or other mental health needs who struggle to access affordable care benefit from increased coverage and expanded services. Telehealth also assists people in rural or remote regions. • **Internationally:** Countries working with the World Health Organization receive guidance and support to improve community-based mental health programs, reduce stigma, and integrate mental health care into national health systems. • Overall, policies improving mental health access help reduce emergency room visits, stabilize families, improve quality of life, and strengthen public health outcomes worldwide.

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