National Council for Behavioral Health

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**:

Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Nadia Chait, Lauri Cole, Lori Doyle, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Doyle Forrestal, Daniel Frey, Robyn Garrett, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Kelly Hansen, Lisa Henick, Heather Jefferis, Kyle Kessler, Maryam Kiefer, Richard Leclerc, Misty Leitsch, Mark Levota, Maya Luoung, John Magnusson, Holly McCorkle, Brent McGinty, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Sarah Potter, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Steve Shannon, Malory Shaughnessy, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Smyth, Chris Stoner-Mertz, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Lyly Trinh, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

**Staff in Attendance**:

Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Becca Farley-David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Joe Parks, Sarah Surgenor, Reyna Taylor, and Michael Petruzelli.

**Summary Notes:**

**Federal Legislative Update**

Reyna Taylor, Stephanie Katz

Reyna gave an overview of the updated Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act that was reintroduced by House Democrats. She stated that Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin will continue negotiations this week. The updated HEROES Act includes additional funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) including:

* $8.5 billion for increased mental health and substance abuse services and support – which includes;
	+ $3.5 billion for the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment Block Grant;
	+ $4 billion for Mental Health Services Block Grants;
	+ $600 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics;
	+ $50 million for suicide prevention programs;
	+ $100 million for Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) to support school-based mental health for children;
	+ $10 million for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network;
	+ $240 million for emergency grants to States; and
	+ Of this, not less than $150 million must be allocated to tribes and tribal organizations.

Continuing Resolution (CR)
Reyna also stated that the Senate was set to meet at 3:00 pm regarding the CR for funding government operations. She believes that the CR will provide funding through December 11th.

Provider Relief Fund
Reyna stated that we have heard a rumor that another portal will open on Friday, October 2nd for provider relief funds. The available funding will go beyond the 2% revenue from previous portals and we do not have the full details. She said that believes that there will be about $25 billion in funding available for all providers, so it is very important that behavioral health organizations apply quickly.

9-8-8- Hotline
Chuck reminded Association Executives that we will have representatives from Lifeline/Vibrant Emotional Health join next week’s meeting. Reyna stated we need to advocate for funds for mental health, substance abuse, and suicide crisis support to supplement the fees that come through the hotline and that we will need to evaluate and help develop the implementation process of the hotline.

HHS Reporting Guidelines
Stephanie discussed how we have posted on Engage information on HHS reporting requirements for relief fund payments. She encouraged treatment organizations consult with their independent counsel before reporting.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

October 6, 2020, 2:00 PM ET