**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, January 26, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Matt Brooks, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Gian-Carl Casa, Danette Castle, Nadia Chait, Tom Chard, Ann Christian, Lydia Conley, Frank Cornelia, Judd DeLoss, Mark Drennan, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Mark Fontaine, Doyle Forrestal, Linda Grant, Jesse Hambrick, Lisa Henick, Lee Johnson, Kyle Kessler, Richard Leclerc, Mark Levota, Holly McCorkle, Brent McGinty, Jorge Petit, Sarah Potter, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Andrea Smyth, Andrea Summerville, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, Stephen Wilder, and Cameron Vick.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Brett Beckerson, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, Michael Petruzzelli, Reyna Taylor, and Mohini Venkatesh.

**Guest Presenter**: Dr. Josh Rising

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna discussed the Executive Orders recently signed by President Biden which include freezing regulations from the past administration. She described how this freeze includes the past administration’s last-minute rule gutting the six protected classes of medicines (including antidepressants, antipsychotics) required for Medicare Part D formularies. Reyna said it is a priority for us to protect the six protected classes. She also discussed President Biden’s COVID-19 relief bill and the $4 billion included in it for mental health and substance abuse. Reyna said the package is still under negotiation, and we will provide a more accurate summary as we get more details.

Opioid Settlements

Dr. Josh Rising

Dr. Rising gave a detailed background, overview of the current situation, and next steps regarding the recent opioid settlements against companies found to have contributed to the opioid pandemic (manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies). He stated that after four years in the court system, a settlement of $20 billion was reached that incorporates all cases (with the exception of the state of Oklahoma). Dr. Rising said the next steps, and ultimate goal, is to ensure that the funds from the settlement will be used for substance use prevention and treatment and that 25 organizations have endorsed a set of “principles” to guide how the funds should be used. These five principles include:

* Spending money to save lives.
* Using evidence to guide spending.
* Investing in youth prevention.
* Focusing on racial equality.
* Using a fair and transparent process to guide spending.

He stated the next step is to translate principles into action and he asked the Association Executives to meet with their state attorneys general and use their networks to get the messaging out on this.

CDC Youth Substance Use Provider Needs Assessment – Impact of COVID-19

Samantha Holcombe

Sam shared the National Council received funding from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) to collect qualitative and quantitative data on the impact of the pandemic on youth substance abuse. She stated the goal is to assess prevention efforts, services, and access related to substance use behaviors in youth and the subsequent risk of shelter in place orders. Sam said we will be launching an online needs assessment with goal of getting participation from 600 provider organizations to gather a robust level of information. She asked for support from the Association Executives to disseminate this to their members. Sam stated the goal is tentatively open the online assessment on February 10th.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

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