**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Teleconference Summary Notes

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Luis Andrade, Melanie Brown-Woofter, Blanca Campos, Nadia Chait, Lauri Cole, Terry Dosch, Mark Drennan, Annette Dubas, Richard Edley, Candy Espino, Josh Evans, Doyle Forrestal, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Jill Hayden, Rusti Holwick, Heather Jefferis, Lee Johnson, Teresa Lampl, Robb Layne, Richard Leclerc, Mark Levota, John Magnuson, Maggie McCowen, Jennifer McCollum, Carolyn Petrak, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Malory Shaughnessy, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Smyth, Andrea Summerville, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Ellyn Wilbur, and Mary Windecker.

**Staff in Attendance**: Jeannie Campbell, Brett Beckerson, Frankie Berger, Neal Comstock, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Connor McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, Michael Petruzzelli, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor, Frankie Berger, Stephanie Katz

Reyna described how the National Council has prepared four witnesses for the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health hearing on the impact of COVID-19 on mental health and substance use in the country.

Frankie shared that 32 states have released proclamations for Mental Health Awareness month - highlighting the importance of mental health awareness programs and the need for evidence-based trainings.

Reyna also discussed other congressional events happening this the month including:

* A 988 briefing
* Crisis report briefing
* A full Senate Finance Committee meeting (unconfirmed)

Reyna let Association Executives know that the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage guidelines for Home and Community-based Services were released on May 13th and shared the link in the chat.

Stephanie gave an update regarding block grants under the American Rescue Plan, including the Mental Health Block Grant and the Substance Abuse Block grant program.

Lastly, Frankie asked Association Executives to email her their top priorities around mental health training and telehealth so the National Council would be able to compile a list of resources based on their top priorities.

**Resilience-Oriented COVID-19 Navigation**Dr. Joe Parks

Dr. Parks gave an overview of the new Medical Directors’ Institute report on re-opening with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including lessons learned and next steps that include:

* Taking care of fellow health care workers,
* Resuming face-to-face interactions,
* Preparing for another surge of cases,
* Bettering remote and virtual services, and
* And increasing resilience.

Dr. Parks also highlighted populations that have done well with virtual services, and those for whom improvements in telehealth are needed.

**Association Executive Retreat**

Jeannie Campbell

Jeannie briefly discussed the possibility of an upcoming retreat. Jeanie asked for feedback from the Association Executives on their preferences and comfort level with having an in-person meeting.

Open Discussion

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 from 2-3:00 p.m. ET.