National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Participants: Laura Aldinger, Jeremy Blair, Alan Bolter, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Danette Castle, Ann Christian, John Coppola, Paul Curtis, Bahney Dedolph, Paul Demple, Terry Dosch, Lori Doyle, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Doyle Forrestal, Eric Foster, Lauren Grimes, Shannon Hall, Lisa Henick, Kimberly Higgs, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Kyle Kessler, Mark Levota, Marvin Lindsey, Scott, Lungenau, John Magnuson, Brent McGinty, Jorge Petit, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Harvey Rosenthal, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Adrienne Shelton, Andrea Smyth, Christine Stoner-Mertz, Julie Tessler, John Tessoni, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

Staff in Attendance: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Diane Mallard, Joel Nepomuceno, Joe Parks, Michael Petruzelli, Sarah Surgenor, Mohini Venkatesh, Reyna Taylor

**Summary Notes:**

**COVID-19 Policy Update**

Presented by Reyna Taylor and Frankie Berger

Reyna Taylor gave an overview of the most recent House COVID-19 relief legislation. She said that the National Council is analyzing the language with the understanding that it is still being worked on. Reyna stated that this is Democratically led effort, with no input from Republicans. She also said this will go through a series of negotiations and will change dramatically. Reyna described the bill as including:

* $1.5 billion in block grant funding,
* $25 million for the Lifeline suicide prevention program,
* $265 million public health services,
* $150 million for Tribal organizations, and
* that it does not include the $38 billion we requested for behavioral health providers.

Reyna discussed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Crisis Training Services that have been funded by a FEMA grant. Paul Curtis (CA) efforts to get FEMA grant funds to use for using virtual MHFA training.

Chuck Ingoglia discussed concerns over the limitations of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) and discussed that the House is considering allowing non-profits organized under Section 501(c)(6) to access PPP funds. He noted that this could allow some non-profits with more than 500 employees to participate.

**Announcements**

Presented by Michael Petruzelli and Jeannie Campbell

Michael discussed the National Council’s Hill Day at Home taking place on June 23rd and 24th. He said that there are over 1,000 registrants so far, with 29 corporate partners. Michael stated that they are finalizing the four-hour agenda. He said that Executive Director of the National Association of Medical Directors Matt Salo, will do a joint session with Chuck. Michael stated that they are working with Hill Day partners to organize a series of action alerts that will include emails, coordinated phone calls, and social media.

Paul Curtis asked about the expectations from support from state associations. Michael asked associations to help promote the event and to get as many people to engage as possible. He also stated that the role of State Captains is still being discussed.

Jeannie Campbell stated that on May 27th at noon (ET), we will have an Association Executives webinar to discuss virtual meeting best practices including pricing, best practices on in-person and virtual hybrid events, event cancellation insurance, and cost.

Doyle Forrestal stated that we will be doing an extended Association Executives meeting in June and that she would love feedback on what would be useful to include on the agenda.

**Open Discussion**

(Discussions organized by topic. Not all discussions included)

Danette Castle (TX) inquired how states define telehealth. Marvin Lindsey (IL) stated that before COVID-19, they had 15 services they could provide via phone or video but they had to be provided from a Medicaid site. He said that now they are available to provide telehealth from home, which means that the array of services they are able to provide via telehealth has expanded. Shannon Hall (MD) described how her members are reporting that telehealth work with children takes more effort to engage both the parent and the child and that much of this work is unbillable.

A question was raised about when full virtual MHFA training will be available for use and what the plan is for training instructors on the platform. Chuck stated an instructor training pilot is happening now and there will be a plan in place soon for all instructors to receive training to deliver MHFA virtually. The rollout will be in June. Jeannie stated there will be an email going out on May 22nd to all instructors, with 10 classes being scheduled in June.

Chuck asked if any Association Executives have heard of their members going out of business or are close to going out of business. John Coppola (NY) said Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) is talking about a 20-40% cut in budget as they have a $13B hole to fill. John stated that a number of organizations are very close to closing and that even a 5% cut will be devastating.

Chucked asked Association Executives for assistance in making the case for how dire the state budget situation is. He said that we are very worried about budget cuts at both state and the national level.

Doyle closed out the meeting with a reminder about the conference planning webinar on May 27th. She also said that more information on MHFA virtual training will be coming soon. Lastly, Doyle requested input on agenda items for the extended June Association Executives meeting.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

May 19, 2020 2:00 PM ET