**National Council for Behavioral Health**

Association Executives Meeting Summary Notes

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Participants**: Melanie Brown-Woofter, Jason Cain, Danette Castle, Nadia Chat, Tom Chard, Lauri Cole, John Coppola, Annette Dubas, Candy Espino, Linda Grant, Shannon Hall, Jesse Hambrick, Kyle Kessler, Robb Layne, Mark Levota, Holly McCorkle, Maggie McGowen, Brent McGinty, Jin Palen, Mary-Linden Salter, Flora Schmidt, Adrienne Shilton, Andrea Smyth, Chris Stoner-Mertz, John Tassoni, Jr., Julie Tessler, Debra Wentz, Ellyn Wilbur, Mary Windecker, and Cameron Vickers.

**Staff in Attendance**: Chuck Ingoglia, Jeannie Campbell, Neal Comstock, Rebecca Farley David, Sara Haywood, Stephanie Katz, Conner McKay, Joel Nepomuceno, Dr. Joe Parks, Sarah Surgenor, and Reyna Taylor.

**Summary Notes:**

COVID-19 Policy Related Efforts

Reyna Taylor

Reyna said that the House is currently wrapping up language around the COVID-19 relief bill for reconciliation, then the bill will be voted on. She also said that once the bill is passed in the House, it will go to the Senate. Reyna stated that she understands there are no mark-ups planned in the Senate and that what is currently in the bill now, is what will go to the Senate. She noted that they are aiming to get the COVID-19 relief bill passed before March 14th, when the current unemployment relief provisions cease.

Medicaid Provisions

Reyna Taylor

Reyna also outlined the updated Medicaid provisions in the legislation, which include:

* Granting Medicaid eligibility to those in the criminal justice system 30 days before they rejoin society.
* Enhanced FMAP around mobile crises.
* Incentives for states to expand Medicaid by increasing the state’s FMAP by 5% for two years after expansion.
* A temporary 7.35% increase in reimbursement for home and community-based services and other services “deemed by the Secretary”. She stated the language “*deemed by the Secretary*” gives us an opportunity to advocate for inclusion of all substance abuse services.

COVID-19 Vaccine Questions and Answers

Dr. Joe Parks

Dr. Parks clarified from his previous presentation that to treat side effects of the vaccine, people should take aspirin and not an anti-inflammatory over the counter medicine. He also said the British variant of the coronavirus appears to be 30% more deadly, but the current vaccines are just as effective in preventing severe cases. Dr. Parks said that 1.67 million people are currently receiving the vaccine daily and the date for projected herd immunity in the U.S. has been moved up from September 17, 2021 to September 5, 2021. Dr. Parks shared that an FDA advisory committee would meet to discuss the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on February 26th.

NatCon21

Sara Haywood

Sara stated that we have now made the announcement that NatCon21 is going fully virtual. She said that we have extended the early bird registration discount through Monday, February 22nd. Sara shared that since going fully virtual, NatCon21 has been modified to be three half days, from 12pm-5pm (May 3rd-5th). Sara said that Brene Brown and Tarana Burke (founder of the #MeToo) movement will be closing speakers.

**Next Association Executives Teleconference**

The next Association Executives meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.