**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Jason Cain, Blanca Campos, Jen Christian, Lauri Cole, John Coppola, Frank Cornelia, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Shannon Hall, Rusti Holwick, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Kyle Kessler, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, Liz Logan, Maggie McCowen, Brent McGinty, Carolyn Petrak, Michelle Ponce, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Adrienne Shilton, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Ellyn Wilbur, Mary Windecker, and Cameron Vickers.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Michael Petruzzelli, Sarah Surgenor, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor, Stephanie Katz, Michael Petruzzelli

Reyna shared with Association Executives that Andrea Palm has been confirmed by the Senate as Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). She also shared that as the Department of Treasury is distributing COVID relief funds, they have issued an interim final rule as part of the American Rescue Plan implementation that gives guidance on the allocation of funds that will go to states and localities. Reyna said that 50% of the total funding will be allocated this month and that we will send Association Executives a fact sheet that outlines the details.

Stephanie Katz said that at the end of the last Congressional session, Congress required agencies to actually distribute 85% of allocated funds. She also stated that she believes the provider relief funding mechanism should reopen at the end of May. Stephanie stated that the new funds designated at the end of the year are designated for rural agencies and total $8.5 billion.

Michael Petruzzelli gave an overview of congressional hearings that are taking place this week including the Senate Finance Subcommittee hearing on Wednesday, May 12th at 3pm ET. He said topics will include the impact of COVID-19, the importance of access to high-quality healthcare, and the need for funding for behavioral health. Michael also shared that the Energy and Commerce Committee will have a hearing on Thursday, May 13th. He said there are fourteen bills related to behavioral health that will be voted on. Michael sent a link to these bills in the meeting chat.

NatCon21

Sara Haywood

Sara provided some highlights of last week’s NatCon21, including that there were more than 4,000 registrations, that there were 200 plus questions submitted in the Q&A’s, that each session had an average of more than 350 views, and that CEU’s are available from most professional development organizations.

Open Discussion

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.