**National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

**Association Executive Spring Meeting Summary**

June 15, 2021

2:00 pm – 3:55 pm Eastern Time

Members Participating:

Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Jason Cain, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Nadia Chait, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Lauri Cole, John Coppola, Jud DeLoss, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Doyle Forrestal, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Jesse Hambrick, Lisa Henick, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Kyle Kessler, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, Marvin Lindsey, Liz Logan, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Jin Palen, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Andrea Smyth, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, and Ellyn Wilbur

Staff in Attendance: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Jeremy Attermann, Keila Barber, Brett Beckerson, Malka Berro, Nicole Cadovius, Rachel Cretcher, Neal Comstock, Chris Coughlin, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Ashley Harrington, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Sarah Neil, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzzelli, Sarah Surgenor, Dr. Joe Parks, Reyna Taylor, Bini Taddesse, and Mohni Venkatesh.

Guests: Adam Falcone, John O’Brien

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Doyle Forrestal, Association Executive Chair, called the began the meeting at 2:01 pm.

Summary – The Association Executives held their Spring 2021 Meeting and focused on the Association Executive Committee Chair election, insight into Managed Care Organization (MCO) contract negotiation, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funding eligibility, and common challenges and best practices for Association Executives.

Items Discussed – During the meeting, Association Executives discussed six main topics:

* The Association Executives Committee Chair Election, in which Doyle Forrestal has run unopposed, and therefore will continue in her role as the Committee Chair for the next two years, with her term ending June 30, 2023.
* Insight into MCO contract negotiation, presented by Adam Falcone, JD, Partner at Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP. During the presentation, Adam discussed topics such as:
	+ What he hears from provider organizations.
	+ What he hears from Medicaid agencies.
	+ Ideas on training and technical assistance.
* How to use SAMHSA funding dollars, presented by John O’Brien, a former SAMHSA executive. John provided background on SAMHSA’s perspective since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and gave an overview of the eligible uses for any funding received from SAMHSA Block Grants and federal relief aid.
* Workforce Challenges – Association Executives shared their challenges and successes around workforce recruitment, development, and retention. They also shared examples of legislation in their states that are designed to boost workforce recruitment and retention efforts.
* Association Management Strategies and Conferences in a Post-COVID 19 World, where Association Executives discussed:
	+ Associations returning to in-person for staff.
	+ Legislative advocacy.
	+ And plans for future in-person conferences.
* The Association Executives Retreat, which will be held in mid-September with topics around association management.

Decisions Made – No decisions were made.

Actions for the Board of Directors – No actions for the Board of Directors.

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There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

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Doyle Forrestal, Chair