**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Luis Andrade, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Jason Cain, Gian-Carl Casa, Nadia Chait, Tom Chard, Ann Christian, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Doyle Forrestal, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Jill Hayden, Lee Johnson, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, Holly McCorkle, Jennifer McCollum, Brent McGinty, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Andrea Smyth, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Nicole Cadovius, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, Sarah Surgenor, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor, Frankie Berger

Reyna said that Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon of Connecticut has been nominated by President Biden as Assistant Secretary for Substance Use and Mental Health (the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – SAMHSA). She added that we are currently doing outreach to Dr. Dephin-Rittmon to understand where she stands on issues affecting our work. Reyna also shared that Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has had several positions including the Director of Cultural Competence and Health Disparities Research Coalition at the Yale Department of Psychiatry and Commissioner for the Mental Health and Addiction Services for Connecticut. Dr. Delphin-Rittmon is also affiliated with the Connecticut Mental Health Center.

Reyna also stated that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released new practice guidelines on buprenorphine, which would exempt physicians, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists and others from existing training requirements related. She said that the HHS new release on this has been posted on Engage.

She also discussed how on Wednesday, April 29th, the Senate Health Committee will have a hearing examining the COVID-19 response and lessons learned on addressing mental health and substance use disorders. Reyna noted that witnesses will include Dr. Jonathan Muther, who is with the Eugene S. Farley Jr. Health Policy Center (named for the father of the National Council’s Rebecca Farley David).

Reyna also shared that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced the 2nd phase of COVID-19 telehealth program with $250 million available in funding. She encouraged Association Executives to encourage their members to apply for funding.

She stated that we are consolidating the draft comments related to the new Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rule and we will share with Association Executives when they have been compiled.

Frankie shared with Association Executives that we have created a summary of all available funding through the American Rescue Plan and that an overview has been posted on Engage.

Rebranding

Sarah Surgenor, Connor McKay

Sarah and Connor gave an overview of the National Council’s rebranding efforts including our plans to announce during NatCon21, the messaging framework, and brand identity and color scheme.

NatCon21 Highlights and Events

Jeannie Campbell, Sara Haywood

Jeannie shared with Association Executives some highlights to NatCon21 programming including the opening video, general sessions, and schedule. Sara gave an overview of the NatCon21 platform and its features.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.